

CONFESSIONS



BY RICHARD HILL WILKINSON

THIS BUSINESS of being a pal isn't all that it's cracked up to be. Louise Marshall's affair with Don Baxter was like that. They had been kids together. They had grown up in the same back yard, so to speak. They had attended the same schools and gone to the same church.

It just naturally developed, therefore, that Don, who was Louise's senior by 16 months, came to look upon her as a kid sister whom he should protect with brotherly instinct, and who was always available to fill in on dates when needed.

Louise accepted the situation with meekness because she cherished every moment she could have with her big, blue-eyed, blond "pal." She concealed her hurts nobly whenever Don told her about taking Rose Carter to a country club dance, or when he mentioned he'd kept a canoe date with Bertha Young.

Not that Louise didn't have admirers of her own. But none could provide the thrill equal to that of being with Don.

It was about a month after her 21st birthday that Louise called a meeting with her inner thoughts and faced the situation squarely.

Something had to be done about Don Baxter. She couldn't go on this way. Her love for him had become so great as to make life almost unbearable.

Abruptly she decided on a drastic move. She'd tell him about her affairs with other men. She'd manufacture a mystic love and hint at daring escapades. She'd refuse Don's invitations on the pretext of keeping a rendezvous with her imaginative suitor. This, if anything, she told herself, would stir to life any dormant and sentimental emotion that Don Baxter held for her.

And so when, on the day following, Don asked her to accompany him to a dance that evening, Louise refused sweetly, vaguely hinting at another date. Don was silent for a moment, and then abruptly he said good-bye and hung up.

Louise was miserable. She went out that night to a movie, by herself. The next two days were spent in solitude and despair. On the third day Don unexpectedly appeared, armed with tennis rackets. He wondered if Louise would care to join him in a couple of sets.

Louise, her heart pounding wildly, shook her head, and the smile vanished from Don's face. It seemed to Louise as she watched him drive away, that her last despairing hope was going with him.

Somehow she struggled through the afternoon and the night that followed. The next morning Don called again. He wanted her to drive with him that afternoon and have dinner at a cozy inn he knew in the country. It took every ounce of will power she could summon to refuse. Somehow it didn't seem real. Her plan was actually working.

During the week that followed, Don called three times, and each time Louise refused his invitation. Her happiness knew no bounds. Yet on the other hand, rumor had it that he was frequently with beautiful Harriet Eaton; that the two of them had staged some pretty wild parties at the country club.

Somewhat discouraged, Louise decided that the thing had gone far enough. She had to know the truth. And so when next he called she agreed to cancel another tentative date and spend the evening with him.

Don seemed jubilant and promised to call at 8:15. At 7:45 he appeared. Louise lingered over her dressing table for a long period, at length descending to the porch where he waited.

Don stared at her in silence. He led her to his roadster and helped her in. They drove out of town on the Bartlett road. Louise looked up questioningly when abruptly he swung off the main highway onto an old dirt road. They penetrated into the woods, coming at length to a clearing, flooded now with silvery moonlight.

Don brought the roadster to a stop, switched off the lights and turned to face his companion. He stared at her for a long minute. At length he said: "Louise, you're beautiful. You've always been beautiful. I love you. Will you marry me?"

A reply was not necessary. Don was drawing her toward him. She yielded, face upturned. And at last she knew the delicious ecstasy of his warm lips crushing against hers.

He held her for long minutes. At length she drew away. Don's eyes devoured her hungrily. He kissed her again.

"Darling, I'm mad about you! It's been torture, knowing you were with other men—when I loved you so."

Suddenly Louise knew a sense of guilt. It hadn't been fair the way she had tricked him.

She turned and faced him squarely, prepared to confess. But before she could bring herself to speak, Don went on:

"Louise, precious, I have a confession to make. I must tell you. It's the only fair that I do." He paused. "Louise, I've loved you ever since we were kids together. I—I was afraid you'd never love me, and I wanted you to so much. I tried to make you think that I was interested in other girls. I played around a lot. I gave the impression that I was wild. I—I hoped that it would open your eyes; that it would make you jealous, make you love me. Yesterday I decided to tell you, decided I'd have a showdown. I couldn't go on. I just had to know—can you ever forgive me?"

