

The Herald and News

FRANK JENKINS
Editor
BILL JENKINS
Managing Editor
FLOYD WYNN
City Editor

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Big Decision

By FLOYD L. WYNN

The world is full of decisions, and occasionally one of them comes home to roost on my stooped shoulders.

Against the best advice of those of my friends I would class as ne'er do wells, I went ahead and had my back yard planted in grass. It's slightly smaller than Yankee stadium, but not much.

Gleefully, I anticipated the day when I would have a large verdant sward that would do credit to any park. I didn't realize that I was creating a Frankenstein.

But, I do now.

It's like a baby at feeding time . . . it has to be given attention.

First, I began with a hand mower. But, in time, even my weak mind began mentally to total the staggering distance that muid and body was forced to cover in the mowing process.

In all, I figured that while mowing my back yard I would physically walk almost seven miles. This is quite a hike in itself, but combined with a lawn mower, it makes quite a trip.

So, purely as a self preservation measure, I decided to buy a power mower.

That's where the big decision came in.

The power lawn mower world is just about equally divided between rotary or reel-type mowers. One fellow says, "I'd trade my rotary if anybody would trade." Another is willing to trade his reel-type.

Being now to the field I ventured to ask "What's the difference?" Certainly a power mower is a power mower, and either you sit on them or you walk behind them.

But, I found it isn't that simple. Some of the rotaries are self-propelled, some are not. Some pitch it out the side, some the back. Some can be fitted for grass catchers, some cannot. Some rotaries chew up the grass and leave it in big clods, some don't.

And reel-type are not as simple, either. Some are self-propelled, some are not. Some have the type that the reel stops when the clutch is out, some don't.

By now I'm so confused, I'm almost ready to go back to my hand mower . . . almost, but not quite. I keep remembering that seven miles of roadwork.

But through it all that big decision kept staring me in the face.

To add to the problem. Almost every salesman told me that if you had a rough or hilly ground the rotary was better, and if it was level and smooth, the reel-type was better. That's fine except that the back of my yard is level and smooth, and the front is rough.

Well, I couldn't put it off forever time I mow the back yard, sometime, so I did.

I selected the reel-type mower.

How did I arrive at this decision.

Well, my brother-in-law lives across the street. He has a rotary, and my sole reasoning was that if he wasn't satisfied with his rotary, he could borrow my reel-type, and if I wasn't satisfied with it, I could borrow his rotary.

So far I'm happy.

I still walk the seven miles every time I mow the backyard, but I'm so busy throwing the clutch in and out, turning corners, and trying to keep that mower going that the first thing I know I've walked the seven miles and the lawn is mowed.

But no more big decisions this week please.

Consumer Suffers

By FLORENCE JENKINS

It can't help appearing to the long-suffering ultimate consumer that the law of supply and demand has slipped a cog somewhere along the line.

When a new product or a new formula for an old one is introduced, newspapers usually get a publicity story through which the manufacturer hopes to impress the buying public with the idea that his product is the ultimate in that line. The publicity release almost invariably says that the new product has been brought out at great expense, after long research, solely because of demand on the part of the consumer.

Like the editorial "we," there is something pretty nebulous about the identity of the consumer who is continually "demanding" changes.

Nobody asked me, for example, if I wanted a change in the formula of a certain brand of quickly-prepared white rice. I'll bet you weren't asked, either. Yet the new, improved version is with us and you can't buy the old familiar kind you could whip up without looking at the recipe on the back.

Wild rice is even worse. It's improved to the place you have to be mighty lucky to come up with something that even tastes like wild rice.

Cigaret companies are probably the most prolific in presenting new brands, sizes, filters and formulas. Cigarets come in king size, modern and standard sizes, with the alleged amount of nicotine decreased until they can vie for top spot in a national rating for unharmed smokers.

And they didn't ask you and me if we wanted a harmless smoke. If a person doesn't want the taste and effect of nicotine, let him stop smoking or buy nicotine cigarettes.

This week, a good many of you will find your favorite type of a certain brand of cigarettes is no longer on the store's shelves. It is to be replaced with a "better" formula, the man behind the counter will tell you.

