

Chance Meetings Odd Results

The frail, white-haired old lady broke into a sudden smile. Then, showing surprising energy, she started up and scooped a football fan who, having spent the afternoon watching his favourite club, was strolling home by himself through a quiet, tree-lined avenue.

Gasping delightedly, she crushed him to her in a warm embrace.

"My dear woman!" he protested, gently releasing her grip. "You must be mistaken. I have never seen you before."

Swiftly regaining her poise, she apologized profusely. "I thought you were my dear friend's brother," she said. "Forgive me—it's years since I last saw him. Your likeness to him had me completely confused."

He, of course, accepted her apologies. The incident struck him as more comical than otherwise until, some minutes later, after she had disappeared, he went into a shop to buy some cigarettes.

Reaching for his wallet, which he carried in his trousers pocket, he found it had vanished! Then the truth hit him. He'd been completely taken in by the old lady's "lost brother" act. Her sole purpose in embracing him had been to pinch his wallet!

Chance encounters don't always have such unfavourable results, however.

An attractive red-haired girl was walking on Wimbledon Common when she spotted a dog which was obviously lost. She went up to it—a spaniel—soothed it and, taking a piece of string from her handbag, started to lead it to the nearest police station.

The spaniel was quite frisky and as she walked with it the string became entangled quite accidentally round the legs of a good-looking young man.

"You say, that's a lively dog you've got," he remarked. "What's his name?" She confessed that she didn't know it. "Well, that's funny," he replied, intrigued. Their conversation developed and ultimately it was the dog whose name she didn't know which led her to the altar!

First appearance can be misleading, of course. A beautiful 21-year-old Bavarian girl, Sybille, accepted a job as a housemaid in East Anglia in order to perfect her English. She knew nothing about her employer, but he offered a reasonable wage, and the Ministry of Labour granted her a work permit.

Imagine her shock when, arriving at a tiny village station, she was met by a black-bearded young man who drove her in a ramshackle car to an isolated cottage lying about a mile inside a thick wood.

"This is a lonely place," she said, recovering partially from her shock. "Whatever happens here?"

"I'm out to track down the missing secrets of life," he said. "I'm a biologist—my friends say a crazy one—but I know otherwise. Now I expect you to help me. Tomorrow, you must go into the woods and collect for me five frogs and twenty-five fat spiders."

The girl shuddered. Yet she did as she was told. There was something compelling about this confident, outlaw-like young man. And, within two weeks, her resolution disappeared entirely. She became his enthusiastic research assistant.

Then, some two months later, after he'd sat up half the night poring over his microscopes, he suddenly burst into her room, and in excited tones said, "My life studies have just rewarded me with a great thought!"

She blinked. "Yes, I must marry you," he declared. During their weeks together she had grown to love him, so she kissed him ardently and assented. To-day she still lives in the wood, and has two children as well as an intellectual husband to care for.

Crooks and mischief-makers can be badly misled by appearances, too. A trio of hoodlums Teddy boys, for example, recently spotted in a South London suburb what they thought would be a very easy victim for a cash attack—an elderly man carrying a small suitcase.

One of them leapt in, aiming to crack him on the head with a loaded stick; the second snatched at his bag, and the third whipped out a knife. However, the crack on the head never landed. With the agility of a trained athlete, the old man sidestepped the Teddy boy attacks. Then, dropping his case, he waded into the attack himself.

With three perfectly placed blows, he soon had his adversaries laid out at his feet. "Young fools!" he said, when handing them over to the police. "They should know better than to go for an old sergeant-major whose specialty is unarmed combat."

When a suspected safe-breaker sat down in his car in Yorkshire recently, he had no idea that his seat had been dusted. Yet, in his absence, with the car unattended, a smart policeman had sprinkled some Powell's Secret Powder over it.

This fine dust, almost invisible to the naked eye, consists of the specially chemical which can hardly occur in combination anywhere on earth by accident. The dust is so fine that it is carried by the wind, and is blown into the eyes of anyone who comes near it.

Another way of saying the same thing is that over 20 million women did home canning last year. And interestingly enough, nearly 30 per cent of them were urban dwellers, as contrasted with rural.

The economies inherent in canning are considered the main reason for its popularity—but there's another. One young man was talking one day recently about signs of spring, and mentioned his shubart patch. He said his wife cans many quarts each year, and during winter months makes them into pies or sauce—the latter served with hot cream of tartar biscuits, he explained. Anyone who could have seen the warm, appreciative look as he spoke would have understood why that line of women canners stretches so far.

Freezing has replaced some canning of beans, corn and other products, but the items which account for the largest volume in home canning—tomatoes, relishes and peaches—do not freeze well, and for this and other reasons, freezing and canning are considered as complementary each other. But home canning still exceeds home freezing by 50 per cent.

