

Recessive Knees

Dick West Doesn't Get Far in Interview With Author of New Book

By DICK WEST
Washington—UPI—The best book on topic A that I ever read was the classic study written by James Thurber and E. B. White under the title "Is Sex Necessary?" First published in 1929, it was widely regarded as a lampoon of the sexology literature that abounded in that period. To me, however, it was too realistic for parody.

In one chapter, Thurber and White described a syndrome that so closely fitted my own experience I figured it had to be based on an actual case history. They called it "the recessive knee."

Summarized briefly, the recessive knee occurs when the knee of a male is bruised, accidentally or otherwise, by the knee of a female. The male knee immediately breaks contact and veers off in another direction.

According to the Thurber-White findings, in 93 per cent of recessive knee cases the male is suspicious; in 4 per cent he is ignorant; and in 3 per cent he is tired.

I was reminded of their study this week when Fate (Sam Fate, a local press agent) put me in contact with the author of a new best-seller on the subject.

This book, a sort of spinster's manual, is "Sex and the Single Girl," and the author is Helen Gurley Brown, who used to be a single girl herself.

To quote the publisher's blurb, the book is "uninhibited and outspoken." Well, sir, I used to be single myself, and adjectives like that still make me nervous.

Nevertheless, I steered myself and went ahead with the interview, which to the

best of my recollection went something like this:
Q. What is the central theme of your book, Mrs. Brown?
A. I take the position that the love life of an unmarried woman . . .

Q. Did you enjoy the recent World Series?
A. I don't know anything about baseball. The point I

am trying to make is that single girls are entitled . . .
Q. How about tropical fish? Do you like tropical fish?
A. I don't have any hobbies. There is no reason why a single girl should not . . .
That was as far into the subject as I got. Thurber and White neglected to mention that you can set recessive knees from a book.

Bids Opened for \$9.1 Million in Highway Projects

Salem—UPI—The Oregon Highway Commission Tuesday opened bids on \$9.1 million worth of projects, including the big relocation of the Columbia River Highway at The Dalles.

Roy L. Houck Sons' Corp., Salem, got the job with an apparent low bid of \$3,931,459. The 5.63 miles of grading and structures will carry the highway north of The Dalles, along the Columbia, bypassing The Dalles.

State Highway Engineer Forrest Cooper said this will eliminate the biggest bottleneck on the Columbia River highway.

There were two other jobs of more than \$1 million. Rogers Construction Co., Portland, had the apparent low of \$1.3 million for 2.4 miles of paving and other work on the Hill Creek-Oxman section of the Old Oregon Trail Highway 18 miles south of Baker.

Peter Kiewit Sons' Corp., Medford, was low at \$1.8 million for the north and south Ashland interchange on the Pacific Highway near Ashland. This involves 7.1 miles of paving and signs.

All 25 projects ran a sharp 10.8 per cent below state estimates.

Other apparent low bidders included:

Benton: Install traffic signals at Kings rd. and Harrison st. intersection in Corvallis; Steeck Electric, Medford \$4,275.

Clatsop: Build Sunset Lake bridge five miles south of Warrenton on a county road; Larson construction, Astoria, \$68,562.

Clatsop: Fort Stevens state park facilities; Grimstad & Vandervelt, Astoria, \$72,979.

Coos: Coquille River-Beaver Slough section, route 677,

.97 of a mile grading, surfacing, structures; Coos Bay, \$228,578.

Jackson: Three structures on the north and south Ashland interchange section, Pacific Highway; Tom Lillabo, Reedport; \$280,245.

Jackson: Valley of the Rogue Park interchange section, Pacific Highway; Southern Oregon crushing, Medford \$126,180.

Jackson: Widen Evans Creek bridge, Ausland Construction, Grants Pass \$56,247.

Jackson: Latrine in Casey State Park on Trail-Crater Lake highway; Harley E. Lowe, Ashland \$10,247.

Lane: Judkins Point interchange section, Pacific and McKenzie highways, roadside improvement; E. P. Baltz & son, Portland \$49,874.

Lane: Grading, paving and structure on the Noti Bridge section, Mapleton-Eugene highway; Hamilton & Thoms, Eugene \$59,390.

Lane: Devils Elbow slide viaducts, Coast highway north of Florence; Orlando C. Bernard and Glenn Snook, Eugene \$154,925.

Malheur: Install traffic signals at intersection of East Idaho ave. and 2nd st. in Ontario; Marson & Stokes, Roseburg \$6,476.

Marion: Build sand shed at Detroit; B & M Construction, Portland \$23,330.

