


Just A-Talking To Myself

RONA MORRIS WORKMAN
ROCKING W RANCH

I am lazy today and I don't want to write. I don't believe my editor wants to put this, or anything else, into print this hot weather and I am quite sure no one is going to want to read it, but I suppose I'll beat out something, the poor sweating editor will put out his paper and folks will read it—all of us doing something we are tired of doing. Wonder what would happen if everybody in the world took a day off

—at the same time—and refused to do one single thing that he really didn't want to do? I imagine it would be rather a mess, or instance, here at the Rocking W I would not be writing this thing—which wouldn't matter in the least—but neither would I go in and wash my lunch dishes, nor would I get dinner tonight. I also very much doubt if my men-folks would be sweating in the hayfield, or the New Daughter be riding black Patches to pull back the hay-ropes. It is quite possible that the only persons on the ranch would continue what they are doing would be Reddie and Sheppie who are joyously hunting field-mice in the hay-cocks. But I know perfectly well that I shall write this column, because I have promised, then I will wash dishes, mend a pile of clothes that wail for attention, keep the hose shifted so the grass



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won't die in the heat, feed chickens, get dinner and do dishes again, and keep on until the day's duties are finished, and I also know that the hay will keep going into the bran regardless of sweat and weary muscles.

That is one thing that life tries to teach us: not to quit a thing when it gets tiresome or too difficult, but to pull our share of the load until the finish. I understand there is a system of education being tried out whereby the children are not required to do anything or study any particular subject unless they wish to do so. I am inclined to believe that this is a rather bad preparation for living, and after all, what is education for if not to teach one to live to the farthest reach of his ability. The world hasn't much use for a "quitter" in large or small things, and it is advisable to learn while we are young that we must do, at times, many things we dislike doing and we must keep on with what we start until we finish the job, if our leaving it would cause discomfort or inconvenience to another. It is good training for the will to have to do things we do not desire to do. It is so easy and pleasant to put work aside and forget it, but it isn't very good training for the future. William James makes the following assertion: "Keep the faculty of effort alive in you by a little gratuitous exercise every day. That is, be systematically ascetic or heroic in little unnecessary points, do every day or two something for no other reason than that you would rather not do it, so that when the hour of dire need draws nigh, it may find you not unnerved and untrained to stand the test." I think Mr. James really has something there. ("Maybe I had better get busy and wash my living-room windows since I cannot think of any work I dislike more. That should prepare me, at least a little, for my "hour of dire need" if anything could.)

However, I think there is a certain inner content which manifests itself when we have stuck to a disagreeable task until we have finished it. It gives you a sense of accomplishment, a feeling of strength, that nothing else can do. To know that you are enough the master of body, mind and desire to carry through to the finish gives a lift to the spirit, and I firmly believe that this realization should be given to children as part of their early training. It is much easier when they want to leave unfinished some work they are supposed to do, to say, "All right, run along and play" and then finish the job yourself, but if they grow up with the idea that they can always "run along and play" when they get tired of what they are doing, they are rather handicapped in the race of accomplishment. An elderly man said to me not long ago: "I thought before the war that our youth had been weakened by too much indulgence and easy living, but they have proven that they can carry on." Nevertheless, judging from that those who had a real training many whom I have known, I feel in "sticking to the job" when they were growing up, came through the war with its terrific strain and effort in better condition, psychologically, than those

New Neighbors Are Welcomed

RIVERVIEW—Again we have new neighbors to welcome. They are Mr. and Mrs. Robert Lindsay who recently purchased the Billie Basset property and moved in the first of the week. The Lindsays came from Portland and have an infant son, Jimmie. Mr. Lindsay is an employe of the Crown-Zellerbach Corp. Their home is on the Mist route opposite the entrance to Eighth street. Mr. and Mrs. Bassett are stopping with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Schmidt, on highway 47 until next month when they plan to go to Alaska.

Mrs. Sam Smith and sons, Gary and Vern, of Sweet Home, spent the week at the parental home. Gary who was struck by a car last April, is just able to take a few steps with assistance.

Acting as chauffeur for Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Beasom of Vernonia, Monty Dewey drove the Beacom car to Portland Sunday where he and Mrs. Dewey and son, Dean, visited his grandmother, Mrs. Sarah Justice while the Beacoms spent the day with

who were allowed to "run along and play" when things got too difficult or they grew weary of their task. It is easier to learn a lesson when you are young than it is to have that same lesson beaten into you in later years. Life has a way of handing us a lot of tiresome tasks that must be carried to completion if we are to play our part in the world of home or business, and that reminds me, my dishes are still waiting to be washed. After all this talk, if I don't get busy and do them you will think I am kin to the Irishman who told his children, "Do as I say; not as I do."

Now I have finished my article, but I will add this: The poor editor will have to print it, I suppose, since he has to fill his paper with something or other, but there is no real reason, that I can think of, why you have to read it if you don't want to. In spite of our complex modern life there still remains a few things that we don't have to do, thank Heaven.

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her brother, George Prefontaine and family. Mr. Prefontaine had the misfortune to cripple a foot while in Alaska recently and is hospitalized.

Supper guests at the George Bell home Sunday evening were Elder Thornton, of Portland, Sister Peterson, Sister Burton and two friends of Gresham. Afterward they assisted with the services at the Church of Jesus Christ of the L.D.S.; Elder Thornton gave a talk and the Sisters sang a number of hymns.

Mrs. Frank Worley was brought home from St. Vincents hospital Saturday by Mr. Worley. She is recovering nicely from her recent operation and speaks highly of the care and attention she received.

When we reported the Heath family as going to Spokane last week we did not give them rope enough. When Bill got the new DeSoto going he didn't turn around until he got to Deer Lodge, Montana, where he had a good visit with relatives. They arrived home Monday evening of last week and report a very nice trip.

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Mrs. Anna Parker accompanied her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Gill, of Vernonia, and their sons to Portland Thursday and spent the night with her granddaughter, Mrs. J. D. Dalrymple, and family.

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