A half-pint tapered jar which first came on the market two or three years ago is by far the nicest container ever invented for homemade jellies and jams, many think. It is also fine for relishes, or for any small quantity you wish to preserve. These jars seal air tight with regular dome, two-piece, metal caps, and no paraffin is ever needed. Jelly can also be turned from the jars just as from any ordinary jelly glass. If you once use these jars, the chances are you'll never go back to fustling with paraffin.

It's not a bit too early, even

Great care is taken to preserve the beauty of the countryside. The rural scene is free of billboards (hoardings). Your view of hill and wood and river is not interrupted by pills and soaps. We were to find this blessedly true throughout England, Wales and Scotland. From "Roaming Britain," by Willard Price.

Now that children have proved themselves quite agile in manipulating the hula hoop, toy manufacturers are trying them out in the jungling field. They have produced a new toy consisting of an unbreakable polythene plate which spins atop a pointed stick. Regular wrist motion keeps the plate spinning and the really accomplished juggler can throw the plate in the air and catch it on the top of the stick, keeping it spinning all the time.

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SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

TABLE TALKS

by Jane Andrews

If all the women in Canada and the United States who did home canning in 1958 lined up to toe heel, the line would reach from Florida to Dawson City.

That may sound fantastic to the office worker whose time away from the job is mainly a scramble to keep ordinary home tasks up to date. It's the latest statistics, however, from people who should know—the manufacturers of preserve jars.

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"Friendly Credit - Easy Terms"

This is the season when every sales agency in the land urges the consumer "easy payment terms."

In New York City the subway rider is urged to make a credit arrangement with a "friendly" bank. He can even have his charge accounts at department stores paid by the bank, which he, in turn, pays off to the bank on "easy" terms.

Banks have been told by their special budget accounts to stress that they are "friendly."

This bank-credit system for department store accounts is spreading. Of course, many stores themselves have long had special budget accounts. Macy's in New York pioneered in "cash-time" payment.

Today the ramifications of consumer instalment credit are increasing at the rate of a willow. Appeals through vigorous advertising on television and radio, billboards, public transit, direct mail, and newspapers urge almost any kind of credit scheme from the 50-cents-a-week variety to the "write-your-own-check" system up to \$4,800 payable in 12 instalments, or up to \$6,000 payable in 24.

Judging from the spring activity of banks, other lending agencies, and sales promotion efforts by dealers in consumer goods it looks as though 1959 will see a vastly expanded consumer credit in the United States.

Nothing presumably is today beyond the tempting reach of "do-it-now-pay-later." Literally anything—swimming pools, vacations, motorboats, mobile homes, as well as automobiles, household appliances, and homes can be financed on time.

All agencies are urging the use of instalment credit as the "normal" way to finance major purchases. More and more they are also urging it as the "normal" way to finance minor purchases.

Financing of equipment, manufacturing and otherwise, has tripled in the past 10 years and which is due a double in the next six years. A five-year pay-as-you-go plan instead of the old 90-day or 6-month note is becoming a pattern for small business.

Instalment bankers attending the March credit conference in Chicago of the American Business Association were told that "instalment credit is one of the most potent forces in the economy today." They heard, too, that instalment credit is a commodity at the time to bring "friendly banking service" to the consumer.

This trend is spreading everywhere. Anticipated in the United States, other countries notably Australia, Canada, South Africa, the United Kingdom, the major industrial countries of continental Europe, and underdeveloped nations, especially Latin America, are turning increasingly to its use.

Writes Nate White, Financial Editor of The Christian Science Monitor.

In a comprehensive six-volume study on instalment credit completed in March, 1957, the Federal Reserve System said that "debt is a necessary condition and concomitant of economic progress in an economy such as ours. They stated that credit is essential to the growth of a nation and that it is necessary to the well-being of the individual and the community.

Even so, the study warns of weaknesses in instalment credit—its tendency to accentuate booms as in August, 1955, when 6 per cent of credit sales were on time. Detroit is just now getting over that spree.

The Federal Reserve study also points out the dangers that such tempting terms, as now offered the consumer, require remarkable emotional control and a steady hand on the family budget to protect individuals from abysmal personal loss and permanent debt bondage.

Reports come in, too, that the "friendly" front is only a facade, that the people being lured by banks and other lending agencies to "police" accounts usually lack training in consumer relations. They stand customers and often treat them as potential criminals. Much apparently still remains to be done if the "friendly" tag is to be made to stick. Customers befriended by one credit "policeman" can take their next account elsewhere.

Obviously a business which has tripled in the past 10 years and which is due a double in the next six years has many weaknesses. It should require constant attention of the Federal Reserve System, as well as of hand and again fed inflation. Banks oppose federal control 6 to 1. On the other hand consumer debt is not self-regulatory, as banks insist. Their own competitive advertising and the tempting lies in advertising of manufacturers is due evidence of this.

