**Christmas Story of the Week**

**Alfred C. Gilbert (1884-1961) started his company in 1909 and invented his Erector set in 1913. His inspiration reportedly was the steel construction girders used on a nearby railroad. After the U.S. entered WWI, authorities contemplated a ban on toy production. Gilbert went to meet with them, accompanied by several men carrying bulky packages. The packages contained only toys, including his Erector sets. The U.S. secretaries of commerce, war and the interior were invited to play with them and soon were on their hands and knees. Gilbert told them his toys helped build “solid American character.” The officials played and talked for 3 hours before voting down the ban on toys. The press called Gilbert the “man who saved Christmas.” (Reminisce magazine)**

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**December 18th, 2024** - **Gilbert the “man who saved Christmas.” (Reminisce magazine)**

**December 11th, 2024 - live baby owl (The Week magazine, December 22, 2023)**

**December 4th, 2024 - *(Carol Channing, actress)***