

"Friendship" Is A Priceless Treasure

Friends are hard to come by in this life, as anyone who has ever had occasion to have one's friends tested undoubtedly knows. Nevertheless, one of life's greatest joys is to have one true friend—or more—if that fortunate circumstance should favor an individual.

One will find that the test of friendship comes when it costs something to be a loyal friend. The money test will eliminate ninety per cent of one's friends, but the test which will eliminate ninety-nine per cent is the occasion which demands loyalty to a friend who is suddenly an "expensive" friend.

Realizing that no one is perfect, we must all adjust our thinking and philosophy to the fact that our friends will make mistakes, just as we will. Mistakes must be forgiven, although not necessarily forgotten, in a spirit of give-and-take, and

comradeship. And, just as misfortune can alienate sunshiny friends, success often alienates those who appear to be true friends. While envy and jealousy do not part genuine friends, such developments inevitably part the sunshine variety.

Using the Bible as a guide and some of the great examples of friendship and love in history, one can generally settle upon one basic rule for friendship. If we can be happy over the sudden success and wealth of our friend, share his misfortune and unpopularity, if that is the turn of events, and stand ready to help or advise, or even get out of the way, as the occasion may warrant, we have come close to being a true friend.

Finally, if you have such a friend, loyal all the way, hold on to him or her. That should be your most prized possession, outside of God and your family.

Shall U. S. President Supersede Congress?

During the past score of years the position of the Presidency of the United States has assumed a place of enormous importance. Indeed, many times it stood as far above Congress as the stars are over the horizon. This condition is bad in a nation that boasts of governing itself . . . with the consent of the governed."

Our members of Congress are elected as our law-makers. A President under our Constitution, is supposed, chiefly, to carry out the laws and regulations made by Congress.

Is the popular desire of our citizens one that manifests a kind of hero worship, including a willingness to abandon dependency upon representative government?

If this be the case, why not completely abandon our demands that Congressmen campaign on issues, and require them

simply to agree to be rubber stamps for White House incumbent?

Or is the growing popular emphasis upon the Presidency but a way that voters are saying: "The average results we get from dependence upon our so-called Representatives and Senators in the U. S. Congress are so hodge-podge, so incapable of meeting the demands of these times, that we will be better off to support the President in his leadership?"

Heaven forbid! Yet a review of recent current federal procedures certainly lends proof that such is the way a majority of our voters is thinking.

"Representatives or Rubber-Stamps"—that is the question which confronts the destiny of freedom as exemplified in this greatest of all countries!

Nature's Wonderful Gift of Rainfall

Although man has made amazing scientific achievements, Nature still puts on the greatest show on earth and exhibits miracles, every day, which put man's best efforts to shame.

Some people fail to recognize the miracles which occur around them every day. For example, take the occurrence of rain, upon which event the hopes of millions of farmers, and others, are hinged.

A farmer, with a hundred acres of planted crops, must have, of all things, a plentiful supply of water. If he receives a rainfall of one inch, which often occurs

during the planting season, Nature has dropped 2,714,300 gallons of water on his crops. And Nature can accomplish this in just a few minutes.

Scientists, who attempt to compute the tremendous forces involved in such an operation as a heavy rain, are constantly amazed at the power of Nature and the ease and gentleness with which she usually does her job. If the reader will think about it, he too will be constantly amazed at the miracles which take place about him every day, which are accepted as commonplace occurrences.

From The Eccentric's Point of View . . .

Mention the name of Bert Wood and many people immediately associate it with nearby Franklin Village. Now 78 years of age, Bert has spent his years farming and

operating a general store. We hope he'll be around when a century marks his birth date . . . what a jamboree his friends and neighbors will give him then!

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GEORGE R. AVERILL, Editor and Publisher
PAUL NEAL AVERILL, Business Manager
GEORGE WM. AVERILL, Managing Editor
GERALD E. JEHLIE, Advertising Manager

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Keep Your Mind on Your Work!



NATURE NOW

Mourning Cloak Out of Hibernation

Now, as earth and water warm to the touch of sun, honking geese fly northward, honey bees are out for a brief hour at noonday and frog eggs drift in gelatinous masses in the roadside ditches and ponds. Suddenly, along the woods path, a single mourning cloak butterfly appears, hovers like a dark leaf and is gone.

