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With the High School Classics

By MARGARET BOYD

... life's fitful fever ... —Macbeth.

Thoreau built himself a little cabin out by Walden pond and there lived the simplest sort of existence for more than a year; because, he said, "I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived."

He obeyed Epictetus' injunction, "Cease to make yourselves slaves, first of things, and then upon their account, of the men who have the power either to bestow or take them away"—he had in his house no furniture that was not essential to his needs; he lived on the simplest foods, and he supplied practically all his needs from his own garden. In this manner he secured a lucid interval in "life's fitful fever," and learned that, "When we are unburied and wise, we perceive that only great and worthy things have any permanent and absolute existence."

A generation ago the mass of humanity secured a momentary lucid interval in life's fitful fever once each week. The automobile, the movies, the radio and a general relaxation of the blue laws have changed that. Sunday is now as filled and hurried as any other day of the week.

Nowadays few of us secure even the slightest lucid interval—we never at all get away from the needs and duties and responsibilities of everyday existence. Yet these are things without permanent existence—things such as those that interest us during the delirium of fever, things that are real for the moment only.

The savage who sits on the bank and fishes or who ranges the woods in search of game has a lifetime in which to evolve a theory of life; but his civilized brother is so busy getting to the office on time, reading the papers, dressing conventionally, seeing all the shows, inventing labor-saving devices, and the like, that he never has time to think of life until time for death. Then he cries with Peer Gynt:

So unspeakably poor, then, a soul can go Back to nothingness, into the gray of the mist. Thou beautiful earth, be not angry with me. That I trampled thy grasses to no avail. Thou beautiful sun, thou hast squandered away Thy glory of light in an empty hut. There was no one within it, to be hearten and warm; The owner, they tell me, was never at home.

... where the Father of Waters seizes the hills in his hands, and drags them down to the ocean. —Evangelist.

We speak of the everlasting hills, yet even the mountains do not last forever. Bit by bit the hills and rivulets carry the mountain to the brooks and the creeks; these carry it to the rivers; and they, in turn, to the ocean. When a mountain stream is muddy, it is at work dragging down the mountain—the muddier the stream, the quicker it is carrying away the mountain.

The best place to see streams at work on hillsides is where the hillsides are farmed. So long as a slope is covered with forest, it washes little, no matter how steep it may be. Even after the timber has been cut off and the slope turned into pasture, the roots of the sod prevent washing except during severe storms; but when the mountaineer plows his fields and puts in corn or wheat, you can fairly see the hillside go. Every rain washes great gulleys, and in no time at all the top soil has all been carried away. It is not taken at once to the ocean, but is left for a period to enrich the valley land.

We have helped tremendously in nature's leveling work by cutting the forests that once clothed our hillsides. There is nothing like a network of roots plus a covering of fallen leaves when it comes to keeping a hillside in place. The forest furnished both.

One of the country's richest railroads runs, in part, through hills and mountains. Their engineers tried all sorts of devices to keep the slopes and cuts from washing. Finally they tried planting cuttings of Virginia creeper along all bare slopes, and that seems to have solved the problem. Many of the patrons of the road took it for granted that the railroad was trying to beautify its lines when they first noticed the cuttings planted on the banks, because banks and cuts covered with green creeper in the summer and with flaming creeper in the autumn are much lovelier sights than washed clay slopes.

In old countries where the value of soil is better recognized than it is with us, humanity has checked the rate at which streams can carry away hillsides by terracing the slopes. Walled terraces are most expensive, but so far humanity has not found any other device that will enable it to cultivate a steep slope without having the near-by streams seize the top soil and carry it off toward the ocean.

Blows Own Horn. When a man begins telling about the sacrifices he has made, it is because he has become tired of waiting for somebody else to tell about them.

Mary Succeeds on Main Street

By LAURA MILLER

WHERE MAIN STREET IS ONLY A CREEKBED

For folks who consider life on Main Street "dreadful" there may be a tonic in the picture of life where there isn't even a Main Street. "The only roads in our county are creekbed roads," writes Olive Marsh. "We do not live in a town at all, and there is not a street of any kind within miles of us—Main or otherwise."

Yet "Singing Carr Creek" of Knott county, Kentucky, boasts of a community club, a camp fire, a "Blue Bird club" for little girls, a boy scout troop, and an agricultural club which is energetic enough to hold a community fair and to compete in the annual county fair. The secret lies partly in this same Olive Marsh, Radcliffe college master of arts, partly in her co-worker, Ruth Weston, and partly in the desire of the mountain folk to grow back into the world again.

The community center, which mothers all other projects, is managed by the two women together, with five men of the community elected by the people. Since Miss Marsh and Miss Weston came to Carr Creek they have raised funds to build a seven-room schoolhouse, which is in use not only for school purposes, but for club and other community gatherings, for the monthly clothing sale held by the center, and for the free lending library which occupies one of the rooms and comprises now about 2,500 volumes. A three-room cottage has also been built, in which Miss Marsh and Miss Weston live, and in which for the past year two orphan boys have also lived, working for their board and attending school. A one-room office building is nearly finished, and a new building, "Singing Carr Creek Home," to serve as a dormitory for orphan children, is about to be begun. The fund for its construction being nearly completed. The center owns about twenty acres of land. The community club has made a trail across a mountain, so that the children in an isolated section of the school district can get to school without having to walk four miles around by the road. It has also built two foot-bridges across the creek at needed points, to replace the shaky footings which got washed out with every heavy rain.

