

"LIFE IS SO INTERESTING"

By PETER CARLTON

When we speak of life, of course, we mean everything, every person, every place filling a part in the vast, complex scheme of God's creation. I once read somewhere about a suggestion concerning the great deal of fun we can get out of life, if we would just stop beating our gums and let the other fellow talk.

I used to ride the crowded subways going to and from work in the bowels of that gigantic metropolis, New York City. It was amazing what one heard, without even trying to eavesdrop. Stories of human interest about family life, school problems, love stories, business worries, problems of sick loved ones.

Many people think that if a stranger or "foreigner" was pleasant enough to pass some pleasant, that he is "suspect". Might even think him aggressive and nosy. Thank goodness that's not the case in all respects. One woman, of advanced years, used to leave a magazine on the seat beside her during her train trips. Invariably someone would want to read it. She declared that she opened up more conversations that way and was able to salvage what would have been many times, a boring train trip. (How many of us would think that most forward and out of taste?)

Just plain old human relations is the basis of happiness or distress in our everyday contacts. When I was a very young father back in 1937, I was given a most serious chore to perform. My little son Pat was born in Gadsden, Alabama and we were carrying him by train to our home, which was then in New York City. He was but a few months old. I was genuinely touched by the men, all evidently old hands at being fathers, who gave me advice at how to warm the bottle and how to pull the nipple over the mouth of the bottle without spilling any of the young 'uns food.

Here was an instance of common footing. A subject apparently about which many of the men excelled. I appreciated the help in the helplessness of being suddenly a father. How many of us feel ill at ease when we're out in company? We don't know what to talk about. (I've not seen much of that in the South, I must say; everyone seems so much

at ease). Talking about children, preferably the children of one's host, if he or she is married, and has children, in a genuine and interested fashion, could open up worlds of wholesome fields of thought.

The problem is much solved here in the Albemarle by the most fascinating lure of barbecue, oyster roasts, fish fries and chicken fries. There's no better way to get acquainted with your neighbor than over a fistful and faceful of that good stuff. And I always liked the way Arthur Hollowell expresses his delight over something—"It was some kind of good."

I haven't yet seen a town like Edenton, and I've been to many of them in my peregrinations over the eastern coast of these United States. Many people who are making the "grand tour" of this Colonial Capital are amazed at the genuine neighborliness displayed when coming across someone. For instance, on one tour the folks were open-mouthed in wonderment when they were, on one corner introduced to the Mayor, and on another location to the Chairman of the County Commissioners, or the Chief of Police, or to Judge Dixon so recently back from the Nuremberg War Trials. (Folks here can't seem to understand my own continued delight at the same friendly manifestations.)

To get to talk with Fiorello LaGuardia, former Mayor of New York City, one would have to have a special appointment. If he walked on the streets he would most often be escorted by detectives and whisked away in a car. (Or he might whisk by hanging on to a fire engine—he loved to chase the fires.)

To get in to talk to some cheap politician (punks who were put in office by the vote of the people, one would have to have a special "visa" from the State Department, almost). Yet, here a neighbor can sit arm to arm with a governor, or other political brass, and think nothing of it. The same holds with the friendliness of Congressmen from the south in Washington, D. C., as compared to those from the northern states. Even little "Susie Q", from way back home in Bear Swamp could get a reception almost like a homecoming, in the office of a southern Congressman. I didn't find it so some years ago, with the gentlemen from the northern states.

Life in all its phases is so interesting!

Prices For Cotton Remain Steady

Farmers Continue to Withhold Cotton From Market

Spot cotton prices were comparatively steady last week as inquiries and offerings increased. Farmers continued to withhold cotton from the market and the quantity entering the Government Loan program increased. September's Crop Forecast of approximately 15 1/2 million bales was only slightly above the August forecast.

Prices for Middling 15/16 inch cotton in the ten spot markets averaged 31.21 cents per pound on Friday, September 10, as compared with 31.04 a week earlier and 31.79 a year ago. Reported sales at the ten markets totaled 107,500 bales as compared with 126,000 a week earlier and 137,900 a year ago.

