



Small Worlds Around Us

By Lynn W. Watkins

Mr. Toad Panicked as Power Mower Advanced

Even if he had planned it, he couldn't have done better. His garden was wonderful, peaceful and lovely; as nearly perfect a place as any toad could hope to find.

Late in the evening the damp grass felt delightfully cool on his soft little undersides. When he hopped and landed there was scarcely a jar. The cushioning grass felt like the softest velvet. The hollow he had scooped out, in which he spent his daylight hours, was always cool, shaded by the luxuriant growth of the fern-bed.

Insects were plentiful; the toad had never gone to bed hungry. Usually his sides bulged with a full load by the time he sought his hollow in the fern-bed. He had been hatched from an egg the previous summer, had undergone his change from a tadpole into a toad in the small pool near the garden's outer edge.

Uneventful Life

He had enjoyed an uneventful life. The garden was fenced, no dog or cat had ever sniffed him out. The gardener had never bothered him.

He didn't even notice the spray machine that squirted insecticide over the neighborhood. But the following night insects were strangely scarce. He searched in vain, all night long. He hunted around the pool, but there were no bugs. Things were tough. The dawn caught him far away from his fern-bed. He went on with his fruitless search for food.

While he was thus occupied a loud noise penetrated his consciousness. It was loud and clear, but at other times he had heard this same noise, so he hopped on across the lawn.

Panic Stricken

The noise grew louder. He felt the earth shake beneath him. Whatever that commotion was, it was growing louder or coming closer. Suddenly he was panic stricken. He realized he was in danger. His instinct took possession of him. He realized his slowness just in time.

He had one recourse left. Quickly he wriggled himself down, as close and as tight to the earth as he could get. His soft, warty body sank into a shallow depression in the lawn. He flattened himself into it.

Then his little world exploded with a thundering crescendo of sound. And in the sound and a part of it were wild, high-singing stems, blades and flying grass stems. A bare fraction of an inch above his trembling body, the knives of the powermower slashed a swath across the lawn.

His margin of safety was but a hair's-breadth, but it was enough.

Court Records

MEDFORD MUNICIPAL COURT

Earl Lee Pudcock, violation of basic rule, \$10. Georgia Imogene Standridge, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10. Nancy Jones Nauta, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10. Roy Clyde Hartley, disobeyed stop sign, \$10. Robert Charles Mount, operating vehicle unaccompanied by licensed driver, \$15 suspended (driver improvement school). John Dean Higgins, violation of basic rule, \$25 suspended (DIP). Gerald William Parks, violation of basic rule, \$25 suspended (DIP). Charles Davis Anderson, violation of basic rule, \$25 suspended (DIP). Isaac N. Shultz, failure to yield right of way, \$25 suspended. Junior Edward Flynn, violation of basic rule, \$10 suspended (DIP). James Roy Deardorff, improper right turn, \$10. Jane Vivian Anders, disobeyed traffic signal, \$10. Howard Jack Veal, violation of basic rule, \$25.

DISTRICT COURT

George Paul Benaker, overload, \$20. Arthur Mopp Duer III, angling in prohibited area, \$25. Gary Eugene Downard, inadequate brakes, \$5. Kenneth Earl Miller, no horn, \$10. Dale Blair Evans, failure to operate on right side of highway, \$15. Laughlin H. McCollum, overweight, \$15. Norman Dean Peterson, no vehicle license, \$5. George Curtis Derschinger, violation of basic rule, \$25. Robert Neal Ballard, failure to operate on right side of highway, \$5. Richard Earl Robinson, no vehicle license, \$5. Sharon Lee Fernquist, failure to stop, \$15. Carl Floyd Duering, improper passing, \$20. Al Bert Strain, overweight, \$15. Charles Fredrick Poythress, no vehicle license, \$5. Norman George Bursing, angling in prohibited area, \$10. Daniel Douglas Wood, disobeyed stop sign, \$7.50. Eva E. Sillapey, failure to yield right of way, \$15. James Sylvester Strawn, violation of basic rule, \$25. Douglas Adrian Franklin, no operator's license, \$5.

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPLICATIONS

Donald Dean Smith, Walters, Okla. and Lola Belle Good, route 1, box 548, Talent. David Fred Hall, box 225, Prospect, and Janet K. Karjala, box 270, Prospect. James Russell MacRae, Campbell, Calif. and Judith Lee Seawell, 630 Oakdale dr., Medford.

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