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Odd and Curious Facts

By F. H. MacArthur

Who was known as the Alley Poet? His name was Henry Carey, the author of "Sally in Our Alley." Carey got his inspiration for this number by observing a pair of sweethearts on their holidays in London. The song caught on from the first and became very popular, though its author resented being called the Alley Poet.

While we are all familiar with the song "Annie Laurie", wonder how many of us know that Annie was a real person. Annie Laurie was born at Maxwellton, Scotland, in 1862; and her ashes now rest in Dunscore Cemetery. Annie's boy friend, a Mr. Douglas, wrote the original words but they were retouched by Lady John Scott. It was soon taken up and sung everywhere. The writer does not know who composed the music to these famous lyrics.

Every bird has its special task serving mankind by seeking their own ends, but the wise old owl is claimed to be the most valuable to man of all birds. This pirate of the bird kingdom is as carnivorous as a she-wolf, a sly rogue that works under cover of darkness, just as many criminals do. Yet, with all his faults, farmers can thank their lucky stars that the owl takes care of thousands of rats and mice. Don't shoot them!

Peat is decayed vegetable matter that is neither coal nor wood, not yet having arrived at a finished state. It is usually found in layers many feet thick. Ireland has extensive peat bogs and we have a few in our own province, though they have never been fully investigated. When taken from its wet bed, it has to be thoroughly dried in the sun before it can be used for fuel.

As to the quantity and quality of Island peat bogs, all too little is known about this local product but it would be a god-send to many poor families who must buy coal or wood at very high prices.

The Micmac Indians are our chief linguists, most of the tribe can speak French and English as well as their own tongue.

Do you know why the policemen of London are called "Bobbies"? Sir Robert Peel created the London police force and that's how they came by the name of "peelers" and are still called "Bobbies" because Peel's first name was Robert. Peel abolished the old laws under which persons used to be hanged for such crimes as picking-pockets, etc., crimes that in our day would draw short prison terms. This great British statesman was killed by a fall from his horse.

There are some birds that chose their mates for life.

There are 2,330,000 seeds in a pound of sheep's grass, 1,500 in golden grass, and about 140,000 seeds in the round, perennial rye grass. Cocksfoot grass yields 28,000 pounds per acre on rich soil which, when dried, shrinks to 12,000 pounds. Good quality timothy grass will return 40,000 pounds, decreasing to 17,000 pounds when dried.

Were it not for the grass pastures, people would have to pay higher prices for their meat, milk, butter, cheese and wool. Mother Nature has wisely used grasses to cover up the scars of earth. Forest and flowers will in time decay but grass is immortal.

Dorothy Dix Says

Continued from page 2

calls for adjustments that the wife must make for the most part. No man is easy to live with, but when a woman loves her husband it takes the sting out of the scold and she must make and blind her to his faults. But this does not happen if she does not love him. Then she resents everything she has to do for him and his every weakness becomes an intolerable offense against her.

Your mother's optimistic belief that you will fall in love with your husband after marriage is not justified by experience. A woman who marries without love seldom falls in love afterward with her husband because if he did not have the charms that could win her before marriage, he still less has them after marriage. For men put their best foot foremost when they are courting.

Of course, every girl wants a home of her own, but she can buy it at too high a price, and she does pay more than it is worth when she sells herself for it. Moreover, she makes a doubly bad bargain because when she marries a man she doesn't love for a home she throws away her chances that are always on the card of getting both a husband she loves and a home. And that is too good a bet to overlook.

DEAR MISS DIX: I am married, have two small children, and live with my husband's mother. My mother-in-law spoils them, particularly the little girl, until they are being ruined and I am powerless to help it. Neither their father or I have any control over the children, for their grandmother opposes our every effort to discipline them. The little girl of 3 still has to be rocked to sleep and screams as if she were mad every time she is crossed. I want to raise my children properly, but it is impossible to do so under the circumstances. What shall I do?

ANSWER: Your first duty is to your children and it is something that you must do right now, immediately. It cannot be put off to some later date, for the pattern of a child's life is set by the time it is 4 years old and nothing that you can do after that will greatly change it.

If you let your children defy you when they are in the cradle, you will have lost your authority over them and you will not be able to control them when they are older. If you let them find out that they can get what they want by screaming for it when they are babies, they will get their own way by making scenes as long as they like. If you let them disobey you when they are babies, they will flout your opinion and judgment when they are adolescent and need to be guided by some one older and wiser than they are.

A famous child specialist said once that grandmothers killed more babies than any known disease. Certainly they ruin more lives than all the powers of evil by spoiling children when they are babies and bringing them up to be selfish, undisciplined youngsters who know no law but their own wills and who defy all authority.

No child should be brought up in the house with a grandmother or a maiden aunt unless the grandmother and the maiden aunt have self-restraint enough to keep their hands off them and leave them to their mother to rear.

DEAR DOROTHY DIX: I am the most unhappy girl in the world because the boy that I am in love with doesn't care beans about me. What can I do about it?

ANSWER: Absolutely nothing. Love is not an emotion that can be compelled. It comes and goes as it will and no one knows why. It is a matter of taste, of the imagination, of some subtle appeal, and if you do not have it for a boy, you simply lack it, and that is all there is to it.

Your best plan is to quit thinking about him and turn your affections upon some more responsive youth.

DOROTHY DIX cannot reply personally to readers, but will answer questions of general interest through her column.

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THERE OUGHT TO BE A LAW
HE STUDIED EVERY ROAD MAP IN CAPTIVITY BEFORE HE TOOK THAT AUTO TRIP --
GOOD GRIEF! ARE YOU AT THOSE MAPS AGAIN? YOU SHOULD HAVE EVERY ROAD IN THE COUNTRY MEMORIZED BY NOW!
GO WHAT! EVERY GOOD NAVIGATOR CHARTS HIS COURSE! WHY TAKE CHANCES?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN YOU'RE LOST! WE'RE HARDLY OUT OF THE CITY LIMITS!