From my nature journal, I note that we last saw its kind in town on December 3. How then, say you, can so fragile a creature be about so early and so late? The explanation is simple: deviating from the usual butterfly life-cycle, it hibernates under some stone, log or bit of bark on a tree trunk, and so can be about at any quick signal of the sun's warmth.

IF YOU have ever seen a mourning cloak come to rest on the dark trunk of a tree, you know that its folded wings, with their light and irregular border, provide with a near-perfect camouflage. Opened, they have a spread of three and a half inches and are decorated with a row of purple-blue spots bordering the straw-colored edges.

The mourning cloak (Vanessa atalanta) is common throughout the temperate zone. The tiny barrel-shaped eggs are laid in masses, sometimes in a spiraling pattern, on the twigs of poplar, willow, hackberry and elm. Depending upon the temperature, they hatch in ten to 15 days. When mature, the resulting larvae are about two inches long, their spiny backs decorated with a row of red spots ringed with white.

The caterpillars (larvae) gorge themselves on leaves, sometimes completely stripping the branches upon which the eggs were laid. After the manner of their kind, they then attach themselves head downward to a twig and, by their own spinning, wrap themselves in a brown chrysalis with red-tipped points. Within an 8-16 day pupation period, the adult butterfly

emerges. It then mates and lays eggs.

THROUGHOUT the summer the mourning cloak feeds on nectar often collected from tube-like flowers into which it can reach with its long curled proboscis and which it may in turn pollinate. Before flowers bloom, it lives on the sap trees. Because of its voracious appetite in the caterpillar stage, it may become a mild pest to shade trees.

One can hope to see this beautiful butterfly about from earliest spring through the lazy days of Indian summer. After the first frosts, it hibernates intermittently, coming out for a few bright nights during the warmth of early winter noondays.

Butterflies belong to a large group of scaled-winged insects, the Lepidoptera. The varied color of their wings is due to pigments interspersed between the delicate layers of the scale tissue, or more rarely, to the refraction of light from the surface of the scales themselves.

PRESS a butterfly's wings between two pieces of waxed paper. The scales will be transferred to the paper, making a perfect color image, while the wings will remain clear, to the refraction of light.

Although the ancestors of many present-day insects were already abundant in the lush greenery of the Coal Age swamps, our butterflies are a comparatively recent order, dating back to the Jurassic period, some 150 million years ago. Here they had as their companions toothed birds, archaic mammals and the early flowering plants.

Today they reach their pinnacle of size and beauty in the tropical rain forests of South America, where their brilliant colors vie with the vivid jewel flowers whose nectar they sip.

ONE THING OR ANOTHER By George Wm. Averill

A new circulation record ought to be set by The Michigan Journalist as a result of its March 27 issue.

Published as a laboratory experiment by students of the University of Michigan journalism department, this particular issue devotes considerable space to stories and comments stemming from the Detroit police department's recent banning of John O'Hara's allegedly immoral novel, "Ten North Frederick."

THE JOURNALIST'S LEAD ARTICLE says the Detroit police censor since 1950 has banned nearly 300 books. Then it prints the list under the following notation:

"The following listed titles of pocket size books are those which have been found to be in violation of the Michigan State Statute by the Wayne County Prosecuting Attorney's office."

Without attempting to open up a discussion on the basic issue of freedom of speech which has been brought into this controversy, let me say that a glance at many of these titles seems to indicate

some pretty sexy stuff must have to follow on inside pages to make the titles stand up. Either that, or the title is a misrepresentation of the story.

IT'S HIGHLY UNLIKELY that the police censor banned the books because they DIDN'T live up to the title.

Here's some: "Once There Was a Virgin"; "Hotel Love"; "Reno Tramp"; "Fast, Loose and Lovely"; "No Bed of Her Own"; "Stag Stripper"; and many others.

On the other hand, many of the titles give no hint of what's behind the cover. These foolers include: "The Hero"; "The Dead Tree"; "Wintertime"; "Chinese Room"; "Hot Chocolate"; "Whom Gods Destroy"; and many others.

