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How to Construct And Care for Your Septic Tank

It has been our thought for some time that we should inform the public regarding the construction and maintenance of septic tanks used in individual sewage disposal systems.

Septic tanks should be constructed of reinforced concrete or of not less than 10 gauge iron which is coated inside and outside with asphalt. The minimum size recommended is 500 gallons with a depth of five (5) feet, width about three (3) feet and the length six (6) feet. Round tanks are required to measure 60 inches in diameter and are permitted for the 500 gallon size only.

The septic tank is merely a water-tight chamber in which the settleable and floating solids are removed by sedimentation from the sewage which flows through it. It provides sufficient time for retention of these solids, most of which settle to the bottom of the tank in the form of sludge and undergo gradual decomposition by bacterial action. The lighter solids float on top of the liquid surface as scum. The bacteria contained in the sewage slowly convert the organic matter of the sludges into more stable compounds in the form of liquids, gases and inert solids. The gradual accumulation of inert material in the bottom of the tank may make it necessary to clean out the tank after several years use depending upon the quantity and quality of sewage treated and the size of the septic tank. An under-size tank under average conditions may build up solids more rapidly than the bacteria can digest the solids.

There are a great number of mistaken ideas regarding the operation of septic tanks, contrary to popular belief:

1. The septic tank does not make the sewage fit to drink.
2. There is no need to add yeast or any patented preparation in or-

der to start or promote bacterial action in the tank.

3. The bacterial action in the tank does not destroy all of the solids. Sludge accumulation will reduce the tank capacity about 20 gallons per person per year.

4. The discharge of normal quantities of laundry and kitchen wastes into the septic tank does not harm the bacterial action. It is recommended, therefore, that kitchen and laundry wastes be discharged into the same septic tank that receives the domestic sewage.

The small septic tank has been largely responsible for the phenomenal increase in the septic tank cleaning racket—local operators charge \$30 to \$75 and up for a one or two hour tank cleaning job. In most instances the land owner can quickly do the job himself with a hoe and a shovel, burying the sludge and other solids. It is not necessary to remove any of the liquid from the tank.

More complete information regarding the sanitary sewage disposal may be obtained either from the County Agent or the Washington County Health Department.
Wm. J. Daniel, Jr.
County Sanitarian

Vets' Mail Bag

As a service to veterans in the community, this newspaper will publish a weekly column of questions most frequently asked contact men of the Veterans Administration in this area. For more detailed information, veterans are to contact or write to the nearest V A contact unit at 1019 S. W. 10th Ave., Portland.

VA Outpatient Treatments Increasing Rapidly
A 51 per cent increase in outpatient treatments and a 46 per cent rise in examinations over September figures were reported for October by the Veterans Administration Northwest branch medical service. Almost 11,000 treatments and over 23,500 examinations were made by VA clinics and hospitals and by private physicians and dentists cooperating in the VA's "home-town" medical care program the VA reported this week.

Private doctors working on a fee basis handled 5,314 treatments and 10,189 examinations during the month while fee basis dentists made 1,049 treatments and 771 examinations, supplementing the work of overtaxed VA outpatient facilities.

Parking Privileges To Amputee Veterans
Parking, the bugbear of motorists in all large cities these days, is being simplified in Seattle for amputee veterans who are eligible for government purchased cars.

Understanding the added inconvenience to seriously disabled vet-

erans, the Seattle City Council authorized the issuance of windshield stickers to these World War II veterans. The sticker permits free parking in metered zones and exempts the driver from penalty for overtime parking.

Any eligible veteran who visits Seattle may stop by the Seattle office of the Veterans Administration for a letter of authorization. The Seattle Police Department will issue the permit.

Vets' Romance, Business Has International Flavor
One ex-G.I. will have the utmost assistance when he finishes his course under the educational provisions of the G. I. Bill.

Cortez E. Williams met Violette Muller at a Christmas party in Reims, France, where he was serving with the 615 Quartermaster Battalion. While he spoke no French and she no English, they married and Williams brought his bride to Seattle. In the evenings they go to night school to settle their conversational difficulties and both are attending a local school of beauty culture. They plan to round out their education in France and then return to Seattle to open a real French beauty salon.

Question Of The Week
Q. Does the VA set the date of maturity on G. I. loans?
A. No. However, the date of maturity on a guaranteed loan should not exceed the economic life of the property as security for a loan. The term of the loan shall in no event exceed: 5 years if non-amortized; 10 years for non-real estate loans; 25 years for home or business loans on real estate; 40 years for farm loans on real estate for farming operations.

Newspaper Panels For High School Journalists
Round table discussions of newspaper problems are planned for the High School Press Conference to be held on the University of Oregon campus December 6 and 7. Warren C. Price, associate professor of journalism and program chairman for the event, announced Thursday that the discussions will be led by faculty members of the school of journalism, and staff members of the Oregon Daily Emerald, university publication.

Delegates from high school papers throughout the state will participate, and the topics for discussion will be divided between the news and the advertising ends of the profession.

Dale Horton, Portland, former editor of the Franklin Hi Post in Portland, will preside over the two-day conference.

Just because we have free speech in this country some people think they can give out a lot of cheap talk.

PLANNED ECONOMY

By PAULSON



"Here's a ten-page questionnaire from The Bureau of Bovine Contentment. The only way we can answer it . . . is to ask the cow!"

