

Old Age Need Hold No Terrors

Finding Useful Work Is Formula for Happiness

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WASHINGTON.—Latest figures from the census bureau have revealed that the postwar period has produced a record baby crop—3,260,000 estimated for 1946, almost a million more than were born in 1940.

But it will take more than this belated burst of rejuvenation to keep the United States from becoming an "old" nation. Old in the sense that the average age will be high, with a heavy proportion of oldsters. There are two reasons for this: Nowadays people live much longer, thanks to medical science. And the size of the American family has shrunk.

In 1860 when the population was about 31.5 millions, 860,000 persons were over 65. In 1945 when the population approached 140 millions, 9,920,000 persons were over 65.

By 1970 there will be 16 million over that age, out of an estimated population of more than 151 millions!

This situation poses a number of problems for the nation, and also emphasizes the personal problem: The problem of growing old.

Like many of our troubles, real or imagined, the best cure is to bring this one out into the light, give it a good shaking. The result in many cases will be that it disappears or that it shrinks to unimportance (if that weren't so, psychiatry wouldn't be such a highly rewarded profession).

Wise men have known this for a long time and lived to a happy old age. Others (who didn't know it) have worried their friends and themselves to early deaths, by sitting down and weeping over their lost youth instead of getting up, learning to take old age in their stride and liking it.

Recently I read a very up-to-date little pamphlet called "When You Grow Older," written in straightforward English, based on modern, scientific ideas. The pamphlet outlines methods which make that famous poem by Browning, so often regarded as wishful thinking by the skeptical, ring true. "Grow old along with me," said Browning's Rabbi Ben Ezra, "The best is yet to be."

When I grasped the theme of this pamphlet, it stirred classic



Just Hanging Around

memories. I remembered that a gentleman who considerably predated Browning had said the same thing in his essay "On Old Age," written in the year 44 B. C. I refer to Marcus Tullius Cicero. He said (among other pertinent things) "qui autem omnia a se ipsi petunt, eis nihil potest videri, quod natura necessitas adferat." Which, if you'll pardon my freedom with the text, means that those who seek their happiness from within can never regard nature's inevitabilities as bad.

Cicero wrote that essay when he was 63 years old and I have no doubt he would have lived what he preached for another decade or two if his vigorous old age had not produced the resounding "Phillipics" against Anthony which resulted in his being "purged" (Roman style) while still hale and hearty at 64.

Like Cicero, Messrs. George Lawton and Maxwell Stewart, authors of the pamphlet I mentioned, stress the psychological problems of old age. (The pamphlet is issued by the Public Affairs Committee, Inc., a non-profit, educational organization, 22 East 38th St., New York City—20 cents.)

Old age comes with a shock because we haven't prepared for it. Maybe we are ready for the "last day at the office" or at the work bench or when we sell the farm and move to the village or city, or in other ways break a lifetime's routine. But we may have failed to recognize "the need to feel important," a need which we must satisfy one way or another. Not "important" in the sense that we have somebody kow-tow to us, but necessary to somebody or something, some business, some undertaking, maybe not a big cog, but something that helps the wheels of life go round.

Avocations Help To Retain Youth

Anybody can develop an avocation of some kind. In many cases these avocations have turned into paying vocations after retirement. In any case they are literally life-savers when it comes to making life livable.

Various skills permit varying periods of activity.

Many farmers are self-supporting at 70 or 75. Perhaps this is partly because of their environment—mental and physical. Cicero says farmers "are not hindered to any extent by old age, and seem to me to approach the ideal wise man's life."

Most jobs are of such a character that ability to perform them declines with the years. "When You Grow Older" cites as an example "speed work"—like the assembly line. Youth excels in this type of work. But age does almost as well as youth in the type classified as "power" work, the kind of job where skill is important.

There is not space here to develop the theme of "When You Grow Older" as its authors do so compactly in their 30 pages. They discuss the questions, personal and political, of old age security. They offer a host of other specific examples to illustrate the statements, some of which I have quoted here. I have attempted to review rather than a summary, moved to comment partly because of the valuable suggestions offered, and also, partly because

these pertinent paragraphs of "When You Grow Older" offer a perfect example of how modern science and experience confirm the verities expressed by poets and philosophers of the past.

It is still the habit of many critics to praise the style of Cicero's "De Senectute" but to toss its message aside as wishful thinking. Even Montaigne, who said frankly that reading the essay "made one long to grow old," pessimistically limited what he considered a useful lifespan to a mere 50 years and thought it wrong to contemplate further existence.

