

Fin, Fur and Feather



The June issue of National Geographic has an article on bird life by Dr. A. A. Allen, professor of ornithology at Cornell University. The crux of this publication is on releases of the various cycles that govern birds in their every move. The kodachrome pictures that accompany this article afford one a minute semblance of what the Bird Watchers of America see in their study of bird life.

There are no nature clubs of this kind that I know of in our Country, but we do have many people who spend hours watching nest construction by our feathered friends on limb and in bird houses.

I, and perhaps others, too, have noted many birds that are strange to this region, and wondered what they were and why they are here.

Several years ago the fight against Gypsy Moth was speeded up from ground crew spraying to aero-spraying. Many can recall the spotted cars and windows that year, but few persons had knowledge as to what extent our animal, bird, aquatic and beneficial insect life suffered. The Moth has been eradicated but this eradication program also reduced the numbers of pollinating insects (bird food) and bees that have taken over the task of mass pollination of orchards, pasture and vegetable gardens.

The spray program in this infested area was very small in comparison to those carried on in our cotton, wheat and corn belts. The economy of dusting or spraying from the air to control corn borers, boll weevil and wheat rust is without question the primary factor for the stable price of these important commodities.

Of D. D. T. spraying, the records show that in an experiment at Beltsville, Md., laboratory of U. S. Department of Agriculture, a 1/2 per cent solution, killed fish and practically all other aquatic life in a pond located in the testing area; birds and animals were also killed, but no accurate records could be obtained on this phase of the research program for many of them left the area after subjection to the spray.

Birds throughout the U. S. are migratory. A release, according to Professor Allen, and this release, being the desire to live, causes migration to areas where food is available. There is no doubt that some of the strange birds we have

seen are native to the aforementioned belts that are now being treated from the air. The unfortunate angle, however, is, that all insect life suffers and birds are forced into a migration release that will afford them food for survival or to perpetuate their species.

If aquatic life suffers in a pond in the test area, it also suffers in the streams, lakes and small ponds in the parts of our nation where large spray or dusting programs are carried on.

Only the common house fly has built up resistance against D. D. T. and if one wishes to eradicate it, a stronger acting chemical must be used. In comparison, our very important honey bee has developed no resistance because of its body structure, being one of the few insects that has its skeleton outside its flesh. Contact with most any of our commercial sprays is fatal.

To state the importance of bees to mankind, first might be mentioned their value as pollinators. If it were not for them, apples would cost perhaps three dollars each, and cucumbers two dollars each. Secondly comes their value as wax manufacturers. They produce a wax that cannot be duplicated by man. No one can estimate the value of this item, for without it we would be short of pharmaceuticals that have saved man from pain, yes and even death for many years. To mention a third value of bees you say honey, but this is only the small compensation one gets for his work with them.

A person could study and write about insects and never get to the end of his research or writings but no matter what you found and wrote, it would evolve into one basic theory, that with complete eradication of them, and especially bees, for they have filled in the gap of the reduced ranks of pollinating insect pests, mankind would only survive for a short time.

Blue Cross Has Biggest Month

June Exceeded Any Month In 12 Years

More Blue Cross members of Hospital Service Association of Northeastern Pennsylvania were admitted to hospitals during June than in any previous one-month period in its 12-year history. This brought the total savings of hospitalized members close to \$1 1/2 million for the first 6 months of this year alone, with the total \$1,462,786.33.

Semi-annual reports presented at the meeting of the board of directors held Thursday, July 26 in Wilkes-Barre general offices showed that last month 4635 hospital admissions were processed, in addition to 1494 Blue Shield medical/surgical cases, for the record-breaking total of 6129 cases. Breakdown of causes of hospitalization shows that maternity cases again are rising, comprising 16% of all cases handled, which is an increase of 3% over the same month in 1950. Tonsillectomies-adenoidectomies, on the other hand, swung sharply down from last year's 24% of all causes, to 18%.

Two new sponsoring Member Hospitals were added during the 6-months' period, bringing the list to 43. Gnadon Huettner Memorial Hospital, Lehigh, and Divine Providence Hospital, Williamsport. An increase of 8446 new Blue Cross members and 5,083 Blue Shield members, or a total enrollment of 13,529 new members in June was noted. Blue Cross membership totalled 380,398 and Blue Shield 107,778 as of June 30. Prominent among newly-enrolled groups were employees of Glen Alden's Exeter Shops, enrolling both for Blue Cross hospital services and for Blue Shield medical/surgical benefits; also employees of Lehigh Valley Coal Company's Hazleton Shaft for Blue Cross benefits.

Sweet Valley Stages Fire School Course

Sweet Valley Volunteer Firemen are staging a school to familiarize all interested parties with operation of their fire-fighting equipment. Non-members are particularly invited to attend.