It isn't the merchant's fault. It was news to him, too, that one of his best sellers is being changed again.

Personally, I'd like to have a little talk with this "consumer" who keeps demanding changes that upset my buying habits.

Different

By HAL BOYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Life may not have been better in the good old days — but it sure was different.

Remember when the best kind of unemployment insurance was an interest in your work?

When it was felt no baby had been properly welcomed into the world until it had been photographed naked while lying flat on its stomach on a fur rug?

When saloons competed to see which could serve the best free lunch in town?

When more popcorn was eaten in the American home than in movies?

When you could always earn a little ice cream cone money by picking potato bugs in a neighbor's garden at a penny a hundred?

When, long before Paris discovered the gunny sack look, dresses made from used flour sacks were part of every country girl's basic wardrobe?

When mother always kept a can of mutton tallow on the back of the kitchen stove to grease our wet shoes? (No one could even spell lanolin then.)

When dogs were allowed to run free in the streets — but children weren't?

When the biggest possible blow to your financial standing was to lose your credit rating at the public library?

When you were sure that you weren't really the child of your parents but had been sold to them by some traveling gypsies, who had stolen you from a rich home?

[Psychiatrists now say practically every child gets this romantic idea in some form or another.]

When people took more pride in their flower beds than their marriages?

When the only thing more certain than death and taxes was that, if you picked up a hoopoad, you'd develop warts?

When, walking down a sidewalk, you were always careful not to step on every crack — 'or else you'll break your grandma's back"?

When every girl's dream was to grow long curls, just like Mary Pickford's?

When it was easy to tell you'd entered the home of a man of distinction — because the brass cuspidor in his parlor always had a dazzling polish?

When salt mackerel was a major breakfast delicacy, and a child got one orange a year — in his Christmas stocking?

When more families played "old maid" than bingo?

When every medicine chest con-

taind a bottle of castor oil, the national tranquilizer?

When the only member of the household who worried about his diet was the family pooch — and his problem was whether they'd leave him enough table scraps?

Snakes

By LOUIS CASSELS
United Press International

WASHINGTON (UPI)—Man has hated and feared snakes since the time of Adam.

And this is the season when both people and snakes get out of their homes to explore the woods, fields and streams.

The U.S. Public Health Service does not know exactly how many people are bitten by snakes each year. It quotes one estimate of 3,000, and says this may be "far too low."

Public Health records do show the number of deaths from poisonous snake-bites. It averages about 14 per year in the United States.

There are two reasons why the death rate is so low:

—Most snakes—and hence most snake-bites—are non-poisonous.

—Prompt treatment of a poisonous snake bite is usually effective. The fatality rate for untreated poisonous snake bites is 10 to 15 per cent.

Dr. Henry M. Parrish of the University of Pittsburgh School of Public Health recently made a detailed analysis of snake bite deaths in all parts of the country. He found:

—August and September are the peak months for snake bites. June and July are close behind.

—Three times as many men as women are bitten.

—Nearly 40 per cent of the victims are children under 15.

—More than half of the victims are bitten on the foot or lower leg. About 37 per cent are bitten on the hand or lower arm.

Reptile experts at the Washington Zoo said there are 135 known species of snakes in the United States, of which 20 are poisonous.

Maine is the only state that is "relatively free" of poisonous snakes, and it has a few timber rattlers. Vermont and New Hampshire have the sparsest snake population after Maine.

The southeastern states, from North Carolina to Texas, have the most kinds of snakes (60) as well as the most snakes.

Without getting into scientific nomenclature, there are four general types of poisonous snakes in this country. They are:

Rattlesnakes—Every state has one or more varieties. More than three-fourths of all snake-bite deaths are caused by rattlers. The South has the huge and deadly diamondback, which reaches a length of eight feet; the East has the timber rattler; the Great Plains have the prairie rattler; the Far West has at least 12 nasty specimens.

Coral snakes—One species is found in the Southeast, another in Arizona and New Mexico.

Water moccasins—sometimes called cottonmouth moccasins. Found in the Southeast from Virginia to Florida, and westward to southern Illinois and Texas. The so-called moccasin of the Northeast is a different, non-poisonous species.

