

With Bread Crumbs And Patience

It's difficult, often, to explain to unversed realists what a whimsical spirit can do, and perhaps I'd be better off if I didn't bring this up. I just mean there are some people who do not do it.

My ducks don't winter in the barn, but have their own little house by the pond, a little distance from the other buildings, and I notice them therein each fall about the time the ice begins to form.

Watering them must be done each day, and I love to see each day, and I love to see each day, and I love to see each day, and I love to see each day.

I keep the duck house purposely buried in snow. The first storm or two I log out a shovel and bank it, and after winter really gets nasty the eaves are flush. This keeps it warm and cozy inside, and my ducks winter most well.

The real reason I have the ducks by themselves is because litter, and it gives a chance to keep dry. Ducks, with their big feet, just pack litter down, and they make such free use of it.

All this is incidental to my pleasure. My mallards, all summer, range free and easy, and naturally they get a little wild. They are wild birds anyway, and a few generations back, they get very wild as soon as the birds come.

But, as soon as I have them in the house they can be tamed, and it's more fun than you think. It takes some doing, but they make wonderful pets. At first, when I come to fill their pan, they huddle in a corner and look skeptical. It is really quite a job in the fall to round them up and get them under cover.

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At this point I fish a crust of bread from my pocket, and begin my edging program. At first they stand off and look; hence, the name "edging." I have them pick up the crumbs as fast as I crumble them, and the next step is to have them actually eat from my hand.

Then comes a part they don't like. One day, while a bill is like one day, while a bill is like one day, while a bill is like one day, while a bill is like one day, while a bill is like one day.

However, bread crumbs and patience are overpowering, and after a time I can close up on any bird, fangle it, and have them right back crawling all over me again. They run their bills under my boot tops, inside my jacket, and the report is permanent.

Actually, the way this works, it takes almost all winter. Soon after I get them coming to me, and not averse to being manhandled, there'll be an egg one morning, the snow will be going; and it will shortly be time to turn them loose for summer. Little ones will be hatched, and the natural wildness will return. They won't have anything to do with me until fall comes and I herd them into the house again.

So, what happens is, I take my mall of water and disappear. Sometimes I'm gone an hour, I bring the pan in and set it by the sink, and she says, "Where've you been? I tell her I've been watering ducks." A likely tale. I could have watered the Gobi Desert in that time. I try to explain that my contents is at a crucial point, that I am just about to close my hand on the old drake himself, that there's more to it than just tipping water out of a bucket. But it doesn't seem to come out just the way I see it.

This is a simple, basic, uncomplimentary kind of thing that, very likely, is nobody else's business. It's sort of between me and my ducks, apart from anything else. I just like to do it. There may be those, including my wife, who think it takes me a long time to water four smallish ducks. But I have no intention however humbly at large assesses my pastime, of giving it up. I don't see any point in keeping ducks if you can't pick them up by the bill. — By John Gould in the Christian Science Monitor.

WHEN THE CROCUS AWOKES US — Caroline Bell, 5, scents the Imminence of spring. She is getting close to crocuses which bloomed in the garden of her London home in a mild spell.



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THE FARM FRONT by John Russell

More than 100 acres in southern Ontario were treated with an insecticide last fall, as two levels of government combined efforts to control the Japanese beetle.

Canada's scrapie eradication program, revised last August, provides for the slaughter of infected flocks and any animals moved from infected flocks.

This pest is presumed to have entered the United States in soil around the roots of Japanese plants prior to the restrictions established by the United States Plant Pest Act of 1912.

Petticoat Lane Still Flourishes — Was once said a man could go in one end of London's Petticoat Lane and buy his own watch back at the other.

REAL WHOPPER — Thomas Novak, holds a giant egg, produced at his father-in-law's farms. It measures 10 inches long way around, seven inches around the middle.

TALK ABOUT TEEN-AGERS — Not even in San Francisco do the Beets go on wilder kids than Fritz. The boxer's favorite frolic is inhaling auto exhaust until he gets light-headed.

News of the Countryside

ROCKFORD — The March meeting of the Renton W.I. will be held at the home of Mrs. Max Bowyer.

GARNET — The February meeting of the Garnet Women's Institute was held in the form of a Pot Luck dinner.

RENTON — The March meeting of the Renton W.I. will be held at the home of Mrs. Max Bowyer.

HALDIMAND 15th ANNUAL FARM & HOME WEEK RURAL YOUTH CENTRE KOHLER

Doctors Figure It Was A Nice Try? For months, as Billy Smith, a 25-year-old laborer, lay in a hospital bed, it seemed that surgeons had achieved a miracle.

Upsidedown to Prevent Peeking — A 25-year-old laborer, Billy Smith, was in a hospital bed, it seemed that surgeons had achieved a miracle.

These sheep involve 178 flocks. All of the flocks, which take in about 40,000 sheep, are being kept under surveillance for 42 months from the date on which exposed sheep were removed from the flocks.

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Church Notes

ANGELIC CHURCH NOTES — The first of the special services in Jarvis for the Sunday evenings in Lent will be held on Sunday at 7:30 P.M. in the United Church.

WITH THE SCOUTS — The regular meeting of the First Jarvis Scout Troop was held on Monday, February 29th.

4-H Clubs Meet — The 2nd meeting of the 4-H Club was held in the United Church Parlor on Feb. 27th.

LAMB'S CORNERS 4-H CLUB — The third meeting of the Lamb's Corners Cotton Clippers was held at the Nanticoke Parish Hall on February 23, at 7:30 P.M.

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

In the Estate of FRANCIS EDGECOCK (DECEASED), late of the Village of Nanticoke, in the County of Haldimand, Farmer, Deceased.

After the 31st day of March, 1960, assets of the said deceased will be distributed, having regard only to the claims of which particulars shall then have been received.

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