

### Chronic Heart Condition Invalids Father of 3

### Mark 300th Anniversary Of "Compleat Angler"

Washington — Fishermen and book lovers this summer are celebrating the 300th anniversary of "The Compleat Angler," Isaac Walton's little book on fishing that became one of English literature's classics.

This beloved book has been through nearly 300 editions, says the National Geographic Society. The first, which sold for 18 pence, now is a collector's item worth thousands of dollars. The work has been printed in Danish and German, and two Japanese editors published a Tokyo edition in English.

"The Compleat Angler or the Contemplative Man's Recreation" was first brought out in May, 1653, for all who "love quietness, and virtue and Angling." Revised and expanded throughout Walton's lifetime, it is a conglomeration of fishing instruction, natural history, anecdotes and homely philosophy. The text is in dialogue, interspersed with songs and verses.

With its glimpses of hospitable taverns, happy companionships and flowery river banks, "The Compleat Angler" captures the mind of the city man's escape to the country.

"No life," wrote Walton, "so happy and so pleasant as the life of a well-governed angler, for when the lawyer is swallowed up with business and the statesman is preventing or contriving plots, then we sit on cowslip banks, near the birds sing and possess ourselves in as much quietness as these silent streams which we now see glide so quietly by us."

"The Compleat Angler" has endured criticism, praise and editing. Despite stylistic flaws and erroneous or outdated facts, it has charmed ten generations of readers. It has made its author famous as the Father of Angling.

"Honest Izaak" was born in Stafford on August 9, 1593, when Elizabeth I was queen and Shakespeare had just published his first work. After a boyhood spent fishing such Staffordshire streams as the Trent and the Sow, Walton went to London to become a gentleman tradesman and churchman. He lived through troubled times, was twice widowed and lost eight of his ten children. His genius for friendship, however, made him the companion of some of the era's



NO MORE "POSTMAN'S BACK" — Walking erect on his mail route for the first time in 27 years, postman Ralph Robishaw, of Ashtabula, Ohio, uses a golf caddy cart to haul what used to be a spine-bending load of mail. Said postman Robishaw, "I finally smartened up."

greatest minds. His vigorous old age was spent with his son-in-law and daughter at Winchester, where he no doubt enjoyed those famous trout streams, the Ithen, Test and Meon. He died in 1683 at the age of 90 and was buried in Winchester Cathedral.

Walton, also noted for his biographies of John Donne, George Herbert, Henry Wotton, Richard Hooker and Robert Sanderson, edited five editions of "The Compleat Angler" during his lifetime. For the fifth, appearing in 1676, his friend and adopted son, Charles Cotton, wrote a second part on fly fishing.

In 1750, a new edition of the "Angler" was published at the instigation of Dr. Samuel Johnson. Nine more editions were printed in the 18th century, 164 in the 19th and 109 in the 20th. The first American edition 1847, was edited by a clergyman, George Washington Bethune. "This darling book," he called it affectionately. (National Geographic News.)

### ELLEN'S DIARY

Continued from page 2

help lies in helping to start or revive the machine, went out on this mission to Alderley this morning. But as well, trusty fellow that he is with the tractor, he was given the chore of last harrowings there where James continues the sowing, "narrowing it down" as he says until presently it will be ended and thoughts turned then toward the hopes of harvest. . . . There remains still a waiting patch at the other farm;

it lies red, and we fancy a mite lonely there beside the quiet orchard to which our eyes often turn in search of a far sign of its blossoming. June has arrayed the lawn — rowan in lacy green; a poplar with ever-restless leaves wears near-gold; wild strawberry blossoms bright with promise nestle against sunny banks and today before our eyes a debonair bee courted a tulip in the border. And "Let me tell you something," Gage whispered this evening, "that robin that built her nest in the

building is," he nodded and smiled broadly, "sitting!" "Hi!" it is Jamie and the little lad on their way to bed, who stop at the doorway of this borrowed "sanctum" . . . Jamie with looks a bit anxious to remind us, "We must be up in good time—because the holiday is over and" with a smile now, "we're off to school in the morning!" How full and pleasant these days are which as James has it truly, "Just love to slip away!" Until tomorrow — Dairy—Good-night . . .

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