

ROLLING DOWN THE RIVER



By Bob Kettler

For years and years we've been reading about "contented" down and have accepted it as something quite necessary to provide more vitamins to the folk and more zest to the steak, two famous items furnished by various members of the bovine family. But here, the other day, some magazine comes out, and an expert therein says, the same delicate care must be given the pig to keep him from getting too many complexes. Maybe the pig is right, but what we'd like to know is—how to you frustrate a pig? The only way the porkers we've seen and read about could get an inferior complex is from turning around on its tray in some well ordered market showcase and see the price they're asking these days for a hunk of prime sirloin.

But then, there's frustrations and frustrations. The other day we took a salesman friend of ours out for a spot of coffee and on the way back let him drive the beautiful '51 Studebaker V-8 Land Cruiser. He loved the way the car handled, was pleased with its comfortable ride and the speedy pickup and fast response of the V-8 engine. We had a hard time getting him to point the car in the general direction of the garage after he had spent some time trying to get the car up to 60 m.p.h. in seven seconds, from a standing start, after he had done it in nine seconds his first try. "Boy," we thought, "porky, son of a table," and he wanted delivery, "Right away," says he, "as soon as I sell another ten thousand dollar life insurance policy." So we're frustrated. . . . I know anyone who needs a little extra insurance?

Oh well, as all hard working salesmen know, it's one thing to itch for something and another to scratch for it.

Young mother had her '60 Studebaker Champion in for a bit of lubrication last week, and was telling us of the trials and tribulations of being a mother of a five year old genius. "It isn't that he doesn't mind," she stated. "He implicitly never does anything we tell him not to do. Only he can think of so many things to do that we never think of mentioning."

So we fixed her car and sent her on her way, complete in the knowledge that her car was in perfect condition and would do everything she asked of it, because our mechanics are the genius variety too. We only hope that this little episode will remind all of you to bring the car motor tune-up to insure care-free driving the rest of the summer.

We've noticed that while the fourteen year old son may grow up to be the man his parents hoped he would become, he'll never be as great as his five year old sister thinks he is right now.

Yours,

BOB KETTLER

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Partial Destruction of City: Account Of Farmington Fire Related In History Of Universalist Church

EDITOR'S NOTE—The Universalist Church at Warner and Thomas Streets, Farmington's oldest house of worship, is preparing to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1953. Approve of this centennial, The Farmington Enterprise is publishing a series of articles on the church's history, of which this is the fifth. Readers are advised to clip and save these articles. A limited number of extra copies of The Enterprise will be available for mailing to friends.

V. — FIRE!

Throughout the perilous Reconstruction era with its carpet-baggers and the Ku Klux Klan, the Union Society and the newly formed Universalist Church in Farmington continued calmly to expound the gospel of a loving God.

The United States purchased Alaska from the Czar; the Dominion of Canada was established; a golden spike was driven to mark the completion of the first transcontinental railroad; Black Friday paralyzed the New York Stock Exchange; Farmington Village was incorporated. The Universalists discussed selling their property and building a new church.

On October 9, 1870, the Rev. Chauncey W. Knickerbocker preached his farewell discourse, ending a tenure of 10 years and four months with the Farmington church. "His departure," a resolution said, "is universally regretted."

At 2 a.m. on October 9, 1872, after a summer-long drought had parched all southeastern Michigan, a disastrous fire broke out in the Farmington drygoods store of O. B. Smith on Grand River Avenue.

There was no fire department. Bucket brigades, carrying water from two wells, were unable to stop the spread of the flames.

The situation called for a leader, and one turned up in the person of Chauncey W. Greene, who, it will be remembered, was chairman of the Union Society.

Mr. Greene, a horseman of note, galloped in from his farm southwest of town, sized up the situation and in the manner of a general, as Nathan Power wrote, immediately decided on a course of action.

Perhaps Mr. Power used the word "general" advisedly, for Mr. Greene was a lineal descendant of Nathaniel Greene, who to the dismay of his fellow Quakers had taken up arms and had become a general in George Washington's Continental Army.

Shouting orders from his horse, Mr. Greene roused up spectators and directed them to pull down a house that was next in the path of the flames. At length they succeeded, and the maneuver saved the rest of the town.

The Universalist, Baptist and Methodist churches and many residences were spared, but the fire had destroyed all the town's records and those of the Masonic Lodge as well as numerous stores.

Heavy sufferers among Universalists included Joshua Simmons, a trustee, who was a founder of the Universalist Church; Warren B. Seely, the town jeweler, and Miss H. Augusta Lester, the church's treasurer, who lost a store and adjoining house.

Romance, as well as misfortune, came into the life of Miss Lester. She was a charter member of the Farmington Universalist Church and for years one of its stalwarts.

The society's minutes for May, 1879, were signed, "H. Augusta Lester, Clerk." Those for August 24, 1879, "H. Augusta L. Shackleton."

At the time of the fire, the Universalist pastor was the Rev. Wellington Slason, who had been ordained in Farmington December 21, 1871. He succeeded in 1871 by the Rev. Samuel Ashton.

Orthodox Christians were startled about this time by the news that those strange Union Church folks were addressed by a woman preacher. The Universalists were the first church to ordain women on an equal footing with men (1853).

On at least four occasions, 1870 to 1876, the Farmington church had as guest pastor the Rev. Myra Woolley Gillette, a daughter of the Rev. E. M. Woolley, who had been the first man to occupy the local pulpit. (The Rev. Helen Follett Adams, wife of the present pastor, is an ordained minister.)

A Farmington directory of 1875 showed the population to be 300 and listed, among others, the following business establishments: Sergius P. Lyon, undertaker; Benjamin Grace and Brother, general store; John H. Shackleton, flour mill; Wilbur and Lapham, founders. Mr. Ashton was the Universalist minister.