So goes the story of marvelous accomplishment, with the thread of personal happiness all having to be read between the lines.

CINNAMON AND BRONZE

Once there was held a convention of clever business women. From Detroit, Cleveland, Seattle, New York and elsewhere they hobnobbed or developed temporary factions and antagonisms. Many "big" women stood out from the crowd.

One of them was particularly striking looking. She wore brown, not dead brown, but "the vivid color of cinnamon and bronze" as some one put it. Sports coat, dinner dress, evening dress, all carried the same note. Her clothes spoke of money, of good taste, of that sophisticated something that makes a woman look distinguished 100 yards away.

By and by some of the distant curious got closer to the stranger. Her age was apparently the early thirties. Her coloring was the sort to support and be intensified by the clever, warm brown flannel and bronzed brocade.

"She runs a book store and makes \$10,000 a year," was the next item of information that went the rounds. "She's very sure of herself, but not in the least snippy," some one else contributed.

"And did you notice that when bonds were pledged in the executive session she just naturally seemed to head up her state delegation?" another Miss Gossip announced.

Introduced eventually, Christine Coffee proved, as the girl said, calm but not snippy. She had driven her mother and sister up for the week—a 500-mile drive not all over good roads—and she had to see that they were amused. That had kept her from making many acquaintances convention-fashion.

The book store, in the West Virginia capital, started as a very tiny venture. It had grown gradually but soundly as the shifting population of the capital proved to want one sort of thing, the permanent residents a somewhat different line. In Miss Coffee's calm eyes, finding out what people want and furnishing it to them seems like doing sums in multiplication. Yet informative folk often furnish staggering statistics on the number of merchant bankrupts in the U. S. A. per year!

Occasionally, from unexpected sources, some other detail of Christine Coffee's book store in Charleston drifts into daylight. None of them contradict the impression given by the woman herself. All of them credit a personality to the little shop as spicy as cinnamon, as richly permanent as bronze.

Soiled Cottons. Indignation is more powerful than gratification. You can see this in the great predominance of "scold" letters to the newspapers.

Save More Pigs to Reduce Cost

Success of Hog Raising Depends on Getting Youngsters to Weaning Period.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.)

There is apparently greater opportunity to make a saving on the cost of producing pork by increasing the number of pigs weaned per sow than there is by improvement in some other phases of the hog-production process. This is indicated in a study recently completed by the Department of Agriculture of the cost of producing hogs in 1921 and 1922 in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa.

Most farmers know that much of the success of their hog raising operations depends on the way in which they bring young pigs through the suckling period. Apparently, however, many have not understood the degree to which this part of the work surpasses other parts in relative importance. Usually hog raisers are better at feeding out stuff than they are in handling brood sows. Improved management of brood sows, says the Department of Agriculture, offers big chances for increased rewards.

Variation in Cost. Information obtained in regard to the spring pig crop on about 150 corn belt farms in 1922 showed that the number of sows farrowing pigs was only about 80 per cent of the number actually bred. Wide variation also existed in the cost of production per pig at weaning time on the farms raising the lowest number of pigs per sow and the cost on the farms raising the largest number. Thus in 1922 the cost per pig, at the age of ten weeks, on the farms where fewer than four pigs were raised per sow was \$9.10, whereas on farms weaning from six to eight pigs per sow the cost per pig was only \$4.94. The cost of producing 100 pounds of pork on those farms weaning less than four pigs per sow was \$7.98, compared with only \$6.61 on farms weaning from six to eight per sow.

These wide variations of cost are emphasized when the profits are expressed in terms of return per bushel of corn fed to hogs. In central Iowa the most efficient one-fourth of the farmers averaged 93 cents a bushel from feeding corn to hogs. The least efficient one-fourth of the farmers reared only 39 cents a bushel for the corn fed to hogs. One-half of the farmers between those extremes averaged 63 cents return per bushel of corn. In Indiana during the same year the return per bushel was \$1.21 for the best farmers and 48 cents for the least efficient.

