

The Herald and News

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Do-It-Yourself

By BILL JENKINS

The do-it-yourself craze is growing rather than slackening off in our country today. But we can't really have us whipped. If you like to knit, are in a hurry and have \$150.00 you aren't using at the moment you can procure a German made machine that has 164 needles, works like a zipper and will knit a stylish dress in sixteen hours. It will also, according to the announcement, do up a pair of Argyle socks in an hour and a half and a tasteful sweater in three hours.

The gadget contains an automatic stitch counter or row counter, whichever it is, so you can't drop stitches. A dial controls the yarn tension. When you turn out a set of socks with it the machine turns the heel automatically without a seam.

I should think that machines like this one would be a great thing and create a lot of jobs. Anything that'll do all that will doubtless require an instructor to show the prospective knitter how to operate it. And so there will be more instructors.

Maybe.

When it comes to socks I have a small beef. By the time I get my socks broken in to the point where they fit well they are so loose they sag down into my shoe tops and cause me to walk in a peculiar manner to say the least. And I can't wear garters. They drive me nuts.

The same thing holds true for almost everything in the clothing line. Just about the time anything is really comfortable and you feel at home in it your wife gives it to a rummage sale somewhere. Collars never feel so good as when the final fraying occurs after they have already been turned once. Pants are at their best just before you find that they have suddenly acquired air conditioning in the seat.

The only item I have, in fact that doesn't wear out is a hat. I never wear one.

Since my dog is only going on two years old this is the first winter he's really had a chance to get out and romp in the snow. I wish winter would come.

He has found a new game, which he is willing to play by the endless hour. When I am out on the thin end of a snow shovel he has found that it is great sport for him to time his leaps in such a way as to spill all the snow off the shovel. When I try to remonstrate with him he hits me behind the knees and dumps me in the snow, too.

What with one thing and another it has taken me as long as two hours to shovel a foot wide path from the back door to the door of the dog run.

But even then all he does is sit in the run and dream up new ideas to plague with. If I were as agile as he is in the snow it would be a different proposition, but as it is he has the jump on me—literally—and I find myself bogged down in a hopeless mess of snow, ice and recriminations.

I've found out one thing, at least. Profanity won't melt snow.

Sand And Gravel

By KEN McLEOD

In these days when all the glamour of mining is tied up with the search for atomic materials the common everyday mining enterprise of handling sand and gravel flourishes without fanfare or attention. The economic and population growth of any community is paralleled by the growth of this leading commodity. The continued influx of population with the resulting demands for homes, industrial buildings, highways and public works projects has given impetus to this valuable industry. Each state keeps careful tab on the production of this industry within its borders and from year to year issues the statistics in regard to production, in many parts of the engineering world these figures are significant for they reflect the growth of an area.

The figures for California came to hand the other day and this is what California's Division of Mines has to say about its industry.

"California has been the leading state in the nation since 1942 in sand and gravel production and within the state that industry is exceeded only by production of petroleum products and cement."

In 1953, a total of \$8,450,000 tons of sand and gravel worth \$53,430,000 was produced.

Thus it is as we ride about the countryside we seldom give heed to the tremendous importance this homegrown industry has in our modern day economy. We are aware of the trucks carrying the products of the industry, we see crushers and bunkers, we see quarries and gravel pits, we think nothing about them or the tremendous volume of material that is being taken from Mother Nature to aid in the better living of man.

In commercial usage "sand" applies to rock or mineral fragments ranging in size from three-thousandths of an inch to a quarter of an inch in diameter. "Gravel" consists of rock or mineral fragments larger than a quarter of an inch and ranging up to 3.5 inches in diameter for the maximum size. This industrial classification is a lot different from that of the geologist to whom the words "gravel" and "sand" have a somewhat different classification and he divides the term into "coarse medium and fine."

In the geological aspect and industry "sand," strictly defined,

means particles of a certain size and has no reference to their composition; thus we have quartz sand, coral sand, volcanic sand, etc. In nature, it happens however, that by far the greater part of the sands are composed of particles of quartz and some are exclusively made up of it. For this reason when a student of geology uses the term sand without qualification, quartz sand is always meant. In this accepted usage of the term, industry and science have different terminologies.

