

THE SQUIRREL CAGE

By Douglass Welch



A good day to you, and I pretty near forgot to remind you of some of the great events coming up this month. February, in fact, is a darned month for special events— for instance, for joy. Butter and Pan-cakes Month, sponsored by the same people who sponsored Kid-Pleasing Meals Time back in January and who never give up. And this is Frozen Potato Month, and Milk - F e d Spring Lamb Season and International Clergy Week and American Music Month and, oh, I don't know what.

Yesterday was Groundhog Day and today is Texas C i t a Fiesta and tomorrow will be National K r a w t and F r a n k f u r t e r Week and Friday will be T a k e T e a and S e e B r e a d o n Sunday the R a i s i n B r e a d o n Sweetpeas begin, but, personally, what I am waiting for is National Pinto Bean week which starts on Friday, the 12th. I have just seen a picture of Miss National Pinto of 1965 in a bathing suit, and she is gorgeous. I think she was loaned to the pinto people by the Florida grapefruit people or the California avocado people because I recognize her from my literature.

Responsible

If you can bring yourself to settle down after all this excitement— Miss Pinto, honey, you're excused now; you can slip into a dress and come back and listen to the lecture. If you like—we have a few items of middling Social Significance to discuss.

A prominent psychiatrist, Erich Fromm, in a new book, "The Heart of Man," discloses who is to blame for all this cigarette-smoking among men in the "Men" TV. Dear O I D Mother, who, like I keep tell-

ing you, is responsible for all the ills in the world today. The average male smoker, he says, is a man deeply bound to a "mothering figure." He is "orally" receptively oriented, which is the worst kind of thing from her point of view; he is always expecting "something from others"; he has never been able to assert himself; he is filled with chronic and intense anxiety; smoking to him is a satisfaction of a receptive craving for food.

When such a man decides with the exercise of great willpower to stop smoking, he is, in effect, rejecting his mother and assuming his rightful independence status in society.

"Cigarette, anyone?" I hostess says, and you say "No, thanks. At last I am free of my mother."

I can't imagine what causes women to smoke, and even mothers to do it, but they have to wait for a second book from Dr. Fromm to find out. Can you bear waiting?

So the next item involves the Navajo Indians who have proposed to the Bureau of Internal Revenue, income tax division, that costs of conducting their "healing" ceremonies should be deductible as legitimate medical expenses under a concept of group therapy.

In other words, if 30 Indians combine to pay a medicine man to practice on all of them simultaneously, and if each is cured of one kind of an ailment or another, why, each should be allowed to deduct his part of the fee.

The Arizona Medical Association has been consulted by the internal revenue people and the doctors apparently are taking a swim view of this kind of therapy, but it makes sense to me. I keep wishing, though, that Miss Pinto were in her bathing suit and telling us the life story of the pimiento.

There is a significant side-

light to this Navajo problem. The tribe has already indicated that it also expects treatment by medicine men to be included in any Medicare. P 1 a n Congress may adopt this year. I've got to go along with the Navajos on this, too. When a fellow has been suffering from an evil spirit that has him d e m o n e d over with pain, he's entitled to consult with a specialist on evil spirit pathology and have his evil spirit exorcised by the most effective methods. We can't let any Medicare Plan drive him away from the medicine man's bonfire and mask and gourds into a pale-face doctor's waiting room.

And we must make certain that No Medicare plan discriminate against the Electric Belt, either. The electric belt, which cures all human ills, is the only kind that keeps the menfolk in Green Eyes' family on their feet. Without it they would have been in bottles in medical school long ago.

Legislative Action

SALEM (UPI)—The following measures were approved by the Senate Thursday.

Relating to vocational education.

SB 36 — Relating to scholarships for teachers of mentally retarded children.

SB 78 — Relating to ballots.

SB 80 — Relating to office quarters for state agencies.

The following were approved by the House:

HB 1018 — Relating to mileage allowances for state travel.

HB 1045 — Relating to employee suggestion awards board.

HB 1125 — Relating to federal financial assistance and a grant project.

HB 1024 — Relating to penalties for overloading vehicles.

HB 1116 — Relating to scholarships and loans.

HB 1147 — Relating to terms of the Circuit Court in the 12th district.

HB 1153 — Providing for joint session Feb. 14.

SCR 5 — Expressing sorrow at death of Roderick M. Livesley.

