

# Wise or Otherwise

By Ethan Grant

In a magazine recently an authority on entertainment, evidently not feeling well, offered some cures for drowsiness, applicable when your guests begin yawning and acting as if they wished you'd never been born.

One example is enough. He recommended, in all seriousness, that you let one of your guests lie on the floor and place a coin on the tip of his nose. The objective, guaranteed to provoke sidesplitting laughter, is that the guest dislodge the coin by wiggling his nose.

And the magazine paid him for it! I don't get it. Postoffice—although I've never played it myself—would seem more entertaining. And there are so many, many funnier pastimes, if a fellow cares to use his head. For instance, why not place one of your guests atop a fence post on one foot and let the others throw fresh eggs at him? It would be novel, if for no other reason than that you'd use fresh eggs, when, as everyone knows, the customary ammunition for such a target always has been things slightly overripe.

Inanities are the salt and pepper of life, for some people.

Another uproariously funny stunt would be to fill the candy bowl with moth balls and watch your guests' faces and listen to their remarks, which would no doubt be classic; especially if they were fond of candy. Also, you could stage an old-fashioned taffy pull, and when you had them all working like beavers, toss a pill-

low into the electric fan and offer a prize for the person who looked the most like Donald Duck.

If nobody seemed to see the humor in that, you could flap your wings and crow like a rooster, making them think you'd suddenly gone cuckoo. Or you could just walk out of the house and leave.

If a fellow uses his head, there's no end of cures for ennui. Once when, at a party I attended, the host saw we were becoming bored, he introduced the dumbest of us—including me—to that old, old game called poker. He was pretty good at it, and he made it so fascinating we stayed nearly all night trying to win our money back.

It shouldn't be necessary for the thinking host to improvise ways and means to entertain. He can always provide the fun angle simply by inviting the right combination. At least one show-off should always be included. He may tell jokes which will embarrass the others, but maybe they haven't been around much. What they need is a ride in a Pullman car smoking room.

Women show-offs are always funniest. Once we invited a household of friends for a quiet New Year's party. My best friend and his girl were on the list, but about 10 o'clock he called up and said his young lady couldn't make it.

"Then bring somebody else's girl," I suggested.

He did. We'd just nicely sat down to a pleasant game of anagrams, when he breezed in with her. It was immediately evident

that she was under the influence of at least a strong misapprehension. She thought she'd been fetched in to break up the party. And she practically did. She held a monopoly on all the worst jokes, and she exhibited a tendency toward acrobatics. She did everything unladylike but hang by her heels from the chandelier.

When I asked my friend how it happened, he said the poor girl was at home alone, without any friends and lonesome. Which, in view of her behavior, wasn't at all hard to understand.

## Monmouth Grad Writes of Travels

MONMOUTH—In a letter to Cecilia Brennan, placement secretary at OCE, Ted S. Jaross, and alumnus of the school, now stationed at Fort Benning, Ga., writes:

"Since the last time I was on the campus many a mile has been covered. First to Fort Lewis, then to Camp Roberts, Calif., and now in the peach land of Georgia where they are trying to educate us in the line of radio operations and transmitting. We are to be here for seven more weeks, after which I am hoping for six weeks in a radio repair course, and—I hope—a furlough back to good old Oregon. I'll be sure to stop in for a visit.

"My brother, Walter Jaross, has returned to the states and will be stationed at Camp Pickett, Va., after spending almost two years on Kodiak Island, Alaska. The 'Ocean' and 'Lamron' (college news sheets) have been much enjoyed, with information about many fellow students and their whereabouts."

## Story Hours New Feature For Children

An added attraction has been included in the program of the seven neighborhood playgrounds with Mrs. Dorothy Kriger in charge of a series of story hours, sponsored by the Salem council of church women.

Mrs. Kriger's project will begin Monday morning. Her method of instruction involves the use of visual aids to illustrate her stories. Her daily schedule at the playgrounds includes:

- 9 to 8:30 a. m.—Highland.
- 9:40-10:10—Englewood.
- 10:50-11:30—Washington.
- 1:30-2:00 p. m.—Richmond.
- 2:10-2:40—Bush.
- 3:15-3:35—McKinley.

Regular projects under the direction of the playground instructors will be carried on both preceding and following the story hours.

## Highway Commission Plans August Tour

The state highway commission, along with a group of newspapermen and representatives of several federal agencies, will leave here early in August for an eight days tour of Oregon highways.

The party will visit virtually every section of the state. Highway department officials, other than the commissioners, slated to make the trip are R. H. Baldoek, state highway engineer; Herbert Glaisyer, commission secretary, and J. M. Devers, attorney for the highway division.

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# Montgomery Ward