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Spelling Bees Modern Style

Culture beckons me with her chubby finger once a year, and I go forth to be "beasted" at the annual county spelling bee.

I had taken about three minutes to bring this contest to a conclusion, whereupon I was attacked en masse by the assembled teachers, who protested the match and cried foul. I tried to explain that I had nothing to do with it except call out the words provided, but I didn't get far with that.

The gist of the complaint, as I got it, was that no spelling match should be operated unless it used words the scholars had learned how to spell. To spring a new word not heretofore politely introduced was unfair to organized pedagogy, and would cause a severe intellectual blow to a child.

The child, they told me, has the right to presume the words given will permit an exhibition of prowess. To haul off and give him a word he never heard before is underhanded. A beaster is duty bound, under some kind of implied warranty, to stick with easy words. I never heard before these teachers expected to spell down all but the winner under this philosophy, but I'm sure they'd have explained it if I'd found it.

As I get it, the peculiarities of English orthography, long considered adaptable to this childish sport, must now conform to the established average of present-day school affairs. The purpose of a spelling match is not to win a winner, but to keep all the children standing so they can demonstrate their accomplishments without undue emphasis on the word which is too hard to be learned in the hull of education.

One of the teachers said, "Why have I never heard before these poor little children is a terrible thing?"

About the only thing I had to say was that I was a beaster, and that one of them could spell monocyteledon. Since I couldn't, either, without the sheet, it seemed to me I was as ignorant as anybody.

My guess is that we've put the spelling bee on the blink. I think these teachers will not make too much effort to send their hopefuls next year. I do not wish to make a public spectacle of myself undermining the expensive projects of modern schools.

True, I feel there are faults both ways. I think the contest director who prepared this word control 6 to 1. On the other hand consumer debt is not self-regulatory, as banks insist. Their own competitive advertising and the tempting lies in advertising of manufacturers is due evidence of this.

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DOWNED—THEN OUT

Andre Poulier, a factory worker employed in Rouen, France, accepted the challenge of his country's ruling party.

He succeeded in drinking the wine in the stipulated period, but barely had time to collect his winnings before he fell dead.

Want to know how much pain it was for refreshing a room? Simply multiply the length of the area to be covered by the height and divide this result by 550. This gives the number of gallons required. (Calculations should be in feet.)

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

8 Day of the week (4)

12 Jumping

11 Waste

10 Allowance

11 Fragrance

10 Perfume

10 Broom

10 Cakes

10 Motion

10 Divisible

10 Small depression

10 Small depression

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PRETTIEST SIGHT - Our Own Home

It was in the fall, our own tomato crop had not been very good, and I kept seeing baskets of beautiful tomatoes at roadside stands for sale cheap.

"Those are wonderful tomatoes; I'd like to get some," I ventured.

"Well, I don't know where we'd put them, but if you want them, let me know in time and I'll stop."

"You'll have to watch, too; it's

First of all, there must be a steady flow of the proper kind of fish to stock the flooded rice fields. These fish must be bred to grow to maximum size on the food available in the room.

Next, the fish must be harvested at just the right time to fit in with the rice-growing cycle. Later, they must be processed—freed, canned, cured, and salted facilities must be readily available—and, finally, of course, the end product must be marketed.

The idea of fish farming occurred to rice farmers in Arkansas when they found that fish filled their rice fields during the flooding period. These fish were so-called "trash" fish—undesirable for eating.

Rice growers thought it should be possible to have food fish instead, and applied to the Fish and Wildlife Service for advice. Experience and knowledge in fish farming were lacking, so the fish farmers applied to Senator J. W. Fulbright (D) of Arkansas for aid.

He introduced a bill in Congress which set up a research and experimentation station to study fish farming in connection with rice growing. The bill was approved, and \$300,000 appropriated. And Dr. Ling, through the FAO, was hired to work with the Fish and Wildlife Service in setting it up.

Dr. Ling says that all the elements for a successful fish farming industry are present in the United States. There is plenty of land and water, he points out; there is no lack of equipment; the climate is suitable, and the amount of fish eaten can well be increased.

The United States' meager

FORECAST: BUMPER CROP - Wheat shoulder-high to a pup in early spring is an omen of a bumper crop. Weather permitting, this will be the second record year in a row. It was too chilly for 3-year-old Pam Franklin to go without her coat when this picture was taken.



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THE LORD was angry with Solomon, because his heart was turned from the LORD God of Israel, which had appeared unto him twice. He told Solomon that he would read all the kingdom except one tribe from his son. So our lesson illustrates how the sins of two fathers are visited upon the children. Also, the prophet, Ahijah, helped to prepare for the kingdom. Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, who had been appointed by Solomon over all the house of Joseph. Ahijah