

Hard Working? Even Picnics Can't Tempt Some Lazy Ants

Some ants are so lazy they won't even stir out of the nest for a picnic. In fact, male ants never work a day in their brief lives. Their only duty is to mate and die.

A few of the hard-working females loaf on the job. And almost any ant will take a nap, but out of sight in the middle of its nest, thus preserving the family image.

Most ants, however, deserve their industrious reputation. Their great physical capacities and complex societies have helped them survive for some 70 million years, the National

Geographic Society says.

The highly adaptable ants have spread all over the world, though they prefer the tropics and avoid arctic regions. The ant family Formicidae numbers about 6,000 species, ranging in size from 1/25th of an inch to more than an inch long.

Like bees, ants are social insects living in colonies. Three castes dwell in an ant community: the queen ant, an amazing egg-laying machine; worker ants, sterile females who serve as nursemaids and soldiers; and males, who expire shortly after their nuptial flight with the queen.

After the flight, the queen establishes a colony, building herself a small nest in the earth, under a rock, or in a decayed tree. She lays a few eggs, tending them until a small nucleus of workers develops.

From then on, the queen does nothing but lay eggs. Her single mating leaves her productive for as long as 15 years.

Female workers excavate the nest, clean it, forage for food, care for the young, and defend the colony. Their work is never done. But entomologists studying army ants in Panama found that about 20 percent of the workers were careless housekeepers and lax nursemaids.

The leaf-cutting ants of tropical America are farmers. They cut tree leaf segments and carry them back to their immense nest - often 16 feet deep - where they are used as beds for fungus spores. The ants plant and tend the fungus, their principal food.

European harvester ants gather seeds and grain, storing them in granaries deep in their nests. After the harvesters husk the seeds, a "chewing society" assembles to masticate them for hours at a time. Saliva transforms the starch into sugar, and the result is a nourishing "ant bread."

Harvester workers take naps within the nest, but often rest at strategic passageways, where they block the way. Worker ants who act as guards usually have a thick skull protected by a helmet-tough skin.

Soldiers are essential, because, as a leading entomologist said, "Most ant societies are organized for total warfare.... Fighting goes on constantly." The blood-red slavemaker ants of the United States raid other colonies to steal pupae. When the stolen ants hatch, they take over the work in their masters' nests.

Ants undoubtedly are successful, but they aren't infallible.

Wildlife In A Field

BY JIM DEAN

While I was in Florida recently, I had a free afternoon and began looking for a place to catch a world record bass. (My understanding from Florida's fishing promotion division is that world record bass are caught on every trip).

"There's not a real good bass spot right around here," said a local angler who had offered his services as a guide. "Of course, we could go out to the river and catch a few big old jacks, but most everybody considers that a waste of time."

"How big are these big old jacks?" I asked. "Three, four, maybe five pounds," was the laconic reply.

"Shake hands with an expert at wasting time," I said, offering my right appendage.

We went after the jacks but caught none (and unless I am misled, I may be the only fisherman to ever wet a line in Florida without catching a world record).

What really interested me about this trip was my friend's distaste for one of the most sporting fish in fresh water. You hear the same thing in

North Carolina. "Only a jerk would fish for a jack."

The jack is really a chain pickerel. He is not a pike, as so many would have you believe. In fact, there are no pike in North Carolina, or Florida for that matter. And don't tell me a walleye is a pike, because he's a perch.

Now that you are properly confused, allow me to further your state of chaos. There are three species of pickerel in North Carolina - the chain pickerel, the redfish pickerel and the grass pickerel. The latter two species rarely get more than about a foot long, but the chain pickerel occasionally reaches nine or ten pounds. The state record is an eight pound chain caught by John H. Leonard in Gaston Lake in 1968.

Most chain pickerel average one to two pounds, although a three or four pounder is not uncommon in some waters.

