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From where I sit... by Joe Marsh

Clock Watcher

Nothing in the world is more discouraging than a guest who doesn't know when to go home—especially if you have to get up as early as Chub Jackson, our local milkman.

Last week, poor Chub and his misadventures were entertaining a distant cousin from Center City who just wouldn't call it a night. The later it got, the more he talked, and the more unhappy Chub got.

But Chub finally found a way to shut him up. Just as his cousin mumbled another long tale with, "And that reminds me of the time..." Chub jumped right up and said, "Gosh, you're right! It is getting late!"

From where I sit people who have passed and consideration for other folks' feelings never outstay their welcome. One of my neighbors, for example, prefers other beverages to beer, yet when he drops over he never objects if I have a glass of beer while he enjoys his coffee. It's thoughtfulness like this that keeps friendships from "firing out."

Joe Marsh

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DOWN TO EARTH
Economical technique
Renews House Plants

By ALICE WESSLES HURLINGAME
Special Writer for The Birmingham Eccentric

As we residents like preparing to enter our garden activity indoors must wait April, this is the time to review the condition of our house plants.

As you talk to those who are having the best results with their plants, you find that they are having them grow in sphagnum moss. You purchase this moss from your regular source of garden supplies.

You will welcome this technique for the growing of house plants because it is always available inexpensively. In the winter time, you resent buying a small bag of soil, less than a shovelful, for around 50 cents.

LET'S USE one of your plants already growing in soil as an example. Spread out a newspaper on the sink so you will have plenty of room to enjoy your task.

Turn the plant upside down and shake out the soil. Gently break away the soil. This is a good time to pinch the roots in your fist and dunk the top part in a deep bucket of tepid water. This will clean off the leaves and "confuse" the insect eggs.

THIS IS A good time to clean out the pot if you are returning the plant to the same size container. For this task, we always use a spray of disinfectant recommended by the action of a vegetable brush. After the container is clean, place a handful of sphagnum moss in a hole in a convex manner.

If you are using a glazed pot, you may have about an inch of pebbles in the bottom. In fact, at the Montreal Botanical Gardens, where they have perfected this technique, they favor glazed containers because they contend plants prefer their attention from the top of the container. Of course, this way the plant does not have to be watered as often.

Sphagnum moss is rather springy in texture so before you begin to fill a pot, it should be soaked in water with a weak solution of diluted fertilizer. It will appear like sea weed. The longer you soak this moss, the better the fertilizer water, the better, even overnight.

NOW BEGIN to tack the sphagnum

FOR NATO

A vast underground petroleum network is providing muscle for the military arm of the United States and its allies in Western Europe.

Scheduled for completion in 1962, it will include some 5,000 miles of buried pipeline, plus ocean tanker terminals in countries on the Atlantic and Mediterranean shores, bombproof pumping and control stations, and scores of underground depots.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization nations have been building this network since 1952, sharing the cost of more than \$400 million.

The pipeline system serves more than 200 NATO airfields and almost as many ground force points along an arc extending from Norway to eastern Turkey—a perimeter of more than 4,000 miles.

MILITARY OPERATIONS in World War II often were bogged down for days because of difficulties in delivering adequate fuel supplies to battlefields. A temporary pipeline was finally stretched across France, resting on the surface of the ground. But this pipeline and the round-the-clock truck convoys carrying fuel to the front were vulnerable to attack by strafing, bombing and artillery fire.

Requirements for fuel have grown still greater in the postwar years, the article observes. A NATO ground division needs more than 1,000 tons of petroleum products a day to keep in action. A supersonic fighter-bomber wing needs even more.

THE NATO system is connected to the separate, older \$60 million American military pipeline running 300 miles across France to the S. side in West Germany. Also, a twist of the valve can link the NATO pipelines with a number of adjacent European commercial oil installations, in case of emergency.

Experienced pipeline men from the United States were granted leaves of absence from their companies and were placed on the U. S. government payroll to assist in building the NATO petroleum network.

Today more than 1,000 civilians are employed on the Central European network, which includes 3,000 miles of linked lines in France, West Germany, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg.

NATO also has 2,000 miles of separate, unlinked systems supplying military forces in Norway, Denmark, Greece, Turkey and Italy.

Americans Help Build Oil Pipeline Network

Rescue at sea, often unnoticed except for routine entries in a ship's log, are a regular function of the U. S. commercial tanker fleet.

Because of their ability to enter and leave ports rapidly, most of the more than 300 ships of the U. S. tanker fleet are usually on the high seas. And, with their substantial quantities of first aid, firefighting and rescue equipment, the ships are adequately fitted to answer rescue calls.

Their crews traditionally are picked from the best men in the merchant marine and often include veterans of the World War II Battle of the Atlantic. One out of every six tanker crewmen died at sea during those war-torn years.

THE TANKERS have saved life and property ranging from a single burro to a destroyer. It is not unusual for a super-tanker, carrying enough crude oil to fill 1,411 standard railroad tank cars, to go to the rescue of a motorboat that has run out of gas.

Tanker crews have challenged storms, torpedoes and sharks to go to the aid of fellow seamen in distress. In fact, their record has been recognized by the creation of a special category for tankers in the annual Ship Safety Achievement awards.

High 12 Club Plans Election Of Officers

Henry Montague, president of the Prophet Co., will talk on "Industrial Catering and the Restaurant Business" at the next meeting of the Birmingham High Twelve Club Monday at 6:30 at the Birmingham Community House.

The annual election of officers and directors of the club will be held on Dec. 4. The nominating committee has announced the following slate:

PRESIDENT: A. Frey Ayres; first vice president, Frank B. Hardy; second vice president, Howard R. Coe; secretary, William L. Scherer; treasurer, James I. Spencer; financial secretary, Henry O. Wagner.

Seven directors were also nominated. They are Philip E. Cartwright, Arch H. Copeland, Robert T. Gray, Ray E. Hughes, C. Melvin Smith, Robert G. Surridge and Edmund K. Terry. Four will be elected.

The American Foundation for the Blind has awarded 10 social work fellowships of \$2,000 to qualified professionals who plan to make their careers in the field of work for the blind.

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Christmas Sale, Exhibit To Open at Cranbrook

Hand-woven scarves and throws, beautiful silver and copper jewelry, exquisitely glazed ceramics.

These are just some of the objects being prepared by students of Cranbrook Academy of Art for their annual Christmas Sale and Exhibition which opens Dec. 1 at 8 p.m.

THE SALE AND exhibit, which will also include sculpture, paintings, small rugs, prints and place mats and napkins, will continue on Dec. 2, 3, 9 and 10 from 2 to 6 p.m.

galleries of Cranbrook Academy of Art Galleries.

WILBUR E. STEINER of Rochester, N. Y., has been named chairman by the student council. Tyler R. Francis of Pontiac will head the display committee, assisted by David Woodard, 5800 Belgrave, Birmingham, David Bachmann of Palatine, Ill., Taeko Nakagome of Tokyo, Japan and Marilyn Harris of Yakima, Wash.

The entire student body will be members of the selling committee for the event. Fifteen per cent of the total sales tally is donated to the student scholarship fund.

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