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Have You Lost Your Marbles?

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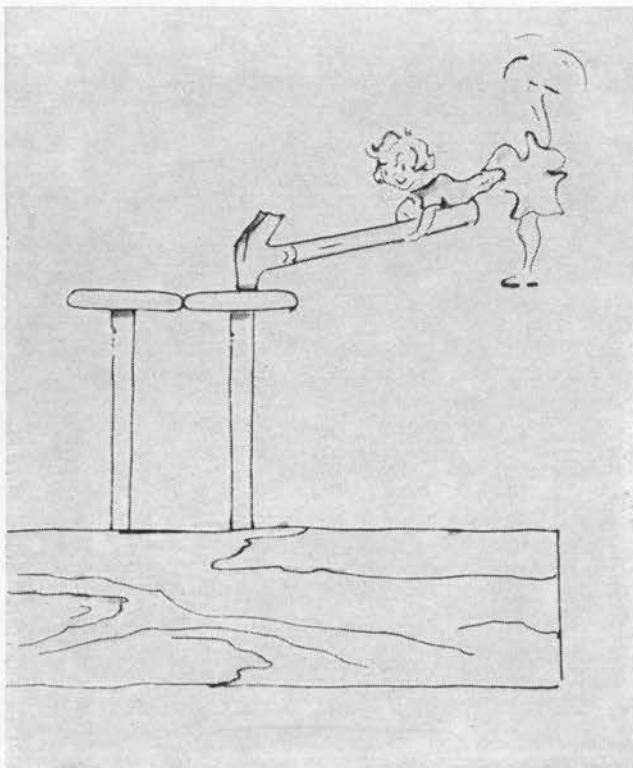
HAVE YOU LOST

By Carol Armstrong Wolf, '57

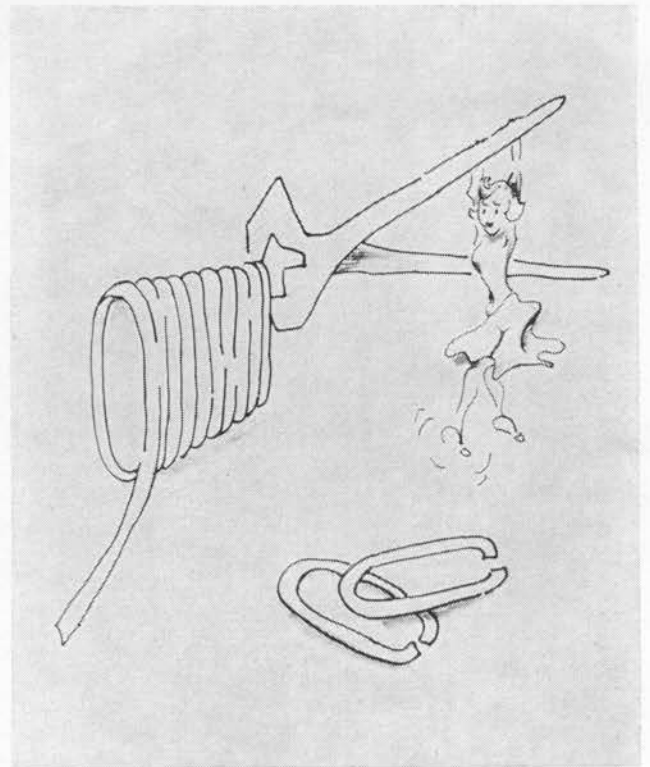
MAYBE MOM tucked them away after you outgrew those neighborhood tournaments. Do take those old playmates out of retirement! They're the beginnings of some colorful and unique bracelets.

Gather the materials for your bracelet.

1. *Silver or copper wire
 - a. Pick the color that harmonizes best with the marbles.
 - b. Use No. 16 wire.
 - c. Measure for the amount you'll need before buying. Allow 6 x (wrist measurement plus 1 inch) for the bracelet chain, and $3\frac{1}{2}$ inches of wire for each marble.
 2. Two nails (1/16 inch across the base) Use nails with heads.
 3. A block of wood (At least an inch thick and 4 x 4 inches)
 4. Dad's flat nosed pliers
 5. Wirecutters
 6. Marbles
 - a. The number varies with the size of marble and chain.
 - b. A puree (marble which is one clear color) makes the most attractive bracelet.
- Begin your bracelet with the links.



