

## For What It's Worth.

By CLIFFORD P. ROWE

Are you getting sick and tired of listening to political conventions? Are you getting fed up with the wrangling and arguments relative to the merits of the various candidates and the principles for which they stand? Do you feel that the entire performance is silly and unnecessary?



If such are your true feelings, then it may be possible that Joe Stalin is your man, Russia your recommended residence and communism your ideal philosophy; for the workings of a democracy such as our can never be quiet or always entertaining. In the Soviet, on the other hand, the leader will guarantee your never being bothered by politics or needing to strain your mind in determining which party to support.

Personally, I love the verbal fisticuffs, the emotional outbursts and the violent differences in opinion that characterize the American political convention. I may not agree with all that is said and done; nevertheless, I highly appreciate having it brought home to me forcibly every four years that democracy is still in existence and that the right to express one's opinion is still held sacred.

Naturally everyone is aware that some skulduggery is present in all politics. Such antics may even be nauseating at times, but we are also aware that dishonest tactics will be taken care of in the long haul. Conventions this month have been particularly forceful in demonstrating that right will almost always triumph when exposed to healthful environment of public scrutiny.

While at times our democratic machinery may seem complicated, involved and tedious, I still prefer it to the firing squad or the death chamber as a means of settling important political issues. As long as men have the right to express their opinions fearlessly, I know that I am still a free man and that when I cast my ballot it will be a potent force and not a pitiable farce.

### Wild Strawberry

The big red strawberries that taste so good with shortcake and cream come from plants growing in home gardens and on truck farms. They are carefully tended to make them produce berries that are just right for eating fresh or for making into preserves.

There was a time, though, when the oily strawberry to be had were wild ones growing in fields. To get the tasty fruit in those days

you had to take a basket and search for a perry patch.

If you were living in the eastern half of the United States, the chances are that you would have found good picking. That is the region where the Wild Strawberry has been abundant for years. It is still plentiful from New England to Florida and west to Oklahoma and South Dakota.

The place to look for the plant says the National Wildlife Federation is on grassy slopes. It grows out in the



© 1951 National Wildlife Federation  
Wild Strawberry

open where there is sunshine to keep the ground dry and to ripen the fruit in the late spring.

Like cultivated strawberries—the wild strawberry is a low plant—from three to nine inches high—that spreads over the ground. It grows from runners, or shoots, which reach out and take root at many places.

Fastened to the runners are leaves, growing in clusters of three leaflets apiece. Each leaflet has coarse teeth along its edge and a rough, hairy surface. It is about two inches long.

Here and there among the leaves are small white flowers. Each flower is from a half to three-fourths of an inch in diameter and has five round, white petals.

Attached to the same stalks that bear the flowers are the sweet red berries. Though not as large and attractive in shape as cultivated strawberries, the wild ones look and taste very much like the kind that comes from gardens.

As you might guess, the reason for the resemblance is that Wild Strawberries are ancestors of the garden variety. By working with

ation, is in fields, pastures, and the wild plants, experts have produced the strawberries which we cultivate.

Wild strawberries now rank second to their tame cousins, but they still furnish fruit for eating. And wherever they grow, they perform a useful service by clinging to the ground and protecting soil against erosion.

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