

This, That, and the Other

By Mrs. Theo. B. Davis

Mrs. D. D. Chamblee called me to let me know that her husband has had a fish pond built which is quite similar to the one my brother has, having no spring or feeder stream, but constructed where the ground slopes on three sides, and partially surrounded by woods. Mr. Chamblee's pond is not yet entirely filled with water, but the fish in it are thriving and some are large enough to justify catching them. I am glad to know our sandy soil will hold pond water.

I wondered whether it would be practical to take all the goldfish from our pond and put in about four bream and two bass. I believe that is the ratio for stocking ponds, though I may have it in reverse. Six fish and the five bullfrogs we have have accumulated might be a tiny backlog against a meat famine; but my husband takes a dim view of the suggestion. He says some of the goldfish are big enough to be eaten in such an emergency. But who could eat a goldfish?

Just as I had feared, the birds paid scant attention to the cellophane bows I tied all over the little cherry trees. For a day they stayed out of the trees, holding a caucus in the Delicious apple tree. Then they began flitting cautiously back, the first fliers going under the tree, then up it. After a few such missions all the birds resumed their feasting. And they actually seem to like the glittering decorations.

Among the things I tried to teach my children was the importance of expressing thanks for favors, writing when it seemed more fitting or necessary. But for some time now I have been at intervals embarrassed by the extreme politeness of several younger women to whom I gave inexpensive presents. It seemed to me that simply saying 'thank you' at the time was adequate; and when, a few days later, nice little notes of appreciation were received, I found myself remembering what Grandma Harvey used to say when we children were overdoing something inconsequential, "there, there," she'd caution us, "that's too much sugar for a cent." Of course, with a real gift it would be different. But the sort of items I hand out don't need much acknowledgment, and when I hear the recipient say what is appropriate, I stay thanked.

There are, as with most things, exceptions to what is said above. As when Ann Kemp married and I gave her a subscription to the Zebulon Record. In a short time I had one of those Jimmy-and-I-thank-you-so-much notes, and that was all right. But some time

later, there came a real letter from Ann. She had found herself enjoying the home paper more she had thought she would, and felt that she hadn't been thankful enough in the note. Needless to say the letter delighted me.

It is seldom that one hears of a person who believes he has been singled out by Providence for special blessings; but many there be who rise up and wail as did Jeremiah of old, "... behold, and see if there be any sorrow like unto my sorrow."

In a sense every sorrow is unique and no two sorrows can be exactly similar. And in another sense the soul can tread no path wholly untrodden before. The main difference is with the individual.

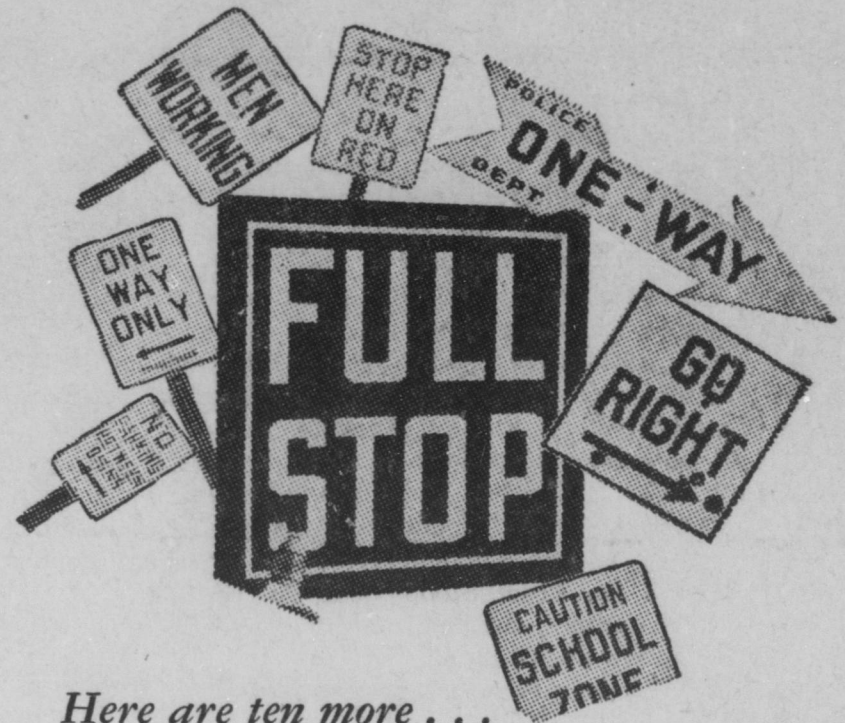
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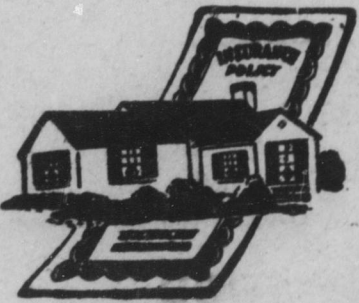


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