

BRENNON LONGED FOR A HOME

By FANNIE HURST

Twenty-five years is a long time to be heart, bone, and fiber part of a business, and then at the end of it feel frustration. That however was the case with Charles Brennon, superintendent, proprietor, manager, and general manager of the Hotel Savoy, the first-rate hotel of a city of considerably over two hundred thousand inhabitants.

Brennon had personally built up his hotel to its important proportions, dividing it successfully into two sections: The Annex, or family wing, and the hotel proper, which invited the patronage of transients and those who were availing themselves of the town's famous curative waters, which were renowned for their medicinal qualities.

And so it happened that the Savoy catered to three distinct groups. Families, Commercial men and women, Rheumatic patients. One might have thought that such variety of patronage would have lent interest and even glamour to Brennon's role of hotel man, and in a way it did, yet this same fact in itself was a factor in the ultimate sense of frustration that time and again, as he grew older and more deeply entrenched in his work, swept and depressed him.

What struck most painfully into the sense of loneliness which was more and more oppressing him in his daily life among the crowd, was the fact that of all the hundreds who daily milled in and out of his hostelry; lived there; entertained there; dined there; wined there, he alone seemed the homeless one. He alone, among all the coming and going, seemed to be the one who was neither coming nor going. Even the families in the Annex were usually there on a temporary basis; awaiting the completion of a new home; pending a marriage; taking a year off between changes of permanent address.

In fact, it was the families in the Annex that contributed most of all to the growing unrest that was Brennon's. The unit of these little groups was so snug. Even sitting around with them of an evening in the lobby and then seeing them troop off together to their rooms, their suites, their apartments, gave him that cold alien sense he was more than ever beginning to dread. Husbands and wives trailing off together. Brothers and sisters bantering their way up to bed. Pairs of people sharing the intimacies of family life; of domestic life. Then, in the commercial and transient wings, men and women on their way to homes. Men and women eager for mail from homes, anxious to get back to domestic groups; awaited at some remote point by eager loved ones.

Then Brennon himself, doomed, as he was beginning to put it, to the impersonal detached existence of the hotel. When Brennon went to his rooms nights there was the paraphernalia of hotel. Bed turned down by impersonal chambermaid hands. Night light turned on by those same employed hands. Carafe of hotel water. Bowl of hotel flowers. Cold. Impersonal. And all under the same roof. Families waiting to tuck themselves into homes. Transients eager to return to homes.

Twenty-five years of hotel life had made something of a self-pitiful out of Brennon. He felt sorry over the cold detached quality of his existence. He felt left out. Left over. Chilled.

But it was not until after twenty-five years of it that consciously he began to set about doing something about it. Well-off in worldly goods by now, content within his own mind that he had proved himself capable of success, thought of retirement now began to grip him. Retirement and, at fifty-three, a suddenly flourishing hope and ambition for marriage.

Into a life peculiarly unremarkable where women were concerned, this new phase entered, taking him by storm. In his success and maturity, Brennon wanted marriage and domesticity; domesticity as far removed as possible from the lobby, the grillroom, or the thoroughfare.

The Brennons chose a house on one of the private, restricted, residential streets of the town, furnished it to the Queen's and their own tastes, created a garden about it, stocked their garage with cars, hired servants, and set about the delightful business of making their house a home in every sense of the word.

And the new Mrs. Brennon had a knack. Under her firm and authentic touch, the home took on life, so to speak. In all his previous frustrated dreams, Brennon admitted to himself, he had never quite succeeded in visualizing the kind of perfection this woman brought to the creating of a home.

Privacy, lovely furnishings, small personal touches of flowers in bowls arranged by her; color schemes worked out according to her knowledge of his taste; the bed folded back by her loving hands because she knew the way he liked his pillows plied. Sentimental, if you will, but where his new happiness was concerned, Brennon was unashamedly that.

It was not until after five years of their cloudless marriage that Brennon and his wife took their first trip out into the world which flowed about this home. They went to a city some four hundred miles removed from theirs, there to enjoy the theaters and concerts of the larger metropolis.

