

The Gentle Hand

It's astonishing how much May be learned through sense of touch. —Old Mother Nature. Up an old cowpath in the Old Pasture Mrs. Grouse fluttered along, dragging one wing as if it were broken and she couldn't use it. Behind her, moving slowly so as not to hurry her, walked Farmer Brown's boy. There was a twinkle in his eyes and a smile on his face as he watched her. But there was no twinkle in her eyes as she looked back to make sure he was following her. Instead there was a worried look, a very worried look. Did he understand what she was trying to do?



But that was a gentle warm hand that was holding him.

Farmer Brown's boy did understand. He understood perfectly. Just to make sure he stopped and turned back. Instantly Mrs. Grouse ran after him, clucking anxiously. When she stopped she was flopping about on the ground almost as if her feet as if she were badly hurt. At once she started slowly back to the path dragging a seemingly broken wing.

The freckled good-natured face of Farmer Brown's boy sobered. "It is a shame to tease you and I won't any more," said he. "Something is wrong, but not with you. You are not fooling me by pretending you are hurt. Probably one of your children is in trouble and you are trying to lead me there. You and I are old friends, and I have helped you before. You know I will help you again if I can."

Presently Mrs. Grouse turned out of the path. Just a few steps from it she stopped beside a little patch of grass, weeds and fallen brown leaves. She allowed Farmer Brown's boy to get very near her before she moved. Then it was for only a few feet. All the time she was clucking anxiously.

"I wish I could understand what you are trying to tell me," said Farmer Brown's boy and took a step forward. There was a cry from Mrs. Grouse and at the same time a small person began to struggle right beside one foot. He had all but trodden on this terribly frightened small person struggling helplessly.

In an instant he saw what the trouble was. Squatting down he gently but firmly held the little Grouse in one hand while with the other he broke the hateful fine root that held the small prisoner. Now when he felt that hand close around him so that he couldn't move at all Chickie had as bad a fright as when that monster, Bossy the Cow, had nearly stepped on him. This was another monster and it had caught him.

But that was a gentle hand that was holding him. There was something warm and soothing in the feel of it as Farmer Brown's boy worked to untwist that hateful root from around a sore little leg. It took some time to do it.

Meanwhile Mother Grouse was watching from a short distance. She had stopped pretending that she was hurt. She was clucking softly to Chickie as she watched. When the leg was freed Chickie was held for a couple of minutes in that warm gentle hand. Something in the feel of it made him no longer afraid. Even when it was slowly opened and he was free to hop out of it to the ground on which it was resting he was in no hurry to leave it. He knew, without knowing how he knew, that he had nothing to fear. It wasn't until

mother called him that he moved. Then he ran to her as fast as his legs could take him. Mother clucked. The six brothers and sisters popped out of hiding and Mother Grouse proudly but fussily led her big family past Farmer Brown's boy straight for the Green Forest.

by, claiming there was no reason to think that by playing the ace of diamonds he would catch the king, and that such plays were much easier to make after the opponents' cards became known than during the play.

North didn't relish being accused of having made a double-dummy analysis and maintained it was incorrect to take the diamond finesse. His argument ran along the following lines:

With the heart lead, the slam could be made by a successful finesse in either diamonds or clubs. There was just as good a chance to win one as the other, and the choice should not be left entirely to chance.

Either finesse had a 50% chance of success. But the club finesse was preferable. North contended, because it could be preceded by the play of the ace of diamonds to see if by any chance either opponent had been dealt the singleton king.

The possibility either opponent held the king was guarded, argued North, was not to be ignored, since this occurs about one deal out of eight when four cards of a suit are missing.

There was a greater probability of making the slam by testing first for the lone king of diamonds and following with a club finesse if necessary, than there was of playing only for the diamond finesse. One method offered two chances to make the hand, the other only one.

Verdict for the plaintiff.

South defended his play heatedly, claiming there was no reason to think that by playing the ace of diamonds he would catch the king, and that such plays were much easier to make after the opponents' cards became known than during the play.

Syria Arrests Army Officers

By ANGELO NATALE DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria announced officially for the first time Wednesday the arrest of army officers accused of conspiring with the United States to overthrow the Syrian government.