TOO, IT'S PRETTY OBVIOUS that some of the authors aren't turning out works of art because their names appear opposite several new, different titles each year.

Come to think of it, seems I've seen several of the Detroit-banned 300 on more than one Birmingham newsstand.

Doublecheck Tax Returns Before Mailing Them In

The high percentage of errors figures once more, just to make returns has prompted the internal revenue service to ask all taxpayers to check and recheck their 1956 returns carefully before sending them in. Assistant District Director James P. Deane said today.

There is a tendency with many taxpayers, once they've finished their 1946s, to rush the final stages and get the return on its way to the IRS, to rush the final stages and get the return on its way to the IRS, to rush the final stages and get the return on its way to the IRS.

"We are very anxious as they are processed, to catch any errors that are avoidable. If thousands of taxpayers could save themselves trouble by paying attention to the more intensive auditing that

follows the close of the filing season. Most errors we discover call for additional payments, with interest and sometimes penalties, by the taxpayer. But taxpayers make mistakes that bring about overpayments, too. They get their overpayments back automatically when we find they have erred.

"But it stands to reason that we can give better service and operate a more effective and efficient office when we don't have to contend with a high error factor. Taxpayers can help us to do that and I hope they will."

Folders - - - ?

YES . . . IN BLACK

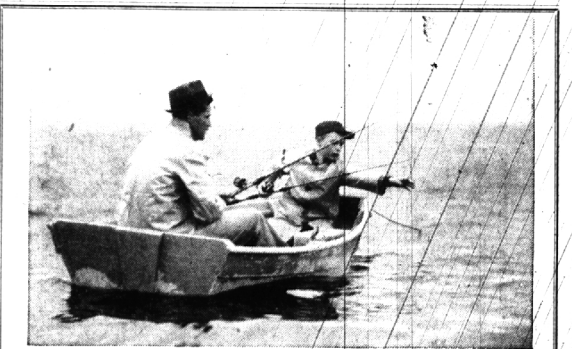
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A boy, his dad and a boat...

maybe he'll never tell you . . . but in the eyes of that boy of yours you're just about the greatest man who ever lived. And whether it's a trip the two of you take together . . . or something more important, like his college education . . . it's wonderful to have money when you want it.

But where you save your money makes a difference. That's why more and more people are putting their money into savings accounts at Standard Federal Savings. At Standard Federal every dollar in your account earns the excellent return of 3% current rate.

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Happenings of Long Ago

Bits of News Gleaned From Old Files Of The Eccentric—The Items That Make Up The Historical Background Of The Birmingham Of Today.

20 YEARS AGO
April 5, 1937
"Sears, Roebuck & Co. have discontinued their grocery department."

15 YEARS AGO
April 2, 1942
"Frances Stanley, daughter of Major Lloyd L. Stanley, and Marjorie Adams, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Merrill C. Adams, have signed up with the army to be war nurses."

"A 'Let's Ride Together' program will be instituted in Birmingham this week. The Exchange Club decided to investigate further the real plan of the Sons of Pontiac for \$1,065. It will be moved when the conditions are lifted later this spring."

"A new civilian defense organization will be formed in Birmingham next week—a decontamination (poison gas) corps."

30 YEARS AGO
March 31, 1927
"The present population of Oakland county is placed at 300,000, an increase of 60,000 in the last two years."

"The first definite step towards the completion of the proposed village fire hall, for which a \$40,000 bond issue was voted last July was taken Monday night, when the commission declared a hearing on the closing of Henrietta street from Martin to Merrill streets."

"A pretty, 21-year-old girl was quoted as saying, 'I've given up with modern youths because it is impossible to find one who doesn't smoke, dance, or shoot pool. . . . ideal mate is one who is a church member, tall, dark and good looking, an abstainer from tobacco, liquor, and swearing, one in a posi-

That Ole House Gonna Be Moved

An old house, being moved to permit construction of the fourth Birmingham municipal parking lot at Browne and Fifth streets, has been sold to W. D. White of Sons of Pontiac for \$1,065. It will be moved when the conditions are lifted later this spring.

THE OLD TIMER

"Truth is stranger than fiction—and a whole lot scarier!"