

ALONG LIFE'S TRAIL

By **THOMAS ARKLE CLARK**
Dean of Men, University of Illinois.

EXCUSES

Excuses for omitting a duty, for claiming a privilege, or for doing something that is forbidden, have not changed a great deal since the first lame one that Adam offered for meddling with things which he was told to leave alone. Being told that a thing may not be done, every youth in the country or in college becomes obsessed to find some way to do it.

In order that things may go on in some sort of normal way, most colleges have a regulation that no one, without special excuse, may leave early before the beginning of a vacation or come back late. Those who do are penalized pretty heavily. The undergraduate mind gets to work at once, therefore, to devise situations and adequate conditions to furnish a reason for having the vacation extended. If one man is excused, forty others will probe into the details of his successful evasion of duty and at once appear before the authorities armed with similar excuses.

"I'm getting off two days early," Brown says to a group of classmates as they rush out of the classroom a week before the Easter recess.

"What did you tell him?" they all inquire in chorus.

"Grandmother's very sick," is the reply, "and I'm her favorite grandchild. She could never die happy if I were not there."

Forthwith there is an increasing amount of illness and even mortality among grandparents.

There are relatively few new excuses offered by the young man eager to go home early. The fake telegram from home has been worked since Morse first invented his code. It generally bears the earmarks of the novice and is not difficult of detection. Decaying teeth requiring the attention of the home dentist, infected tonsils crying to be taken out, weddings, the infiltration into secret societies which will not wait, fathers overwhelmed with work in a business that only son understands, have all been used since the Middle Ages and are current in all the colleges of the country.

"Will you let me go early if I give you a really new excuse and a true one?" a senior asked me a year or two ago. I agreed, glad if possible to get a new one.

"I'm invited to a hanging," he explained, "and it comes off two days before the vacation begins. I was a witness in the man's trial."

I agreed that he might go, and then at the last moment the man was pardoned.

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KEEPING WELL

MILKING BY MACHINERY
DR. FREDERICK R. GREEN
Editor of "HEALTH"

HUMAN life and human effort some times seem to be about the cheapest commodities there are on the market. But careful study of any method of production will show that machine labor is always cheaper than hand labor. In the old days back on the farm, there was one job that was always done by hand no matter how much machinery the farmer owned. That was milking the cows. Not only that but it was firmly believed that it was one job that always would be done by hand. Just as in another line of industry type setting was always done by hand. For years, the idea of machines that would set type or milk cows was regarded as a joke. "That is something that only fingers can ever do."

Yet for years past, most of the type has been set and much of the milking has been done by machinery. Many farmers still contend that the human hand is the best and most effective milking machine to be found. This has been the subject of much discussion in farm journals and at farmers' institutes.

The agricultural department of the University of Illinois decided to find out the truth. So two experts compiled the cost records from 66 Illinois farms for six years. The results have recently been published and commented on in the Prairie Farmer.

The report shows that it takes more time and costs more to milk by hand than by machinery. Figuring on the basis of one cow for one year, it was found that it required 133 hours of hand labor but only 81 hours of machine labor, a saving of 52 hours per cow per year. Naturally, the larger the number of cows, the greater the saving. Regarding expense, figuring labor at the rate of 17 1/2 cents per hour, it cost \$23.44 to milk a cow by hand for one year and \$18.64 per year to milk a cow by machinery. The only way that hand labor could be put on the same scale as machine labor was by estimating hand labor at 8 1/2 cents an hour and farm labor today cannot be secured at that price.

Regarding cleanliness, either was equally good, provided hands, machine buckets, strainers and other utensils were kept clean.

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FROM PALETTE TO MORTAR BOARD



Young women artists turn from their jars of color and paint brushes to assist plasterers in setting ornaments in place atop huge pylons which adorn the main entrances to the Palace of Agriculture and Food Products, of the vast exhibition buildings which form a part of the great Sesqui-Centennial International Exposition being staged in Philadelphia from June 1 to December 1 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. Climbing ladders and walking along rickety scaffolds is nothing new to these young ladies, but each time they do it they get a thrill.

Preserves Old Flags by Peculiar Process

Preserving the flags under which the sons of Illinois have gone forth to battle, from Chapultepec to Chateau Thierry, is the work now of a corps of thirty Springfield women under the direction of Miss Julia A. Rockford.

There are seven distinct operations in the process, and in the case of flags tattered by bullet and shell holes, the work occupies several months.

The first is to straighten the edges of the tatters so that they will fray no further. However, no part of the torn standards is replaced by any new material. A net of transparent black silk, imported from England, is prepared for each flag, and after its restoration the net is put over the flag and stitched to it so that the net supports the weight of the time-worn material, which might otherwise pull apart.

More than 100 of the war-time emblems of Illinois have been thus prepared. Flags of the Mexican war were treated first. When the Civil war flags were taken up, it was found that much of the work of the Springfield women of 1865-68 would have to be undone. They sewed the flags to tarlatan. This backing is being removed in the new process.

Power Now Carried Far

"Super-power" is no hazy thing of the future. It is here. Power systems are already linked to cover huge areas. New England and New York are connected and one company has power and lighting lines interconnected from Portland, Oregon to Los Angeles, Cal. The nation between is widely netted with many systems that serve parts of several states.

Few Long-Haired Maidens

Scarcity of unshorn maidens threatened the continuity of sixty-year-old May festivities of Knutsford, the most picturesque in England, for the May queen must have long hair. All but one of the aspirants for the honor appeared with either bobbed or shingled locks. The throne must go to the girl whose tresses never have been touched by scissors.

Deer's Civilized Taste

George A. Baxter of Horton, N. Y., found a large buck deer exhausted in the snow and took it home. After offering it foods which he thought a deer should eat, which it did not find to its taste, he tried giving it food from his kitchen. He discovered that the deer devoured buckwheat cakes and maple sirup, and preferred them above anything else.

With Friends Once More

by O. Lawrence Hawthorne

What joy it brings to see again
Those good old friends I used to know—
To meet the women and the men
Who were my playmates long ago!

The same dear smiles are here today
That greeted me in childhood years,
Though temples now are touched with gray
And eyes have learned the hurt of tears;

The same glad grip of cordial hands
(Yes, even warmer than of old!)
That bears to him who understands,
The finest message ever told;

The same unselfish kindness
And thoughtful hospitality—
Small favors that alone express
True friendship's great reality.

Oh, life is richer than before
And lighted with a deeper glow,
For I am with my friends once more—
Those good old friends of long ago!



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Executrix Notice

Having qualified as executrix of the Last Will and Testament of the late C. H. Griffin, this is to notify all persons holding claims against said estate to file same with the undersigned at Woodland N. C., within one year from the date hereof or this notice will be pleaded in bar of the recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment. This May 10th, 1926.
MRS. MATTIE SYKES GRIFFIN,
Executrix of the Estate of C. H. Griffin.
Burgwyn & Norfleet, Atty's.

Notice of Administration

Having qualified as administratrix, c t a, of the estate of R. V. Bridgers, deceased, late of Northampton County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of the said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned, at Conway, N. C., on or before the 10th day of May, 1927, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment.

JOSIE BRIDGERS,
Administratrix, c t a, of R. V. Bridgers.
By R. Jennings White, Atty.

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