

THE FLIGHT OF A SPARROW

JOHN J. SYNOR

The day I met the lady I married I was wearing a pair of khaki britches — standing in the middle of my wardrobe.

That was a long time ago, and for many of the years that came after my station in economic life was little better, a cut above the thread bare.

As I mull over those years, recall the aversities and the disappointments I knew. I marvel I didn't chuck the whole thing.

I say that because I am no means a strong man; weakness put me in khaki.

Yet, I didn't chuck it. Instead, I worked, without much plan, at whatever the day brought. Relying, I suppose, on the basic justice of life. What else was there to do, if a person was not to make a shambles of another's trust?

My life, during the late 40s on into the 50s was a life of bluff and shy hope. I was without formal education worth the name, I had no trade, no profession, no nothing, not even a healthy body, only a mind that sometimes worked. Not much.

Except the lady. The lady was there each day, every day, all day — and all night. In those early years when fear of failure would grip me in garish nightmare, I would awaken in a chattering sweat and always on my shoulder there would be the pat of solace and the word: "It's all right."

And nothing would go back to sleep.

In time God sent the girls. And sometimes I would wonder what in the world would come of them—and of the lady, dependent as they were on a reed whose weakness they could not suspect. And whenever a

practical realization of their slight chances came into focus, I would rush to my work, almost frantic.

Maybe tomorrow, I would mumble, but it's not going to happen today! And it didn't happen that day nor did it happen the next.

I prayed, first, to live long enough for the tykes to remember their father. And then I prayed for time enough, courage enough, to see them through their schooling.

And God heard. But God not only listens, I learned. He also talks. Not talk, right out, you understand, but the sort of talk that is born in a man's mind — the meaning of equity. One asks the Almighty only for the opportunity to do: For the muscle, the axe and the woodpile. Life, I learned, is a do-it-yourself — with God's help.

Your Honor, I place in evidence Exhibits A, B, and C; the lady and the girls.

You will recall my promise, made so long ago from the bowels of a towboat on San Francisco Bay; in return for mortal strength I would thereafter, do the best I could do. You remember. These exhibits, then, are offered as the fulfillment of that promise. Whether they represent the best I could have done, You, Sir, as the Judge, will know. They are what I have done.

Was it Design that placed the lady there, that day so long ago, or chance? I rather think it wasn't chance at all. Nor chance that I was there. Certainly I am the equal of a sparrow. And that, I think, is the answer.

Jaycees, making individual contributions during their years of membership and becoming imbued with the high ideals expressed in the Jaycee Creed, which is as follows:

We believe: That faith in God gives meaning and purpose to human life;

That the brotherhood of man transcends the sovereignty of nations;

That economic justice can best be won by free men through free enterprise;

That government be of laws rather than of men;

That earth's great treasure lies in human personality;

And that service to humanity is the best work of life.

This valuable creed summarizes the faith and confidence the Jaycees have in God, in humanity, and in America.

The principles enunciated in the Jaycee Creed are truly the foundation stones upon which our state and nation were built. They are the foundation stones of every community which wants to move ahead.

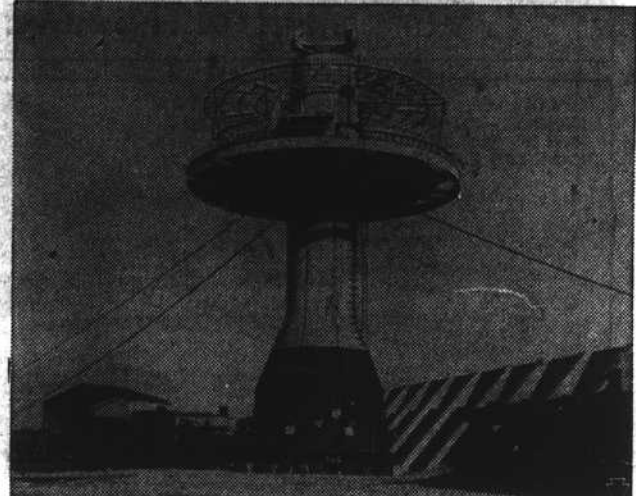
Though we seem to live in an age of negative thinkers, the Jaycees are refreshingly positive in their efforts to upgrade our society. At a time when far too many in our society advocate change through force and destruction and spend most of their time criticising, the Jaycees stand firm for progress and enlightenment through constructive action

The Jaycees are a fine example for all to follow — both young and old alike. They are not content to rest easy, but strive always for improvement in the quality of life, not just for themselves but for all Americans.

Let us be grateful for these young men, more than 300,000 — who constantly plan and work to make all of our communities better places in which to live and work.

I am proud to salute the Jaycees of North Carolina and the nation. I wish them every success in the years ahead and am confident that they will go on to even greater successes in their second fifty years.

Underwater Observation Tower



By mid-March, when Expo '70 is in full swing near Osaka, Japan, an underwater observation tower will be operating in Shirahama, a popular hot-spring resort a hundred miles to the south. Visitors will reach the tower by monorail and then descend into the observation area to enjoy a breathtaking view of myriads of brilliantly-colored fish swimming in their natural habitat.

The 64-foot tall tower is being erected 300 feet offshore on a foundation of solid rock. The observation room about 20 feet below sea level is encircled with windows. Lights will be placed in the ocean floor to provide easy viewing, day or night. The entire project is costing about \$350,000.

The Hitachi Shipbuilding and Engineering Company, builder of the underwater tower, has already received orders from six other Japanese coastal resorts and Singapore. Inquiries have come from Hawaii and Florida and from as far away as Turkey and Israel.

SENATOR SAM ERVIN SAYS



Confronted with a new national mood and changing priorities, the President's State of the Union Address eloquently presented the challenges of the new decade. The Address, how-

ever, did not blueprint proposed solutions to our problems. The Chief Executive said he would propose his remedies in a dozen or more special messages. Continued on page 4

Congressman L. H. Fountain Pays Tribute to Work of Jaycees

Last week I had the privilege of paying tribute in the House of Representatives to an outstanding group of young men who have given intelligent and profound thought to human need and to the building of a better world.

I have reference to the United States Jaycees who celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of their great service organization.

The young men of America organized the Jaycees because of their great yearning to serve, to grow, to learn, and to exemplify the true meaning of the brotherhood of men.

Organized on a national basis in 1920, the Jaycees, then titled "U. S. Junior Chamber of Commerce," grew at a phenomenal rate.

Our young men quickly recognized the worthwhile qualities of this new organization and flocked to join. By 1930 there were 15,000 members; by 1940, 64,000; by 1950, 124,000; and 200,000 by 1960. In 1970, there are over 300,000 Jaycees holding membership in 6,400 chapters all across our state and nation.

The Jaycees are a valuable national resource. Hundreds of thousands of young men working together for the highest and finest goals constitute a tremendous force for good in our so-

ciety. We must remember, too, that over two million men have passed through membership in the

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