Millard T. Long Dies Suddenly In Norfolk

Millard Thomas Long, 40, of Norfolk, husband of the former Miss Margaret Stephenson of Edenton, died in a Norfolk hospital Monday afternoon after a very brief illness. Besides his wife, there are surviving one daughter, Martha Stuart Long; three sisters, Mrs. E. H. Cuthrell and Mrs. Henry Woodard of Portlock and Mrs. Thurman Bullock of Roanoke Rapids, and one brother, William I. Long of Raleigh.

Deceased was a steward of the Memorial Methodist Church at Berkeley and a member of the various Masonic bodies. At the time of his death he was secretary and treasurer of the Cuthrell Machine Works at Portlock and formerly was connected with the Berkeley Feed Corporation for 19 years.

Funeral services were held in Norfolk Tuesday afternoon.

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All Farms Need First Aid Kits, Says Agent

"First aid kits are essential equipment on every farm," declared C. W. Overman, county agent for the State College Extension Service, this week. Facilities for prompt treatment of injury may save a life or prevent serious infection, he asserted.

According to recommendations of the National Safety Council, Mr. Overman said, good first aid kits need not be expensive or difficult to provide. Homemade kits containing the essential medications, drugs, and dressings may serve equally as well as the more costly prepared kits on the market, he added.

The Extension agent recommended the following materials for assembling a good first aid kit:

A tight box, preferably metal such as a small cash or fish tackle box; rolls of adhesive tape of varying widths, sterile cotton, swabs and sticks, sterile white cloth for bandages and tourniquets, matches, ointment for burns, tincture of iodine, boric acid, tincture of mercuric iodine, tincture of benzoin, liquid green soap or benzine and rubbing alcohol.

Ouch Judge—"Why did you strike this dentist?" Accused—"He got on my nerves."

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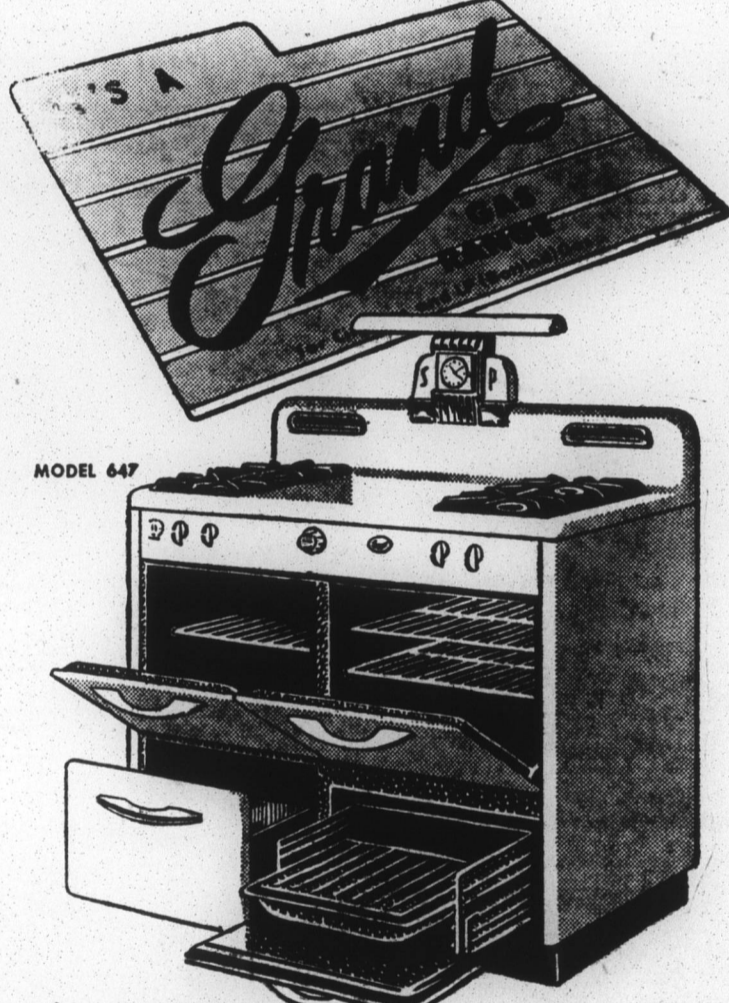
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