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Cuz's Corner By Bagley Singing In The Washtub

There's nothing in his world I wouldn't do for you. That is a line from a song that I wish you all could hear me sing. I can still sing it so pretty. For some reason I happened to think of that song the other day and I sang it over and over. That was the only part of the song I could remember. Did you ever do that?

I didn't really mean that about wishing you could hear me sing. While I was serious about how pretty I can sing I had rather nobody heard me. I've gotten so that I don't want anybody listening to my singing. You see, I used to sing a lot, especially in the bathtub, but I had to quit it. Every time I would start singing my dog would begin howling like she was sitting on a cocklebur. She would howl so loud that she would get me off key and when that happened 1'd just have to hush.

Talking about singing in the bathtub; that is something I sure didn't do when I was growing up. Reason I didn't, well, there were several. First of all, we didn't have one to sing in or bathe in either. Another was that I didn't spend enough time bathing to ever get any song singing done. What we had for this bathing business was a No. 3 washtub and I never could get comfortable enough in it to feel like singing much. And, besides, I never would have enough water in the tub to bring on a singing mood. You see, I had to draw the water out of the deepest well in the country and that was why I could take a bath in just one bucket of water. I'm pretty sure I could have gotten clean - well, clean enough for me, in

only half a bucket, but I never could figure how I could draw just that much out of the well. We used to have what we

called a wash-house. It served several purposes. Clothes got washed in it and youngans, too. It also housed our well. I

reckon we could have called it our well-house just as good but since there was so much washing went on in it that is what we had it named.

With Mama cleanliness was almost an obsession. She didn't m ever to take into consideration how far that water had to come out of the ground, nor how much I had to draw every day for the cows, horses, hogs, and a certain amount for us people. Why, I can remember her making me take as high as two all-over

baths in one week. She used to remind me that cleanliness was next to Godliness. But if I had to draw up more than one bucket of water to bathe in I sure didn't have that righteous feeling, either before or after a bath. I never will forget one

particular bath I had. As usual Mama insisted that I had to have an all-over bath. So, off to the wash-house I went. After I got there I happened to think of the watering trough that was nearly plumb full of water. It seemed like a powerful good idea. I just crawled through an opening in the wall and into that watering trough. The water was so warm and I decided, then and there, where I would take all future baths. That is, in he summertime, when I couldn't get to the creek. And I couldn't for the life of me, imagine why I hadn't thought of this before.

Mama was well pleased with that particular bath, and so was I. I had really washed good, Mama said.

OUTDOORS

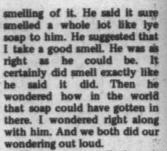
Next morning Papa called me out in the barn lot. Said he wanted me to look at the water in the horse trough. I did. It was kinda milky looking. He said none of the stock would drink it. and he wondered if I had any idea what had gotten

into it to turn it such a color. I confessed that I was s puzzled as he was. Then he made a big show of scooping up some of the water in his hands and

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parlance.



When we got all through doing his wondering he said to me, "Now, if you honestly don't know how that soap in there, then I will dip all that out, clean the trough, and fill it with fresh water. Otherwise I suggest that you get busy with

Now when Papa made a suggestion. . .

It took thirty buckets of water to refill the trough. And during the time I was fighting that old windlass I said some pretty mean things to Papa's oldest boy about leaving soap in the bath water. And to think I could have gotten a bath simply by drawing only one bucket of water! I also made a solid vow that in the future I just wouldn't take any chances with hat soap deal by not using any of the dang stuff.

I sure wish I could remember the rest of that song. I have sung that one line til I'm getting sick of it.

Veterans Corner

Q. For some time I have had the Veterans Administration retain my G.I., insurance dividends, but I just got a letter saying I should apply for reinstatement of my policy. I know that I have enough dividends to cover the premium due. What happened?

A. With your present option, the dividends you have left on deposit with VA do. draw interest. However, they are like a bank account; the VA cannot use these dividends to pay your G.I. insurance premiums without your permission. To insure that your policy will not lapse in the future, you should change your dividend option to provide that dividends will be used to pay the insurance premiums in advance, as they accrue. You will be furnished a statement each time dividends are applied, letting you know how far ahead you are paid, when the next premium is due, and the amount of any partial credit left over.