Cicero's physical world was bounded by the frontiers conquered by Rome's plodding legions but his view was long in time. Today the men of our scientific age echo the request in the last paragraph of the great statesman's immortal essay when he prayed: "... that you put my words to practical test."

\$3,000 FOR TRACTORS

Farmers Caught by Black Mart

Gradually deteriorating prewar machines and implements, plus a shortage of rural labor, are the two principal factors responsible for development of a flourishing black market in farm equipment, according to manufacturers and dealers groups who have pronounced the situation fairly widespread.

Secondary circumstances which support the existence of this particular black market are the unparalleled height of farm income and the apparent determination of the nation's farm population to advance to new levels of mechanization.

Thus, the demand for farm equipment continues to be almost insatiable. Even the heavy, uninter-



JUST A TUNE-UP CLIMB... Members of the Harvard university St. Elias expedition are shown atop 12,000-foot Haydon peak in Alaska which they scaled just as a preliminary maneuver before tackling 18,008-foot St. Elias, greatest ice-covered mountain in North America. The Harvard party was the second expedition to beat the mountain in 61 years.

NEWS REVIEW

Farmers' Income Zooms; New Crisis Hits Europe

FARM INCOME:

Great Gain

Latest round in a heavy barrage of statistics apparently destined to make the American farmer feel that he is an unbelievably fortunate man was an agriculture department report that the nation's farm owners are taking in more money than ever before.

It was estimated that total farm cash receipts during the first eight months of 1947 were 17.4 billion dollars, a 21 per cent gain over the same period of 1946, itself a record year.

The report said that the average farm operator realized a net income of \$2,541 from agriculture and government payments in 1946, and this year farm income skyrocketed still higher as a result of continuing unprecedented demands for produce. "An increase of 24 per cent in prices," was singled out by the report as the chief reason for the booming income.

But the picture has another side—that of farm expenses. Operating costs continue to increase and, although no estimate was made for 1947, the farmer's expenses went up 9 per cent in 1946. Nevertheless, if the agriculture department's estimates are accurate, the increase in farm income greatly outweighs the simultaneous rise in expenses.

CRISIS AGAIN:

Transfusion?

Life these days, Secretary of State George Marshall has discovered, is bounded on all sides by one crisis after another.

No sooner had he returned to the U. S. from Brazil with the mutual American defense treaty tucked safely under his belt than he was beset with calls for succor from debilitated Europe which apparently, was sliding swiftly down the ways toward utter ruin.

Insiders said the European situation really was desperate. Undersecretary of State Robert Lovett had sounded the first alarm shortly before Marshall's return when he said that Europe's economic structure was cracking up faster than anyone had expected.

The fear blowing in on the winds from Europe intensified. Precariously balanced Britain remained at the heart of the trouble, but more grief was added by the news that bad weather had struck hard at crops in many European countries this year. Most nations had been forced to use their meager produce for domestic consumption rather than for export. There was no profit in that, they said.

In the U. S., it began to appear more likely that a special session of congress would be called this fall to study the situation and perhaps set up the apparatus for another economic transfusion to give strength to the weakening old world.

BONDED Vets Cash In

Draft time had rolled around again for millions of ex-G.I.s, but this time it was more in the nature of a bank draft as veterans all over the nation fell happily into line to cash their terminal leave pay bonds.

Virtually every city reported that hordes of veterans had descended on banks in an unprecedented rush year.



to convert their hard-won bonds into coin of the realm. Millions of former Joes stuffed millions of dollars into their pockets.

What would they do with the newly acquired money? A few put it back into savings accounts; others bought clothes, furniture and similar necessities; much of it was squandered immediately. But one surprising fact developed: A great many ex-G.I.s—family men now—were using the store of cash to get out from under worrisome debts. For them it was a case of "dire need."

ISOTOPES: U. S. Offer

Radioactive isotopes—products of American atomic research—have been offered in limited amounts to all foreign nations for use in mankind's world-wide and unending fight against disease.

The gesture, marking the first sharing of the fruits of U. S. atomic ovens, loomed more significantly on the uncertain frontier of global peace than any loan or economic aid so far conceived.

Described as the most important medical research tool since the microscope, the isotopes—radioactive forms of basic elements—are utilized in the same manner as machine gun tracer bullets. Introduced into the body or blood stream, they can be used to trace life processes and plot the course of various diseases.

They are of paramount importance in current cancer research and one day may provide the clue leading to control and cure of that disease.



TIME, supposed to be endless, also can work in a hurry. It can make or break you in a week or a month. Or even in a day. In the course of a year it can turn everything upside down. Especially in baseball.

