

Thrifty Sewing



7394

by Alice Brooks

Easy, thrifty apron - 1/2 yard for top, 3/4 yard contrast for band of fabric that looks like gussets. Easy embroidery.

Practical, party pretty, too. Pattern 7394: transfer pattern of apron and three embroidery motifs 2 1/2 x 5 1/2 inches; directions.

Send THIRTY-FIVE CENTS (coins) for this pattern-add 5 cents for each pattern for first-class mailing. Send to Medford Mall Tribune, Household Arts Dept., P.O. Box 168, Old Chelsea Station, New York 11, N.Y. Print plainly NAME, ADDRESS, PATTERN NUMBER.

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Large Province The province of British Columbia is more than five times greater in area than the state of Washington which borders it along the extended American-Canadian frontier.

Topsoil Layer Average fertile topsoil is about seven inches thick.



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins

Mr. Woodpecker Was a Little Late This Year
Most of the birds who wished to escape the winter had already banded together and headed south.

The wind was sharp, carrying the chilly promise that winter was waiting to occupy the outdoor scene. It had been several months since the last bird-family had left the nest; the young, hatched during the summer, were independent now, already on their own. They, along with their parents and relatives had winged away before the ice formed during the cooling nights.

Yet, strangely, a downy woodpecker was busily engaged hammering out an opening in a dead tree-limb, as if making a nest cavity. Obviously the bird was hurrying, and for a very good reason. It, along with all the other downy woodpeckers of the region, was not planning a trip south for the winter; rather, it was excavating a bedroom, where it could spend the long winter nights, while the cold wind whistled outside, and the hungry predator stalked through the snow, several feet below its safe refuge.

Like some people, who put off doing what they should

do when they should, this little black and white woodpecker, with the bright red patch on the back of its head, had been so busy all fall catching worms, and flying with the gang he neglected his winter sleeping quarters until the chill of early winter warned him he could wait no longer.

Calmly he had watched the departure of the migrants, knowing full well he would not leave his favorite region. So now, with the late afternoon air peppered with snow pellets, he hammered out a cavity in the old dead tree limb.

Found in Every Area
Luckily, these valuable birds are found in just about every area on the globe where forests are present, except in Madagascar and Australia.

There are at least half a hundred kinds in the U. S. and Canada, and about 300 scattered throughout the world's forests.

Of them all, the Downy is the commonest of the entire tribe, and the tamest. These little fellows frequent parks, woods, orchards, and backyards, always busily hunting insects, or insect eggs. Like all the family the Downy is one of man's greatest benefactors, contributing greatly in the control of wood boring insects.

The little downy woodpecker is particularly fond of the corn borer. The bird's sharp beak easily penetrates the corn stalk, picking the larva from its winter home inside the cornstalk. As the bird remains within its range during the winter, it feeds on the borers who are wintering in the stalks of standing corn.

Unfortunately the Downy is so tame any trigger-happy dope with a gun can hardly miss one. The farmer, or orchard owner who kills these hard working insect-eating birds should have his head examined, for he certainly is sick, sick, sick.

(Released by The Register and Tribune Syndicate, 1959)

Of the total population of the world, the U.S. estimates between one-fourth and one-third of all the people are not included in any official or private census tabulations.

Broad Election-Year Tax Cut Not Expected During New Year

Washington - (CQ) - That dream of politicians - a broad election-year tax cut - isn't expected to materialize in 1960. Yet tax and revenue questions are high on the list of legislative matters that will confront the second session of the 86th Congress.

President Eisenhower's budget for fiscal 1961 is reported to call for income of \$83 billion and outgo of \$81 billion, leaving a surplus of \$2 billion to be applied to lowering the debt.

But well over \$3 billion of the projected revenues will be lost unless Congress takes favorable action on a series of measures the President will propose.

K's Acceptance Of Talk Welcomed

London - (UPI) - Britain today welcomed Nikita Khrushchev's acceptance of a summit invitation and said a new date other than the West's April 27 proposal "can undoubtedly be arranged."

