



Shaggy Dog TALES

THIS type of story recently received a great vogue everywhere—probably because, like its namesake, it is difficult to make head or tail of, unless you have a lively imagination. Try these; you will either like them a lot or not at all. The list starts with the authentic, original « shaggy dog » story.



THERE was once a man in America who read an advertisement offering a huge reward to the finder of a large shaggy dog that had been lost. He kept his eyes open and that same day he found a dog which answered the description. So he took the afternoon off and went to the address given, to deliver the « goods » and claim his reward. When he got there, he found the advertisers had left for England. The man, determined to finish what he had begun, chucked up his job and went to England. When he got to England he found the family had moved to the Continent. So he followed them to the Continent. Finally, one day about a year later, he caught up with them in the South of France. Triumphant he led the dog up the steps of the house and rang the bell. A butler opened the door. « Good morning, » said the man . . . « Here is the shaggy dog you lost. » The butler looked annoyed. « Not so damn shaggy as all that ! » he said, and slammed the door.

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AT a village cricket match the visiting team arrived one man short,

and the captain asked his opponents if they could find anyone to make up the side. « I'm awfully sorry, » said the captain of the home eleven. « There just isn't anyone, but there's a horse in the field over there. I'm sure he'd be glad of a game if you care to ask him. »

So the visiting captain asked the horse, who replied he'd be only too pleased to play. The visiting team batted first. The horse went in to bat towards the end of the innings and did extremely well, driving with great power and scoring both in front of and behind the wicket. He was still batting when the innings closed.

When the home side came out to bat, the visiting captain took the first over, then asked the horse, who had been fielding brilliantly in the slips, if he would care to bowl from the other end. Very bashfully the horse shook his head. « Oh, no, » he said. « Thank you very much, but I couldn't really. »

« Come on, » said the captain. « You played a magnificent innings. We'd all like to see more of you. I insist you try an over or two. »

