

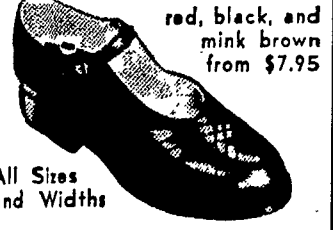
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At Our House

Yardbird

By MARY TINLEY DALY

The Man Who Takes Care of Our Yard, known to readers of this column as the Head of the House, has unique ways with his outdoor chores.

Having an undisputed monopoly on the domain, front, back and two side yards, he may do as he will, experiment to his heart's content, with no word of criticism or complaint leveled at even the most bizarre operations.

And bizarre they have been, over the years.

A long time ago, someone told him, or he read, that grass should be allowed to grow long and go to seed every now and then. This made it strong, was "Nature's way" of getting rid of weeds, was along the line of the hybrid early testings, or something like that. He likes to experiment and, frankly, does get a bit bored with traditional ways of gardening.

"Anybody can cut grass," I remember him saying that summer, "and if letting it grow will be an innovation, I'm all for innovating."

THIS WAS an innovation unappreciated by his children, a conservative lot in their young days.

"Daddy, our yard is a perfect disgrace," reprimanded the spokesman. "There isn't a place on the block that looks as seedy as ours. If you won't cut it, can't we take a crack at the job? The neighbors will be complaining."

"Then the neighbors haven't been keeping up with the latest," was the instantaneous rejoinder. "Haven't they heard of hybrid corn? And of African hybrid grass?"

The "African" bit was new, one I think he made up on the spur of the moment, but it satisfied the children, even gave them a certain cockiness, obviously. Upshot of that one was that dozens of neighborhood children, with permission of the Lord of the Manor, removed whole sections of sod: "Take it off the terrace, boys."

The terrace taken care of, the innovation seemed to lose its novelty and our grass got a harboring, same as everybody else's.

Along about that time came the "dogwood deal," an attempt to prove that a dogwood tree need not grow crooked, a trait that unorthodox minded I had always believed inherent in the species. If planted in the sun, maintained our gardener,

sun hitting it on north, south, east and west, it would be bound to grow straight. Only place where this desideratum could be achieved was right smack in the middle of the back yard. It interfered with the clothes lines, but the dogwood grew straight!

Then there is the fig tree, almost as monopolizing of the front yard as the dogwood is of the back.

WHEN IT CAME, ordered from a catalogue, it was a tender little wisp of a branch, with no assurance that it would grow and flourish in a climate as far north as ours.

That was the challenge! Remembering a fig tree that had been in his boyhood yard, in southern Virginia, the Head of the House was determined that if tender, loving care could preserve life, T.L.C. would be administered in massive doses.

It was. Like a premature baby in an incubator, like a tiny puppy in a heated bed, that little wisp was sheltered from the wind, was mulched, fertilized, watered and watched, even covered over on cold nights during its first winter. And, like a premature who becomes a 250 pound prize fighter, like a tiny puppy grown into a German shepherd, the "wisp" has attained a height of six feet, a diameter of five, and bears delicious fruit.

Challenge met, Yardbird vindicated.

Figs and tomatoes are our gardener's chief contribution to foodstuffs, the latter not ordinary red tomatoes but the yellow cocktail type. My own gardening runs to the more pie-bean string beans and radish class. So, too, my ideas of outdoor chores fall into the category of just plain hard work.

Snow is to be shoveled, grass to be cut, leaves to be raked. The Yardbird used his imagination and modern shortcuts: an electric mower, a chemical for removing snow.

LEAVES, however, had him baffled. Disliking the job, nevertheless he has raked and burned them year after year.

Until this fall! Now he has discovered an automatic mulcher, attached it to the electric mower and goes blithely up and down the yard as the contrivance chews up the leaves and the rain carries them into the earth.

So, he whistles while he works - even at leaves.



Fashion Show Set

YOUNG MATRONS GROUP of the Catholic Club will present a luncheon and fashion show at the Rochester Club Tuesday, Nov. 13, at 12:30 p.m. in cooperation with Flah's of Pittsford Plaza. Mrs. Daniel Kennedy and Mrs. Gerard Weins are shown with two of the fashions to be shown. Reservations are available by calling Mrs. Paul McNamara at GR 3-8362.

