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Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

I fully believe as my Daddy taught me, that women make fine wives. I know, from reading various papers, that they spend some seventy per cent of the money that comes into the household. Yet, I don't know how in the world they do it. You take, for example, when I was down home there, just last week. I was sitting around the house, reading and minding my own business. Now some of my male readers may have noted, if they have been married over fifteen minutes, that there is one thing that pure galls a good wife more than anything else in the world, and that is for a husband to be contented with what he is doing, and that particular "what" does not include his ever-loving helpmeet. Particularly does it annoy these gals for a man to get reading something and be interested to the point that nothing exists but him and what he is reading.

Like I said in the beginning, I was sitting and reading. Now, years, that gives a wife a little more leeway that the Law might allow. By that, I mean she doesn't have to be subtle about any interruption she makes. A new Bride might take a seat behind her husband and make some loud sobbing noises. Then, when she had attracted his attention and he had enquired as to what was the matter, likely as not she would sob that he never talked to her, or that he was always reading, or something. Then she would accept the poor guy's apology for neglecting her. If he is a weak character, he probably stopped reading forever. Of course, after all these years, Blanche is less subtle but more efficient.

Blanche walked up to me and dropped my topcoat over my arms and the book I was reading and said "Rosetta and I are going shopping in Asheville, and I want her to see the nice place that you are taking us for lunch." Since it had been decided that I didn't care to read any more, I put on the coat and we drove to Asheville. As mentioned, the alleged prime purpose of the trip was "shopping." I figured this would get me a first-hand view of how the female gender spreads the income around and helps make the GNP, as the financial sheets refer to the Gross National Product.

I learned what they do. I watched them do it. You know what they do? They don't "do" anything. I swear they don't. Not only do they not do anything, they almost got me into trouble because I like to do things if the opportunity arises. We went into some store where an advertisement in the Sunday Asheville paper had proclaimed a multitude of great bargains were available. I walked around the aisles with those gals until my feet began to hurt. Then I lagged behind them a bit and ducked halfway

up a staircase, right where it made a turn. This position of advantage allowed me to rest against the bannister and watch my shoppers. Since it was a bit warm in the store. I removed my hat and topcoat. In just about one minute, a nice appearing old gentleman came to the head of the stairway and beckoned me, while he told me, in a commanding manner "I want to see you." So I walked up the steps to him. I knew I had never seen him before in my life. When I got to him, he asked "Where did my wife go?" Now this old gentleman was not the type to stand for any foolishness from a person he suspected was a floor-walker, so I smiled and said, "Third floor Sir." He never even bothered to thank me, so I returned to my own spot.

Before Blanche and Rosetta had decided to quit the store, I had the pleasure of directing people to various places, including the men's and the ladies' rooms. In the event any of them ed right as to the locations. The first one was an elderly lady who enquired of me the location of the "Percale" special sale. I pointed to the farthest corner of the store and assured the lady that the proper counter was there. She stated she had been there and had not seen any Percale, special or plain. At that point my shoppers were returning so I assured the old lady that some of our clerks hid stuff under the counters, and if she would go over and really fuss with the clerk, she would get her Percale.

The next port of call was Sears. Of all things, they had to look at some sewing machine that had been advertised. That really got me because I personally knew that each of them already had two sewing machines. While they looked at machines waiting for a salesman, I walked about and wondered what would happen if a man was to change the price tags from one to another. There I was with a problem. Unlike most problems, this one I could solve. So I changed 4 or 5 tags and about then, my gals came along with a salesman.

He was a good man. Personable as all get-out. He pointed out the bargain-priced machine but skipped it completely on a once-over-lightly and brought them to a higher priced machine where he extolled its virtues. All of a sudden, I realized that Blanche was close to buying one and having it sent over to the Hill. I had to cut in, I had no other out. So I complimented the gentleman on his sales ability. While he was thanking me, I stated "I think you are mixed-up though. This machine looks like the one advertised Sunday as the bargain." I made him check it. He had an odd look when I proved right. My shoppers decided against a purchase, and we left.



Frightening

Figures Of Fact

Statistics are usually cold and dry and very understanding, and a good figurer can use them to prove just about any point he'd like to make.

Let us pass these statistics by you one time: During 1966 - 1709 in North Carolina, 53,000 in the nation, Friends take another look. These are not just cold and dry statistics; they are the mangled and crushed bodies of people, people, run aground and killed on the streets and highways of this state and nation.

Be thankful you are not listed among these statistics. Be especially thankful, during this period of the nation-wide observance of Thanksgiving, for highway accidents are not respecters of race, religion, creed or economic levels. It takes you where it finds you and has been doing so with ever-increasing rapidity during recent years.