It was while they were at the Grand hotel there and enjoying what they were pleased to call their second honeymoon, that the opportunity to purchase the hostelry at an absurdly low price literally fell into Brennon's lap.

At first the idea was preposterous and both he and his wife turned willing backs upon the entire idea. But strangely, in the case of both of them, the idea simply would not be downed. After all, the new Mrs. Brennon had lived fourteen years in the light and glamour of hotel life and there was something about it—something about it—

As for Brennon, he was the old racehorse pawing the turf. Time and time again he turned his face away, only to scent back again, hypnotized.

The inevitable happened. For seven years Brennon and his wife have occupied a six-room suite in their hotel, the Grand. During that time the institution has more than tripled its patronage and its success redounds to the credit of Brennon.

Meanwhile, he and his wife promise themselves, with optimism, that one of these days they will turn their backs on the shallowness of hotel life, and really create themselves a home.

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All Comforts of Home for Washington Snakes

An elaborate new reptile house, embodying "all the comforts of home" for snakes, has been formally opened at the National Zoological park in Washington.

There, in glass-fronted cages, the public can observe reptiles of the world under the most favorable conditions. In each case the vegetation, temperature, humidity and light of its occupants' natural habitat has been carefully simulated.

The building is of Spanish design, and its opening brought fulfillment to Dr. William Mann's dreams of many years, according to the United Press. He has supervised personally every detail of its construction in his capacity as zoo director.

The temperature in each cage will be controlled by individual thermostats. Thus a rattlesnake will be provided the mild warmth of summer in the north, a boa constrictor will delight in the humid heat of the tropics, and lizard will have the 100-degree temperature of the sun-baked Arizona desert.

Not only will this safeguard the reptiles' health (snakes are as subject to pneumonia as men), but they will be much more interesting to watch. Most snakes in captivity are sluggish because the temperature is too low. Heat makes them lively.

Another health measure is the installation of special glass in many of the skylights over the cages, so the reptiles may have a daily quota of ultra-violet rays. Their diet is watched carefully, too, and in some of the second-story rooms of the building a "commissary department" has been arranged. Flies, baby chickens and guinea pigs will be raised there to suit the taste of the most fastidious snake.

The public's welfare has been as well taken care of as that of the reptiles. The ventilation systems of the cages and the rest of the building are distinctly separate.

No Waiting

"My girl gave me a surprise last night when I called to take her out to a dance," said Simpson.

Life and Habits of Pocket Gopher

The Growing of Leguminous Crops Make Life Easy for Little Rodent.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

"Habits and Economic Status of the Pocket Gopher" is the title of a new technical bulletin just issued by the United States Department of Agriculture. The author, Theo. H. Scheffer, is an associate biologist of the bureau of biological survey stationed at Puyallup, Wash., and has had many years' experience making scientific observations of pocket gophers and other rodents, especially in their relation to agriculture.

Rodents Widely Distributed.
"The extent to which pocket gophers affect the interests of agriculture is becoming more apparent each year," says the new bulletin. "Scarcely any group of native rodents is more widely distributed in the United States, and certainly none has shown more readiness to adapt itself to the changed conditions introduced in its habitat by the farmer. The growing of such crops as alfalfa and clover has made life easy for the pocket gopher, since these plants furnish an abundant food supply in their roots and are usually maintained on the same ground for a period of years. Reclamation of desert lands also has furnished new food supplies and harbor for these rodents and has assisted their local wanderings." Such changes have favored the pocket gopher's rapid increase in many agricultural sections until, according to the bulletin, it has become one of the most destructive mammal pests of the country.

The bulletin discusses the appearance and general habits of pocket gophers, their disposition and senses, the sounds they make, the burrows they dig and the mounds they pile up, their active seasons, and their breeding habits. Sections also are devoted to the food of these rodents, their natural enemies, and their damage to agricultural crops, including alfalfa and clover, natural grasses, root crops, horticultural crops, irrigated crops, and pasture and range forage.