Louise laid her head on his shoulder and sighed deeply. She looked up at the moon and knew a great feeling of happiness. "Yes, Don," she said softly. "Yes—kiss my darling."

Health Department News

Pre-School Clinics

Members of the District Health Department staff have attended meetings of the school superintendents, supervisors, principals, and first grade teachers in all three counties, recently, to plan for pre-school clinics during April and May. The purpose of these clinics are three-fold:—

1. To immunize children who will be entering the first grade this fall against smallpox, diphtheria, and whooping-cough, or to give them "booster" immunizations if necessary. State laws require these immunizations for all children entering school, and parents must furnish certificates of immunization to the school principal at the time the fall session begins.

2. To examine these children for physical defects—such as infected tonsils—which may need to be corrected before the child begins school, so that he or she will get off to a

good start.

3. To give the children some interesting and helpful school experiences, so that they will look forward to entering the first grade in the fall.

Parents are asked to bear in mind that the State law requires that a child be six years old on or before October 1 in order to enter school.

Pre-School Clinic Schedule

Yancey County

April 2—9 a. m. Burnsville; 1:30 p. m. Pensacola.

April 4—9 a. m. Micaville.

April 11—9 a. m. Colored School; 11 a. m. Double Island.

April 21—9 a. m. Clearmont.

April 28—9 a. m. Bald Creek.

May 5—9 a. m. South Toe River; 11 a. m. Seven Mile Ridge.

May 12—9 a. m. Bee Log; 11 a. m. Little Creek.

May 19—9 a. m. Price's Creek; 10:30 a. m. Bakers Creek.

SPORTS CORNER



HUG FROM HUBBY . . . In Norefjell, Norway, Andrea Mead Lawrence, Rutland, Vt., gets embrace from her husband, Dave, after she wins the woman's giant slalom to score the first victory for the United States in the 1952 winter Olympics.

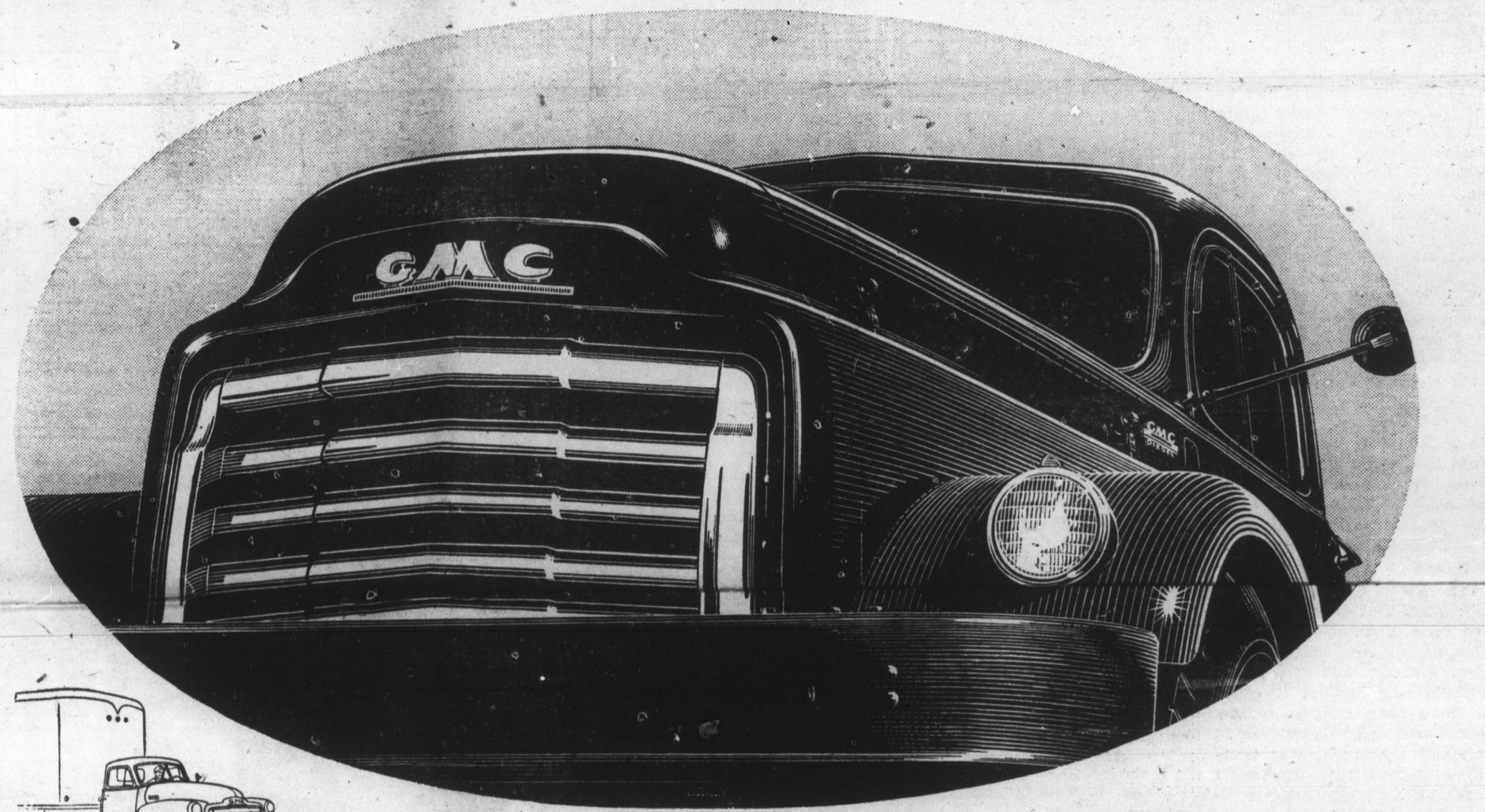
All in the Game:

HERE IS a growing feeling among baseball officials that there is too much night baseball. . . . Peace and goodwill in the Olympics is plentiful, but there are also a lot of rharbarbs between delegations to this world-wide event to promote peace and goodwill. . . . The Cleveland Browns will start their 1952 home season Sept. 28 against the Los Angeles Rams, the team that trimmed them in a playoff for the national football crown. . . . The University of Maryland has lost two of its 1952 grid hopefuls via the flunking route—both flunked zoology. . . . Ed Walsh of St. Louis, owner of the car in which Johnny Parsons won the 1950 Indianapolis Memorial Day race, has entered two cars in the 36th running of the event May 30. . . . Sammy Baugh will be associate coach at Hardin-Simmons U. at Abilene, Texas, this year, but his obligations to the Washington Redskins will come first. . . . The Pirates have bought seven players from the New Orleans Eagles.



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GARDEN TIME

ROBERT SCHMIDT
N. C. STATE COLLEGE

Each warm day this month will create that irresistible urge to get out into the garden to dig and plant. The time is at hand when most of the cool season vegetables should be in the ground if they are to get their growth before the hot weather checks them. In this group are cabbage, onions, mustard, kale turnips, lettuce, spinach, garden peas, kohlrabi, beets, carrots, asparagus, and Irish potatoes. Cauliflower and broccoli are cool season crops also but are susceptible to damage from heavy frosts and should not be planted as early as cabbage.

Onions may be started from seeds, sets, or green plants. For early green onions it is best to use sets or plants. Most of the onion plants for sale by seed stores are of the Spanish or Bermuda types. These are sweet onions but poor keepers after harvest. Dry sets are usually of the pungent domestic varieties and are commonly used for producing early green onions or mature onions for storage purposes. In buying onion sets

for the production of mature dry onions do not select large sets but rather the small to medium size. Sets that are over three-fourths of an inch in diameter will usually send up flower or seed stalks and will make a poor quality bulb. White sets are considered better for green onions because of the color, but yellow onions are better keepers as mature bulbs. For successful storage onions must be kept cool and dry.

In buying cabbage or lettuce plants for setting this month select plants that have not been over-hardened or that are not too large. Plants of this kind are apt to form flower stalks prematurely instead of forming a good quality head. Hotbed or cold-frame grown plants that have been protected from the most severe frosts are usually much better plants than those grown in unprotected field beds.

Good quality plants as well as seeds are necessary if you are to get a high quality product.

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