

Summing Up The Medicare Crisis

The bitter local experience in Saskatchewan has alerted Canada as a whole to the difficulties it must face if it decides to establish a national health insurance scheme.

Irving's Back At Work—No Filing

At 8:30 on a muggy morning in New York City last month, about 30 most theater people were in bed or on vacation, 74-year-old Irving Berlin broke hisky up to the St. James Theater to kick off rehearsals of "Mr. President."

DRUG PROBE — Dr. Frances Kelsey, Canadian-born and educated Ford and Drug Administration medical officer who kept Thalidomide off the U.S. market, announced in Washington, FDA commissioner, appears at Senate hearing in investigating the drug which may have induced prenatal deformities in babies.



CHRONICLES OF GINGER FARM by Gwendoline P. Clarke

My temporary address as I start this column is Stoney Lake, about 30 miles north-east of Peterborough, Ont. In 1959 with "Chill Me Madam," Berlin quit Broadway, and four years later the most prolific (900 songs) and popular composer of his day retired completely from song-writing.

As Berlin walked into the St. James, he mused about the rehearsal. "I'm anxious, but the minute you do anything for an audience you get a reaction. You become enthusiastic and the momentum of enthusiasm keeps you going."

Backstage, Berlin stripped to short sleeves. Then he stepped in front of the rehearsal piano and began singing his show. Berlin's voice, a croak in 1918 when he sang "Oh How I Hate to Get Up in the Morning," had weathered to a croak in 1942 when he appeared in his "This Is My Army."

Going and coming from here to the cottage we travelled along wonderful scenic roads as we didn't always stick to the highway but cut across country, occasionally along gravelled roads with sometimes a swamp on either side and very few dwellings. That is also what happened when we travelled from Stoney Lake to Campbellford. Incidentally, at Campbellford I got quite a surprise. I was introduced to several girls and their parents who were readers of this column. I lost track of the number I met as there are nine in the family and they were all very busy as one of the girls was being married at the end of the week. When we got there they were arranging the wedding presents and shower gifts. There were many lovely things — I couldn't begin to describe them all — but one shower gift struck me as being — not exactly beautiful — but decidedly original. The donor had bought a collection of kitchen gadgets, such as a grater, measuring spoons, measuring cup.

Fighting Against Costly Funerals

In old-world communities from Cork to Canton, the funeral has always vied with the wedding as a treasured excuse for interrupting workaday toil and appeasing the human hunger for variety and spectacle. In the modern U.S., where diversions are more plentiful, the elaborate funeral is something of an anachronism.

Part of the clerical objection to the funeral with frills arises from a simple and ancient family which has to foot the bill. Fifteen years ago, one could be decently laid away for a cost of from \$300 to \$500. Nowadays, the figure is \$900 to \$1,200. Moreover, some clergymen argue that an exaggerated funeral over a dead pagan implications. What these critics would like to see substituted for the elaborate funeral is a simple and expedient burial followed by a memorial service.

Modern Etiquette

Q. What is the approved manner in which a married woman has her personal stationery prepared? A. In her married name, "Mrs. Keith L. Morrison."

Q. How are canapes served? A. Canapes that are served for a meal are eaten with the fingers and with cocktails in the living room. At the table, however, they are eaten with the fork.

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Rubbing Out German Measles

For most youngsters, German measles is nothing more than a three-day rash and a week of school. But to an unborn child, the usually mild rubella virus can be vicious: Babies born to mothers infected during the first month of pregnancy stand a 50 per cent chance of congenital heart defects, deafness, blindness or mental retardation. Soon such dangers may be a thing of the past.

Two researchers at the National Institutes of Health, Drs. John L. Sever and Gilbert M. Schiff, last month announced a major step toward wiping out the threat with a vaccine. After more than a year of experimenting, they had isolated the rubella virus. The NIH team first tracked down the virus — which has eluded researchers for decades — in throat washings from infected Army recruits and children. A two-step test proved it was rubella.

First, they knew that a tissue culture infected with rubella could not be further destroyed by an ether virus called Cocksackie A-9. When they added Cocksackie A-9 to their presumptive rubella cultures, the new virus failed to spread. But this wasn't enough proof, since other viruses also block Cocksackie A-9.

At a double check, the researchers injected blood serum from persons just recovered from German measles into some fresh rubella virus cultures. If rubella viruses were actually there, they would be killed by antibodies in the convalescent's blood; then Cocksackie viruses, when a deadly would spread through the tissue cultures.

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SAFE AT HOME — Dore Darrall, 22, of San Francisco farm club, the Home Rebels, works toward home plate with his bride, Vickie Beard, 20, in ceremonies held in Selo, Va.

Don't Waste Time On Mongrel Dogs

Assuming that all dogs possess the hunting instinct to some degree, it is possible to start a puppy of mongrel parentage at an early age and turn it into a satisfactory hunting dog. The end in the end you still have only mongrel which cannot reproduce its own kind.

Stick to the purebred breeds, and the chances are you'll have a dog of which you can truly be proud. Determine first of all the breed which you want to do. Then pick a representative of one of the breeds that has been specially developed for that type of hunting, and then concentrate your training efforts on it.

Do not make a "jack-of-all-trades" out of your dog no matter what breed you select. The Germans for many years have tried to develop all-purpose dogs, and I suppose they have been successful in satisfying their own requirements in their own country.

But there are very few of these dogs trained for all-purpose work that can hold a candle to the specialty breeds so popular in this country for our own type of hunting. They are good honest workers, to be sure, but when a dog has his mind on ground game when you want to hunt a fox, you are both likely to get a little mixed up.

Purebreds take up no more room, eat no more food, require no more care. They are much easier to train — and you are not ashamed to show them to your sportsmen friends.

Let me add, however, that I've seen hundreds of mixed-breed mongrels called hunting dogs by their owners but with whom it is cooler than applying a hot iron. The heft of their owners' game pockets was, indeed, proof enough that it does not pay to waste time on training them.

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BOOKED — Albany, Ga., police carry a teen-ager from the city's "white-only" library following a demonstration by Negro anti-segregationists. The arrests came as lawyers in the nearby courthouse argued the legality of such protest activities.

PRINCE MEETS PRESIDENT — Prince Souvanna Phouma, neutralist premier at Laos, meets in the White House with President Kennedy.

FOUND IN CIRCLES — These Rome firemen-to-be demonstrate their physical fitness during a mass exercise of skill that climaxed their training program.

HAPPINESS — Good health and a poor memory.

FERRY STORY — Hydrofoil boat built by the Russians to carry passengers on the Volga River docks in Moscow. The boat seats 300 passengers and covers the distance from Gorky to Kazan in eight hours, which is faster than the 24-hour trip made by conventional boats. Foils, or wings, on each side of the craft lift it 15 feet high above water.