In my opinion, the old chainsides has only one disadvantage. He is boney and inferior eating compared to many other freshwater fish. In every other category, he comes on strong. His reputation as a fighter is not high, but my experience with pickerels indicate that they are at least as spectacular on the end of a line as a largemouth bass of equal weight. I, for one, would rather catch a four-pound jack than a five-pound largemouth.

One of the chain pickerel's biggest assets is his appetite. He has the table manners of a weak king, and he'll eat almost

anything that moves winter, spring, summer and fall.

The best artificial lures for pickerel are probably spoons and/or spinners, particularly if they have a dash of red on them or a strip of pork rind. Most plugs are fair game for pickerel also, and my favorites are the Rebel, Rapala and floating - diving Bassmaster. Jack will also sock a surface lure, though probably not as quickly as a bass. Some fishermen use nothing but fly rods and popping bugs for pickerel. The best pickerel bait is a live minnow.

Chain pickerel seem to prefer weedy areas, particularly in fairly shallow water not more than three feet deep. One of the best places to find them is over a shallow, weedy bar in a lake.

I also frequently catch them in deeper water, but I have noticed that strikes rarely occur unless the bottom is weedy or fairly well choked with plants.

In rivers and small creeks, the pickerel is in his element, and I know of no greater sport than wading and fishing Piedmont and coastal creeks in late fall or early spring using ultra-light spinning tackle and small spinners. A 15-inch jack in a small creek on light tackle will turn you every way - including loose.

One reminder. When you try to land a jack, use a net. Don't "lip" him the way you would a largemouth. A mental lapse on this point will leave your thumb well ventilated.

Mr. Tobacco Farmer
SEE US TODAY
For
COMPLETE INSURANCE
COVERAGE
ON
CURING & PACKING BARN

YOUR TOBACCO PROFITS
ARE ONLY AS SAFE AS
YOUR TOBACCO BARN

The Johnson Co.

E. CENTRAL AVE.

TEL. 875-3550

RAEFORD

COLLINS

RAEFORD

Annual Fall Coat Lay-Away Event...

The Fall Coat values are here! Beautiful fall coats in wools and fake fur trims... lay-a-way your favorite styles now from our early season collections.



A very luxurious style with contrasting stitching. Popular 41" length. Comfortable 100% wool fabric. Belted waist. Available in tan with brown stitch or navy with red stitching. Misses sizes.