Copperheads—Widely distributed east of the Rockies. Unlike other species which move out when man moves in, copperheads like to remain around habitated areas to hunt rats and mice. They inflict more bites than any other poisonous variety but fortunately their venom is comparatively weak and they cause few fatalities.

Here are a few tips from Dr.

Doris Cochran, curator of reptiles at the Smithsonian Institution, on how to avoid being bitten by a snake this summer:

"Most people get bitten because they don't look where they are going. Snakes hide under logs, in thick underbrush, and in rocky crevices. If you are climbing, examine a ledge before you thrust your hand into it. If you are walking through the woods, step up on a fallen tree and look before you step over it. Never step or reach into undergrowth without probing first to see if there is a snake there.

"Boots or leggings offer good protection, since snakes rarely strike high.

"Carry a good light at night and be doubly careful. That's when snakes go prowling in search of food."

Remember, also, that a snake does not have to be coiled in order to strike. That's an old wives' tale.

If, in spite of everything, you are bitten by a poisonous snake, the American Red Cross recommends the following first aid steps:

Stop all muscular activity at once.

Apply a tourniquet above the bite. Make it tight enough so that blood barely oozes from the wound, but not so tight as to cut off the flow of deep interior vessels.

Sterilize a knife blade with a match and make cross-cut incisions at each fang mark. Try to get one incision into the actual venom deposit, which probably will be below the fang marks (a snake usually strikes downward.)

Suck the wound (never mind about cuts in your mouth) for an hour or more.

Get the victim to a doctor or hospital fast for an anti-venom injection.

Industry Better

By SAM DAWSON

NEW YORK (AP) — The construction industry is feeling better today after some earlier hard knocks.

Business it's losing in one direction is being made up in another. And right now the gain in construction payrolls is playing a major part in bringing the nation's total of wages and salaries up smartly after months of decline, the Commerce Department reports.

Part of the current upturn is due to better building weather. Credit also is given to easier money, especially in the housing field. But much of the present and most of the potential boost is coming from government spending, federal, state and local.

The good news is:

1. Housing starts have climbed above the annual rate of a million units after touching a low rate of 800,000 in March, the Labor Department reports. The year-ago figure was 994,000. The future looks bright because applications for FHA and Veterans Administration guarantees of mortgages have been climbing steadily.

2. Public projects, which now account for more than 30 per cent of all building spending, are 4 per cent above a year ago, with the road building segment up 6 per cent, according to the economists of the Northern Trust Co. of Chicago. The Federal Reserve Bank of New York says that higher demand from the construction industry accounted for much of the recent rise in steel output.

Looking ahead in this field: The Bureau of Public Roads is expected to award two billion dollars in additional contracts in the next few weeks. Spending for post offices and other federal buildings is being stepped up. State and local governments are marketing a record volume of security issues this year, and most of this money will find its way into construction of such things as schools, water and sewage systems.

The bad news is:

1. The big spurt in industrial building is over for a time. Up to now 1953 spending for new plants is trailing the like period of last year by 21 per cent. Businessmen are still cutting back on earlier estimates of what they'll spend this year and next. Many industries find they already have built more facilities than present demand justified.

2. Commercial building has slowed some too. Yet there is still much activity in erecting offices in major cities, and providing stores and other facilities to serve the new housing developments that went with the big surge of city folk to the suburbs and the growth of new industrial communities in various sections of the nation.

Some builders are counting on help in the final months of the year from two sources. One is the money that could reactivate some building schemes put on the shelf for awhile. The other is that if the slump is leveling out, a feeling of confidence could supplant the caution that has ruled much business and consumer thinking in recent months.

They'll Do It Every Time

By Jimmy Harlo

JEREBOM IS EDITOR OF THE EMPLOYEES' MAGAZINE—HE NEVER HAS ENOUGH MATERIAL WHEN HE'S GOING TO PRESS...

"LO JOE—HEY, YA GOT ANY ITEMS FROM YOUR DEPARTMENT? WE'RE SHORT!"

"GOSH—NOT A THING, JER—HMM—NO—DID YA CALL MIKE IN THE MAIL ROOM? MAYBE HE..."