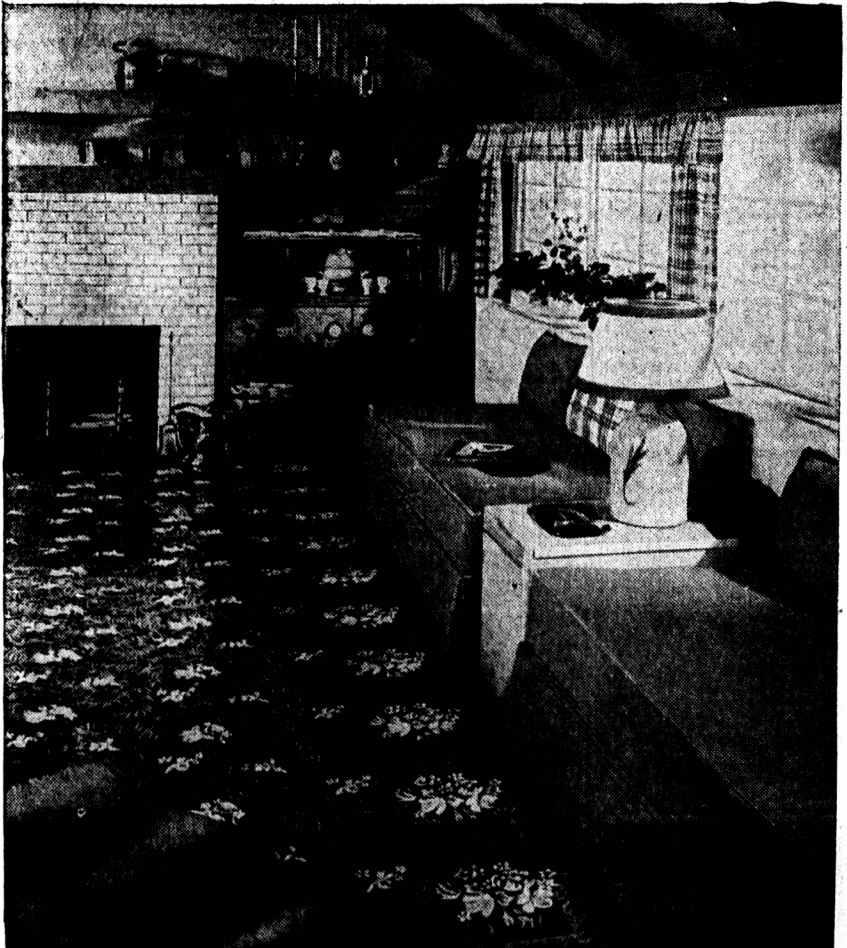
AND GUESS HOW LONG IT TOOK THE NAVIGATOR TO NAVIGATE OFF HIS COURSE!
Thanks to HERMAN of RIDGEMOOR ROSEMOR COUNTRY CLUB KOPPEWOOD PARK STATION CHICAGO, ILL.

OUT OUR WAY BY J. R. WILLIAMS
I CAN JUST MAKE IT WITH YOUR BIKE-- I'LL LEAVE IT AT THE GAS STATION BY THE BUS STOP AND YOU CAN STROLL OVER AND GET IT!
IT'S GETTIN' A HABIT NOW OF HE 'JUST CAN MAKE IT' IF HE USES MY BIKE AN' I WALK OVER TO GET IT!
IF THAT WAS ME, YOU'D LEAVE A COUPLE OF FLATS TO PUMP UP OR SOMETHING.
HEROES ARE MADE - NOT BORN
5-2 J.R. WILLIAMS
W. M. REG. U. S. PAT. OFF. DPA 1950 BY NEA SERVICE, INC.

York and Vicinity
Miss Lorna Vessey, last week celebrated her birthday with a few of her little friends.
Messrs: Harry Lewis and Harold Watts, were visitors to Rustico on Wednesday
Miss Margaret Watts returned home after visiting her sister Mrs. Ollie Brown, City.
Mrs. Leonard Andrews arrived home from the P. E. I. Hospital with her baby daughter.
Mrs. Fred MacDonald, City is visiting in York the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest MacDonald.
Mr. Angus Ouney, York, while he was out cutting kindlings had the misfortune of having the axe slip

and cut his thumb which required four stitches.
Many friends of little Marlyn Lewis are sorry to hear of her illness, her friends wish her a speedy recovery.
Mrs. Alex Beaton, has returned to her home in York after visiting in Tracadie the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Kelzer.
Mrs. Alfred Morrison, has returned to her home in Pleasant Grove, after being a patient in the Charlottetown Hospital.
Mrs. Herbert Lewis and grandson Frankie Lewis were visitors to Union Road on Sunday the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Yeo.
Friends of Mr. Ernest MacDonald, are sorry to hear of his illness and they all wish him a speedy recovery.

SEIZED RED LITERATURE
MONTREAL, April 27--(CP)--City and Provincial police today raided the Bleury Street offices of the Montreal Peace Council, a local organization, and seized thousands of allegedly Communist pamphlets and posters. Four police officers staged the raid shortly before noon when they entered the office armed with search warrant for stolen goods. A Peace Council official said leaflets, posters and the organization's complete filing system were taken away by the police. Police officials said no arrests have been made yet.
HOLST, Dorset, England--(CP)--The mystery of the wrongly-pointed signpost has been solved. After motorists had lost their way, it was discovered a cow had used the signpost as a head scratcher.



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