

Life Begins At 62½

By George Russ

For some unaccountable reason, Miss Madie had no wish to cross swords with Emma Lou therefore she made no protest to her recent outburst—demand that she pack her junk and get out because her services were no longer needed. She steadied her reeling body against the impact of the low blow, but her lips refused to "cuss the day" her assailant was born. Perhaps she refused out of respect for "Mister Ben" or she was out right fearful of the woman; nevertheless, she made no outcries.

Emma Lou closed the door behind the last of the neighbors the moment the crippled woman crossed the threshold. "That old soul should be home making up her own dying bed. With one foot in the grave, I don't see how she made it here to nose around."

Miss Madie, out of habit, dried her hands on her apron. This voluntary action seemed to have been the key to unlock the door of her penned-in-mobility; because, suddenly she began darting about the room, straightening dollies, chairs, rugs, even the wobbly shade of the table lamp. She had been planning for weeks to replace the shade with a new one, but time and money were two commodities she was always fresh out of. She said, more to herself, really, than to the carvoting sister-in-law; "this old shade has seed its best days."

"Forget the lamp shade, this apartment, my daddy—everything—just be on your merry way." Emma Lou blurted out.

Surprisingly enough, to Miss Madie, the knots in her tongue had disappeared and she was in instant business "once more 'n again." Angrily, she retorted; "I've seed enough of your behind for one day. Mah advice to you is plain 'n simple, go back to South Hill before it's a day 'n time too late to save the last part of you going ovah th' fence."

"What did you say?" Emma Lou stopped still for the first time in a long while, to make sure her ears weren't deceiving her.

"I don't chew my 'bacoo but once 'n that go for th' number of times I spit."

Emma Lou sighed laborously—"I'm locking this joint up as soon as the undertaker comes for my daddy's body—my advice to you is plain 'n simple, get your stuff and get out!"

"You sound like-ah-fool, woman. Most of th' stuff, as you call it, in this 'part-ment is mine. I'll move when I can—and, for information, I ain't toting nothing away from to hear your head roar."

Emma Lou's pride suddenly shattered; she was no match for this cantankerous old biddy; she said, lamely; "I'm going to have Curtis starlighten you out, but good."

Miss Madie laughed; "Curtis comes before me like-ah-goad-vine running 'n stinking. Th' day my brother comes to me, to straighten me out for you, that's th' day he'll wish to God he had been born as tumble-turd."

"How do you sound?" Emma Lou gasped.

"You'll get th' message. There'll be more cleaning up mess than he bargained for."

Emma Lou succumbed her, "the undertaker is coming—we'll hash this matter out at a later date."

"Suits me, suit yourself, honey chile; but th' later th' better if you ask sookle."

Emma Lou gesticulating frantically with her hands, hissed; be quiet! I don't want Mr. Sudten to think we all are crazy."

Miss Madie walked into the kitchen and stood at the sink looking out of the window. She had a bone to pick with Emma Lou, and the sooner her daddy's corpse was out of the apartment, the sooner she could get on with the business of plucking an over stuffed chick.

Standing where she was, she could hear most of what was going on in the living room but she made it a point not to watch "Mister Ben's" body being carried out on the stretchers. Plain stubbornness held her fast to the side of the sink. Coot Sudten's bathos filled voice, seemingly, had wrung tears from the resolute eyes of the bereaved daughter, her mind remained fixed; "a decent burial is all I'm paying for, Mr. Sudten. Nothing showy." Then she boo-hooed.

"A puke of misery." Miss Madie muttered under her breath. Then she heard a familiar voice and was tmeped to turn around to make sure her guest was correct. The rich, oily voice was smooth as silk—disturbingly sensuous: "you have my deepest sympathy—I came as soon as I heard. How's Miss Madie. I'm sure she si deeply moved by Mister Ben's death. She was so devoted to him, I am sure she is profoundly hurt. She was very much attached to your dear father. Where is Miss Madie now? If hse is resting, I understand fully."

Emma Lou walked away slowly, weeping into the well of her hands.

Miss Madie sped from the sink to the doorway and called out to Jeffery Alexander Boykins; "Jeff Boykins! you old rascal, you are good for the sore eyes—cept I don't have sore eyes."

New Service Moves Consumers' Credit Free And Easily



LOS ANGELES — Credit can now be moved easily and free of charge by consumers planning to move to any of 39 major cities across the country.