As with the word "sand," the word "gravel" has a different meaning to the geologist than to industry. In the geological concept, when particles are larger than pebbles the material is called "gravel" and the individual pieces are termed "pebbles"; large, loose pieces of rock from the size of a small melon up are spoken of as "boulders." In this analogy to common vegetable material for size comparison those pieces that are smaller than peas, which form a non-cohering mass when wet with water are termed "sand"; while the finest particles which are readily lifted and transported by moving air, the atmosphere are known as "dust," and these when wet and then dried generally cohere into solid material. All these terms grade into one another and we have three basic divisions: (a) gravel, (b) sand, (c) mud, clay.

In California and elsewhere approximately nine-tenths of the output of sand and gravel is used as "aggregate" in mixture of either portland cement or asphalt compounded for use in construction and road building. The remaining tenth is specially sand, mostly used in glass making, sand blasting, filters, and foundry processes.

Portland cement concrete aggregates consist of sand and gravel surrounded and held together by hardened portland cement paste. Concrete mixes commonly contain 15-20 per cent water, 1-14 per cent cement and 66-78 per cent aggregate. The word "aggregate" is commonly designated as the inert, fragmental material which is bound into a conglomerate mass by a cementing material such as portland cement, asphalt or gypsum plaster.

Sand and gravel used as concrete aggregate have to meet many requirements because proper deterioration of concrete has been traced in many instances to the presence of unsuitable minerals in the material. Once upon a time the construction industry was satisfied with any rock it could crush up or gravel it could take from some near-by bed but as the chemistry of cement was better understood the people in construction work have become "choosy" in what kind of sand and gravel goes into their cement mixes.

This poses a problem to the industry because suitable rock materials that are comparatively stable physically and chemically must now be provided. Mineral or rock particles that are physically weak, extremely absorbent, easily cleavable or swell when saturated are ruled out. Shales, friable sandstones, highly micaceous shists, clayey limestones, and porous volcanoes are examples of physically unsound rock types. Some rocks and minerals undergo chemical reactions when incorporated into concrete with normal portland cement. The most important reaction, called "alkali-aggregate reactivity," occurs between the certain types of aggregate particles and the alkali of the cement resulting in the production of a silica gel that absorbs water and swells with expansive pressure causing the concrete to disintegrate.

National Flower

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP)—When I nominated the dandelion as America's national flower about a year ago, there was some ruckus.

The proposal seemed to step on a lot of green thumbs. It was almost as if I'd done something indecent, such as suggesting selling children into slavery.

On Jan. 1, 1954, I wrote in to denounce me as an idiot and the dandelion as a pest. Most of them agreed that if America picked a national flower it ought to be the rose.

Well, that seemed like a copy cat idea if I'd ever heard of one. Too many countries already have the rose. But I shut up on the subject, since what I don't know about flowers would fill a mighty big vase.

Today, however, I'd like to present a rebuttal to all the thorny rose lovers in the form of a letter written by Win Haynes of Greenville, Pa.

Here is what reader Haynes wrote: "I have been in the nursery business for a number of years and for the life of me, I can't see why anyone would have anything to do with a rose. If you get near a rosebush it goes at you like a wildcat. If you approach it wearing rawhide gloves, thereby avoiding bloodshed, not to say poisoning, it will do its best to give you rose fever or shake off some of its loving insects on you."

"In spite of all the praises sung for it, it is evident that the rose has no use for man. It even refuses to grow for him except on its own terms."

"You can't just stick it in the ground and forget about it. It has to be planted just so. Let it get 'wet feet' and it curls up and dies. If you want it to bloom, you have to feed it like a horse, and it is finicky about its food."

"It has almost as many diseases and enemies as the human race."

"But take the dandelion. Brother, there is a flower! You not only don't have to plant them, you have

to be a genius not to have them if you possess a square foot of soil. They will be with you pronto even if they have to make the journey by air.

"The dandelion has but one enemy—man. It is thought they furnished the first green food that Adam ate after being banished from Eden. Man has been eating them ever since, but they have continued to multiply and cover the earth."

"Hardy? Man, there just ain't no harder form of life. Poison 'em, dig 'em out and burn 'em. Do anything you like if you don't like 'em. But next spring when the snow melts, look out your window and it's dollars to doughnuts a friendly 'U' dandelion blossom will be right there smilin' at you."