An 1877 directory listed three churches, Baptist, Methodist and Universalist, with the Rev. A. M. Follett as Universalist pastor, and boasted of a new Town Hall, John Hardenburg ran a flour mill, and Lewis C. Philbrick was a lumber dealer.

Nathan Power wrote that Mr. Sowle was a quiet, scholarly gentleman who lived in a house on East Grand River Avenue that was later occupied by Mrs. Sarah Chamberlain. He remained as minister until March 5, 1881, and observed his 70th birthday anniversary here May 8, 1898.

The birthday record that Mr. Sowle received Mrs. Lovina Carr into the church July 1, 1877, "at her (Continued on Page Ten)

WEST POINT PARK NEWS

MISS L. A. AULT
Phone 1416-M

(Continued from Page Three)

of Robert Kellogg and his family on Elmora. Young Charles Kellogg, their grandson, who had been visiting them, returned home with his parents.

The Homer Cottoms of Shady-side Avenue have been spending week ends at Island Lake.

Announcement has been received of the marriage July 14 of Alfred Sclovan and Virginia Ann Keyes of Detroit. Mr. Sclovan is a former West Point Park boy.

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Roberts of Maryland Avenue spent last Sunday at Island Lake.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Knapp of Farmington Road have been entertaining a group of relatives from Ohio.

Miss Marion Johnson of Clarita Avenue is the guest for two weeks of her cousin, Carol Porter of New London, Ohio. Miss Anne Johnson, her sister, is having a vacation visit with relatives in Akron.

Ed Grant of Farmington Road is Tuesday for a two week vacation visit in Colorado, where he has three sisters he had not seen for 20 years.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Wockenfuss and their four daughters, Judy, Susie, Roy and Betty Jean, from Scotch Plains, New Jersey, are now occupying the Farmington Road home recently purchased by them from Gus Berndt.

You'll Be Surprised At The Results From An Enterprise Classified

-- LOCALS --

Merlin Adams of West Point Park has returned from visiting his brother, Dale Adams of Palo Alto, California, and cousin Carleton. He also visited relatives in Jersey Shore, Pennsylvania. He traveled by bus for three weeks on his trip.

Susan Lange, 17, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Lange of 23015 Maple Street, is at Old Grace Hospital recovering from an operation. She will remain there another week.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Russell of 27816 Clarita and Mrs. D. F. Jones of 20645 Beaton Road, Farmington, spent a recent week end visiting their sons, James W. Russell and Donald H. Jones, at Sampson Air Force Base, Sampson, New York.

Miss Edna Aldrich of Northville, formerly of Farmington, is visiting Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Melft and sons of Oswego, New York. Mrs. Case.

Melft is also a former Farmington resident. Marie Case, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Case also spent a week with his sister Marie and family of Oswego. While visiting there Mr. Case also spent some time with his mother, Mrs. James Case.

Motorboat Operators Stir Up Fishermen

Inconsiderate motorboat operators are stirring up a lot of fishermen and cottagers, the conservation department re-emphasizes.

To prevent tragedy, the department reminds the person with a legitimate complaint that the local sheriff, state policeman or conservation officer is empowered to enforce the law against careless boat operation.

A white light, distinguishable at 500 feet, is needed on a motorboat from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.

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Announce Engagement, Approaching Wedding

Mrs. Cecelia Eldrington has announced the engagement of her daughter, Janette Marie, to Arthur Wesley LaMontagne, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur LaMontagne of Parkville Street, Farmington.

The wedding is to take place in late August.

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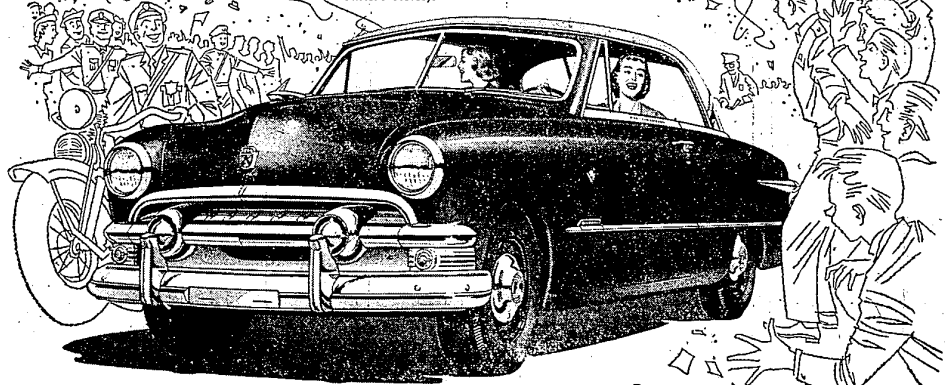
SUN, MON., TUES, August 5, 6, 7
MARIO LANZA • ANN BLYTH
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In Technicolor

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, August 8, 9
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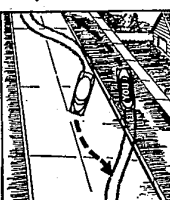
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Unwritten Laws of the Road.

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Farmington Enterprise

No. 2: Slow Down For That "Crazy Driver".



Speed is the thing that gets you into a jam faster than your car or steering wheel can get you out. A crazy driver ahead of you is defined as any driver who does all the wrong driving things you think are crazy. If you stay near him long enough he will get you into trouble. So will associating with undesirable persons. The best thing to do is to stay clear of them. Professional Drivers slow down when they see a crazy driver because anything can happen and frequently does. At a lower speed you have a far greater chance of protecting yourself. If you have to climb over the curb to escape you can do it more safely at 15 than you can at 60.

Courtesy of the Michigan State Safety Council in cooperation with the Detroit City of Michigan.



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