Cause of Pig Losses. The following table shows causes of pig losses between farrowing and weaning in per cent of pigs farrowed. It covers the 150 farms included in the study:

Table with 2 columns: Cause of Loss, Per Cent of Pigs Farrowed. Rows include: Overlaid (14.15), Farrowed dead (4.54), Farrowed weak (3.84), Starved (blind teats and other causes) (1.74), Chilled (2.18), Bore mouths (1.84), Eaten by sows (1.64), Scours (1.11), Cholera (1.71), Miscellaneous (2.47), Total (35.92)

It is evident, says the department, that some of the pigs lost might have been saved with proper care and management. Proof that there is room for improvement in this respect is shown by a comparison between the number of pigs saved on the 25 per cent of farms which were the least efficient in this matter, and the number saved on the 25 per cent which were the most efficient. In eastern Iowa and western Illinois in 1922, on 25 per cent of the farms raising the least efficient pigs only 48 out of every one hundred farrowed were alive at weaning time. Among the 25 per cent of the farms saving the largest number of pigs the pigs there were 89 weaned out of every one hundred farrowed. This is further emphasized by the variation which existed in the number of pigs weaned per sow. In eastern Iowa and western Illinois in 1922 the least efficient group of farms raised from two to four pigs per sow. The most efficient farms raised from six to eight pigs per sow. A similar variation is shown for the other states in the study.

Spring pigs raised to weaning time on 15 farms in 1921 cost \$4.31 per pig compared with a cost of \$3.35 for fall pigs. In 1922 on 18 farms spring pigs had cost \$3.33 per head at weaning date and fall pigs \$3.12 each. Pork per 100 pounds from fall pigs, however, cost more than from spring pigs. Usually the price level at the time fall pigs are sold is higher than at the time spring pigs are sold. Fall pigs, therefore, if well taken care of during the winter may be as profitable as spring pigs.

Management of the breeding herd is the first step in the production of pork, and has a determining influence on the profits of hog raising. Feeding methods, care, housing and exercise, have a great effect on the number of pigs raised. Many farmers, figuring that some sows will lose out, breed more sows than they expect to far-

row. Improved handling methods showed result in lessening the required number of sows to be bred for the number of pigs desired. This, besides being more economical, would have the additional advantage of improving the size and strength of the litters produced.

Rolling Poultry Houses Beneficial to Keepers

Poultry houses on wheels are not popular in the United States, but it may be beneficial to some poultry keepers to know a little more about such houses. On every farm are tracts of land where during certain periods of the year there is much food for the hens, but which will be wasted unless the flock is moved out to the fields. Dragging houses around on runners is not a popular job but they are quite easily moved when mounted on wheels. A house on wheels can be used as brooder house, laying house, or for special matings, and is especially adapted for hospital use as it can readily be moved away far enough to protect the healthy birds from infection. The construction is very simple—all that is needed is just an axle and a couple of wheels. Most every farmer has some old wheels around his place, which he may never use for any other purpose and an old axle usually can be found also. If the axle is located so that the house will be fairly well balanced on it it can readily be handled on two wheels, if not too large.

Halsey Happenings etc.

(Last week)

Charles Straler and family called on Corvallis friends Tuesday.

W. A. Cummings made a business trip to Brownsville Saturday.

Frum and McMahan shipped a double-deck of lambs Wednesday.

Mrs. L. V. Chance and Mrs. Frank Hadley drove to Albany Friday.

T. J. Porter went to Portland Saturday evening, returning Sunday.

Henry Bateman and wife of Brownsville were guests of the latter's brother, H. W. Chance, and vice Friday.

L. R. Alderman, director of education in the United States navy who was married recently to Miss Lola Lake, in Santa Cruz, Cal., taught his maiden term of school in Halsey in 1898. Before entering into his present position Mr. Alderman was for many years superintendent of schools in Portland.

Phil Finzer of Portland, his cousin, Mr. Finzer of Ohio, and nephew, Marion Stafford of Baleson, Wash., passed through Halsey Wednesday on a camping trip which they expected to take them through Coos and Curry counties into California and return by the Pacific highway. Mr. Stafford is a nephew of C. P. Stafford of this city and called on him for a short time.

Mrs. Roy Neal and daughter Gretchen at Coquille and Mrs. Ray Deas and daughter Franklyn of Port Orford drove to Halsey Tuesday of last week in the Neal machine. They were accompanied by Mrs. Minnie McCord of Portland, who had been visiting in that part of the country for a few weeks. Mrs. Deas is a sister-in-law and Mrs. Neal a cousin of Mr. C. P. Stafford, and they all spent a few days at her home and then extended their trip to Oregon City.

(Continued on page 1)

Placer mining is to be tried near Whitcomb, on the Santiam, and predictions of a gold rush as a result are made.

Dr. Marks got a carload of excellent four-foot body fir wood from Dever last week and E. C. Miller decided to follow suit.

A hot box on a thrashing outfit at the Orel Davidson farm, near Harrisburg, set the outfit afire and it and a load of grain and a wagon were destroyed.

M. and Mrs. J. B. Neff of Los Angeles, on a tour of the northwest and the northern Mississippi valley, by rail, stopped here and spent Saturday night and Sunday visiting the Whalers.

The Postal Telegraph company has a crew of men and a big truck and trailer, straining two new wires through the valley. They were in Halsey over the week end and went on northwest.

R. H. Cornelius, one-time railroad agent here and now railroad telegrapher at Albany, has sued for divorce on the ground that his wife deserted him a year ago. The children are Clarence, 17; Dorothy, 14, and Alma, 9.

(Continued on page 5)