

Herald and News

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Along NATURE'S TRAIL with Ken McLeod

The American public is committed to a program of doing something about the production of American farm crops. Since that program is now running into the hundreds of millions of dollars it behooves the nation to adopt a method more in keeping with American tradition than that of European feudalism. The Isak Walton League, a non-agricultural organization, which is primarily interested in conservation offers their opinion that the only way to control surplus and at the same time get the land into the best of conservation practice is for the government to lease the land necessary to reduce crop surpluses, take it out of production and the surplus problem will correct itself.

The "Walton Soil Plan" which has been presented here in the past few columns has been offered for study and discussion. Any program for control of crop production is bound to cost money, the idea advanced by the Isak Walton League spends money as do all such programs but with this difference, the league's program spends money not to stimulate excessive production but to reduce it. It does not try to reduce the productive size of each farm as is the case of allocated acreage controls but rather makes it possible for entire unproductive farms to be taken into a conservation reserve by offering a market for that type of land use. In the true American fashion it offers complete freedom of choice to the landowner by giving him an alternative for the remunerative use of his land rather than a conservation reserve. When prices are high due to demand he can operate economically, and when prices are uneconomic to operate he can get a fair return for his land by placing it in reserve.

Best of all, for every dollar spent from the public treasury the public will get a dollar's worth of conservation of its vital land resource.

The leadership of the Isak Walton League has no illusions that this program is a complete answer to all social and political problems of rural people. The league knows that the Congress will modify and amend any such proposal such as this. However, the league feels with a very strong conviction that they have a basic proposal that is worthy of the most serious study.

The first comment to the proposal of the Isak Walton League comes from the American Farm Bureau Federation. W. E. Hamilton, director of research, of that organization presented some of the reactions of his organization toward this proposal at the national convention of the Isak Walton League in Chicago this year. What Hamilton had to say is most pertinent to this problem. When one national organization has a baby and invites another national organization in to criticize it, the person who is to be critical is some-

BILLBOARD

By Bill Jenkins



Today's picture shows us the correct item for those who prefer a traveling dog. A Collie, small enough to fit in any car, even one of those little foreign jobs, alert, interested in everything that is going on around him and with an appetite to match his size.

This one, whose name is El Varon, which means "the baron" in Spanish, is long haired, white and belongs to Al and Darley Gordon, the Alamos Inn people, shown here holding the little fellow. They will all be taking off soon for another six month stint at the Casa de los Tesoros.

While the Gordons were here on a short visit Al and I drove down town for something or other and took the little fellow along. He attracted a good deal of interest from the passerby. But when he was shown to my dog, who weighs up in the neighborhood of 30 pounds, both he and North (my dog) named Northy were a little puzzled. I think my pup thought El Varon was a different version of a cat, and El Varon probably thought of North as nothing but a huge and noisy buffoon.

Anyhow, if any of you readers have been wondering what a Chihuahua looked like, here it is.

Speaking of hotels and people who operate them reminds me that the Warner Hotel down in Alturas is now under new management. Frank L. Eyre, formerly of Dixon and Sacramento, has taken over. We paused briefly last week to look in and found the downstairs of the place pleasant, cool on a hot day, and with a warm feeling of welcome. Was happy to see a lounge with the old barrel chairs scattered around. That happens to

able price supports it reduced the variability.

do not have variable price supports on the six basic commodities, each time the Congress has

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo



HAL BOYLE

MARTHA'S VINEYARD, Mass. — If success lies in the art of seeing the world in a grain of sand, Henry Beatie Hough and his wife, Betty, are two of the most successful people in America.

Their "grain of sand" is this island resort, the birthplace of the U.S. whaling industry and now the summer home of many artist, intellectual and business notables.

In 1920, fresh out of Columbia University, Henry and Betty had to decide whether to seek fame and fortune in the big city or look for them in that hinterland of all places to earn a living—a small town.

They chose the small town. In a shoe-string venture they bought The Vineyard Gazette, a small, decrepit, 3-column weekly newspaper with a circulation of less than 600.

Thirty-five years later they still have the shoe-string and perhaps not too much more in the way of ready cash. But they have built the Gazette up to a circulation of 6,500 — the island has only about 6,500 year-round residents—that is now world-wide. Its mailing list ranges from Tokyo to Trinidad.

Hough, a tall, balding, sensitive version of William Allen White with a New England accent, takes a quiet pride in his far-flung readership.

"Not long ago a professor wrote me that while traveling in India he found a copy of The Gazette on a train seat," said Hough. "and a British aviator also came across a copy in the ruins of Tripoli."

The Gazette, affectionately nicknamed "The Thunderer," is issued from a weathered, gray-shingled house built in 1760.

