

Housewife Writing System Pays Off: Her First Novel Hits Huge Jackpot

"If you wait until inspiration strikes, you'd never get a book written," says Mildred Savage. "You go about writing systematically."

Even with the systematic approach, it took five years of daily work to produce Mrs. Savage's first novel. But the system apparently works: "Farrish," the result, was picked by a book club for distribution to its membership and was bought before publication by Hollywood where it will be made by Joshua Logan. And Mrs. Savage will profit by a sum close to \$200,000 for her effort, which even after Uncle Sam takes his cut makes novel-writing a profitable occupation.

Wife of a Connecticut businessman (tumber), Mrs. Savage is the mother of two children, a housewife by primary occupation and a writer in hours when her family does not have first call on her services. That makes her writing day start at 5 a.m. (which is fine because she is at her best early in the day) and she has one day a week which she takes off from family chores.

"The book started with one single idea," explained the author. "That was the conviction that almost every person has some person or thing that he leans upon. And to grow up—to mature—I feel one must be a free soul."

With her theme set, she then looked for a background in which to set her characters. She found it close to home: the shade farms of the Connecticut Valley which produce the high grade tobacco wraps—outside coverings—for the best cigars.

"Then I had to do lots of research," said Mrs. Savage. "One

day a week I'd visit the tobacco farms, talking to the planters, to the workers, walking through the sheds. I visited libraries and universities and read up on tobacco and tobacco growing. At this point I know just about everything about cigars except how they taste: I've yet to smoke one."

Meanwhile, as a preliminary to writing, she was getting to know her characters.

"I made notes about every one of them," she continued. "I had to know each one intimately—just who they were and how they reacted to each other, things which would not necessarily be written into the book especially, but all important if they were to be real people."

And finally after that, came the first outline of the plot and the action, chapter by chapter. Mrs. Savage worked this out in such detail it was almost as long as the manuscript itself. And finally she started to write. Then she rewrote, cut, pruned, expanded.

"I tackled it like a job, which is what it was," she explained. "And I just don't see how anybody can work on a thing like that without some sort of system."

Hard work, yes, but apparently satisfying, too. Mrs. Savage is now in the preliminary phases of a second novel—this one concerned with pharmaceutical business—its scientists, research personnel and its business heads. Her attention was caught when she read the autobiography of Dr. Selman Waksman.

"The setting will be different," she said, "but I suspect the philosophy of the book will be the same. I think most authors have only one important idea, and we should keep hammering at it."

Soil Conservation News by John Smith

The cold weather and the rain we have gotten lately has just about stopped all farming operations. Practically all the pastures in the county are dormant, and the farmers are feeding their stock on hay. In the climate which we have here, this is normal for the weather is too severe to allow for year-round grazing. Much can be done to lengthen the grazing period. However, by use of the improved varieties of grass and by using mixed small grain, weeks can be added to the period which cattle can have plenty to graze in the pastures. These same grasses will help the farmer fill his hay-loft with hay to tide the stock over the non-grazing period of the winter. Now is the time to be planning for the seeding of new pastures and meadows in the spring so there will be an abundance of grass to take care of your stock next winter.

Many farmers have shown an interest in taking better care of their forest lands in recent months. The larger part of practically every farm in Cherokee County is woodland, and in all too many instances, the woodland is producing nothing or very little in the way of income for the farmer. With proper care, these wooded acres could be producing income, but they cannot do it without help from you, Mr. Farmer. There are many stands of young pine which to all appearances are growing fine, when actually they are, not adding any growth at all. Trees, just like corn or tobacco, will become stunted when the plants are too crowded.

When trees cease to grow, the farmer is losing money by not cutting out some of the trees. If left alone, part of the trees will die, but this will not put any money in the farmer's pocket. By practicing selective cutting, the farmer is able to get out pulp wood worth about fourteen dollars a cord. At the same time, he is allowing the trees which remain to grow rapidly again. When followed from planting to maturity, selective cutting gives the farmer three or four cuttings of pulp, and mature stand of saw timber.

According to a report from Mr. Fred Claridge, State Forester, there are still plenty of tree seedlings available of all the varieties which are adapted to Western North Carolina. Anyone who still wants pine or yellow poplar seedlings should contact any of the state and federal agricultural agencies for information and order blanks.

TV A To Train In Case Of Atomic Attack

Under guidance of the Office of Civil and Defense Mobilization TVA has embarked on a training program to provide a corps of about 1,000 employees prepared to not promptly in event of a nuclear attack.

The plan got under way recently when 36 TVA employees were given an intensive 40-hour instructors course by officials of the OCDM's radiological defense school, Dr. Warren Abercrombie, George W. Blincoe, and David McLoughlin from OCDM's principal office in Battle Creek, Michigan, and James Miller of regional office in Thomasville, Ga.

come the monitoring teams to cope with emergency conditions.

Training of these employees will start soon after receipt of 700 survey meters, 2,000 dosimeters, and about 225 dosimeters charges.