This thought happened along as we looked over the records of 1946 and 1947, as the roulette wheel of fate kept spinning.

For one example, a year ago Mickey Vernon of the Senators led both big leagues with a .353 batting average. It was reported that Larry MacPhail had offered \$150,000 for Vernon's contract, as at that time the Yankees had no hard-hitting first baseman in sight.

Vernon is now around 40th place among American league hitters, not including over 50 hitters in the N. L., which would leave Mickey in a spot close to the 90th mark. A year ago, there were wordy arguments as to whether Bob Feller of Cleveland or Hal Newhouser of Detroit was the greater pitcher. Bob Feller is now in about 20th place among the winners and Hal Newhouser's ranking is in 42nd.

A year ago, Dave Ferriss was on his way to winning 25 games. At this writing, Dave occupies the 26th spot on the pitching side.

A year ago, Howie Pollet and Murry Dickson were the two Cardinal stars, close to the top. Pollet was a 20-game winner. Currently, Dickson has been in the 45th slot and Pollet down as low as 50th place, among those who throw a baseball for a living.

These are just a few of many examples to show that the Old Doc with the sharp scythe can slip you, when he feels in the mood. He can lift you up—and he can also yank you down at even greater speed. He doesn't seem to care.

They Go Up and Down

Old Doc Time is a temperamental mug. He doesn't bother about names or reputations. He lets nature take its course. I interviewed him once, and this is all he had to say:

"As this old world goes roum' and roum',
Some go up — and some go down."

This can happen in baseball more than any game I know. Up and down—down and up. A year ago Vernon hit above .353 and George McQuinn was around .225. Now with Vernon at .273, McQuinn has been close to .300 most of the year. A combined shift of some 150 points. Even more.

But there are always a few who hang on, looking the Old Doc in the eye.

One of these is Ted Williams of the Red Sox. There seems to be a vague idea around that Ted has taken a dip this season. I'd like to take the same brand of dip.

They have built up a defense against Williams that was supposed to wreck him. He may not be the annihilator of other seasons, but he is still up there challenging for the home-run title in the A. L., the batting leadership and the run-batted-in-honors.

I would say that in an off year for so many stars, Ted Williams is doing a great job.

Other Old Timers

So is Joe DiMaggio, in spite of numerous ailments. Joe DiMaggio is still the top artist in baseball.

A few of those who starred last season are still delivering. One of these is Kiner of the Pirates, who led the National League in the home-run roundup a year ago, and is likely to lead it again. Johnny Mize, always a power hitter, is still shooting his salvos. So is Hank Greenberg.

But so far, 1947 has been featured by stars unknown a year ago. One is Ewell Blackwell of the Reds, with a 20-game season in his pocket. Blackwell has been rated far above Feller and Newhouser with a weaker ball club. The tall and lanky one, the human No. 1 iron, has been the pitcher of the year.

Another leading star is Harry Walker of the Phillies. Eddie Dyer, one of baseball's smartest, traded him to the Phillies in exchange for Ron Northey. At which point Harry Walker, Dixie Walker's brother, promptly took charge of the batting mark in both leagues. Working with a tail-end ball club, Walker has been one of the season's star performers. So has Blackwell.

You heard few rumors about Blackwell and Harry Walker a year ago. But they have driven the stars of 1946 into the gravel ditch.

Young Yankee Stars

The team feature of the year has been the number of winning performers George Weiss of the Yankee farm system has rushed to Yankee help. This list includes Yogi Berra, Frank Shea, Allie Clark, Vic Rashi and a few others who have carried the Yankees along.

With almost no advance build-up, the Yankee farm system has been far better than that of the Dodgers, rated, last spring, as the best.



Yes, Sir
Teacher—What is raised in countries that have wet climates?
Student—Umbrellas.

Doggy
He—I always kiss the stamps on your letters because I know your lips have touched them.
She—Oh, dear, and to think I dampen them on Fido's nose!

Correction
"They tell me she makes people happy wherever she goes."
"You mean 'whenever'!"

Overheard—"My dear, she's the sort of woman who always enters a room voice first."

Synonymous?
Wife—How do you like my new gown? I got it for a ridiculous price.
Hubby—You mean you got it for an absurd figure.

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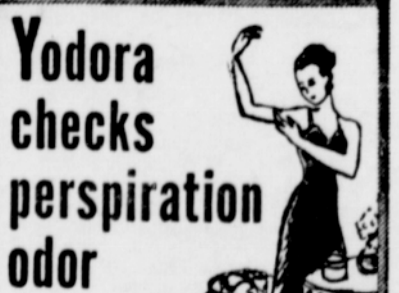
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