

STORY CONFERENCE

Meeting held: January 17, 1936. 8:30 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.

Present were:      WALT                      HURD                      R. WILLIAMS  
                    BAILEY                      PERCE                      HENNESSY  
                    HAM                          LARSON                      CODRICK  
                    CHURCHILL                      STRICKLAND                      MOREY  
                    REEVES                      SCHAFFER                      NATWICK  
                    BRIGHTMAN                      SCHMITT                      CLARK  
                    TEAGUE                      SEBRING                      HAL REES

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Discussion: CLEANING SEQUENCE

Mr. Disney asked each one to make their contributions in routine.

PERCE: Submitted cartoons with the following notes.

A bird catches himself while flying, before falling into cup, landing on a spoon - quite playful going 'round and 'round.

As Snow White fills pegs with clothes, a little bird hops from one peg to the other - at the last peg he finds himself without a perch, pauses to scratch his head and she hangs a hat over him - the hat flies up in the air and swoops down again, with the birdie underneath.

PANTS: Pull pockets inside out -- they could be perked up by Snow White - mama rabbit seeing her child looks droopy, perks up its ears.

MR. DISNEY: Thought good. Said: Snow White should pinch the cheeks of the pants - have them give a little laugh.

(explaining the scene) Snow White finds a shoe in the pot -- then build up as she goes to fireplace, etc. - Upon the birds affirming the 'children' are orphans - she says: THAT'S TOO BAD." then to the pants: IS THAT WHY YOU ARE SO SAD? THINGS ARE GOING TO BE BETTER NOW - then go to the open mouth - hangs them on peg and for the last the pants break into a big smile when she shakes them.

PERCE: Might have the chairs carved to fit the personalities of the different dwarfs - (to fit their shapes). Have Dopey's chair a highchair.

Have a little fawn peeking out from under her cape at the cottage.

When the animals sit in the chairs have three little chipmunks hop up on a footstool.

MR. DISNEY: Thought it a good idea to have the furniture quaint as if it were hundreds of years old -- and any hunches to be used with it would be useful. Any ideas for comedy would help.

HAM: Ideas which might be added to use in the general disorder of the furniture.

REEVES: Thought of the little animals hovering around her - and over her.

MR. DISNEY: Wondered how it would look to have a bird on her head or light on her shoulder - also squirrels climbing up on her skirt - might be cute.

## SNOW WHITE

- REEVES: Have Snow White's cape get caught on the bush-- squirrels lift it off for her.
- REEVES: The spider beats it back in his house (or corner) when she Mentions 'cobwebs too.'
- MR. DISNEY: It depended how you used the spider - he must be made a comic.
- Bats were out -- too weird.
- Bushes close to house so that animals climb up on them -- vines branches of trees, etc.
- REEVES: Suggests reaction of animals when she says: IT'S DARK INSIDE.
- REEVES: Chipmunk sliding down knife on plate falls into teapot. -- squirts other chipmunk in the face.
- When the 'mama and papa' chipmunks nod 'yes' the baby hesitates then nods his head no -- he is quite undecided about which course to pursue.
- When Snow White speaks of 'cobwebs too' a chipmunk gets his tail caught and he is covered up with webs.
- MR. DISNEY: In the cleaning sequence it could cover him like a net --
- REEVES: Maybe board squeaks as she enters to the rhythm of the music.
- NATWICK: Suggested on beams to have carved mottos, decorated with carved with acorns -- use old English lettering - might be wise to have a Mr. Disney German inscription - then again not. In translation she can say it in German --- final analysis thought best to have only carving.
- MR. DISNEY: Stresses the point of having the animals as animals -- not too human - they can use their tails or hands as would seem natural - such as the racoons using their hands.
- NATWICK: Thought of a turtle.
- MR. DISNEY: Thought good idea to have him the last guy to get there -- work him in the gag in the chase - the turtle tries to follow the animals.
- NATWICK: When she runs across the bridge he could swim across -- his introduction here. A running gag.
- MR. DISNEY: When the birds see the Queen they follow her to the house - they are worried - know something is wrong - birds sense this - especially are they concerned when the Queen gives Snow White the apple. They dash down and knock the apple out of the Queen's hands - The Queen takes a 'swing' at them and they start to hammer her like a bunch of black-birds-- pecking at her. Snow White becomes alarmed and drives them away. She takes the old lady in the house, shuts the door on the birds. The birds then look in the window. Snow White might be getting the Queen some tea - the old lady is polishing the apple and the birds chatter among themselves, and the squirrels too -- the birds fly off -- the turtle starts to go too -- SHOT of birds on their way to the dwarfs - squirrels race thru the trees to warn dwarfs and then here comes the turtle - as we have animals flying thru scenes other animals eating grass - browsing, etc. decide to follow them - picking up more animals to join in - finally there is a whole army of them. Then the birds warn the dwarfs - who hop on the deers' backs and start for the cottage - then here comes the turtle - always late - they pass him, and he is forced to turn around.
- Gag him as much as possible.