Memorial Service Listed At Geneva KC Home

Geneva—Annual memorial service of Geneva Council, Knights of Columbus will be at 4 p.m. Sunday in the K. of C. Home on Milton St. The program will include the living Rosary by the members of the Council, and prayers for the dead by the clergy.

FATHER NOLAN will preach the eulogy for the dead. The St. Stephen's Choir will participate in the service.

Grand Knight Richard Walsh has appointed Past Grand Knight Michael J. McDonald to head the committee on arrangements.

The committee includes Bernard Lynch, Alfred Heffernan, John Hart, Jr., Anthony Pieroni, Oilliam Dougherty, Joseph LaVolo, Frank Cassanta, Thomas Gallagher, Frank Mantell, Bernard DiDuro, Chris DeWall and Kenneth Fisher.

In addition to Grand Knight Walsh, all officers of the Council will take part in the service.

Members of the Geneva Council who died during the past year are Leo J. LeBrun, Patrick J. Murphy, Francis J. Mooney, Chris M. Nielson and Frank Brennan.

U.S. Marines Birthday The 187th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps will be celebrated in Rochester Saturday, November 10, with a Birthday Ball at Midtown Plaza Auditorium.

About 200 couples composed of Marines and Marine Reserves will be in attendance at the function which will begin with a reception followed by a buffet supper and the dance at 9:30 p.m. Kenny Unwin and his Danvers, Mass., reveal that for every 828 Japanese Catholics there is one seminarian studying for the priesthood, the highest rate in the world.

Recent statistics on the Catholic population of Japan, reported by Father William J. Eggleston, M.M., a missionary from the Rochester Musicians Association.

Talk It Over

Right and Wrong

By ANNE CULKIN

Dear Miss Culkin:

I attended a Catholic high school for twelve years. During the last two years of high school, we had a priest teach us religion a few times a week. Now maybe I misunderstood, but there is so much that confuses me concerning what is right and what is wrong.

For instance - is it a sin to kiss a boy, to go to a drive-in or amusement parks, to single date, to talk about anyone even though you don't like them? I have been very nervous and have been going to the doctor for pills. I've been so mixed up about so much. I used to go home to my mom in tears.

My mother said: "You're level-headed enough to know right from wrong." But I can't help thinking of it and getting nervous about it. I never or very rarely date because I'm afraid to be with boys. I know so many girls don't think the way I do, but I just have to be sure. Please print your answers to

Liz

Dear Liz:

My feeling is that you definitely did misunderstand Father on at least a few of the points mentioned in your letter. It is for that reason it is strongly recommended you seek out another priest in or outside the confessional for a clarification of what troubles you most.

In the meantime, know that the Church does not teach that it is a sin to kiss a boy if the kiss is nothing more than an affectionate kiss nor does the Church teach that it is a sin in itself to go to a Drive-In theatre. The fact that it can prove to be an occasion for sin is the reason why the practice of it among young people is discouraged.

It could be, too, that for that very reason Father also discouraged students from frequenting a particular amusement park if he had learned that it did not provide wholesome recreation which the average amusement park certainly does provide!

As for single dating, the younger boy and girl (freshman-sophomore) is told to be one of a mixed group instead of one of a twosome for several reasons. The more important one being to avoid moral dangers. The stupidity of the practice is secondary but important enough to be mentioned.

But, once again, the Church does not teach that single dating is in itself a sin. Now your last point you may have understood correctly. For it is true that the law of Charity forbids our talking and pointing out the human frailties and sins of other people who, to quote you, Liz, you don't like.

If you have been graduated from high school and you are not dating because you have no desire to date, you have no reason for concern. But if you are not dating because you have a fear of what you think the church teaches but in reality does not teach, then there is good reason for concern and you should do something constructive about it. And this you will do only when you direct your questions to a priest and allow him to personally give you the answers.



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Lebanon And The Irish Of The East

THE MARONITES OF LEBANON ARE NOTED FOR THEIR FAITH. They have always kept in union with the Holy See. The late Monsignor Thomas McMahon, Director of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association loved to refer to them as the "Irish of the East" for their steadfastness in faith. He wrote a pamphlet on them which has been in great demand over the years...