Control of Gopher.
As for the control of the pocket gopher, the bulletin suggests that this is not extremely difficult but requires persistence and co-operative effort. Details of control methods are not discussed, but it is stated that the methods tested and variously employed include fumigation of the burrows of the pocket gopher, trapping with especially designed traps, shooting and poisoning, all either individually on single premises or in general campaigns of community co-operation.

Copies of the new publication, Technical Bulletin 224-T, may be obtained at 10 cents each from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C.

Soil Treatments Help Crops on Worn Out Land

Sweet clover on land medium to low in fertility will not usually grow without expensive soil treatments. Red clover on such soils will grow only fairly well, and if the land is both poor and sour, costly treatments are usually necessary for successful production. Whether the farmer should go to the expense of growing red or sweet clover, or should use Korean lespedeza as a substitute, can be determined only after considering the conditions of the individual case. Korean lespedeza can be grown to advantage on many soils where production of the clovers is difficult or impracticable. It may be sown in small grain crops, in grass-clover mixtures for temporary or permanent pasture, or on idle and waste land not now affording any profits and yearly becoming less valuable.

Family Berry Patches Being Re-Established

Research dealing with diseases of small fruits and development of new varieties has made possible the re-establishment of the family berry patches, according to A. S. Colby, University of Illinois.

"Both local and distant markets for quality fruit are expanding rapidly. Even more important to consider is the fact, not generally recognized, that a patch of raspberries, strawberries and other small fruits may be cared for easily on a small piece of ground in connection with chickens, a vegetable garden and even a cow, a combination which will help to make a family self-supporting and pay big dividends in health and happiness as well." Illinois circular No. 305 will help you.

Nothing Replaces Manure for Soil Improvement

Cover or green crops in the rotation of garden vegetables cannot replace manure for soil improvement, according to results of a six-year trial of the two methods by Dr. J. W. Lloyd, University of Illinois. Doctor Lloyd presents his figures in a new bulletin "Fertilizing Tomatoes, Sweet Corn and Muskmelons in a Three-Year Rotation."

Manure and limestone are applied to the field starting with the melon crop, next year bone meal or dried blood is added before the tomatoes. The third year sweet corn is grown without any fertilizer, for best results. You can get a copy of this bulletin 804 by writing the university.

Delay in Immunizing Hogs May Be Costly

It Should Be Done Shortly After Weaning Pigs.

(Prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture.—WNU Service.)

The objection of many farmers to having their swine herds immunized against hog cholera on account of cost comes principally from those who wait until the hogs are full grown before using the treatment, says Dr. T. P. White, of the division of hog-cholera control, bureau of animal industry, United States Department of Agriculture. In sections where hog cholera is more or less prevalent year after year, Doctor White adds, the serum treatment is the only safe method of protection. In those localities the immunizing of the herd should be a regular practice just as castrating, docking, dehorning, and other common livestock operations. As in the case of those operations that are practiced early in the life of the animal, it is preferable to immunize early.

In experimental tests and under certain field conditions pigs a few days old have been immunized against hog cholera. In general practice, however, opinion seems to favor immunization not long before or soon after weaning. Even at that period, when the pigs may weigh from 30 to 40 pounds, the amounts of serum and virus necessary to confer immunity are much less than for grown hogs. The cost is correspondingly lower, a pig of that age requiring in some cases only a third of the expense necessary to treat a full-grown hog. Also the veterinarian finds it easier to handle young pigs. If a young pig dies the loss is small compared with that of a larger hog.

Pure Bred Sire Signs Popular With Stockmen

In conducting the "Better Sires—Better Stock" campaign in co-operation with the states for the improvement of domestic live stock, specialists in the United States Department of Agriculture have observed the evidence of unusual interest of farmers and stockmen in the lithographed barn signs being offered to persons who are improving their herds with pure-bred sires. The department regularly grants certificates of recognition to these progressive stockmen, and, on request, also furnishes a barn sign, measuring 10 by 14 inches, bearing the words "Pure Bred Sires Used Exclusively on This Farm." Enrollments received in the campaign in March showed that 71 per cent of the stock owners requested these signs in addition to the regular certificates. The sign is printed on heavy weather-resistant cardboard and is lithographed to resemble a bronze tablet.