## SNOW WHITE

REEVES: Might have a little fly on top of turtle's tail or back.

MR. DISNEY: Keep working on ways to put them in poses to give them individual expressions, but not to become human.

NATWICK: Where she crosses bridge a kingfisher might fly thru.

HAM: When she kneels down the animals are on her dresses and tumble off -- always in the way.

PHIL: When the little squirrel sneezes in the dust -- the violence of his sneeze sends him back into an old German stein - the lid falls and closes on him.

MR. DISNEY: Where they are stacking up the dishes, a weasel is cute. Not too large.

NATWICK: Thought it cute to have the squirrel see his rear end in the mirror as he dusts it.

DISNEY: Doves could be worked in for the love angle. Cooing for line "JUST HUM A MERRY TUNE" -- like a hum - good for foreign release.

NATWICK: What about a bob-white?

DISNEY: Use out in the woods -- with quail, meadowlarks, etc.

Also the birds could pull away the lighter branches -- the squirrels the heavier - the deer to crowd in -- not part branches -- too large.

In the earlier part of the story the birds tell her they are taking her where she may be able to work for her living -- so when she peeks into the window she is not being just curious, but interested in the place of her employment.

HUGH H: Submitted drawing of the odd spigot on the barrel.

DISNEY: Liked the odd spigots.

WILLIAMS: Suggested business of rabbit getting cobwebs around his ears.

On the "no" and "yes" gag, the bunny says yes - but his ears say "no."

WALT: Does not favor showing the streak of dust on the mantle, stretches story too much.

Liked the gag of the squirrel peeking thru the broom, suggested by Larson.

LARSON Suggested the birdie getting cobweb caught around his neck when he falls off of shelf or some other place.

WALT When the animals come in with Snow White they feel a little ill at ease - as they are more at home outside.

Might work in rabbits (if scared) to thump his tail. Rather subtle tho.

The animals are quite inquisitive-- much can be done with animation.

WALT: When the deer nods - he shakes the birds who are hanging on his antlers; they lose their balance but manage to stay on ---

EDDIE: suggests having a squirrel sitting on pick-axe, and he falls off -- for Snow White's funny reaction.

WALT: Prefer to have her laugh when they react to 'dust gag' on mantel. Perce gave the idea the other day.

EDDIE: When Snow White is mentioning the various articles on the table an inquisitive squirrel falls into a bowl, has awful time getting out.

HUGH H: Submitted cartoon of special bannister - very unique -- for the animals to slide down.

WALT: Wanted the gag used as a natural and not definitely pointed.

LEONARD Submitted drawings -- perhaps weird animals, dragons, etc., might be carved in the furniture covered with cobwebs and when squirrels clean them they are frightened by the grim aspect of their faces.

WALT: Mentioned gargoyles. When Snow White hangs the pants up the gargoyle's face shows over pants.

LEONARD: Suggested a cuckoo clock.

WALT: Thought funnier to have a frog come out of the clock to announce the time. The weights could be carved - animals hanging on it as if pulling.

HAM: Instead of clockworks have an hour glass.

WALT: A little involved, but could use it in the cleaning sequence. Every time the pendulum comes over an animal dusts it - then he hops to the other side as the pendulum swings the other way.

Clock could be used when Snow White is singing a song to the dwarfs - they all give a love sigh and Sleepy does a big sigh. Then she tells them to go to bed.

When the dwarfs go to sleep their snores could be in rhythm with the sounds of the owl -- the crickets - overlap the night sounds made by the animals with the snores of the dwarfs. for the fade out. (This in other sequence.)

REEVES: When Snow White polishes the pots and pans she suddenly sees her reflection, pauses to primp.

WALT: Could also use this gag when she is baking a pie.

When the dwarfs return from the mines and come into the clean house, Dopey reacts to the clean mirror-- quite scared as he has not seen his visage in a long time - Mirror could have a bubble in it- makes them look funny - might use instead of washing windows. At first Dopey doesn't know who it is in the mirror - then Slowly it dawns on him that it is his own reflection he sees. !  
 Might use gag of him sticking up one finger-- and he sees three in mirror, etc.