Q. I am told that my nonservice-connected pension payment will be increased soon. When will I receive my increased payments?

A. The VA nonservice nected pension program was restructed effective Jan. 1, 1969. Approximately 1.2 million beneficiaries under this program will receive increased payments also went into effect Jan. 1, so if you qualify for an increase, you should receive your higher pension check around Feb. 1.

brightened an otherwi champions.

mist fell from low-hanging clouds and brisk easterly winds churned the sea less than 500 yards from the spot where Lane Holt released eight beagles into a dense growth of dune grass and myrtle bushes. Holt and his father, Dan, who own the beagle pack, do not have to go far from home to find rabbits.

"Why, the dunes are full of 'em," the elder Holt had told me. And so they were, I soon discovered.

Less than five minutes after the dogs were turned loose they were on a track. It continued that way all morning, one race after another, until the mist turned to rain and we called off the dogs and went in.

The beagles ran at least 15 rabbits, although we bagged only five. Considering the dense cover it was surprising we killed any. But the caterwauling that ensues when beagles are "on the line" is what the game is all about. Shooting is merely a poor method for keeping score.

Dune bunnies are not cottontails but marsh rabbits. That may seem like a small point, but to beagles and hunters there is a world of difference.

"Marsh rabbits really test a dog," Lane told me as we stood atop a dune listening to the "music." "Cottontails get way out in front of the pack and usually run a more or less straigt course. But marsh rabbits change direction so often it takes a good dog to stay with them.

I saw this demonstration time and again. The pack would be giving voice on a hot trail when suddenly, and all together, they would stop On the occasions barking. when I could see the dogs, I watched them cast about for the lost trail, every nose close to the ground. Invariably one would pick it up again, begin to bark, or "open" as they say, and the others would follow.

Major, Boogie, and Little Sportsman, all famous

"I think we have come as far as we can in improving our pack," Dan said proudly "It's doubtful that any better dogs exist."

is called "checking" in dog

The Holt beagles can boast

of an aristocratic family tree.

They are related to Dixie

Even a novice could see that the pack trailed exceptionally well. Only once, while running the first rabbit of the morning, did the dogs lose the scent and fail to find it. "They are sometimes too excited on the

first rabbit," Lane said. "Makes 'em careless.'

Most of the pack are veteran hunters, but two pups still have a few things to learn. From time to time the younger dogs would bound through the grass, leaping over obstacles, in order to catch up with the older dogs. Whenever Lane could reach the guilty pup he would swat it with this hat. "They'll learn to keep their noses on the ground before long," he said.

The number of rabbits and amount of sign in the dunes was surprising. There were large areas where the grass had been pressed flat from lounging bunnies. Cuttings littered the ground and droppings were everywhere.

"We have plenty rabbits," Lane said, "because there are no foxes on the island." Carolina Beach is located on an island because a section of the Intracoastal Waterway between Myrtle Sound and the Cape Fear River cuts off the tip of a peninsula that otherwise would be connected to the mainland.

The marsh grass supports so many rabbits that the dogs sometimes would run across a trail just as fresh as the one they were following. But after a moments hesitation, they would start merrily off again on one of the tracks.

There are some marsh islands north of Carolina Beach Inlet that are just thick with rabbits," Dan said. "We send the dogs into the cover and stand on the surrounding dunes. When he rabbits pop out onto the sand, we usually get a shot."

Wife May Sign When Husband Is In Vietnam

GREENSBORO, N. C.-Wives of servicemen serving in Vietnam may file a joint return without their husband's signature on the tax return. The wife should indicate in the space provided for her husband's signature on the return that he is in military

service in Vietnam. Refunds on such returns

will be expedited. However, J. E. Wall, District Director, says that all income and all withholding statements of both husband and wife must be included in the return before it may be processed as a joint return.

Wall requested wives of servicemen serving in Vietnam to make sure that their husbands' Forms W-2 are attached to the joint return, and that all income of both is

included on the return. Wall also stated that the wife of a serviceman in Vietnam may elect not to file a joint return until the due date for her husband's tax return which is 180 days after leaving Vietnam or 180 days after confinement to an overseas hospital in which he was recuperating from wounds or illness resulting from service in

The wife is also entitled to file a separate return and then file an amended joint return later if it is to her and her husband's advantage to do so.