The new service, offered by Credit Referral Service of Los Angeles, requires only one form to be completed to open several credit accounts with major department stores, banks and oil companies at the new destination. It permits consumers to move their credit before even packing their belongings.

To receive an application, consumers need only leave their name and address with Western Union Operator 25 at any time by dialing the toll free number 800/851-3360. Residents of Illinois call 800/642-3372.

From the application the consumer picks those companies with which he wants a credit account and mails it postage free to Credit Referral Service. Applications are also available from major employers, realtors and moving companies.



AIP PICKS A PAIR OF PRETTIES—Now on the verge of super stardom, Pam Grier has the title role in American International Pictures soon-to-be-released action-drama "Foxy Brown" while Juanita Brown (right) portrays the feature role of Claudia. In addition to sharing a love of sports, sports car racing and high academic standing, both started at AIP in other than acting capacities. Pam was a switchboard operator for the company and Juanita was secretary Girl Friday to Kater Engraving, where the bulk of AIP promo material is printed. "Foxy Brown" was written and directed by Jack Hill, who handled the same chores on Pam's most recent starring opus, "Coffy."

You and your pet

By TED KAVANAUGH, DIRECTOR,
ALPO PET NEWS BUREAU

Why Do People Need Pets?

Love? Companionship? Protection? Faithfulness? All that and more, according to Dr. Boris Levinson, noted clinical psychologist and author of "Pets and Human Development."

He sums it up as pets' psychological value to people coping in a society beset by fear, insecurity, distrust, frustration and anxiety.

Dr. Levinson's research relates people's need for pets with unfulfilled basic human needs. Let's look at some examples given, starting with the need for closeness and communion with nature.

Many of today's anxieties are due to people's alienation from nature in their day-to-day lives. A pet revives our sense of kinship with nature. Caring for a pet restores our sense of wellbeing and completion. And in a city apartment, having a pet is often one's only approach to nature.

Other examples span our lifetime from childhood to old age. In large urban areas many people live alone, especially the elderly with few friends and whose world grows increasingly smaller. A pet means companionship, a reason to get out and make contact with other people. Dog walkers stop and talk with one another. For some, their pet is a lifeline to life and reality.

Children derive many benefits from pets. A dog or cat fills a child's need to fondle something soft and cuddly. A dog always gives unquestioning affection. It never criticizes or deserts its young friend, happily greets the homecoming each day regardless of the child's school grades or the outcome of games won or lost, and is ready to play or just



The German Shepherd

A child learns responsibility from caring for a pet, and derives gratification from doing something for someone else.

Children and grownups develop a sense of consideration for others through pets. A responsive animal won't tolerate abuse or neglect, so pets also teach that to be loved, you must give love.

Another lesson is in patience and self-control, learned when helping with training the pet. The child finds that shouting or hitting the dog doesn't work, but gentleness and understanding does.

So, people need pets for many reasons. And remember that pets need people, too. Give yours a nourishing diet containing the necessary vitamins and minerals such as ALPO provides. Don't overfeed, and always have fresh water available. And regular health checkups by your veterinarian can prolong your pet's life many years.

P.S. A free pamphlet on Dr. Levinson's report may be requested from Pet Food Institute, Dept. AL, 111 E. Wacker Drive, Chicago, Ill. 60601. Enclose a stamped self-addressed #10 envelope.

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It is not fully clear that President Nixon could have avoided a "siege mentality" when he entered the White House. And, in spite of the paradox of his administration's dire straits after four years of substantial accomplishment, the leadership classes may be no more willing to respond to Mr. Nixon now than he felt they were when he was first elected. What is clear is that, after Watergate, the President has no option but to try to convince the leadership classes to come to his aid.

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STAR OF BETHLEHEM THE HUNTER'S AFFAIR

CAPRICORN

You can never quite see what you could find while looking at the constellation. It didn't get the name because it's the Capricorn, or you could have discovered the planet Neptune, or if you were around in 2448 B.C. you might have seen the planet Uranus.

The Morehead Planetarium gratefully acknowledges the assistance of this publication in producing this program listing.

Merry Christmas

AS NATURE SPARKLES IN HER NEW WHITE RAIMENT, OUR THOUGHTS TURN TO THOSE WHO HAVE GLADDENED THE PAST SEASONS FOR US.

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