Some of the survey meters are Geiger counters; others are ionization chambers and will be of varying sensitivity, capable of measuring small, intermediate, and high intensities of radiation. The dosimeters look somewhat like fountain pens and are capable of measuring total dosages. The charges are used to activate the dosimeters.

The 1,000-man corps will be selected from the Offices of Power, Engineering, and Chemical Engineering, Division of Reservoir Properties, and the Division of Health and Safety.

A staff member of the latter division will head up each of the five instructor teams which will be formed from the 36 employees taking the initial instructor course from OCDM.

Health Insurance Expands During 1958

Health insurance in the United States expanded on many levels in 1958 to continue the steady growth it has maintained for the last 20 years, the Health Insurance Institute reported recently.

Despite the general adjustment that took place in the national economy, a new record was reached when an estimated \$4.8 billion in health care benefits were paid by all insuring organizations during 1958 to help the public meet the cost of accident and sickness. This surpassed the 1957 benefit payment figure of \$4.2 billion by more than 14 per cent.

At the same time, the number of Americans protected against the cost of hospital and doctor bills, through insurance company programs, Blue Cross-Blue Shield and other health care plans, was estimated at 121 million at the end of 1958. Some 70 per cent of the nation's population now have health insurance.

"While health insurance recorded consistent growth and development over the last two decades," declared the Institute, "1958 stands out stronger than other years because of the advancement in so many different areas by all health insurance organizations."

"Substantial progress was made last year in providing sound programs for persons over age 65 through employer-sponsored group plans as well as individual health policies. Health insurance protection for elderly retired persons is fast becoming as prevalent as it is for the employed population, shown by the fact that the growth of coverage for the aged population has, in large measure, come about in the last years alone."

"Gains in coverage also were noted for the individual and family policyholder, employees of small business firms and for people living in rural areas," the Institute added.

"A definite trend in health insurance is toward developing coverages that are of a more permanent nature, as greater experience is gained with this relatively new form of protection. Actions taken by insurance business leaders late in the year presage still further improvement in programs to help provide increasingly effective health insurance plans in the years to come."

Benefit payments by insurance companies alone continued an uninterrupted upward trend, exceeding \$2 billion during the first nine months of 1958, the Institute reported. This represents an increase of better than 10 per cent over the same period in 1957. It was estimated that the total amount of benefits paid by insurance companies through the end of 1958 rose to an unprecedented \$2.6 billion, a rate of more than \$7 million a day for the entire year. Although these benefits increased by more than 10 per cent, the Consumer Price Index of the U. S. Dept. of Labor showed that the cost of medical care in the country had risen by no more than 4.5 per cent over the same period in 1957.

Growth in the number of persons covered by insurance company policies continued on most levels in 1958, the Institute found. Reports from the 700 insurance companies handling health insurance in the U. S. showed that the number of persons covered for major medical expenses climbed from 13.3 million to 16.5 million, an increase of nearly 25 per cent. Another increase was shown in regular medical expense insurance where the number of persons covered grew by an estimated half-million over the 1957 fig-

ure of \$3.2 million. The number of persons covered for surgical expenses remained constant at 67.5 million.

Of the estimated 121 million persons protected by all insuring organizations against hospital expenses, some 70.1 million were covered under insurance company

policies. Some 22 million employed persons were covered by loss of income policies.

A 1958 study by the U. S. Dept. of Health, Education and Welfare revealed progress in providing persons 65 years of age and older with health insurance. The study showed that the number of

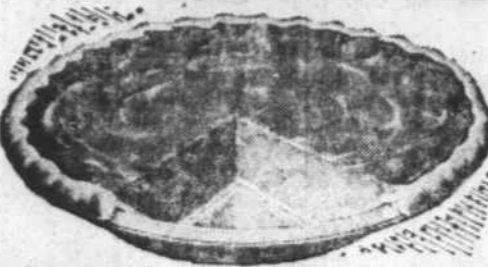
THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 1959

THE CHEROKEE SCOUT

older age persons with health insurance was growing at a much faster rate than the senior citizen population itself. The government report disclosed that the number of Americans 65 and over increased by 13 per cent from

March 1952 to September 1956, while the number of senior citizens covered by health insurance went up 56 per cent. The Institute estimated that 40 per cent of the persons in this age category now have health insurance.

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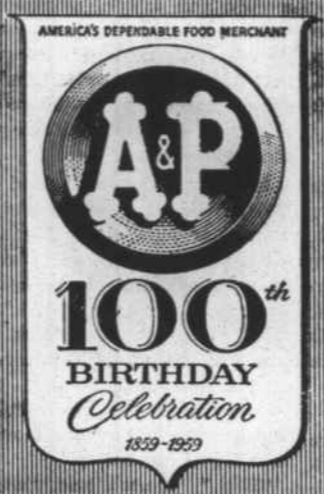
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 Tax Collector
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