55.00

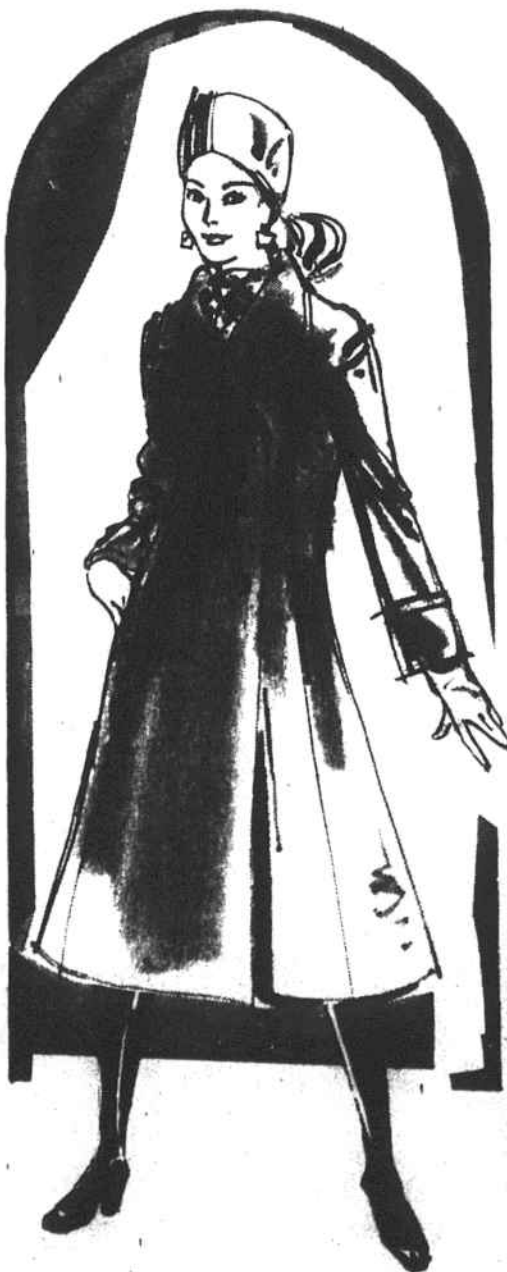
COLLINS FASHIONS

CHARGE IT... Use Your Collins Charge or Your Favorite Bank Charge Card



A lovely style coat with sharp looking seams and tucks. Belted waist, this 41" length coat will be perfect for the coming season for any occasion. Notch collar. Choose from a beautiful fall shade of rust in misses sizes.

50.00



A luxury boot length coat double breasted with silver buttons. 100% wool fabric that will serve you well this fall. Choose from red or navy in misses sizes. Two deep pockets - Belted Back.

50.00

Farm Items

By W. S. Young and David Bodenheimer

Pine beetles are still attacking trees during the summer season. Homeowners are complaining about their trees dying over night. This is caused by the insects cutting off the nutrient supply or sap of the tree, with the top dying off. There are several species of beetles that attack the trees and the southern pine beetle is the worst because it attacks the tree from top to bottom. This makes treating the trees almost impossible for the average homeowner. If you find these beetles early enough you can spray the tree trunk with a mixture of lindane and number 2 fuel oil. Usually two to three applications are necessary throughout the summer to control them if you have an infestation.

D.C., Electric Congress in Wilmington, N.C. and others will be attending Wildlife Camp. Several sewing classes have been completed by members under the direction of a Pace student and a volunteer leader. The dog training class was also well attended. Still to go is the 4-H Club Congress at N.C. State University. This is a treat for many members, as they go to hear outstanding speakers and get to participate in many programs.

We would like to invite other boys and girls to join this wonderful organization and would like to invite interested adults to become leaders for these boys and girls. Working together can help to close the generation gap between the youth and adults.



The third Castle Rock Farm Field Day will be held on August 5th starting around 10:00 A.M. This farm is located near Pittsboro, N.C. in Chatham County. Corn varieties, pasture grasses, ensilage sorghum and latest ensilage and haymaking equipment will be demonstrated. This farm has been selected by chemical companies, equipment companies and general farm agri-business to set up demonstrations and to show them all during the crop year. Anyone is invited to attend the Field Day.

4-H Club members have been very active in Hoke County during this year. These clubs offer many opportunities for a young person's development. This past week we had the largest number of boys and girls to go to camp that we have ever had. Also a large group attended Demonstration Day and also participated in the contests. Several members attended Forestry Camp, Citizenship Short Course in Washington,

As we looked from a window into her garden, a city friend said, "I am filled with joy when I see my apple tree in full bloom." The tree was a froth of cascading blooms.

Her words reminded me of a summer holiday at Canadian Keswick when the conference speaker was a kindly Presbyterian pastor from Georgia. As we chatted together on the shore of the lake, early evening sunlight touched vast beds of bright flowers to startling beauty.

For a few moments we both fell silent. Then the pastor said something I still remember twenty years later: "God's little extras! That's what flowers are. He didn't have to give them to us, but He did."

This is one of the ways God has of speaking to us. A new dimension is added to our joy as Christians when we discern God's hand in all the little extras He provides, not only in nature but in our personal lives.

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE

GROUP OF BOYS FLARES
REG. \$11.00
SALE \$7.00

3" PAIR 2 FOR \$7.00

Joe Sugar's of Raeford
"THE STORE FOR MEN AND BOYS WITH A LITTLE FOR THE LADIES"

SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE SALE