NEWS IN THE WORLD OF RELIGION

By W. W. Reid

"Unless there is a moral transformation in the hearts of individuals and in society, the seeds of pride and selfishness will surely produce the bitter fruit of a new and more terrible war," warns the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, urging all churches to observe "World Order Day" on Sunday, November 10. Speaking to church members, the Council says, "It is imperative that we become more informed about the bases of peace and take an active part in the shaping of foreign policy . . . by expressing approval or disapproval of measures proposed; that we join with fellow Christians to mobilize the Christian world community for action, and to project Christian principles into peace settlements and the United Nations; that we stand against all reckless efforts to solve tensions by violent means; that we build up and sensitize the moral conscience of people and a will to peace with justice; that we intensify our efforts for a deeper sense of brotherhood through sacrificial giving, through education for loyalty to humanity, through support of the missionary enterprise, through manifestations of the Christian faith in our daily lives."

The National Youth Fellowship of the Methodist Church, at its recent annual gathering, urged that "the production of atomic energy be under international control," and that atomic bombs now in existence be destroyed "as soon as such administration and control has been fully enacted"; that to insure peace some form of world government, including all nations, be formed (recognizing the United Nations "as an essential step in this ultimate goal"); that international disarmament be carried out by all nations; and that compulsory military training and service be abolished by international agreement. The Fellowship represents more than one million Methodists.

Dr. Frank C. Laubach, internationally known missionary and "apostle to the illiterate"—he developed the "Laubach method" for teaching people of any country to read "basic words and characters" in a few lessons—believes that only God and the Holy Spirit can save the world from its present crisis. He is daily at the meetings of the United Nations, praying for God's guidance upon the gathering; and he is organizing throughout the United States and the world prayer-groups to ask God to save mankind. "The world cannot

be saved by three men or five hundred men around peace tables," he says. "The crux of the problem is not the power to frighten suffering men into submission, but the power to heal their misery. This is the way of the Good Samaritan and of Jesus, and the only way out."

The Protestant Episcopal Church, through its General Convention, is urging President Truman to declare immediately amnesty for some 1,500 conscientious objectors still in federal prisons, and to restore full citizenship to some 4,500 others who have already completed jail sentences. "The continued punishment of men for fidelity to their religious beliefs or humanitarian beliefs violates freedom of conscience," said the delegates, most of whom are themselves not religious objectors to war.

Roman Catholic Bishop William T. Mulloy, of Covington, Ky., chairman of a recent National Catholic Rural Life Conference in Green Bay, Wis., urged churchmen and Catholic farmers to join in the program of spreading the Catholic faith in rural America. This program he outlined as including: the care of underprivileged Catholics on the farms through religious retreats, and community recreation; to encourage Catholics to go onto or to stay "on the land"—the Catholic Church in America is about 85 per cent urban; and to provide ministry for the rural portion of some 75,000,000 Americans who now profess no religious belief.

The Rev. W. Sherman Burgoyne, pastor of the Asbury Methodist Church, Hood River, Oregon, is today in the national limelight through an article published in the November Reader's Digest, entitled "The Nisei Came Back to Hood River," from the pen of Richard L. Neuberger. When the American Legion post of Hood River removed from its "honor roll" the names of all American citizens of Japanese descent who were in the armed forces, Mr. Burgoyne, the story goes, went into action. He formed a "League for Liberty and Justice"; secured the support of Bishop Bruce R. Baxter and of the Hood River congregation in protesting race discrimination; and pointed out that among those excluded from the "honor roll" was one posthumous recipient of the Silver Star, and numerous holders of medals for gallantry. Slowly the opposition to the American Japanese faded, the names were

replaced on the list, and when the schools to keep up institutional standards, will draw representatives from Oregon, Washington, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Utah, Alaska, and Hawaii in its first postwar annual meeting.

Educators to Meet In Eugene Dec. 4

"The Teacher Crisis in America," an address by Dr. Worth McClure, Washington, D. C., will open the convention of the Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools in Eugene Dec. 4, it was announced this week.

Dr. McClure is executive secretary of the American Association of School Administrators.

Other outstanding educators who will speak during the three-day session Dec. 4, 5, and 6 include Dr. Harry K. Newburn, president of the University of Oregon; Dr. Paul E. Elliker, executive secretary of the National Association of Secondary School Principals, Washington, D. C.; and Dr. A. L. Strand, president of Oregon State College.

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From where I sit . . . by Joe Marsh

A Lesson In Conservation

We were sitting on Bill Webster's porch the other night, chatting over a glass of beer—when the talk turned to forest preservation, soil erosion, and other things that affect a farming community.

Judge Cunningham speaks up: "It's all right to worry about conserving our natural resources," he says, "but there's a far bigger problem when it comes to conservation—and that's preserving our democratic way of life, our sense of personal freedom, our respect for one another's rights."

From where I sit, the Judge is right. All America's great resources, our abundant natural wealth, are lost the minute we lose the right to work them as free people in a free land!

Whenever you see or hear of an encroachment on our rights—whether it's the right to free speech, or the right to vote as we see fit, or the right to enjoy a friendly glass of beer in licensed, law-abiding places . . . watch out!

Joe Marsh

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