Despite its nickname, The Gazette rarely lifts its voice. It takes a firm but reasonable stand on local crusades, leaves the latest news about the hydrogen bomb to other journals. Its gist is the small news of life in small towns everywhere — births, deaths, comings and goings, the changing seasons, fishermen's talk. Somehow readers far away find this endlessly fascinating.

There is little crime news. Hough has covered only two murder cases in 35 years.

"Before those," he remarked mildly, "there hadn't been a murder on the island in 100 years."

The biggest story of the year to the annual town meeting.

"We'll carry 7 to 19 columns on it," said Hough. "Every word said at a town meeting is important to our readers. A town meeting is the purest form of democracy and we try to record them exactly as they happen."

Both Henry and Betty dislike printing court cases in which bitterness often arises.

"After all, we are not writing about strangers but friends we meet every day," said Hough.

But whether a court case embarrasses a poor Portuguese fisherman or a wealthy advertiser, the Gazette carries it as a matter of policy.

Once a man threatened to shoot the editor and another time a fellow said he was coming down with a razor," said Betty. "But actually few people seem to want to kill the editor, although"—she smiled over at her husband—"I suspect many would like to kick him."

Both Henry and Betty have given up any dreams of wealth they had. "You just don't make money running a country newspaper," said Henry. "You have to settle for the 88-cent plate of spaghetti instead of the \$2.50 steak."

But neither would trade their life of hard work for an easier living elsewhere. Their success is one of contentment.

"We never get lonely on the island," said Hough, who has written 11 books over the years. "A small town has the busiest social and fraternal life in the world. How could you be bored?"

James Marlow

WASHINGTON (AP)—In the old vaudeville days, shows opened with a juggling act, a few foot-tappers, or acrobats on a tight-rope. Nowadays Marshal Tito is the newest tightrope walker in Europe.

The boss of Communist Yugoslavia skips along nimbly, and so far successfully, on a thin line between the West and Russia. Going business with both sides. This is sometimes called playing both ends against the middle.

Tito himself in a speech last month called it "cooperation and normalization of relations."

Yugoslavia fitted neatly into the East European Communist bloc until 1948, when Stalin made the mistake of ordering Tito around too much. He broke with the old dictator.

His Red neighbors cast him into a Communist limbo and for at least five years filled the airwaves over Eastern Europe with a campaign of vilification, including the use of the word "humanism."

All this was delightful news to the West. This was the first time a satellite had cut loose from Russia. No one could tell if Yugoslavia was headed right, whether more satellites might follow.

Since Tito's break with Stalin, the United States has given Yugoslavia about 500 million dollars in military aid and perhaps the same amount in economic help, in grants not loans.

After Stalin's death in 1953 the new rulers of Russia, seeing the damage their old boss had done to the onetime solid Communist front in Europe, began to make overtures to Tito to woo him back. He wasn't wooed easily.

He had it pretty good in his relations with the West and the help he got from that direction. This year the Russians — Premier Bulganin and Communist party chief Khrushchev — made an humble pilgrimage to Yugoslavia.

This worried the West no end, particularly when Tito and the Russians seemed to have patched up their old quarrel. It was at this point Tito climbed up on the tight-rope.

If he could deal with both the West and Russia and the satellite he would have it twice as good in the East, when he had been able to deal with only one side at a time. There was a future in playing both ends.

In July, 1955, the Russians, are Communist, and we do not want to be an independent country."

At the same time, he said, "I reiterate we shall not take a single step away from our friendly relations with the West."

Tito is a businessman. He got the Russians to cancel an old \$2 million debt, dating back to before 1948. And he may be able, through an economic mission he sent to Moscow, to get a 120-million-dollar loan from them.

Schoolgirl Wins \$16,000

NEW YORK (AP)—A 12-year-old Baltimore schoolgirl, grinning with self-confidence, has applied herself to the \$16,000 mark on The 64,000 Question television show.

Gloria Leckerman calmly spelled out this sentence:

"The belligerent antagonistic anthropologists annihilated innumerable chrysanthemums."

The little Negro girl was acute and methodical as master of ceremonies Hal March read her the sentence last night. She asked him a question. Did he want that last word singular or plural?

Gloria's success makes her eligible to try for \$32,000 next Tuesday night in her spelling category.

The decision whether to keep the \$16,000 or go on is up to her grandmother Mrs. Bertha Key.

If Gloria tries for \$32,000 and misses, she still will have a consolation prize of \$4,000. If she tries and wins, she can go on to the \$64,000 question the next week.

All the child's winnings will be put into a trust fund, where the money will be kept until she needs it for her education or reaches legal age.

Last night, for the third consecutive week, Gloria was accompanied by her grandmother, with whom she lives in Baltimore.

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