1. Pound the two nails about a half inch into the wood. They should be side by side with the heads of the nails touching. (You'll want them to stand firm but will need to remove them later.) (Picture No. 1)



2. Beginning at the bottom, coil the wire tightly around the nails until you have coiled it up to the heads.
3. Snip the extra wire off next to the nail.
4. Pull the nails out. Slip the coils off. Replace the nails.
5. Repeat the previous steps until you have coiled all but 3 inches of the wire for the bracelet chain. This does not include the wire for the marbles. (The three inches are for the fastener.)
6. Cut the coils into links. Starting at one end with the wirecutters, snip each link off the coil. (Picture No. 2)

Now you're ready to put the links of the bracelet together.

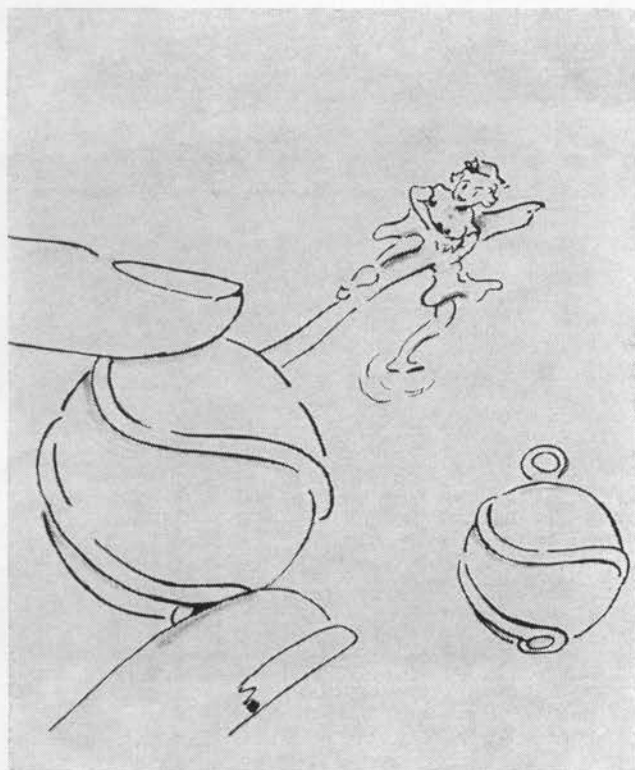
1. Slip one link inside the next and close the opening with the flat nosed pliers.
2. Repeat Step 1 until the bracelet is the right length.

YOUR MARBLES?

3. Now, go back and put a second or double link on every other link. (This increases both the attractiveness and strength of the bracelet.)

The fastener is made next.

1. Take the three inches of wire you saved. With



the flat nosed pliers, bend one end of the wire around the nose into a small circle.

2. Cut off all but $\frac{3}{4}$ inch of the wire extending from this circle.

3. Use your pliers to bend this wire double like a fish hook.

4. Open the end link on the bracelet chain. Slip the circle of the hook on it. Close the link.

5. To fasten the bracelet, slip the hook over the last link on the other end of the bracelet.

Your chain is completed. You can stop here and use it for a charm bracelet, adding the charms later, if you wish.

If you've found your marbles, we're ready for them now.

1. Choose one of the $3\frac{1}{2}$ inch wire strips.

2. With the flat nosed pliers, bend one end of the wire into a small circle as you did on the fastener.

3. Holding the small circular end of the wire against the marble with your thumb (the marble is held between your thumb and forefinger), carefully bend the wire around the marble in a spiral to the top.

4. Use the pliers to form a small circle on top of the marble. (This is the loop we use to join the marble to a link on the bracelet.) (Picture No. 3)

The marble settings are ready to be joined on your bracelet chain.

1. Count the number of links you have. Divide that by the number of marbles you have chosen. (This will tell you how many links to allow between each marble.)

2. Open the chosen links of the bracelet one at a time. Slip the circle of the marble onto the link. Squeeze the link shut with the pliers.

3. When adding marble settings to the double links, be sure to slip the circles over both links so they hang evenly.

If you have chosen your marbles well, you're the owner of an attractive bracelet. The marbles will reflect the lights and shapes in the room and the colors you're wearing.

But don't stop here! If you were a fourth grade nature lover, dig out your old rock collection and make a bracelet for a friend. Experiment with different links by coiling the wire around the nails in new ways.

* You can order silver wire from:

Goldsmith Bros. Smelting and Refining Co.
58 East Washington
Chicago, Illinois



The final product — a real conversation piece.