SCR 8 — Expressing sorrow at death of Mervin Shoemaker.

Weather Roundup

Temperatures during the 24 hours ending at 4 a.m. PST today

High	Low	Pep
Astoria	55	47
Baker	50	40
Brookings	57	49
Klamath Falls	52	37
Lakeview	51	37
Medford	61	52
Newport	52	47
North Bend	55	51
Pendleton	48	37
Portland	57	44
Redmond	58	43
Salem	57	40
The Dalles	42	39
Chicago	18	10
Los Angeles	66	59
Phoenix	72	43
New York	22	13
San Francisco	57	52
Seattle	52	46
Washington	34	15

Northern California: Decreasing showers tonight, mostly fair Saturday.

Portland - Vancouver: Few showers tonight, partly sunny Saturday; high Saturday near 46; low tonight 36.

Long range forecast — Slightly cooler temperatures for next five days with a few periods of rain or snow. Precipitation most likely on Monday, Wednesday and Friday of next.

Crater Lake weather — High yesterday 42, low this morning 26. Precipitation .86 in last 24 hours with one inch of new snow. Roads open but carry chains, still working.

Dad Charged with Death of Family

FERNDALE, Mich. (UPI)—A father who was called "a devoted family man" by his neighbors was charged Thursday with first degree murder in the death of his wife and six children in a fire that destroyed their home Jan. 25.

Harry M. Belcher, 32, stood mute at his arraignment and an examination within ten days was set by Municipal Judge Earl Nash. He was held without bail and taken to the Oakland County jail in Pontiac.

The murder warrant issued against Belcher followed a long investigation of a "puzzle" of circumstances in the fire. Police found traces of gasoline in the woodwork of the house, which was located in this Detroit suburb.

The bodies of Mrs. Katherine Belcher, 34, and six children were found huddled together in an upstairs bedroom. The fire started under a stairway and blocked the only escape route from the second floor.

Belcher himself was in a downstairs room and was rescued by a neighbor, Dennis Laakaski, 24, who broke open a window and put a step ladder against it to let him out. Laakaski said when he got to the window, Belcher was slumped against a bookshelf of a room and Oakland County prosecutor S. Jerome Bronson declined to give any details of the evidence that was built up against Belcher. But he said the mass of information compiled by local, state and federal investigators led to the "inconceivable" conclusion that the fire had not been an accident.

Horse Group Slates Auction

The Arabian Horse Association of Southern Oregon, plans a benefit white elephant auction at the next meeting to be held at North's Chuck wagon, in Medford, Sunday, Feb. 28, at 1:30 p.m.

Money will go to two associations of members who suffered serious property damage in the recent floods. Take white elephant items and home baked bread or cake to the meeting.

Ads are being solicited for the Horse Show program. The show is scheduled for May 14 at the Grants Pass Fairgrounds. The show is to be Class "A" in the American Horse Show Association.

Memberships are now payable to Loyd Silva.

Wife Still Leads List As Nubby's Next Of Kin

Dear Ann Landers: Who is a man's closest relative, his wife or his mother?

Recently my husband was filling out a card in his new wallet. It had a space for "closest relative." Wesley filled in his mother's name and showed it to me. I was awfully hurt.

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Thank you for any help you can give me.—STRANGER IN THE HOUSE

Dear Stranger: Your husband means you are not blood relatives. You are his next of kin, however, and the six kids follow you. His mother is actually in eighth place if he wants to know it.

P.S. Tell Wesley that being related is not nearly so important as being friends.

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Five Workmen Killed In Transformer Blast

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (UPI)—Engineers worked beneath a downtown street today attempting to learn why an "ultra-safe" electrical transformer exploded and killed five workmen.

A Kansas City Power and Light Co. spokesman said the transformer was a new design and was filled with a non-flammable synthetic oil.

But Thursday, as the five utility workers repaired a switch on the transformer, something caused a short circuit and a thundering explosion.

Three of the men were dead when firemen pulled them from the underground electrical vault. The transformer was one of five which fed power into the Commerce Towers, a 30-story building still under construction in the heart of Kansas City's downtown area.

The five utility workers were in the 8 by 14-foot vault under the sidewalk where three of the five transformers were located.

Beyond a short circuit, Kansas City Power and Light officials said they were puzzled as to what caused the explosion.

Fred Flooke

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