"NOTHING FROM THE ACCOUNTING DEPT.—THE OFFICE BOYS OR THE MAIL ROOM—WE'LL HAVE TO CLIP STUFF FROM OTHER MAGAZINES..."

"OUR SOFTBALL TEAM WON THE CHAMPIONSHIP TODAY!"

"M-N-N-H, THE PHONE OPERATOR HAD TRIPLETS!"

"YOU WANTED SOME NOTES, JER—WELL, OUR GLEE CLUB IS GOING ON TV TOMORROW NIGHT!"

"IT'S MR. BIGDOME—HE WANTS YOU TO GET IN A PIECE ABOUT THE NEW MERGER WITH FUTURELESS AND CO..."

"THANK AND A HATLO HIT TIP TO DICK CARPENTER, 505 YORK RD., JENKINTOWN, PENNA."

BUT THE MINUTE THE ISSUE GOES TO PRESS—WOW! AN AVALANCHE!!

Convict Serving 100-Year Term Is Successful In Toy Manufacturing Line

CHESTER, Ill. (AP)—A convict serving a 100-year term in Menard State Penitentiary stands to make a fortune from "Kongo Safari," a child's toy.

The toy was designed by Clyde Wagner, 42-year-old murderer.

Wagner has submitted 70 toy ideas to manufacturers. He holds 70 patents and since 1941 has invented more than 750 items, ranging from a new type colter pin to jet aircraft. Five toys are in production.

His "Kongo Safari," a push-pull elephant train, was accepted by a manufacturer who reported that he displayed the toy at an industry show in New York this spring and received 700,000 orders.

Wagner's royalty is 3 cents on each toy. He could get \$21,000 from this toy alone if 700,000 are sold.

He was convicted in 1937 for the fatal shooting of an Alton, Ill., policeman. He won't be eligible to seek parole until he's served a third of his 100-year term.

What would Wagner do with such a bundle of money?

He said he'd spend it to keep working on still other ideas.

"Getting patents, hiring people outside to build models, and all other things involved have eaten up everything I've made on the inventions I've sold," Wagner said. He didn't say how much money he's made thus far.

He works as a vocational instructor in prison.

Juvenile Home Inmates Riot

SAN JOSE, (UPI)—Fifty inmates at San Jose Juvenile Hall rioted Monday when five youths were captured in an escape attempt.

Five officers of the San Jose Police Department were called in to help juvenile authorities restore order as the rioters smashed windows, ripped bedding and shouted threats.

Authorities said three ringleaders broke a transom window and were attempting to free two other youths when a general disturbance began. The three 17-year-old ringleaders were lodged in security quarters at Santa Clara County Jail.

Costello Free On Huge Bond

NEW YORK (AP) — Gambler Frank Costello remains free in \$25,000 bail pending review of his income tax evasion case by the U. S. Supreme Court.

This was the ruling yesterday by the U. S. Court of Appeals. Costello, 66, was convicted of evading \$28,332 in taxes for 1943 and 1949. He was released in \$25,000 bail March 1950 after serving 11 months on a five-year sentence, pending various court actions.

Last May 20 the U. S. Court of Appeals upheld a decision of Federal Judge John F. X. McGohey denying Costello's motion for a new trial. This is the court action Costello is seeking to have the Supreme Court review.

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Pogo

NOW WHEN THE PLEASANTS TO THE MOON HE PICKS UP THE THREAD—THE THREAD PEGO CLIMBS—AND OVER HAND AND

YEH, BUT I AIN'T GONNA DO IT.

OUTE GO—THEN WHEN YOU GET THERE, ALBERT, YOU WILL MAKE UP THE THERMOS BOTTLE AND THE SAN WICHES...

GOPH HBT SNAPS KIZ

A BITTIN' FROM OUR MATHEMATICAL WEARD N ALGEBRA.

I, I, SURE HE HEANS BETT OUGHT TO PACK P, B, T, OF ICE CREAM.

I DUNNO—HE HADA LOT OF BREAD AN' JELLY IN THAT SPEECH.

BUT ICE CREAM WOULD BE NICE, MUR, ALBERT!

I AIN'T GOIN'!