"Besides brightening your soul with its sunny bloom, the dandelion furnishes a virtual pharmacopoeia by itself. The old family doctor book says it is a laxative, diaphoretic, diuretic, expectorant, tonic, alterative and aperient, used for liver complaint, constipation, jaundice, dyspepsia (hold it a moment while I go get me a dandelion please), dropsy and blood purifier."

"If you had told your audience half of that, the dandelion would have been named national flower by acclamation."

Well, now I have told you. The defense rests.

Temperatures

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP)—Winter weather is putting a frosty touch on some business activity today even as it stirs up others.

Cold winds are blowing up pressure for price rises of some products. They are adding to the total of the jobs. They threaten production schedules of some industries—but are helping others to work out from under record totals of stocks on hand.

A quarter of a million more persons are out of work, the Commerce and Labor departments report, because the weather has put a crimp in the construction industry activity in the northern tier of states, as well as bringing an end to outdoor work on the farms and indoor work in food-processing plants. This is a purely seasonal thing, but it more than offsets the number of persons who found jobs in the nation's stores to help with the Christmas trade.

Winter's first blusters are beginning to affect some prices. Egg output has fallen, for instance, and prices are higher. Soon the weather may cut into the movement of meat critters from the farm to market.

Ice weather is cutting off the flow of iron ore down the Great Lakes. Steel mills have been building up stocks for the winter pull, but if they should need more before the spring thaw, and can't get enough from their new sources in Venezuela and Labrador, they'll have to resort to the more costly rail transportation.

Steel scrap, which is mixed with iron ore in the steel furnaces, is already pushing close to the record high prices set early in 1951. So far, scrap is readily available to the mills—at a price. But a really cold and snowy winter could choke off the flow of scrap to the dealers—and add just that much more pressure to the move to raise steel prices.

Cold snaps already have cut in heavily on the nation's heating oil stocks—the delight of the industry, which had built up record inventories.

The cold winds, meanwhile, are warming the hearts of those in the natural gas, coal and oil industries who prosper as the nation tries to keep comfortable.

The winter season has helped send the use of electric power to an all-time high—an unprecedented total of almost 11½ billion kilowatt-hours of power was produced last week.

Merchants welcome the cold too. It has been blowing customers into their stores seeking overcoats, blankets and galoshes.

Can He Run?

By JAMES MARLOW

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Eisenhower is 65. The Republicans hope he will run again. He's their chief hope of winning in 1956. But can he run?

The word of his doctors on whether he can run and what they tell him—perhaps in February—depends on the condition of his heart.

But one of the most vital things they cannot tell him about at all is the condition of his arteries.

There was nothing wrong with Eisenhower's heart the moment before he suffered the attack. The trouble was in one of the blood vessels to the heart.

It was a blood vessel that was too damaged to undergo the rigors of the presidency, they'd tell him so. They haven't yet. They are still checking.

Immediately this question arises: the question about his arteries, not his heart.

One blood vessel was affected to the point of closing. If one vessel was in bad shape, one might

ask, isn't it reasonable to assume the other vessels to the heart are just about as bad and that it's just a matter of a short time before another closes and he has another attack?

It isn't reasonable to assume that, and this is said on the advice of one of the best heart doctors in the country. Why? Because only one section of one artery may have been so thickened it would close.

This was the specialist's explanation: Doctors know that one vessel was badly diseased. The closing of it was proof. But they don't know whether the other vessels are in that shape. Eisenhower might never have another heart attack.

But the older a man gets, generally, the more the deterioration in his blood vessels. Generally, that is. And generally, a man younger than Eisenhower would have less reason to expect a heart attack than Eisenhower.

Accidents

By EDWIN P. JORDAN, M.D.

According to an article in one of the leading medical journals not long ago, "accidents have become the leading cause of death among children over one year of age."

One of the commonest, though not the most fatal, types of poisoning among young children is caused by the consumption of petroleum oils, principally kerosene.

The bulletin of a large life insurance company says that about 6,000 deaths occur each year in the United States alone from accidents among children between the ages of 5 and 14.

"Accident prevention," the bulletin goes on, "constitutes the broadest single area for life conservation among children of elementary school age."