A recent development in the campaign for pure bred sires is the interest which several county agents and live stock specialists have shown in holding meetings and distributing the signs to stock owners qualifying for them.

Bees Get Pollen From Different Forest Trees

Many forest trees are as valuable to beekeepers for their pollen as for the nectar of their flowers. Without pollen, for which no satisfactory substitute has been found, bees will fail to raise new brood. Pollen furnishes meaty, nitrogenous elements in the diet of the larvae. The barely noticeable flowers of many trees are often rich in pollen, as well as in nectar. Willows, maples, black locusts, tulip or yellow poplar trees, tupelos, basswoods, sour gums, and wild plums are important sources of both pollen and nectar. Elms and aspens are also pollen producers, although not considered to be nectar plants. The presence of certain hardwood pollen-bearing forest trees thus becomes an important consideration in the choice of sites for apiaries.

Blueberry Crop

Blueberries are much less perishable than any of the bramble berries or strawberries. They do not have to be picked often than once a week and can be shipped long distances without refrigeration. So far the large-sized cultivated berries have sold at attractive prices. To a certain extent this is due to their scarcity and novelty. Picking costs are somewhat less than with wild fruit due to the large clusters. Ordinarily they will be grown nearer a supply of pickers, an advantage over the wild fruit.

Farm Hints

Timothy and alsike clover can be sown successfully up to October 1.

Trees may be used to good advantage on bits of land unfit for cultivated crop.

One hour out of every ten that the tractor is used should be devoted to keeping the machine in good condition.

Losses of seedlings on land that is not adapted to alfalfa is what makes alfalfa expensive. Be sure your land has enough lime.

When plants "run out" blame it on some virus disease. You control such diseases by roguing and by planting susceptible crops far enough away from host plants carrying the diseases.

Job at Least Spared Affliction of Bunions

Job, of course, did have boils. But Job had no bunions. Having no bunions, he—like many of us—lived and died without knowing how lucky he was. Added to these boils of his, one good averaged-sized bunion would have forced Job to abandon his policy of strict neutrality, curse God and die.

It is next to impossible to stand a bunion—and utterly impossible to stand upon a bunion—when that constitutes the only bodily affliction of the moment. No man could tolerate one on top of a bunch of boils.

The word bunion is a perfectly legitimate derivative of "onion," meaning to weep. The "b" was prefixed to supply the sting—and how! For downright, 100 per cent sting, a bunion has the ordinary or garden variety of honey boarder backed off the big toe. Which, by the way, is a mighty good place to look if you are hunting bunions. It may not be found right on the toe, but you may be sure it is not far away.

A bunion is a vain sort of thing, this being the reason for its rigid insistence upon the big (or large) toe. The little toe, for instance, would never do! Oh, dear, no—it isn't done, my dear! A bunion demands to be the whole works. And it is.—Omaha World-Herald.

Farmer Sure There Was No Graft in Woodpile

"The national campaign for relief funds brought one thing to light," remarked Senator Moses of New Hampshire, "and that is, that people are beginning to lose faith in the integrity of relief administration."

"Where does it all go: it never gets to the people who need it," is the cry. This may be true in some cases. But to me it is a very poor excuse to shirk a public duty. Most of those people, I am sure, are like the Weary Willie who stopped at a farmhouse and asked for a hand-out.

"Why don't you go to work?" asked the farmer.

"I would," replied the hobo, "but I happen to be an honest man, and I haven't been able to find a business that isn't full of graft."

Zaharoff Aids Aviation

It has just been learned that Sir Basil Zaharoff, "Europe's mystery man," gave several fifties in recent years to further the study of aviation. It is said that in the last five years he spent nearly all of his time not devoted to his vast interests in promoting air transportation.

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