

INTEREST

The Cost of a Miracle

As related by Pat Baker

A little girl went to her bedroom and pulled a glass jelly jar from the closet. She poured all the change out and counted it carefully three times. She made her way to Rexall's Drug Store and waited patiently for the pharmacist, but he was too busy. Finally she took a quarter from her jar and banged it on the glass counter.

'And what do you want?' the pharmacist asked in an annoyed tone of voice. 'I'm talking to my brother from Chicago whom I haven't seen in ages,' he said without waiting for a reply.

'Well, I want to talk to you about my brother,' Tess answered back in the same annoyed tone. 'He's really sick... and I want to buy a miracle.' 'I beg your pardon?' said the pharmacist 'His name is Andrew and he has something bad growing inside his head and my Daddy says only a miracle can save him now. So how much does a miracle cost?'

'We don't sell miracles here, little girl. I'm sorry but I can't help you.' the pharmacist said, softening a little. 'Listen, I have the money to pay for it. If it isn't enough, I will get the rest.' said the little girl.

The pharmacist's brother stooped down and asked the little girl, 'What kind of a miracle does your brother need?' 'I don't know,' Tess replied with her eyes welling up. 'I just know he's really sick and Mommy says he needs an operation. But my Daddy can't pay for it, so I want to use my money'. 'How much do you have?' he asked. 'One dollar and eleven cents,' Tess answered barely audibly. 'It's all I have, but I can get more.

'Well, what a coincidence,' smiled the man. 'A dollar and eleven cents-the exact price of a miracle for little brothers.' He took her money in one hand and her mitten in the other 'Show me where you live. Let's see if I have the kind of miracle you need.'

That man was Dr. Carlton Armstrong, neurosurgeon. The operation was done for free and soon Andrew was home again. Mom and Dad happily talked about the chain of events. "That surgery," her Mom whispered, "was a real miracle. I wonder how much it would have cost?" Tess smiled. She knew exactly how much a miracle cost – one dollar and eleven cents, plus the faith of a little child.