

Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

This 'Merry Thought' Concerns the Wishbone

It took only a few days. A rather nervous period of time for the children who had so very many things to wish for while the "merrythought," which was carefully hung on the kitchen curtain, became dry and brittle.

And why shouldn't it have received its unusual name of "merrythought," for the wish that was to be made on it was a happy thought; something very merry that was desired to happen. So the children believed any wish made with this peculiar object certainly would come true.

The child who received the longer piece when the "merrythought" snapped in two would be granted the wish he or she made. The merry thought, the little girl usually made was that she would one day meet and marry the Prince Charming. The little boy probably wished for a jack knife or a fire engine.

Good Things
Because the "merrythought" really was a bone, its breaking was a promise of good things to come. So the name "merrythought" was later neglected in favor of a more meaningful name of wishbone or wishing bone. The belief in the fulfillment of a desire, based on the favorable breaking of a wishbone, is a very old superstition, one which has persisted throughout many generations of mankind.

It has a poignant meaning for children and continues as strong today as when the idea was first suggested. Grandmother and her grandmother before her asked their mothers the old childish question, "When will the wishbone be dry enough to pull?" "Wishing upon a star" may have been poetic but wishing upon a "merrythought" was something pretty tangible. It was almost like a wish you could actually hold in your hand.

Even the very small children soon learned that every chicken, duck or goose the

family served, possessed one of these peculiar forked bones. Even if the child preferred the drumstick or the darker meat of the thigh, he or she knew that the white meat covered the forked bone that might bring about a desired object or a happy condition if the longer end was left in the hand when the dried bone was pulled apart.

Perhaps there were several reasons why a "chicken every Sunday" was a highly desirable situation for any family, aside from the meat itself, for 52 chances a year to wish on something as sure to come true as a wishbone was reason enough to have "a chicken in every pot."

Important Object

The original owner of the wishbone, the chicken or some other bird, also considered its wishbone a pretty important object. To it was fastened the heavy muscles of the breast which make possible sustained flight through the air. Of course the bird's wishbone is merely the equivalent of the collar-bones or clavicles in a human being.

Collar-bones in the pectoral arch of man are two slender bones near the collar. Joined together into a united pair and therefore forked, they are wishbones. Merrythoughts, located just in front of the breastbone in most birds are the peculiar object which many children think will bring about a happy situation or grant a desire.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

New York (UPI)—Commuters on the New Haven Railroad, despite their grumblings about late trains, know how to count their blessings. Seventy-seven of them Friday night gave a gold watch and other tokens of appreciation to Jimmy Johnson, 66—the steward on the club car of the 5:27. The commuters also gave Johnson five shares of New Haven Railroad stock. They explained they believed he ought to have control of the company.



\$600
before
lunch!

Fastest loan service in America is what HFC strives to provide. Household Finance folks pride themselves in giving same-day loan service. Many HFC customers phone in the morning... pick up their cash a little later. Besides this speed, you get convenience and courtesy as well. You'll appreciate HFC's convenient offices and hours... and HFC's courteous, understanding office staff. Drop in or phone.

Life insurance is available on all loans at low group rate

you get more
than money
from HFC

Cash You Get	MONTHLY PAYMENT PLANS			
	10 payments	12 payments	18 payments	24 payments
\$100	\$5.90	\$6.72	\$10.05	\$18.46
200	11.81	13.44	20.09	36.92
300	17.71	20.16	30.14	55.38
500	28.86	32.97	49.64	91.66
1000	53.89	62.21	95.64	179.56
1500	77.87	90.38	140.57	266.36

Household's charge is the monthly rate of 3% on that part of a balance not exceeding \$500, 2% on that part of a balance in excess of \$500 but not exceeding \$1000, and 1% on any remainder.