A government spokesman said some arrests have been made but added that security measures prevented identifying the officers until an investigation is completed.

Gen. Afif Bizry the new Syrian army chief-of-staff, said Tuesday that "gangsters made in America" plotted to kill him and other Syrian military leaders in an assassination.

The U.S. state department has labelled Syrian charges a complete fabrication. Bizry and other Syrian officials at all government levels also denied published reports that their rise to power represented a pro-Soviet coup d'etat in Syria. Bizry scoffed at the idea that the army has seized control of Syria's government.

Syria's swing to the left was described by President Eisenhower at his Wednesday press conference as part of a Soviet pattern to gain control of the country.

Eisenhower added that it is not a case that justifies action under his Middle East economic and military aid program to head off subversion in the region.

But the U.S. 6th Fleet is ready to swing east through the Mediterranean if necessary, a navy spokesman said in Washington.

POPULATION INCREASES

OTTAWA (CP)—A record 45,795 babies were born in Canada in July, the bureau of statistic said Thursday. The figure compared with 39,945 in July of 1956 and brought the seven-month total for the year to 280,546. The corresponding 1956 total was 258,666. Marriages in July hit a 10-year record at 18,613. This compared with 14,930 a year earlier.

MISSING LOBSTER BOAT IS SAFE

YARMOUTH, N. S. (CP)—The missing Nova Scotia lobster boat Paula and Paul is safe at Cape St. Mary, 20 miles north of here. The 38-foot boat operated by Capt. Walter Nickerson of Cape Sable, N. S., had been unreported since leaving here for Boston Aug. 16.

Capt. Nickerson said he had engine trouble soon after leaving and put into Cape St. Mary for repairs. He will deliver the boat to new owners in Boston.

Saskatchewan Completes Its Trans-Canada Highway Part

REGINA (CP)—Premier Douglas Wednesday declared officially open the 406-mile, \$27,500,000 Saskatchewan section of the Trans-Canada Highway, using a pair of silver scissors to snip a ribbon across the new Regina bypass.

The province is the first to complete its share of the projected 4,371-mile Newfoundland-to-British Columbia road.

At a ceremony southeast of the city, attended by 1,500 persons including provincial, federal and U.S. officials, the premier welcomed the completion of the highway—three years ahead of the 1960 deadline—as a boon to the provincial economy, national unity and testimony to federal-provincial co-operation.

Stabbed Aboard Frigate Lauzon

HALIFAX (CP)—Able seaman Fred Hind of Windsor, Ont., appeared in police court here today on a charge of murder but Magistrate Joseph McManus adjourned the preliminary hearing for another week.

Police arrested Hind, 19, two weeks ago after Able Seaman Ross Clark McCallum, 24, of Toronto and Midland, Ont., was stabbed to death aboard the navy frigate Lauzon here.

The magistrate set Aug. 26 as the next date for the murder hearing at the request of prosecution and defence lawyers.

The navy said the stabbing happened while the men were "skylarking" aboard the frigate. They described the sailors as close friends.

So far Hind has not made a plea in answer to the charge.

DAILY CROSSWORD

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down.

DAILY CRYPTOQUOTE

Cryptogram puzzle with instructions and a grid of letters.

OUR BOARDING HOUSE MAJOR HOOPLE

Comic strip panel showing a man reading a letter about a guitar.

OUT OUR WAY BY J. R. WILLIAMS

Comic strip panel showing a man talking to a woman.

Comic strip panels: GRANDMA, TILLY THE TOILER, MICKEY MOUSE.

Comic strip panels: MUGGS & SKETER, ETTA KEIT.

Comic strip panels: HENRY, SECRET AGENT X-9.

Comic strip panels: JOE PALOOKA, THE LONE RANGER.

Comic strip panels: LIL' ARNER.

Comic strip panels: LIL' ARNER (continued).

Comic strip panels: LIL' ARNER (continued).

Comic strip panels: LIL' ARNER (continued).

Comic strip panels: LIL' ARNER (continued).

Comic strip panels: LIL' ARNER (continued).

Comic strip panels: LIL' ARNER (continued).

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Advertisement for Contract Bridge by Josephine Culbertson.

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Advertisement for THE SHEIKH'S SON (continued).

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Advertisement for THE SHEIKH'S SON (continued).

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