

They Burn Their Good Resolutions

On the last Sunday night of the year, Dr. Cecil Meyers finished his sermon at Atlanta's Grace Methodist Church and stepped down from the pulpit. The church was darkened, and as candles flickered in green urns before the altar, Dr. Meyers dropped a 4-inch square of paper onto the flames. Then, slowly, all but a few of the 1,500 worshippers filed to the front of the church, knelt on a long red cushion, and dropped their own squares of paper into the urns.

Grace Church, the largest Methodist congregation in the Southeast, was making its collective New Year's resolutions. Each sheet of paper contained a worshipper's most private thoughts. As Dr. Meyers explained at the beginning of the service, "You are invited to write on the paper any of your failures, any of your sorrows or sins anything you want to forget. And then you can write any resolves or goals you want to set for yourself in the new year. This is a covenant you make with God."

This exorcism rite is a relatively recent custom at Grace. Instituted fifteen years ago by Dr. Meyers' predecessor, but it is a part of a larger trend through the Shinto "Harae" ritual and the Trovato Anathoria to ancient Mesopotamia.

Dr. Meyers believes the ceremony's value is proved: "Last year," he said after a recent service, "a psychiatrist told me about a girl who came in. He watched her all during the service because she seemed disturbed, and he watched her face as she went up and knelt to pray and put her paper in the flames. He told me more had been done for her in six minutes at the altar than he could have done for her in six hours."

Whatever the history or efficacy of symbolic exorcism, Grace Church — against a trend of shrinking downtown congregations — is growing at the rate of 400 new members yearly. Even more remarkably, almost all of its 4,500 members are teenagers. The sins they try to shed at the annual burning rite seem insignificant to their elders. Among the worst sinners was a 16-year-old boy who was trying to give up smoking; he was sure the ceremony stiffened his will power. "I definitely think we're doing it down and burning it," he told me. "It gives you a more vivid picture."

Tailor's Dummies Too Lifelike!

Impeccably dressed — three tailors' dummies have been carried out prominently from the windows of a tailor shop in London's Regent Street.

They were dummies showing what the well-dressed Englishman should wear. Reason for their sudden removal after being in the window for six months: a Sunday newspaper, the Observer, had drawn attention to the fact that their facial resemblance to Prince Philip, Prime Minister Harold Macmillan, and President Kennedy.

The dummies were removed as a bowler-hatted representative from the Lord Chamberlain's office at Buckingham Palace arrived at the store. The Chamberlain is the Palace official, who in addition to ceremonial plays, issues Royal Warrants to shopkeepers supplying the royal households.

Montague Burton, the tailor in question, supply town suits and ready-made casuals. The Royal Warrant was issued on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II and Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother, who buy liveries for the royal footmen from the tailors. The man responsible for design of the models is Jacques Rodat, managing director of a display company in New Bond Street. Speaking over the radio, he said the dummies were not exact like a set; they were just like enough to make people pause, wonder, and look at the burgher Mr. Rodat says, "I didn't want to be impertinent in reproducing the Royal Family. We toned down the resemblance. It was not too obvious, a likeness."

LOADED CIGARETTES

You get a lot to like from a Yemeni cigarette these days. Filter, flavor, pack — or punch! The "punch," warned British officials in Aden recently, comes from explosive concealed in packs of butts allegedly dropped by Egyptian aircraft over royal-ist-held areas of Yemen. Two packs, ought to Aden and X-rayed showed every fourth cigarette loaded with enough explosive to kill or maim the smoker — perhaps even make him give up the weed.

What Every Young Skier Ought To Know A Sensible—More Or Less—Approach to Skiing

Skiing is a downhill sport. In that simple statement lies the essence of its ineffable charm. A contrivance carries you to the top of the hill, and you slide down.

Skiing is easy, especially if you have never skied. Skiing is grace, poise, balance. It is poetry out-of-doors, a ballet on snow. It is speed. Spumescut powder snow trailing back, the flashing rapier ski poles stab the slope ahead and Zap! . . . A glissade-sprung.