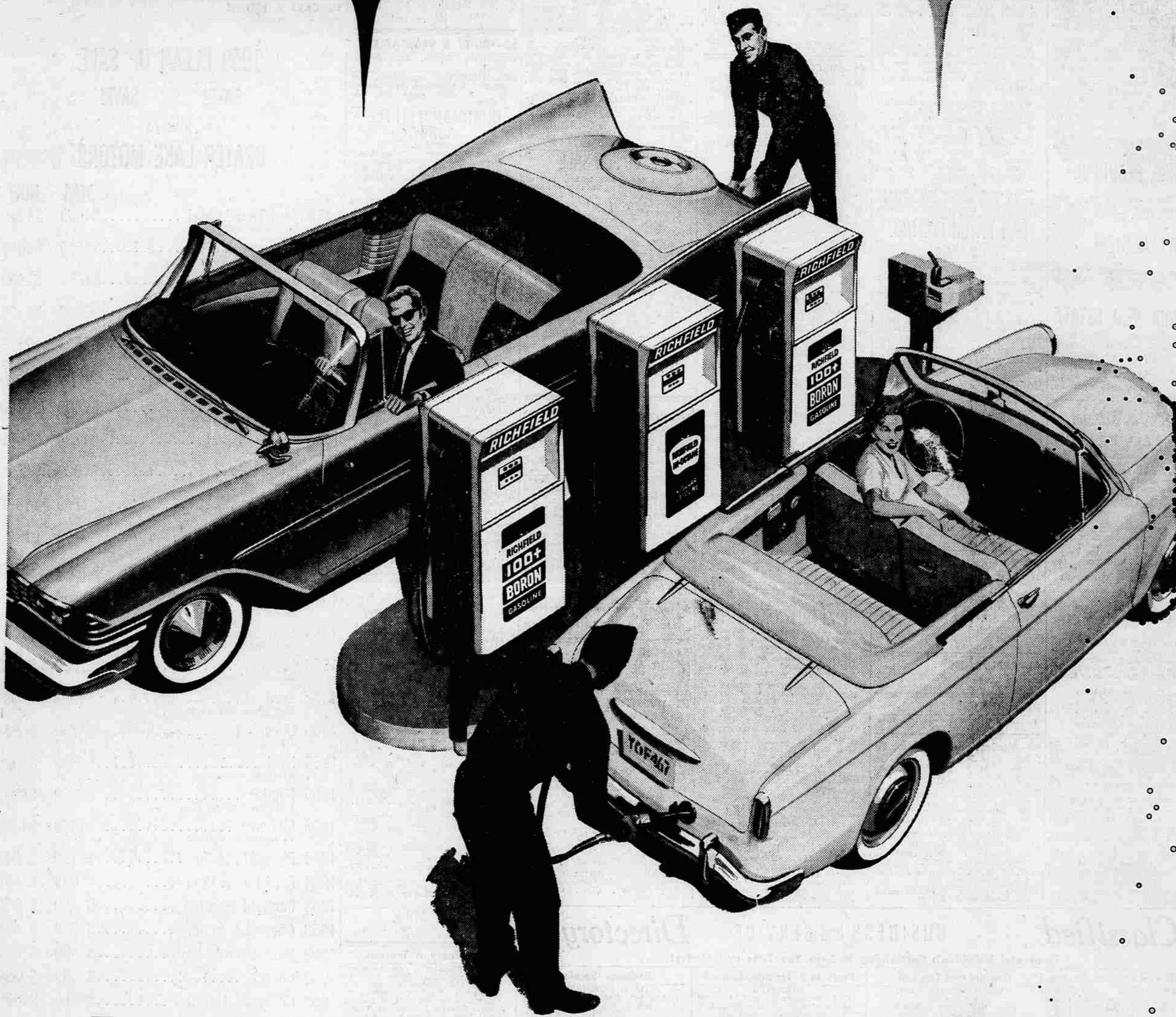
HFC HOUSEHOLD FINANCE
Corporation of Medford

128 E. Main St., 2nd Floor—Spring 3-5301

Hours: 10 to 7 Mon.—10 to 5:30 Tues. thru Fri.—Closed Sat.

I'm sold on
100 octane
BORON power
and performance!

My car uses
Hi-Octane
REGULAR and
saves me money!



For real driving economy—choose one of these great "years-ahead" Richfield gasolines!

He uses premium...she finds that regular grade gasoline performs satisfactorily in her car. How natural they should both drive in for Richfield!

Because, whichever grade of motor fuel a car requires, Richfield is YOUR BEST BUY!

Among premium gasolines, only Richfield Boron gives you BOTH—over 100 octane and Boron. Richfield Boron has the special ability to quench red-hot carbon deposits in your engine's combustion chamber. This stops pre-ignition and knock. You get smoother power...top

performance with your first tankful. And every drop burns cleanly, completely—for extra mileage.

If you use regular gasoline, your car will run its thrifty best on improved Richfield Hi-Octane Regular.

So—whatever make or model you drive, one of Richfield's two great gasolines meets its every requirement for maximum power and performance...delivers real driving economy!

Fill 'er up today with Richfield—YOUR BEST BUY!

RICHFIELD

BORON PREMIUM—HI-OCTANE REGULAR

OL'S FIRST CENTURY
BORN IN FREEDOM
WORKING FOR PROGRESS