Tillamook: Jackson Creek-Cape Lookout section, Nertis-Sand Lake county road, 1.3 miles grading; Grimstad & Vandervelt, Astoria \$144,928.

Wasco: East The Dalles-Union Pacific railroad overcrossing two miles east of The Dalles; Pacific Concrete, Portland \$396,333.

University Forms CD Organization

Eugene—The University of Oregon has formed a civil defense organization to meet emergencies on the campus, working with the Lane county civil defense agency, University President Arthur S. Flemming has announced.

The civil defense plan for the university has been organized by Col. Louis D. Farnsworth Jr., U.S. army colonel and head of the department of military and air science at the university.

Work on the plan was started early this year and has been refined further in the past two weeks after the receipt of detailed information from Washington, D.C., concerning the civil defense capability of the university.

Persons who have responsibilities under the plan have been made acquainted with the nature of their duties. Arrangements are now being made to test the effectiveness of the plan.

Under operational status, university civil defense would be directed by President Flemming with Colonel Farnsworth as his deputy director.

Tax Commission Affirmed in Case

Salem—UPI—Oregon Tax Judge Peter Gunnar has ruled that a Seattle woman acquired, as far as tax purposes are concerned, an interest in the Medical-Dental Building in Klamath Falls in 1939 rather than 1951. Gunnar, who issued the decision as Marion County Circuit Judge pro tem, affirmed the Oregon Tax Commission in the case.

The woman, Gerda A. Berry, contended she had no interest in the Klamath Falls building until 11 years ago when she acquired her interest from her late husband, Nathaniel E. Berry.

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

Prized Seashell Found By Raccoon—He Was Robbed!

The hot sun, the gentle breeze lazily drifting over the nearby ocean, the tang of salt in the air, brought on a sense of extreme drowsiness.

We were pretty comfortable with our back against a huge mangrove tree, and it seemed the most logical thing in the world to do was to take a nap. Half asleep, we looked out to where a group of sea gulls, themselves looking sleepy, sat on a sandbar. With the exception of the gulls we seemed to be alone on an uninhabited island.

Our sleep was later interrupted by a vague rustling. It seemed to be in a heavy growth of mangroves at our back. Remaining as motionless as possible we slowly turned our head to see what was disturbing the solitude. The rustling appeared to be coming nearer.

Then we saw him—a giant raccoon—ambling slowly through the beach grass. His back was humped grotesquely high, his nose searching the air currents. He was leisurely ambling toward the water's edge. Hardly had he passed our hiding place when another raccoon, obviously a female, followed him along a well worn trail.

Lumber Past
While we waited, several other raccoons of various sizes and ages lumbered past, all following the much-used game trail. Their bushy tails dragged along behind them more like afterthoughts than as part of their anatomy.

By changing our positions slightly we could see the raccoons clawing at the clumps of oysters attached to mangrove roots, exposed by the ebb tide. The raccoons grabbed an oyster clump, gave it a firm twist and broke it away from its support. The animals whammed the shells on a rock at the water's edge, breaking the shells and exposing the tender flesh.

Some of the animals, evidently fed up on oysters, searched the mudflat for other tidbits. A big raccoon, directly in front of us, suddenly dug in the sand, picking up various objects, inspecting them and discarding them. He found several clams and whelks. His appetite was not too sharp, for he displayed considerable daintiness in what he selected to eat. He seemed to be hunting for something special.

Usually Night Hunter

The raccoon habitually hunts at night, but these animals were abroad in bright daylight. The big fellow directly in front of us still searched. He ladled handfuls of wet sand into little heaps and then moved on, only to repeat the procedure a few feet farther on. He seemed perfectly willing to dig up the entire island to find what he wanted.

He had remained in one place quite a while, dipping something from a hole in the sand. Then he picked an object out of the hole. He turned it over and over in his paws. He dunked it in a small pool of water. The object took on a changed appearance; it was very bright and shiny. We could see the delicate markings on it.

We suspected what the object was. We leaped up and ran toward the big raccoon. All the other raccoons fell over one another in the excitement. Like little gnomes with packs on their backs, they scampered for the shelter of the mangroves.

Gallops for Shore

The big raccoon dropped the shell he had been holding and galloped for the shore. We picked the prize from the sand; it was a perfect specimen of the lion's paw shell, one of the most desirable of seashells. Carrying our prize, we walked back along the beach with the gulls screaming overhead.

We were proud . . . but we had not found a lion's paw. The raccoon had found it; we were the pilferers. Through fear and intimidation and by superior size and strength, we had robbed a weaker creature of the results of his labors.

Hull, England—UPI—Three convicts escaped from Hull prison Monday by pole-vaulting over the wall.

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