

# Characters one meets while boating

By HENRY HOGAN  
Co-publisher

The Readers Digest has a series called "the most unforgettable character I've ever met." It's usually about semi-famous men, but I ran across a character in the British West Indies last week that might qualify.

As we were island hopping, a customsman sailing by, captained by a thin tanned individual with a long beard, a blue bandanna in his hair but wearing no other clothes. He was reading a paperback book as he sailed.

Obviously he was the topic of conversation and

coincidentally we anchored off the same island that night and we invited him aboard our boat the next morning for coffee.

At THIS POINT he was wearing an abbreviated loin cloth. He was tan all over and didn't have an extra ounce of fat on his body.

During our discussions he indicated he was a "child of the universe" although originally he was Dutch. He had a high school education, tried marriage but it didn't work, and had sailed the Caribbean for six years. He ate fish once a week but otherwise ate only natu-

## eccentricities

Stank Stogau



ral foods with no meat in his diet. He did admit he liked the smell of filet mignon when it's cooking. While we were talking he was baking bread aboard his boat.

His boat was his home and he was doing construction on it to make it more comfortable.

HE ANNOUNCED that he had finally put it all together in life.

If he needed money he went out on charter but only for people he liked.

He hated capitalism because it made the rich very rich and didn't give the poor a chance.

He said it was stupid to have money and build a large house, because you had to build a fence around it and protect it with dogs.

He believed the best political philosophy was one of sharing all goods, like when he ran out of food he felt people should share with him.

After he left we talked about how the guy had reached the dream of many people, sailing the ocean, stopping off at deserted islands without a care in the world.

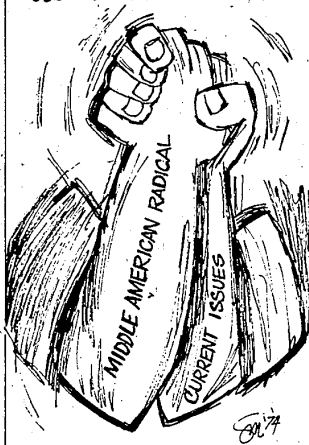
LATER THAT NIGHT we stopped off at a different island and went to a small restaurant. On the wall they had the front page of a newspaper tucked up which told of how the federal authorities had just uncovered a half million dollar cache of marijuana in an empty shack on this island.

After dinner we were discussing the character we met with the owner of the restaurant. He knew him well and pointed to the newspaper on the wall.

"Old Case is the guy who runs that stuff into St. Thomas," he casually said.

It kind of shattered our dream of what Old Case had called "putting it all together in life."

## "GRIPPING" DRAMA IN OUR SUBURBS



watchdogs over government. But you as an individual can help.

This is the time of year when Republicans are selling Lincoln Day banquet tickets and Democrats Jefferson-Jackson tickets. They're moderate in price, the oratory is several cuts above the usual after-dinner bellowing, and the people are nice. In both parties.

And who said the energy crisis isn't real?

## Maurice Walker writes

## Full cooperation is needed

"These are times that try men's souls."

Unemployment, shortages, strikes, inflation. All weigh heavily on America today. So, what can we do about it?

When things get rough, try to look back and think how it must have been during the Civil War. These truly were "times that tried men's souls." The country was divided. Brother was fighting brother, families were in opposite camps. No one knew what the outcome would be.

"Somehow the country lived through it, and even though that war is still 'fought' in discussions, the country survived."

World War I, World War II, the Korean War, Viet Nam, somehow we got through these tragedies.

Today's trying times call for cooperation, understanding, friendship. They call for making friends of a stranger, to helping a friend, to passing on a smile to whomever we meet.

These are times when we must all stick together. A simple cheery "hello," the sound of laughter, the sparkling eyes of someone you

pass on the street, can help chase the dark clouds away.

Just to walk into a public building and be greeted by a charming young lady with, "May I help You," can brighten a gloomy day.

A telephone operator who is willing to take the time to listen to your problems, answer your questions, can make the world brighter.

A smiling police officer, postman, public official, who greets you sincerely is a morale booster.

We can all do something to help our fellow man, no matter how small the gesture. It doesn't take much to make the average person feel welcome. It doesn't cost anything to help a person in trouble, even if "we think I shouldn't get involved."

We all have troubles, problems, worries. We need to share them with someone or have someone help us forget them. A little understanding, courtesy, sympathy, may make the day for a person even if we never really know it.

There are persons in our life who just naturally "make our day." But we can all contribute to someone's day by forgetting our prob-

lems and helping to lighten the burden of others.

There are few of us who don't know someone who, although they may be unaware of it, have a way of brightening our lives. Wouldn't it be great if we could follow their path?

The problem today is, so many of us tend to get wrapped up in our own troubles that we forget others have problems too.

If we could just take time out to learn that no matter what our troubles are, there are others who are far worse off than we.

Don't many of us know persons, who, when they have done something for us, have cheered us, say when we think them, "Oh, I'm so glad!"

Would we could all be like that. All we can do is to try and emulate them, attempt to clear a dark day.

This country has gone through many trials. It will get through this one. It will take teamwork, it means helping each other, even if it's just a simple thing like smiling or saying "hello" to a stranger.

Let's try it. We will be amazed at how well it works.

What this amounts to is particularly the emphasis on Plymouth. - is the fact that this spring the city and township of Plymouth are going to vote on incorporating as one municipality. If this is approved in each of those geographical units, then a nine-member charter commission yet to be elected will have to write the document that would establish the new framework of the unified Plymouth government.

Our afraided seven, Hartmann et al who have previously served as mayors, would seem on the surface to be guiding lights who should patrol pre-city interests in such a government, just as township supervisors from

the past, Maurice Breen and Jack McEwen, would join incumbent J. D. McLaren, in an honest appraisal of rural needs.

The outcome, I fear, would once again be a government of committees to which they were born. The McNamara philosophy is one to which they should listen - a strong, fulltime mayor leadership responsible personally to the voters.

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