The Holy Father's Mission Aid for the Oriental Church but great courage. There are only 200 of these Maronites in a village of 500 persons. Their neighbors are Mussulmen, followers of Mohammed. The poor Maronites have managed to build the church but it needs plastering, flooring and furnishings before it is worthy of the celebration of the Divine Mystery of the Holy Mass. They need \$1,500 desperately to finish the work. Can you help? Send any amount and please send it now.

DO YOU DREAM OF VISITING THE HOLY LAND? A TRIP TO THE HOLY LAND? Perhaps some day this dream may be a reality for you. Travel today is swift and much less expensive than it used to be... Do you imagine yourself seeing the Holy Places where Christ trod the bitter way to Calvary... standing on the hill where He wept over Jerusalem? Meantime, you can make a spiritual pilgrimage by helping someone in the Holy Land today... You can help train a native priest or sister. \$2 a week will pay a seminarian's expenses; \$3 a week takes care of a young sister-in-training... The future priest must study six years (Total cost: \$600); the sister takes two years (Total cost: \$300)... The one you help can write to you and this personal relationship will make the Holy Places more vivid. Then too you will participate in their graces. How much gained for so small a sacrifice... A movie missed, a simpler meal, and yet what tremendous benefits!

EASTERN RITE STUDY CLUBS THE BEAUTIFUL CEREMONIES and age-old traditions of the Eastern Rites are becoming very widely known and loved by our Latin Rite Catholics in America. Maybe you belong to a group studying these Rites. In one city we know of one such group that sings in Russian and Arabic, helping out in different churches and chapels when called upon. Would you like literature on the Eastern Rites? Our organization has the special work of aiding the priests and sisters of those Rites in the countries of the Near East. Just send us your name and address or the name of your group.

WAYS TO BE THANKFUL THIS THANKSGIVING PALESTINE REFUGEES: \$10 will feed a refugee family for a month. SEND MASS STIPEND. Often this is the missionary's only means of support. JOIN A DOLLAR-A-MONTH CLUB. Damien Leper Club; Orphan's Bread Club; Palace of Gold Club (supports aged); Mary's Bank (trains sisters); Chrysothem Club (trains seminarians); Basilians (supports schools); Monica Guild (supplies chalices, altars, etc.) JOIN THE CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION. Individual membership: \$1 a year; \$5 for family. REMEMBER OUR ORGANIZATION IN YOUR WILL

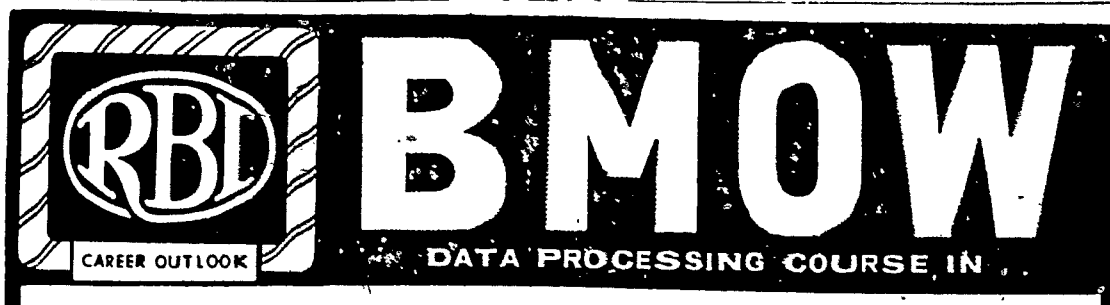
Dear Monsignor Ryan: Enclosed find for Name Street City Zone State

Near East Missions FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President Mrs. Joseph T. Ryan, Nat'l Sec'y Send all contributions to: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION 480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St., New York 17, N.Y.



Golden Jubilee

DR. AND MRS. THOMAS BRENNAN of Geneva, lifelong residents of that city recently observed their golden wedding anniversary. Mass was said in St. Stephen's church after which dinner and reception were held at Belhurst Castle. (P. B. Oakley Photo)



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