"Let's take up skiing," I said. "Why?" My wife is beautiful, intelligent and charming, but given to many words she is not.

"Because," I explained carefully, "skiing is grace, poise, balance. It is poetry out-of-doors, a ballet . . ."

"Forget it!" My wife has, along with her charm, a pragmatic approach to things. "We couldn't afford to take up skiing," she said. Assuming reasonable quality, the essentials in ski equipment, clothing and accessories, total approximately \$150.

Estimating \$300 to get wife and old man dressed and on the lumber, we were obliged to take the long view. We saved up.

The annual ski sales held. At the end of the season, most ski equipment is reduced in price by 15 to 30 percent. Choice may be restricted, but bargains are there.

There are few rules in buying ski equipment. The best of these, for the novice, is to buy your equipment where the salesman himself is a skier.

According to one such salesman-skier, medium grade skis which retail between \$30 and \$40 are fine for the tyro. Almost all skis have a plastic coating on the bottom; more expensive models utilize sheet-type plastics while the cheaper ski use spray-on types. Metallic skis, the most expensive on the market at \$85 to \$135 — are lighter, more flexible and run faster for the average skier.

Virtually all beginners buy release bindings. There are many variations, some better than others. The most reliable bindings cost from \$16 to \$35, but even the most expensive one won't guarantee 100 percent safety for the wearer. The trick is in correct fitting and adjustment, which should be done at the ski shop.

A device, which in its early days was known as the "safety" binding, has done much to revolutionize the sport. Its function is to free the skier's foot whenever the ski is subjected to sudden pressure, as during a spill.

There are two main kinds of reliable release bindings. The most common type is the cable binding (with the pivot-bolt toe release). A triangular metal toe block fits against the toe of the boot. It releases the boot whenever an unusual sideways force is exerted upon it.

The other is a spring-clamp type known as the "Miller Binding." Toe end heel plates, fitted to the skier's boots, clamp to the skier's boots. Adjustable tension springs permit the individual to vary the release pressure to suit his own capabilities. This binding releases, no matter which direction unnatural pressure is applied.

On all bindings, a safety strap to prevent a runaway ski, a potential hazard to skiers farther down the hill, is a necessity. You'll also need ski poles (86-95) approximately arm — pit height.

Good ski boots, like stretch slacks for a beautiful woman, are essential and expensive. They are the most important item of equipment you will buy. They should fit and be comfortable right from the start. They range from \$15 to \$80, but minimum price for an adequate pair is \$30. At this price level and above, the boot will have a full inner boot with the feature of one-piece lacing on the inner. The heel should fit tight, and the toes should feel free enough to wiggle.

Socks should be medium weight wool. Wear one or two pairs. Ski clothing generally should be light, wind-proof and warm. The fabric should be snow repellent; the garment, roomy at the flex points of the body (shoulders, knees) and tight where the snow may wedge in (waist and neck).

A quilted ski jacket is warmer than an unlined nylon coat. Bulk knit sweaters and form-fitting long underwear are also fitting. Mitts are warmer than gloves, but gloves permit slightly better control of poles. Costs vary widely for almost every item. Jackets run from \$10 to \$35, sweaters from \$7 to \$45, pants from \$10 to \$50.

At one more naturally calamity was added to the list recently: Mudslides. In Brentwood, where almost every prospect pleased until now, two \$60,000 homes collapsed into muckslides when the ground under them gave way. At the weekend they were on the verge of tumbling down a 100-foot embankment onto other houses. Many other handsome homes were threatened.

The sliding houses were built on shale fill tamped down over a shale base. But soaked from hundreds of lawn waterings, the shale is dissolving into mud. "It is like a decaying tooth spreading out in every direction," said one councilman. "It is a disaster area."

With no insurance or protective legislation (stymied by pressure from builders and developers, said Councilman Rundberg), the residents turned to City Hall for help.

