

**Strange But True**

By F. H. MacArthur

Two-thirds of all men and four out of every five women use Lady Nicotine. 60,000,000 American smokers consume 407,000,000,000 cigarettes in a single year.

Dead men tell no tales, and it's best to discount a few that the lives ones tell.

Mrs. Nina Sweeney, 71, of Lawrence, Mass., uses her pets to keep her warm in winter instead of a furnace.

Summoned by neighbors who had not seen the elderly woman during a cold snap last winter, police found her comfortably tucked in bed. Two cats purred contentedly on either side of Mrs. Sweeney's head, one was around her throat like a neck-piece, one under each arm close to her body, and two lay across her chest. The dogs head was across her stomach, strange but true.

Time is said to be a great healer, but it is no beauty specialist.

Inflation in Sudan, Africa, has sent the price of wives zooming skyward.

For many years a man in the Azande tribe could purchase a wife for only 8 spears. With inflation, the price has jumped to 15 spears.

The Earl, the Shilluck, and the Muer tribes pay for their wives in sheep and cattle. The bride's father gets the livestock which he shares among his nearest kin.

What happens if the bridegroom decides to call off the whole business? Then the bride's Dad has the distasteful job of rounding up the livestock and returning it to its owner. If payment was in spears, they also must be returned to their owner.

Quoting from "The Passing Scene" column: "The thing that amazes me, when I turn from the humour of the situation to the actual vote which the second reading (the only reading which means anything) is that 46 votes were registered against the 'principle' of the bill. I should have thought that a 100 per cent boost in income would be a very wonderful thing by anybody and everybody. I find it hard to believe that there is any man (M.P.) in this country or for that matter in any other country, who would be hurt grievously to know that he was to get twice as much money this year than last."

"How the farmer would love it!" "How all of us would love it! But unfortunately we do not have the right to increase our earnings when we feel like it."

The Observer might have added

to his excellent piece: never was so much paid to so many for so little.

Before that boat in pay became law it might have been a good idea to have inserted an ad somewhere like this in the daily press.

Wanted: "Men for the House of Commons. Salary \$6,000 a year; free transportation on railways. A six month year; five day week some weeks; three-hour day. Members will not be required to work unless they feel like it, but will be expected to put in an appearance in factory once a day during the busy season. Time off for funerals, political conventions, provincial elections, football matches, weddings and a lot of other functions. Very liberal pension scheme for those who can stand the awful grind for 13 years.

Qualifications: physical, none; educational, none; experience, none. Applicants must be British subjects and 21 years of age or older. It is desirable, though not essential, that they be able to read and write reasonably well. Applicants are not disqualified if they can speak both English and French, although such competency is rather unusual."

And while parliament is about it why not put into effect a highly-efficient and widely-embracing health insurance scheme, for everybody is going to be sick and suffer impoverishment.

Capitalism is never short of money when it comes to war but is sadly neglectful in times of peace.

It's always nice to read the mail and quote from it occasionally; but I want my readers to know that my column is not a question and answer box. What I really do need at the moment is some good nearer tales, with a strange but true story setting.

To be really at home is to have every sentiment and faculty called into play, and find satisfaction, and the whole being at peace; it is

the intellect quickened and pleased, affection existed and rewarded, and fancy and friendship and all worthy aims made strong. To be truly and completely at home is the best thing any of us can have in this world.

It used to be the custom in China that when a loved one died etiquette demanded retirement of the nearest of kin for many months. On the death of a parent, the sons, stayed away from their regular work for 3 years. The theory is that the grief of the beloved son is so inconsolable as to incapacitate him for his public duties, and moreover, the sacred duties of attending the funeral ceremonies and performing the sacrifices at the grave must necessarily absorb his time and attention. Whatever his work or wealth, he had to go about dressed in hempen garments and sleep for 49 nights on the bare floor with a brick for a pillow. He must remain unshaved for 3 months. During the long mourning of 3 years, no music or joyous events could be heard in his home. Anyone breaking those ancient customs would certainly incur grave censure, and probably be dismissed from office altogether. Strange but true!

AMSTERDAM (AP) — King Frederik and Queen Ingrid of Denmark arrived Monday for a three-day visit to The Netherlands. They were welcomed by Queen Juliana and her husband, Prince Bernhard.

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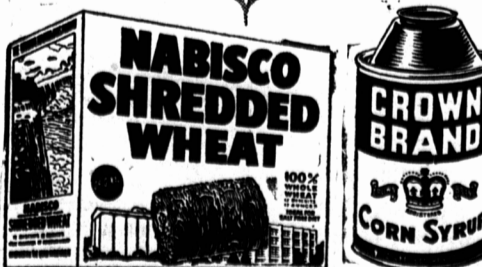
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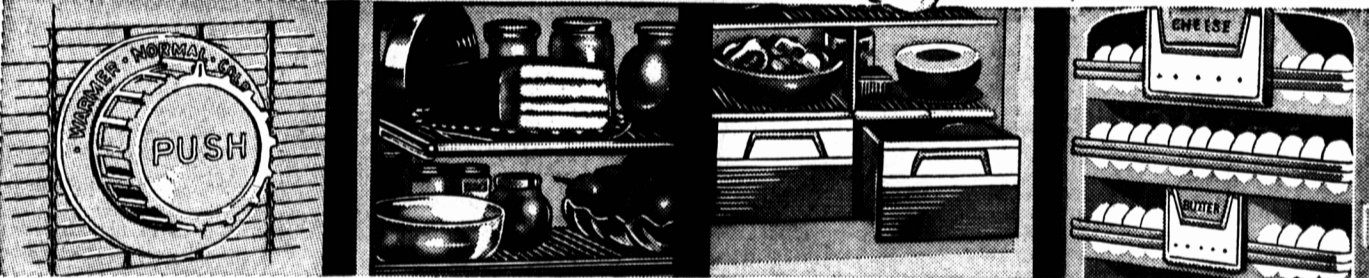
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