Highway accidents and deaths are a plague on our times, and no one has as yet found the cure for what ails us. The experts say highway safety is divided generally into three parts: engineering, education and enforcement.

Improving all three will certainly decrease the possibility of highway accidents; however, that's spinning generalities about generalities.

In recent weeks, Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ralph L. Howland has kicked off a get-tough enforcement policy aimed at the chronic traffic offenders, and the State Highway Patrol has been given an instrument called "VASCAR" - a new speed-timing device - and additional breathalyzers.

Okay! That means to be moving in the right direction, but there's still a missing factor - YOU.

You are the key to saving lives on the highways. Your actions and your deeds on the streets and the highways, not only over the Thanksgiving holiday, but for 365 days each year is what it will take to make the highways a safe place to travel again.

Enforcement can do part of the job as can engineering and education. However, only an aroused public determined not to commit suicide with a speedometer in one hand and a tie in the other can put the pleasure back in driving.

IT NEVER FAILS

Books Recently Acquired At Regional Library

By: Ashton Chapman

The Avery-Mitchell-Yancey Regional Library lists the following recently acquired books, which may be secured through the public libraries in Newland, Bakersville, Burnsville and Spruce Pine or the bookmobiles operated in the three counties.

CHRISTY by Catherine Marshall. The story of Mrs. Marshall's mother, who was a school teacher in a remote Tennessee mountain community, told in the first person. A powerfully moving book of great depth with real answers to man's deepest needs.

HARRY MARTIN'S WIFE by Elizabeth Corbett. The time is the late 1930s in New York's Greenwich Village. It is the story of a woman's sorrow, borne quietly and in the end transcended.

BY-LINE: ERNEST HEMINGWAY edited by William White. An authority in the field of journalism gives the reader a generous and representative collection of Hemingway's best work as a reporter.

A KILLING FROST by Sylvia Wilkinson. Against a background of late fall in rural North Carolina are portrayed two very vivid women, Ramie Hopkins, 13, and her grandmother, who keeps her age a secret.

GRIZZLY COUNTRY. A many-sided view of the grizzly bear and the world in which he lives, by a noted guide, hunter-naturalist and photographer, Andy Russell.

TARBELL'S TEACHER'S GUIDE TO THE INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS for 1968, edited by Frank S. Mead. Acclaimed by all denominations using these lessons.

THE INTERNATIONAL LESSON MANUAL FOR 1968 edited by Horace R. Weaver. Representing the best in scholarship and interpretation, this is a comprehensive commentary, using both the King James and the Revised Standard Versions of the Bible.

EISENHOWER: CAPTIVE HERO by Marquis Childs. A critical study of the General and the President; vivid, comprehensive and discerning.

ROBERT FROST by Philip L. Gerber. A detailed treatment not only of the poetry but of the poet's complicated relations with his contemporaries.

THE LAWRENCEVILLE STORIES of Owen Johnson, complete in one volume. At the time of the original publication, George Ade called these "the on-

ly real prep school stories ever written."

SOMETHING TO READ by Leonard Wibberly. A personal selection from his writings by this thoughtful and humorous man.

NOTHING MORE TO DECLARE by John Clellan Holmes. A provocative, personal summation of the men and ideas that made his literary generation.

THE PURLOINED PAPERWEIGHT by P. G. Wodehouse. A perfect petpourri of happy humor, loopy lovable characters and incredible plot complications.

SILVERHILL by Phyllis A. Whitney. A novel of mounting suspense, set against the exotic background of a house no reader will ever forget, its terrible secrets held until the final breath-taking scene.

AN ORNAMENTAL NECESSITY. A moving and thought-provoking novel by Gwyn Griffin. Every reader will be challenged and overwhelmed by the author's incisive exploration of crime and punishment.

PAINTING WITH CRAYONS by Norman Laliterte and Alex Mongelen, with many pictures. This amazing guide introduces the beginner and student, as well as the nature artist and teacher, to the full range of crayon painting and drawing.

MAKING CERAMICS by L's and Hans Ludkvist. An easy style, with a wealth of step-by-step photos, permits amateurs really to enjoy the text which contains so much practical information. The professional potter looking for new ideas will be interested.

TEACHING AN INFANT TO SWIM by Virginia Hunt Newman, with many photos. A distinguished swimming instructor explains fully and clearly her methods for teaching complete water safety to infants aged eight months and up.

MICHEL, MICHEL by Robert Lewis. The unflinching suspense, the generosity of feeling that embraces men and women of conflicting ideals, the loving and whole portrayal of a child at the center of an emotional storm, combine to make a novel which will command the deep engagement and admiration of its readers.

TO BE A MAN by William Decker. A documentary novel, a touching tribute to the sort of man and the code he lived by which is imbedded in the American grain but which is no longer a visible part of American society.