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Clasp your skis and ski poles and walk back to the bottom of the tow again. When you are refitted to your skis, thank the Ski Patrol member who has brushed the snow off you and is standing by with a worried look. The Ski Patrolman volunteers his time and first aid talent to picking up over-confident zealots like yourself who choose to attack the hill without benefit of formal instruction.

Approach the rope again. This time allow it to snither through your mitts while you slowly tighten your grip. There, you are sliding. Before you plunge off the precipice, keep your knees bent. This principle is common to all forms of skiing. It gives you better balance.

Push off. By the time you reach the bottom of the beginners' hill you will have explored most of the types of falls available. "You'll have topped like a Douglas fir," suggested-in like a windmill, fit, like a Kamaze, and flopped like a ban-the-bomber.

Continue thrashing the beginners' hill. When you can navigate it without falling, try the T-bar. It will take you up to a bigger slope, but don't despair. There'll probably be various trails, including one for beginners, at the top. Sharing a T-bar requires caution. Don't, at first anyway, share a T-bar with someone varying widely from your own avoirdupois. Share it with a beautiful woman in stretch slacks.

The approach to all twos is via the queue. It suffers a few free enterprise known as "line crashing." Line crashing is the prerogative of royalty — that is, those kings of the bent hickory who feel a divine right to crash the line half way along.

Related to them are the "line crawlers." Children, relying on their size and cut, will often invertebrate line crawlers. Block the kid's progress. Lean across his path, spike your ski pole into the snow on that side and say, "Okay kid. Back to the end of the line."

This play has never worked for me but maybe you're bigger and stronger than I am. To forestall the uncouth adult crawler, plant a ski pole down his feet. Do not look down. Do not look back at him. Casually, but implacably, lean on the pole. Skiing has one or two other amenities you should observe. When you fall, fill in the silhouette of your development, and practice are so important.

To become a competitive skier requires a good deal more practice. It requires strength, stamina and determination. It requires some sense of timing and a willingness to work at the fundamentals.

But the magnificent truth is you don't have to be good at skiing to enjoy it. You don't have to be an expert to do as the experts do. Push off from the highest promontory. Lean forward over the slashing ski tips. A racing skier is by no means a slow flow breaks across your prowl-like back. Fifty miles an hour, 60!

The long whispering white underneath your boards. Fata. A hillock ahead. Get set, deeper. The crunch, hit the nose side rising.

Spumescut powder snow trails back, the flashing rapier ski pole stab the slope ahead and Zap! . . . easy now. Just lie quietly. The Ski Patrol will be along with the toboggan and . . . well, maybe tomorrow you'll galesprung by Robert Childress in Imperial Oil Review.

Sliding Houses In Los Angeles

To enjoy the spectacular view from the Santa Monica Mountains, at night one can look the glowing jewel box of Los Angeles, householders of the fashionable communities of Bel Air, Pacific Palisades, and Brentwood risk the threat of brush fires, flash floods, and landslides. One more naturally calamity was added to the list recently: Mudslides. In Brentwood, where almost every prospect pleased until now, two \$60,000 homes collapsed into muckslides when the ground under them gave way. At the weekend they were on the verge of tumbling down a 100-foot embankment onto other houses. Many other handsome homes were threatened.

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At An Open Market In Modern Moscow

Hidden among the large new blocks of sandstone apartment buildings of the Kiev district in Moscow is the open market. The only sign of modern Soviet industrial progress which touches upon the life of the market is the steel tramline which has been laid on the dusty track which leads past the entrance. Periodically a large rust-colored tram trundles around the corner and stops to drop a small crowd of eager shoppers out into the road.

When it rains the track becomes muddy and the women grumble about the mud which splashes up onto their coats. Those who have come from the suburbs or the nearby towns carry large sacks over their shoulders. It is a long way to come and they want to make sure of taking a good stock of food back home. During the weekdays, when the young people are at work, it is mainly the older generation who see to the family shopping, but on Sunday the whole family joins in the shopping.

