



Small Worlds Around Us
By Lynn W. Watkins
(Register & Tribune Syndicate, 1962)

Ever Bait Your Hook With a Hellgramite?
In a way it was exciting to catch them. We hunted up a place along the creek where the water was shallow and swift. Wading in we bent nearly double and began lifting up stones from the creek bottom. Under about every fourth stone we would find a hellgramite. Avoiding the strong, force-like pliers the creature carried on its nose, we would grab him and pop him into the bait box.

Eight or 10 hellgramites would usually assure us of four or five black bass later when we arrived at the lake. Sometimes we could catch three or four bluegills with a single hellgramite. The fish, of whatever kind, always seemed to prefer these funny looking things over worms, crickets or even small minnows.

Good For Fishing
The hellgramite has a tough skin and a hard collar just back of the head that holds a fish hook securely. The placing of the hook didn't seem to hurt the hellgramite, but it did make him very angry. Small fish had trouble tearing the bait off the hook; a decided advantage to the fisherman.

Boy-like, we seldom questioned the reason for this peculiar creature that hides under rocks at the creek bottom. We didn't know or care at the time that this creature, which looks something like a thousand-legged worm, is really the larva form of the dobson fly.

Neither did we associate the irregular white clusters of eggs, deposited on branches and weeds overhanging the water, with the hellgramites. We never suspected these to



EXPRESSES DISMAY - "Clancy," a Bassett Hound, expresses the dismay he feels at the thought of getting his rabies shot. (UPI)

be the eggs. We had never watched, as the eggs hatched, to see the newly born creatures drop into the water to begin their three years of aquatic life as hellgramites. Three years, unless some boy caught them for fish bait.

Pursues Other Life
Looking down into the clear water of the creek we had often seen one leave its rock and scamper along the creek bottom after other forms of aquatic insect life on which it feeds.

It would grab the victim in its force-like mouth and eat it while holding onto a plant stem with the two small hooks

attached to the rear end of its body. Sometimes one would grab onto a support with its tail hooks and wait for the current to float a bug within reach.

Occasionally, we caught one that was all of three or more inches in length. Later still, we learned identity of the hellgramite, and that, after three years, the creature crawls out of the water and up on the bank.

There it rests awhile and later becomes a moth-like creature called the dobsonfly. It seems every fisherman we

Wooden-Hull Ship Included in Event

Crescent City - A visit of the USS Thrasher, a wooden-hulled minesweeper, is scheduled for the Crescent City Fourth of July Jubilee. The ship is 144 feet long, was built in Tampa, Fla., and commissioned in 1955. Her wartime complement is four officers and 35 men.

The Thrasher is currently assigned to the Mine Warfare component of the "selected reserve" of the United States Naval Reserve. The commanding officer of the Reserve crew is Lt. R. W. Johnson, Stockton, Calif., who is a lawyer in civilian life.

Other activities planned for the Jubilee are a parade, a Navy jet fly-over and acrobatics, a beach barbecue, an Independence day ball, and a street dance.

Also scheduled is a lumberjack contest, which will include high climbing, log loading, eye splicing, chopping, and log bucking.

The fireworks display will take place the evening of July 4.

SUIT OF ARMOR NEEDED

London - (UPI) - An item in the personal column of the Times of London today said: "Gentleman requires suit of armor. Even Brand 'X' considered."

The Family Council

Editor's note: The Family Council consists of a judge, a psychiatrist, three clergymen, three editors and a women's editor. Each article is a summary of a family disagreement presented to the Council. The Council deals with problems, major and minor, encountered by guidance counselors and social workers. Edited by Mrs. Alma Denny. (Copyright by General Features Corp.)

Louis G. - We want to see them, not their children. **Ralph C.** - Our family is a unit. Where one goes, all go.

Louis G. - Ralph and I are lifelong friends. We went to school together and even served in Korea in the same infantry battalion. Although he married first, I was always welcome at his home and I'd bring along my girl friends on dates where we made it a foursome. He was best man at my wedding a few months after his own.

Now, after ten years, we're out of touch. Why? Not because we don't see each other, but because we can't see them without their three children. Since my wife and I are childless, we come as adults and pals. Ralph and May are eternally Mommy and Popsy, busy with lollipops and kiddie squabbles. I'm sure if they tried they could manage an eye-to-eye date with us, like in the old days.

Ralph C. - Not having children of his own, Lou thinks he and I should be able to continue at the same old stand in the same relationship we had

friend" is his ultimatum to Louis. "Then you'll have to get used to seeing me surrounded by my wife and children constantly from now on." Our sympathies are with Louis. We've all met adults who use children and grandchildren as a sort of shield around themselves. You can't get to first base with these friends because of all the interference which, incidentally, they encourage. You wonder whether they're afraid to free other adults and "serve up" the kids as red herring, as distraction lest the conversation gets around to themselves. They'd rather not talk a shoulder-to-shoulder. The children make swell decoys.

This ruse seems unfair to childless couple like Louis and his wife. It's certainly hard on unmarried friends, too, and on alert bright couples who may be parents themselves but who realize the world is filled with a number of other interesting topics.

Let's lay it on the line, Ralph. When you talk of your children you're talking of yourself and that can become boring, especially to people without children who'd like a chance to talk about themselves a little. They can only purr over your darlings for a limited time. Also, dragging the youngsters around to adult gatherings isn't good for anybody. Either beg off and stay home, or look into the

noble institution of baby-sitting. To Louis we'd suggest this: If Ralph continues to use his offspring as "bodyguard" to keep you at your distance, regard it as a form of brush-off. He may regret this shortening of his social contacts. But it's obviously his own choice. He could manage to meet you on an adult level if he wanted to. That would be much harder for him, perhaps.

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Practical Nursing School Scheduled

Applications are now being accepted for the Southern Oregon School of Practical Nursing, according to Lindsay M. Vinsel, director. The course is 12 months in length and consists of classroom and on-the-job hospital training.

The course, which will qualify applicants for examination by the Oregon State Board of Nursing for licensure, will begin in October. However, since the enrollment is limited, persons should make application now.

Information may be obtained by writing or calling the adult education office at Medford High school between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, 773-7220.

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