In Paris, French diplomatic quarters also met the acceptance with satisfaction but were not entirely happy about changing the date.

The Soviet Premier suggested either April 21 or May 4. Paris reaction was that if the date had to be changed, May 4 would be preferable because French President Charles de Gaulle plans to be in the United States about April 21.

But French sources said they considered the date change a minor matter. They noted that if the meeting starts May 4, de Gaulle could spend a longer time in the United States in late April and also visit Canada.

Responsible British sources said they assumed the three western powers would consult immediately after Christmas on an alternate date.

At the top of the list is a 1-cent increase in airmail and first-class postal rates, designed to help meet an anticipated post office deficit of \$650 million. Congress ignored the issue in 1959 and isn't likely to be much more enthusiastic in 1960.

The President is also expected to ask for another half-cent boost in the gas tax to rescue the faltering Highway Trust Fund. While this won't show up in the budget, it could if Congress refuses to go along and decides instead to divert present revenue from the general fund to the Trust Fund.

Then there are four other tax requests on which Congress failed to act in 1959 and which are likely to be repeated. Worth \$100 million or more to the Treasury if enacted, they involve higher taxes on aviation gas and jet fuels, a new formula for taxing cooperatives, and new rules governing the depletion allowance. All face a dim reception.

Finally, Congress will be asked - for the seventh year running - to postpone for one more year scheduled reductions of the 52 per cent corporation income tax rate and of certain excise tax rates. Failing postponement, the Treasury would lose \$2.5 billion next year.

Congress usually waits until May or June before taking up this bill, then rushes it through just short of the June 30 deadline. This year promises to be no exception, and the debate, however late, is sure to be intense, especially in the Senate where Democrats are prepared to fight for several amendments aimed at closing what they call tax "loopholes."

In 1959, for example, the Senate voted 47-31 to repeal the 4 per cent tax credit allowed on income from stock dividends. The House refused to accept the amendment and it was dropped from the final

bill. But the Senate almost certainly will vote for it again in 1960.

It's less likely that Congress will reverse itself on two excise tax reductions voted in 1959 to take effect on July 1, 1960. One repeals the 10 per cent tax on local telephone service, the other cuts the 10 per cent tax on air, rail and bus fares to 5 per cent. Unless rescinded, these changes will cost the Treasury \$550 million next year.

Tax Reform
Final Congressional action in 1960 on these and other tax matters is bound to be influenced by the broad study of tax reform undertaken by the House Ways and Means committee. Chairman Wilbur D. Mills (D-Ark.) has made it clear that a new tax code won't emerge before 1961, but the goals toward which he has aimed his study are at odds with a number of specific tax changes that will be proposed in 1960.

Mills' general goals are "broadening the tax base and lowering tax rates." That means taxing more income (less than one-half of personal income is now taxed) at rates sufficient to produce the same amount of revenue. And the only way to tax more income is to reduce or eliminate some of the host of exclusions, allowances, and deductions that have worked their way into the tax code. In 1957, for example, individual taxpayers claimed \$36 billion worth of deductions for interest pay-

ments, medical expenses, contributions, etc., which if taxed would have yielded about \$8.5 billion.

Two Tax Measures
At least two tax measures awaiting action in 1960 would narrow the tax base still further. The first, passed by the House in 1959 and now before the Senate Finance committee, would permit self-employed persons to defer payment of income tax on money put into retirement funds, up to \$2,500 a year and a total of \$50,000. The Treasury opposes the bill; it would cost \$385 million a year, with 80 per cent of the tax relief going to persons earning more than \$10,000 a year.

The second measure, sponsored by Rep. Hale Boggs (D-La.), would provide a number of tax incentives to businesses investing abroad. As first drafted, it was strongly opposed by the Treasury, on grounds that much of the tax relief provided would amount to a "windfall" for a small number of companies. The Ways and Means committee has yet to act on the Boggs bill.

In sum, a variety of important tax and revenue matters

will be debated in the coming session, even though neither tax reform nor an across-the-board reduction is on the agenda.

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