The first session of one hour duration will be held in the Fire Hall on Thursday, August 8, at 8 P. M. The School will be held on successive Thursdays at the same time for a period of six weeks.

THE DALLAS POST

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A non-partisan liberal progressive newspaper published every Friday morning at the Dallas Post plant Lehman Avenue, Dallas Pennsylvania.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Dallas, Pa., under the Act of March 3, 1879. Subscription rate: \$3.00 a year; \$2.00 six months. No subscriptions accepted for less than six months. Out-of-state subscriptions: \$3.50 a year; \$2.50 six months or less. Back issues, more than one week old, 10c.

Single copies, at a rate of 2c each, can be obtained every Friday morning at the following newsstands: Dallas-Berts Drug Store, Bowman's Restaurant, Donahues Restaurant; Shavertown—Evans Drug Store, Hall's Drug Store; Troutville, Gregory's Store; Shaver's Store; Idelton, Gaves Store; Huntsville, Barnes Store; Alderson, Dealer's Store; Farnbrook, Reese's Store; Bloomsburg Mill Cafeteria; Sweet Valley, Britt's Store.

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Unless paid for at advertising rates, we can give no assurance that announcements of plays, parties, rummage sales or any affairs for raising money will appear in a specific issue.

Preference will in all instances be given to editorial matter which has not previously appeared in publication.

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ONLY YESTERDAY

From The Post of ten and twenty years ago this week.

From the issue of August 1, 1941

This was the famous forty-page brown edition of the Dallas Post, with this box on the front page:

For many years we have lain awake nights wishfully thinking of the day when we could get out just one edition of the Post which would top any other paper in the county . . . just one issue in which we could use all the galleys of type and equipment in our plant . . . one chance for our staff to show the community what the Dallas Post is really able to do when the merchants and the community cooperate wholeheartedly. This time we think we've done it. We're proud of our community and have taken similar pride in this effort to contribute something which we sincerely feel will help to acquaint the world with the beauty and joy of living in the Back Mountain Region.

Not much news, but plenty of pictures, plenty of ads, plenty of back-patting from everybody to everybody, plenty of stories of Back Mountain concerns from the Rendering Plant at Jackson to new service stations along the new highway.

Reminiscences by Burgess Herbert A. Smith, pictures of grandpa cranking the family car away back when, a photograph of the old Raub House, nostalgic items from days when Dallas was a hamlet.

Pictures of new homes going up in Goss Manor and Druid Hills, new real estate developments.

Predictions of a building boom to end building booms, with vast expansion of population and proportionate commercial growth.

A story on the Lake Louise beaver dam, with C. F. Goeringer recommending beavers as pleasant neighbors.

A page spread of Concrete Achievements by the Wyoming Valley Motor Club.

A new postoffice for Dallas still being talked about. Much publicity about doing away with dafacing road signs in scenic spots.

Back Mountain's blooded cattle are among the nation's best, its fishing streams have no peer, its hunting lands are unequalled.

Girl Scouts were organized here sixteen years ago by Mrs. Frederick Hillman.

Andrew Sordoni serves Scenic Pennsylvania in a full page spread on page 25.

Mill-wheels brought business to Huntsville.

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YOU KNOW ME

BY

Al, Himself

Well, we see by the papers that our school board and the Noxen School Board have passed the "Not dangerous" procedure and have signed up for a two-year in a jointure. You will remember that the Harveys Lake Protective Association said it was not dangerous for them to do this, but before the Boards go into planning a new building, should notify Harveys Lake Protective Association. So we may presume that if the new combined school district plans an addition to the Lake school, or a new building, it will be "dangerous" in the eyes of the Harveys Lake Protective Association.

Well, we may as well face the facts. If anyone thinks that we can add the high school students of Noxen, and possibly those of Beaumont, to our present grades without increasing rooms in our present school building, we are not only kidding ourselves, but also the Harveys Lake Protective Association.

As we see it, if we carried on alone this year our budget would be increased because of teachers' salaries. This is no fault of Directors Ide, Leinthall, Kocher, Wolfe, Fisk, or our hard working principal, George Taylor, who is striving to get a school that all may be proud of. It is just plain State law. These teachers' salaries must be increased. With the jointure of Lake and Noxen we would receive from the State almost enough to pay for these increments.

As far as our school building capacity is concerned, personally we think that we will need at least six more classrooms to adequately take care of the augmented pupils. That cost may be taken up later with the taxpayers and the joint school board.

This is where the Harveys Lake Protective Association could come in. One of its members, in a series of questions submitted to Principal George Taylor asked: "Would it not be cheaper for the cottagers to form a Borough from the lake shore line and 1,000 feet therefrom and pay rent for their students to some district (Lehman or Dallas Township) than to support any school district?"

Well, there are no extra rooms lying vacant in either township to take care of our children. Both Dallas and Lehman have been overcrowded for years. The trouble is children seem to get born, grow up and become school age long before we, who are crowding age 60, realize it.