DISNEY: With reference to cleaning sequence -- Snow White is humming a tune - using deer as a clothes rack - maybe she is picking up shirts to be washed outside for wash gags.

Arrange gags to begin with the dirtiest jobs to be done, to the lighter ones - the last thing is the deer going out with the clothes - then cut to outside where bunch of racoons are preparing to wash the clothes - birds pull off clothes from deer - racoons wash them - birds hang them up - pinch bugs are used for clothespins - in hanging up the socks there is a hole both in heel and toe - and the birds pull a rope thru it - so that the sock hangs lengthwise.

Birds fly out with rugs - we get a long shot of deer with a load of cordwood for fireplace - then them working.

Fade in on the inside of the mine - a closeup of a cart which draws away revealing the interior and the dwarfs working. (mules? or deer.)

When the Queen is coming to kill Snow White she meets the two old buzzards and calls them "little birdies." The vultures always seen on dead trees.

I see the raven which she has as a pet in the castle -- he never Speaks only indicates by his eyes what he understands when she pours out her grievances.

For instance, in the cleaning sequence Snow White could point to the animals on the dishes -- "you wash the dishes" -- they do not favor the idea too enthusiastically as there is a terrific amount of them to do -- then the animals at the fireplace -- she says "you clean the fireplace" - -- Snow White comments brightly or her voice indicates it -- "isn't that fine?" but they are not visibly impressed, so she coaxes "Don't be discouraged" - "We'll have a lot of fun --" and then the "whistle while you work" song.

She comes to a group of birds singing "just whistle while you work" sees them look happy, and smiles "and cheerfully together --" comes to chipmunks - and says "just hum a merry tune"

cut to other animals listening; as the song goes along they pick up the rhythm -- cut to birds singing happily - cut to the whole bunch vigorously tuning in - and cleaning up, picking up -- chipmunks and squirrels and birds (each with their own interpretation) carry out the melody. -- such as humming birds hum --- etc.

use racoons for washing scene as they like to wash -- in the mine use beavers - woodpeckers ---

birds could lift things such as spoons --- animals lift according to their weight.

Have the animals get clothes bring them to her she loads them on deer -- he get all hung up, some cover his face and he trips-- shoe on his tail for end - the animals use their tails as dusters - beat their tails on window sill to remove dust -- have the deer use his tail for dusting too.

REEVES: suggested a glove for covering tail --

WALT: thinks shoe better.

Might use flying squirrels in washing scene.

When the squirrels are sweeping under the rug - Snow White catches them, they sweep it in knot hole - an irate mouse comes out saying:

"What's the idea? As he turns to go back in he sends the dust flying out again - the squirrels react to this.

WALT: Wants some gags on washing dishes. -- baby deer licking the plates -- Snow White catches him -- takes the plates and stacks them in tub of water again.

Various ways for dusting - have rags tied on the animals' tails as dusters -- want other gags for this.

While drying the dishes - one of the little animals sees a dish roll over the edge of the table, wait expectantly for it to crash, look over and see the birds have caught it -- but they are very much annoyed and warn the little animal not to repeat the performance.

When birds fly over and get the cobweb with the spider in it they could pick up the four corners and fold it - the old spider is asleep, he wakes up and makes a rumpus - but he is safely thrown out the window and lands on the branches of a tree - when he sees everything intact he relaxes -----

Cut to humming birds flying with flowers and fill up the vase (as things get cleaned up) also mirror gag) -

The birds let the carpet snap back when they clean it --

They might be more human here than in the other part (when they enter)

Couple of little guys enjoying a ride on the pants while the other squirrels are pulling them.

Use running gags as much as possible --

Have Snow White pump water (looking at Hennessy's sketch) when she catches them licking the dishes -- at sink. -

HAM: Might have the sink built like a crane

WALT: favors idea of pump at sink - oddly carved- quaint.

The animals in cleaning scene could roll up the rug - but don't want straight business -- when they bring the rug out in the open a little animal could roll out of it

Animals might break something.

Suggest introducing the dwarfs at the mine- by Doc calling out the roll call -- Doc looks at sundial which reads 5 - and says "five bells" - he calls them for roll call - Sleepy isn't there - cut to Sleepy snoring- cut to bunch of them yelling - he comes out in a hurry then Snow White re-introduces them at bedroom sequence.