

HAL BOYLE SAYS:

Time Brings Consolation To The Homely Youngster

NEW YORK—(AP)—The first day I went to junior high school—just 25 years ago—there was a pretty girl sitting in front of me in English class.

She was blonde, in a shaggy way, and had cupid bow lips and a little brown freckle here and there. I thought to myself, "boy, if junior high's like this I certainly wasted a lot of time getting through grammar school."

About halfway through the lesson, my new dream girl turned around, grinned at me and whispered:

"I wonder what you looked like before the mule kicked you." I waited until the teacher looked the other way, and then whispered into the fair ear before me:

"I never was kicked by a mule."

She turned around and gave me that heartbreak smile again, and whispered:

"Oh, was it a horse then?" For a moment I didn't understand what she meant. And then I blushed clear down to my new \$2.95 tennis shoes. What this darling doll was trying to tell me was that my face LOOKED like it had taken a hoof massage.

This wasn't the first time I had been disappointed in love. Only three months before the girl I had wanted to take to our graduating exercises at the Lincoln Grammar school had turned me down with, "I'd love to, Harold, but really you're too small for me."

But no one before had ever told me I was homely. I went right home from junior high and spent a half hour grimacing at the bathroom mirror.

That blonde was right! No doubt of it. No nose needed to spread that wide just to fill one pair of lungs with air. Were those really ears or coat hanger? That hair—or was it moss? Why did anyone need a mouth that big unless he wanted to swallow crackerjack boxes?

I came out of that bathroom a desperate man. Women were out of my life forever. I was going to stay a bachelor and win all the merit badges in the boy scout book. How else could a frustrated fellow do at 13?

For the next ten years I hated that face that looked out at me from the mirror. The fact that Abraham Lincoln and Socrates must have had the same trouble was no consolation at all.

But at 23 I made an astonishing discovery—I was still pretty ugly, but I wasn't getting any worse. My ears hadn't grown an inch.

In the years since then I have learned the fine consolation that time brings to the homely. There is only one way for them to grow—and that is better. On the other hand, those who are beautiful or handsome when young can only fade with age. And it frets them into melancholy.

Often I used to wonder what- ever induced my lovely wife to marry such a plain thing as her husband. One day I found out. We were looking through her family album, and there was a picture of her as a child with her pet, Major, a fine old bulldog.

"Do you ever get lonesome for Major?" I asked.

"Not anymore," Frances said, looking at me fondly.

All along—such is the loyalty of wives—she has stoutly insisted I'm not really exactly homely. When I asked her what I was, she searched through the English language for an adjective and said:

"Well, you're the...er...er...well the rugged type."

Anyway it's better to be homely young, realize it young, and go on to other things.

Some of the giant redwoods in California are believed to be more than 4,000 years old.

One tree may have as much as 80 gallons of water evaporated from its leaves in a single day.

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OUT OUR WAY 2y J. R. Williams

Rules To Prevent Sex Crimes Are Listed At Meet

SEATTLE—(AP)—A set of rules for parents to aid in the prevention of sex crimes against their children was recommended today by American Legion child welfare leaders, as the initial step in a long range national program.

The rules were approved by delegates from 11 Western states, meeting here in the Legion's western child welfare conference.

They included: 1—Know your child's whereabouts and associates; 2—Enforce your own curfew;

- 3—Train your child to go straight home from school;
 - 4—Train your child not to accept rides or favors from strangers;
 - 5—Report suspicious actions to your police promptly and frankly.
- The Legion committee, studying the sex crime problem, urged a national conference to be called and a national commission created to study the issue. The special committee is headed by East National Commander Stephen F. Chadwick of Seattle.
- The committee also urged all communities to back up parental protective measures with the following actions:
- 1—Light up your dark places;
 - 2—Support an adequate police department;
 - 3—Discourage any practice requiring young children to be abroad after dark without proper supervision;
 - 4—Invite police and juvenile authorities to instruct and advise parent groups;
 - 5—Enforce laws against the sale and circulation of obscene literature and pictures.
- A cooperative plan for child welfare under the sponsorship of the American Legion was endorsed in Friday's morning session by Randel Shake of Indianapolis, associate National Child Welfare director for the Legion.
- The plan, in cooperation with the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, backs welfare activities on a community level.
- Shake said that proposed action on a local level would include the training of doctors and nurses, emphasis on school and public health programs, distribution and financing of health services, including the field of voluntary health insurance, and a program of health education.

Former Judge Warns Against Spending Funds

WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—(AP)—Former-Federal Judge Charles L. Dawson, blocked by John L. Lewis from a seat as trustee over the coal miners welfare fund, said today any persons spending fund money do so "at their peril."

Dawson, whom Lewis refused to recognize as trustee chosen by coal operators, said he and Senator Bridges (R-NH)—the neutral trustee—have voted to cut even emergency payments from the fund.

Lewis, trustee representing the United Mine Workers union, didn't recognize Dawson's vote. The UMW leader contended his own negative vote matched Bridges' affirmative vote, so the emergency payments will continue.

Dawson said the welfare fund is so broke it's already two months behind in paying for the emergency hospital cases still continued on welfare fund rolls.

"I have notified employees and administrators of the fund," he said, "that any action taken in violation of any resolution for which I and any other trustee voted would be taken at their peril."

The legal tangle among the trustees is only a part of the complicated coal dispute. The background is that Lewis and the coal operators have failed to negotiate a new labor contract to replace the one which expired last July 1.

NEW OFFICIAL SEATED
PENDLETON—(AP)—Jasper E. Olinger, 66, Milton Republican, was sworn in as county commissioner to fill the vacancy left by the death of Sam Ingle, Milton, also a Republican.

Olinger will serve till Dec. 31, 1950. The remaining two years of the term will be filled by a regular election next November.

The new commissioner is head of a lumber company at Milton-Freewater and sells real estate.

Chinese Order Renews Hopes of Freeing Ward

By EDWARD E. BOMAR
WASHINGTON, Dec. 5.—(AP)—A new Chinese communist order "expelling" Consul General Angus Ward from Mukden raised hopes today for the early release of four other American prisoners in the far east.

Ward and his aides, including 15 Americans, are now expected to start home early next week by way of the north China port of Tientsin. After trying to leave for months, they were finally ordered to depart by 8 a. m. Wednesday by the Mukden municipal government.

The state department meanwhile hopefully awaited word from Moscow on the prospects for freeing two ECA shipping offi-

PINT-SIZED FARMHAND

Five-year-old Teddy Ray Hooker, who has been driving a tractor, since old enough to "cry to get on," is a two-fisted milker as well. Father Ray Hooker, owner of a 160-acre farm near Skiatook, Okla., says Teddy is "the best doggone hand I ever had."

Unemployment Benefits Reach All-Time Peak

SALEM — (AP) — Unemployment compensation benefits for 1949, will be the largest in the 12-year history of the unemployment compensation commission.

The commission said it paid out \$16,622,325 in the first 11 months of this year. That amounts equal the total of \$16,669,748 for the entire 12 months of 1946, which is the worst year until this one.

Benefits paid in November were \$1,933,327, which was three times the November, 1948, figure. It was more than was paid during the entire last three months of 1946 or 1947.

The commission's Portland office paid out \$830,997 last month, or 43 per cent of the total.

The Eugene office was second with \$124,397, and Salem was next with \$112,850.

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Irene Bonials

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