What we would like to see is the two school boards appoint a citizens' committee and the Harveys Lake Protective Association do likewise and those two groups go over the school situation thoroughly.

We see by the papers that the citizens of Beaumont voted last Tuesday that their school form a jointure with another district. If Beaumont wishes to join Lake, then that matter should be studied. In fact, the whole State Law should be given a thorough airing so more would know what may and may not be done. The Back Mountain Citizens' Committee for Better Schools has been doing that for the past year or two, but its teachings haven't reached a large enough circle. Everyone of us should know more about school law whether we have any kids of school age or not. Parents of school age kids need our help in educating their children.

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Barnyard Notes



Why in the name of heaven anybody would be interested in this column is more than I can understand; but folks do call up when it's out of the paper and ask if the editor has died.

Seems to me the only person who should be interested in this literary masterpiece is I, and the only reason I should be interested is because I have to write it—and that's something when there's a blank sheet of newsprint in front of you and forty-two idle keys on the typewriter—not counting the shift locks, shift keys and back spacers which are no earthly use when the mind is as blank as the newsprint.

This interest in other people's problems—my problem being this column—reminds me of the old lady who asked the keeper of the St. Louis Zoo if the hippopotamus was male or female. "Lady", said the keeper mournfully, "that is a question that should interest only another hippopotamus."

I am that other hippopotamus. I've got to be interested in Barnyard Notes.

Well, nothing much new has happened since the last writing.

But life with four dogs and a mother-in-law, all in the same house can be interesting; and if you have a wife like Myra and a friend like Harry Ohlman, both allergic to dogs, it can be at times uncomfortable.

The five grey squirrels no longer tarry during their trips across our yard, but make it in a hop skip and a jump three grass blades ahead of Sandy, whose belly levels the nightwalkers' castings as he stretches his short legs for speed.

Blaze, the Noisy Bitch, has made life exciting for every venture-some rabbit on Lehman avenue, and it would be a foolhardy robin who would search for worms in our garden.

Rogue, the one who started out to be a Springer Spaniel, has dragged in a flattened toad, a dead snake and a photographer's discarded flash bulb plus a varied assortment of fish heads, a decaying animal skull and a rag doll.

Buck lounges on the porch sofa and growls when anybody disturbs him.

But, thank the Lord, sleeping arrangements have been changed.

That came about when Granny suggested that I sleep in the cellar and let the four dogs have my room. It might have gone through at that if Sandy hadn't tackled Rogue. Now two dogs sleep in the cellar, Sandy in the backyard and Buck has the run of the house.

How long this will continue only the neighbors know. Sandy's the problem. Along about 4:30 a.m. he lets out a mournful yowl that jolts me from a sound sleep even when the neighbors do miss it. Three wails and I can usually make it barefooted to the kitchen and out the back door in time to arrest the half finished fourth dirge.

Sandy has a big yard and more freedom than he ever had; but he's a thifty and cleanly Scot. So playing a hunch that he is one who would never appreciate a bathroom in a house, I now let him roam from supper until late at night.

For the past week there have been none of those painful early morning yowls.

Any kid who has ever eaten green apples and had to get up in the middle of the night to trek to the outhouse could have told me Sandy's problem.

Being clean and Scotch he wanted to get to the garden—and quick . . . and that unearthly yowl helped a lot.

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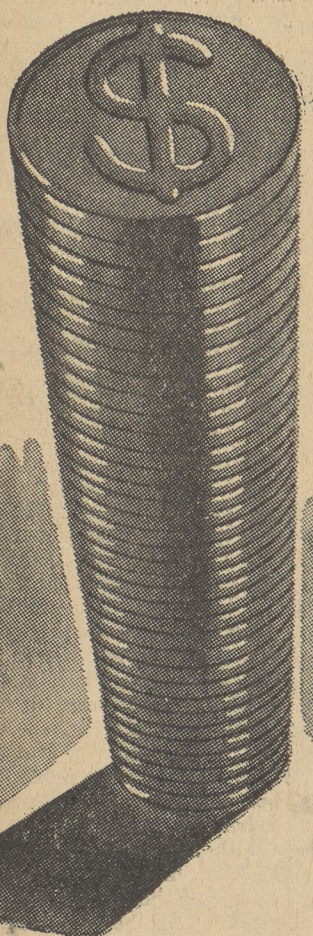
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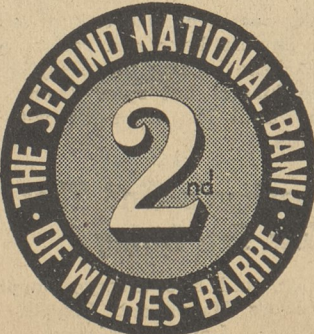
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