Among children from 1 to 4 years of age about 3,500 deaths or 1/4 of all those which occur in childhood of these ages in the United States and Canada, happen each year as the results of accidents of one kind or another.

The picture is really appalling since most accidents in small children could be prevented and we should guard these little more carefully against the dangers of accidental death or severe injury.

One particularly heart-rending type of injury to small children is that which results when they get hold of some poison in a bottle in the medicine cabinet or elsewhere and try to drink it. If poisonous liquids, including kerosene, or solids must be kept around the house they should always be placed beyond the possible reach of the curious youngster.

If a child does swallow poison, vomiting should be brought about at once by placing the finger down the child's throat (this with the exception of two or three poisons). Naturally, the poison bottle should be kept so that the doctor will know what the child has taken, and professional advice should be obtained at once.

Most accidents to children—about 1/2 of the total—are the results of motor vehicle accidents and this is half as bad again in Canada as in the United States. Deaths from burns of various origins, from drowning, from accidental swallowing of poisons and from other usually avoidable mishaps are also too common among these toddlers. The greatest possible care in driving motor vehicles especially if small children are around is obviously needed.

The most effective method to avoid burns is to keep fire or fire-making equipment entirely away from small children. If the clothing of a child actually does catch fire the fire should be smothered at once by wrapping the child in a rug or blanket. Another important preventive measure is to keep hot pots and pans on the stove out of the reach of the hands of small youngsters.

These are only a few of the injuries which can occur to small children—and older ones as well. A convenient pamphlet on emergency measures in the event of injury which contains also a handy check list for things around the home is the accident handbook compiled by members of the staff of the Children's Medical Center, 300 Longwood Avenue, Boston 15, Massachusetts (Price 25 cents).

Quotes

By UNITED PRESS

GETTYSBURG, Pa.,—Secretary of the Treasury George Humphrey's joking reply when asked how the administration would balance the budget: "I had a rich uncle who died."

NEW YORK (AP)—Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt on the AFL-CIO union merger: "It will give you more influence in American life and I hope you will use that influence for the well-being of the people of the world."

CHICAGO (AP)—Dr. Joyce Brothers on the strain she felt before she won \$64,000 for her knowledge of boxing: "I drank so much tea I could hear it sloshing around inside."

WASHINGTON (AP)—Chairman Francis E. Walter (D-Pa.) on the controversy over the Ford Foundation's fund for the Republic: "Current investigations by the Committee of Un-American Activities will undoubtedly disturb Mr. Ford even more by disclosing evidence to show that the fund deliberately intends to obstruct all investigation and control of Communist conspiracy and to strengthen thereby the forces bent on the overthrow of this nation and its institutions."

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Hatlo

DEAR OL' DAD POPS HIS VEST BUTTONS WHEN HE HOLDS FORTH ABOUT HIS SELF-RELIANT, BRAINY, ATHLETIC DAUGHTER—

HERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF KITEENA—SECOND-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL-PLAYS LACROSSE-CAPTAIN OF THE SWIMMING TEAM-CLASS PRESIDENT-GONNA BE A PSYCHIATRIST-CAN DO ANYTHING SHE SETS HER MIND TO—STANDS ON HER OWN TWO FEET-NEVER GAVE US AN ANXIOUS MOMENT—

BUT HOW DOES HE TALK WHEN THE LOCAL SWAINS START TO LEAN ON THE DOOR-BELL? GIVE A LISTEN—

YOU'RE CALLING FOR KITEENA, ARE YOU? WELL, ABOUT FACE!! MARCH!! SHE'S TOO YOUNG TO GO OUT ON DATES!! SHE'S STILL PRACTICALLY A BABY COMPARED TO YOU— WHY, SHE'S HARDLY OUT OF GRAMMAR SCHOOL—



SANTA BANNED

HENDERSON, Nev., (AP)—Santa Claus has been banned from the annual city-sponsored Christmas parade Dec. 24. Jolly old St. Nick won't be riding on one of the floats because several religious leaders objected to him as "a pagan symbol." Recreation Director Dr. Earl Gould said yesterday, Gould said several religious leaders threatened to withdraw floats depicting Biblical scenes if Santa Claus was included in the parade.

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