Most of the produce sold in this market comes from the peasants' private plots, which play a role in supplying the nation with its agricultural foodstuffs. (Many of the plots produce more per acre than the state or collective farms.) However, there are a few state stalls on the premises including a grocery store and one or two clothing stores. They help to act as price stabilizers. Each peasant who sells privately at the market pays a small fee to the market authorities for the use of the premises.

Sometimes a dog with a litter of squirming puppies is tied to the fence outside the market. The owner asks beside her and a small crowd of people gathers round to stroke the puppies. "He's yours for five rubles—take them," says the owner, holding out a wriggling puppy. Business is not brisk as so few people have room in their apartments to keep animals.

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Mrs. Neel as she salvaged what household furnishings she could "You can't buy side insurance, we still have a mortgage on the house."

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"HONEST JOHN" AT WORK — U.S. Army's Honest John guided missile roars away from its carrier during a demonstration.

THE FARM FRONT

John Russell

Keeping up with farmers never is quite enough for agricultural engineers; unless they are out in front ahead of farmers they do not feel they are doing their job properly.

Since you, as a consumer of food and fiber, are the ultimate beneficiary of all the time, inventiveness, and money lavished on development of new farm machinery, you might enjoy a glimpse into the thinking of some of these ahead-of-the-procession gentlemen.

"At the present time, technology is changing so rapidly that on-the-job scientists and engineers find themselves out of date after a decade or so out of the university," Mr. Kent Ellis of Purdue Agricultural Experiment Station, told the members of the American Society of Agricultural Engineers at its recent winter meeting in Chicago.

To remedy this, the government must strengthen its educational program for its own personnel, to the extent of sending them back to the university for about an academic year every decade. Although Mr. Ellis was speaking of personnel at the nation's landgrant colleges, he reported that some industrial laboratories are think along this same line.

Following are a few examples of new trends cited at the meeting.

Increasing popularity of processed potatoes — present french fries, "instant" mashed potatoes, potato chips, even pre-fried, pre-frozen, pre-peeled, pre-cut potatoes — the development of new methods of potato storage and handling which demand new types of his coolhouses and storage accommodations, it was reported by Charles W. Kittinger, and James H. Hunter, both of the University of Maine.

If pickles are so profitable for the growers of cucumbers, partial or complete mechanization of harvesting might be a new role on the farm. Telfon, used as a covering for tillage tools has been found to reduce the total tool draft (defined as the amount of energy required to till the soil).

This conclusion was based on results of a study at Iowa State University reported on by Dr. Bill Fox of the Mississippi State University and C. W. Bishop of Iowa State. The new material runs away eight to 10 times as fast as steel, and present costs make it prohibitive for farm tools. But, said Dr. Fox, "indications are that the increased use of Telfon will reduce the price sufficiently to make its use on heavy surfaces economically feasible in the near future."

Modern layouts for beef and dairy herds which are planned and based for more than 10,000 beef cattle or up to 1,000 dairy cows may often include feeding, equipment units and power units.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

1. Kind of tree
2. Season
3. Deserts
4. Mountains
5. Indian
6. Polaris
7. That on the water
8. Taps the sun
9. Down
10. Rubber tree
11. Descent
12. Ceramics
13. Light
14. Part of a
15. Before the
16. Small drink
17. Powder plant
18. Indefinite
19. Stupid person
20. Monkey
21. Branch of
22. Teaching
23. Teatime
24. Old horse
25. Walk weary

26. Delirious
27. Bivouac
28. Waves
29. Follow
30. Copper
31. Desert animal
32. Kind of night
33. Descent
34. Long distance
35. Strive
36. Dance step
37. Youth
38. Scarcity

39. Pertaining to
40. Began letter
41. Soft
42. Place
43. Pin on
44. Follow
45. Copper
46. Desert animal
47. Kind of night
48. Descent
49. Long distance
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