Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn M. Watkins
(Register and Tribune Syndicate 1961)

Unfortunately, There is a World of Parasites

The little girl was terribly proud because she had learned from her doctor that she "had worms." Strangely too, some of her little friends were actually jealous; they couldn't see why she should have all the luck, as well as all the attention that goes with such a strange distinction. They wished they "had worms" too.

A small boy, whose puppy was "so lucky to be a host to worms," was envious of his dog. To him, the animal's visit to the vet and the treatment the animal received to rid itself of internal parasties, was a holiday of wonderment. The youngster bragged to all his friends, oblivious of the fact his elders looked upon the entire episode with distaste.

There are people who vehemently claim no human being could harbor a living worm or a colony of them within their bodies. These same folks reluctantly admit there are parasites infecting the lower animals, but never a human being. However, the disgusting truth is that every living creature on this earth some time in its life plays host to at least one form of parasite. Some may harbor many, and some are detrimental to health or to life itself. Man is no exception. He too, must be ever alert to the ravages of parasitic creatures or to living plants.

Difficult to Eradicate

Tapeworm, ringworm, pinworms, and many others, constantly threaten to enter and, once established, are difficult to eradicate. Before the present day of understanding and chemical application "having worms" was the expected experience of nearly every living being; animal, children, as well as adults.

It is a large and mostly repulsive world, that of the external and internal parasites. Their numbers and kinds are many; their habits disgusting, and their life histories only partially worked out or understood. Few of them have been more than partly investigated; neither is their actual purpose too well established.

A parasite, either animal or vegetbale, is one who eats at the expense of another. Parasites are the creatures that so often make the holes in a cow's hide. Along the back of some cattle are the white "grubs," "worms" whose exit from the animal's back or body at a later stage of their development, cause an otherwise valuable hide to be partly ruined.

Along the backs and bodies of living fish, especially during warm weather or in fish that live in warm water, are often many of these so-called "grubs." Usually these parasites are almost transparent, some even with dark colored, enlarged heads. Of course, cooking of the fish for human consumption destroys the parasites.

Parasite-Helpers

Parasites of various kinds have been introduced into regions for the express purpose of attacking pests already there. In the world of the insects, parasite-helpers assist man in the control of many insect enemies by laying parasitic eggs in the bodies of the pest, that on hatching, destroy the host.

In the scheme of Nature parasites constantly are at work infesting other creatures, and in their own peculiar way, helping control various harmful species of insects. There are many parasitic fungi. The smuts, mildews, rust, and some of the molds, are all a part of this world of parasites, whose sole purpose is to feed on another. Ironic, that living creatures as well as plants should be preyed upon by these lowly organisms, an example of the kind of togetherness that is mostly repulsive; living together, but not one.

EARLY RETURNS URGED

Washington – (UPI) – Internal Revenue Commissioner Mortimer M. Caplin urged taxpayers Tuesday to file their income tax return early so the government can send out refund checks as an economic stimulus.

Estimated 33 Million People Change Residences Annually

By HENRY J. BECHTOLD
UPI Financial Editor

New York –(UPI)– Americans are as venturesome today as they were in the early days of our country.

Henry Bechtold

To change homes, jobs, occupations and ways of living is a common occurrence, and is one of the key elements in the rapid and continuous transformation of the United States.

The residential mobility of Americans is something to behold. The Chase Manhattan Bank noted that in one year some 33 million Americans move from one home to another, or one person in every five.

Most of these people move a relatively short distance, but 11 million go to a different county and half of these cross state lines, the bank reported in its latest publication, "Business in Brief."

These proportions seem to have held relatively constant over the years, but in prosperous times local moving appears to be somewhat more frequent, according to the report.

A substantial part of this mobility consists of an interchange of people; a stream of people into an area usually is counter-balanced in large part by a movement in the opposite direction.

The bank cited the 1950 figures which showed all of the state had received at least 10 per cent of their population from other states.

The sum of this residential mobility is so great, according to the bank, that it involves the majority of the population within a few years, and nearly everyone in a lifetime. No more than 3 per cent spend their whole life in one dwelling, and not over 15 per cent always live in one county.

Labor mobility was reported being even greater than residential mobility. Some 8.5 million people a year leave one employer to work for another, and they make a total of 11.5 million shifts.

Surprisingly, the bank stated, nearly half of these involve a change to a different industry and a different occupation. Another 20 per cent is to a different industry and a similar occupation, and 8 per cent to a different type of job in the same industry.

Here again a great deal of the mobility represents an interchange of people, but some industries and occupations have made net gains as a result of job changing.

Public administration, education and wholesale and retail trade are industries which have gained workers in recent years. Agriculture has been one of the big losers.

Occupation groups into which people have moved include professional and technical workers, managers, officials and proprietors, clerical workers and operatives. Employees have shifted away from unskilled labor, service and craftswork.

The bank noted that nearly everyone makes at least one change during a lifetime. Work histories of more than three million people during a decade showed that two-thirds had changed jobs at least once in that period and more than one-fourth had changed three times or more.

Young people, age 25-34, are notably more mobile than older ones, and its is this age group that also changes residence more than twice as frequently.

The report also showed that those who are in less-skilled occupations or work in industries with declining or fluctuating employment opportunities are more likely to change jobs.

One of the chief motivating forces behind mobility definitely is a desire for advancement, according to the report. In a recent year, two-fifths of all people who changed jobs did so voluntarily to improve their status.

Carnegie Hero Gets 10 Years in Prison

Portland – (UPI) – Donal Wallace, 30, Portland, who once won a Carnegie award for heroism, has been sentenced to 10 years in the state penitentiary.

Wallace entered a guilty plea last week to a charge of manslaughter. The charge stemmed from last November's fatal shooting of Robert Jennen, 37, Portland, in north Portland.

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