

Along Azalea Row

By RUTH B. SMITH

It would be nice if I could say that this is being sent to you direct from the outer spaces but it isn't so. It is being written in advance of deadlines to accommodate travel schedules and by the time it is used, may not sound at all as intended.

What a beautiful thing is friendship! Or at least I had always thought so until recently when I was bemoaning all the things that needed to be taken care of, including column material for three issues of the paper. What do you think was the joint recommendation of five so-called public-spirited gentlemen (?)? "Just submit the last three columns and be done with it! No one would know the difference." One might expect such cooperativeness from one person but five! What a blow to my ego to learn that they never even read the wisdom offered them gratis by the Garden Club. Henceforth, if their gardens are disgraces, we can no longer be blamed; just for

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those unflattering remarks, were I not an avid garden-clubber, always eager to greet the public, readers or not, I could almost wish that every blade of grass or stem eagerly looked for would, for them, turn out to be a hardy weed in their gardens. Friendship indeed!

Mayhap this is just as good a time as any to bring you something which I thought interesting—and I just do not know what brought the subject of "Skunks" to my mind just now.

As a matter of fact, in this instance, there was just one skunk with one foot badly caught in a trap set at the end of a long chain, primarily for the purpose of catching a woodchuck who had been raiding a very nice garden. Neither the owner of the trap, hereinafter named "Mere Man" nor the animal himself, hereinafter called "Skunkie" had planned things this way but what to do now? "Mere Man" first thought of his rifle, a good club, or a big stone, but it seemed hardly fair to kill the poor animal which, at least to that moment, had done no harm.

The final decision was to attempt to free "Skunkie" and hope for no untoward results if the work was done slowly enough not to frighten the beast. "Mere Man" dropped to one knee and started pulling slowly on the chain, moving it gently toward him. "Skunkie" seemed to understand, when he felt the strain, and began to move forward with the trap, without offering any resistance. After what seemed an eternity there he and "Mere Man" were, all but face to face. What an opportunity! Probably no skunk ever had a better one, but still he seemed to say, "Your intentions are good," for "Mere Man" had neither hurt him nor frightened him.

With hands on the trap itself it was pretty much of a shock to find that the two spring levers were too stiff to open by hand. The best plan would be to get one foot on one lever and use pressure with both hands on the other. But to stand up unexpectedly might have been just the frightening act to break the spell. So, still in the cramped kneeling position, "Mere Man" very slowly wriggled his left foot forward inch by inch until the toe of his

Mothers, Daughters Feted at Banquet

With ninety-six women and girls sitting down to a banquet prepared by the men of the Grange last Friday evening the first Mothers and Daughters banquet for this area was a complete success. The affair, under the chairman, William Eickhoff, pre-

ceeded from a delicious ham dinner to a program which consisted of musical selections, a solo dance by Teresa Van Ceil, and a short speech by Luther Tisdale, the only man seated at the dinner. Mrs. Lillian Zumpfe was in charge of the program, which concluded with three 4-H demonstrations by teams from Smith River and Fort Dick.

Brookings-Harbor Pilot 3
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