

## Small Worlds Around Us

By LYNN M. WATKINS  
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For several hours he had been conscious of a strange, very faint blue light penetrated his shell cover. Also, for the very first time he was conscious of movement nearby; several times he was jolted, once nearly rolled over, and then the light was brighter. Of course he didn't know the reason for the light; neither did he have any knowledge of why he was jarred.

He was terribly cramped. His neck was bent and his legs were crowded against his sides. He didn't understand the pressure that held him on all sides; he didn't even know that he was a baby quail and that he was about to be born.

He moved his head just the slightest distance, gained a tiny space and pushed his soft beak against the hard cover. As a chick appeared in the shell, the sound of the break scared him, so he remained very still. Now he was conscious of a freshness as air entered the tiny opening his bill had made. Outside noises became a little louder.

**Freed From Prison**

He felt a strong push by his side as one of his nest mates broke out of its prison. He braced his legs and tried desperately to straighten them. The tiny opening at the tip of his bill cracked and more warm outside air rushed inside.

Again he was badly frightened when the shell broke apart and his head popped out into the brightness of the summer day. Beside him other little heads began to appear. One baby quail, born a few minutes earlier, staggered and blundered over him, stepped right in his face as he passed. He didn't mind; it, too, was a part of being born.

He raised his head, put all his puny strength in his legs and pushed. The fore part of the shell fell away; he staggered to his feet. Only minutes old, yet he could stand even though he wobbled badly on his little pink feet.

Not much larger than a marble, the baby quail, along with his brothers and sisters,

goggle-eyed by the brightness of the day, blinked in the sunlight. The quails took tiny experimental steps - they could walk. They little realized the miracle of birth, couldn't know that less than a month ago they were liquids inside a limy shell. Here they were now, living things, endowed with all the characteristic and habit patterns of millions of quail ancestors; each a perfect organism, capable of recreating their kind, times without number.

**Left Their Home**

The sun, high in the summer sky, seemed to have moved but a little way before the quail family ventured out of the home nest. One little fellow walking with an effort, never questioned why he staggered, didn't know how ridiculous he looked with half an eggshell still clinging to the rear of his body. It would fall off soon but in the meantime it marked him from his brothers and sisters. It proved the seemingly impossible - that he was born a running.

All the baby quails ran from the nest, followed a larger object - their mother. They had never heard her voice before, yet they knew what she meant, knew what to do when she sounded the alarm call. Each dove under the nearest leaf or behind the closest grass clump. Each obeyed a voice they could understand but had never previously heard.

They remained hidden until the "all-clear" voice told them that "everything is all right, children, you can come out now." From their hiding places they emerged, baby quail that were almost born - running; little miracles of the meadow.

## IV - The Boom in Culture

# Young Actors, Singers, Dancers Hard to Convince Cultural Explosion in Evidence

By HARRY FERGUSON

Washington - (UPI) - It is difficult to convince young actors, singers and dancers that there has been a cultural explosion in the United States because an overwhelming number of them can't get jobs.

The field of the arts is so overcrowded that the U. S. Labor Department urges young people to read its reference guide on the subject before choosing their careers.

Having talent is not enough. You have to have luck, too. George London, the noted operatic singer, says he became so discouraged about his prospects in the United States that he went to Europe and within a week was hired by the Vienna State Opera.

"Since then," he added, "close to 200 American singers have been engaged by European opera houses. They were forced to go abroad because they lacked opportunities in their own country."

### Acting Jobs Scarce

There are about 6,000 members of Actors Equity Union seeking jobs on the Broadway stage. No more than 750 of them find engagements each year and unless they are in a hit they can be out of a job within a week.

"The modern dance field is a terribly overcrowded profession," says Miriam Rosen, instructor at the University of Maryland. "In New York you can throw a penny up in the air anywhere and hit ten dancers. Your only hope is to be in the right place at the right time and from then on it's luck."

More books are being published than ever before and the paper backs have opened up a wide field, but the odds against an unknown writer making a living at his profession are almost prohibitive. To attain the best seller lists he must sell 70,000 copies and the law of averages dictates his book will not sell 1,000.

### Worse for Poets

Poets are in even a worse position than writers of books. Robert Frost worked as a cobbler, farmer and school teacher. William Carlos Williams practiced medicine in Rutherford, N. J., to earn a living.

Cassius Marcellus Clay has the right idea. A poet must have a sideline.

There are about 6,000 plays registered in the Copyright Bureau here each year. The measure of the long odds against the playwright is that this season only 50 plays were produced on Broadway.

### Prices Too High

"The Broadway theater has been pricing itself out of existence," says Jack Gaver, UPI drama critic. "It's \$9 to \$10 for musicals and \$6.90 for dramas and \$7.50 on week ends. It hasn't the slightest thing to do with culture."

"But there has been a great theater-mindedness growing throughout the country. If theater culture is to mean anything, it will have to be at this community and regional level. The University of Michigan has a resident company of prominent New York actors in repertory. Minneapolis will open a new theater in May, headed by Sir Tyrone Guthrie, and with such stars as Hume Cronyn, Jessica Tandy and George Grizzard. The Miller Theater repertory project in Milwaukee has been hiring Broadway name players.

"Houston, Dallas, San Francisco, Boston, Los Angeles and many others are hotbeds of cultural theater activity. The concert circuit has become a big thing for well known actors-women's clubs, universities, etc. The actors give readings of plays or literature or simply talk about their own careers or the theater."

## Rogue River Student Gets Nomination

Rogue River - Terry Andrews, Rogue River High school, has been nominated for the annual Achievement Awards program sponsored by the National Council of Teachers of English.

For the sixth year, the council is conducting the awards program throughout the nation to grant recognition to outstanding high school seniors for excellence in English. The writing abilities and literary awareness of each nominee will be judged by local and state committees.

NCTE will announce the finalists at its annual Thanksgiving convention, and will send their names to every U.S. college and university with the recommendation that the students be considered for scholarship assistance.

There are not many individuals in the United States willing to sponsor the arts, but the big foundations have contributed generously.

The Ford Foundation has been especially active in supporting theater projects and last year distributed \$6.1 million to theater companies in New York, San Francisco, Stratford, Conn., Washington, D. C., Milwaukee, Oklahoma City, Los Angeles and Minneapolis.

Attempts to get the federal government to support cultural activities have been under way for more than a decade without success. Sen. Jacob Javits (R-N. Y.) introduced bills in 1949 for support of theater, ballet and opera and he still is trying. His present bill calls for a National Arts Foundation which would spend \$5 million the first year and \$10 million each year thereafter.

Persons seeking federal aid for the arts say there is a massive indifference and even resentment against them in Congress.

Next: Jackie Kennedy takes command.

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