

Mount Zion

Last Wednesday Ruth, Tuffy and I decided on a moment to drive to Oakland to see her sister whom we haven't been able to visit since some time last fall. Tuffy readily agreed. So first I took him for a short walk up the road where he had one of his frustrating moments. He likes to brush along through deep grass. In a twinkling of an eyelash out hopped a baby rabbit no bigger'n my first, and vanished from under Tuffy's nose. He couldn't chase it, for where was it? It wasn't.

Then on the way back we were crossing the corner of our yard when a twitching in the unmowed grass caught Tuffy's eye. What caught my eye was not a twitching tail in the grass but the big fat head reared up shooting out a forked tongue about six inches above the grass. A huge black snake! Right where Cathy so often crouches to weed her circular bed. But it smoothed itself away.

So off we went up route 81 to Great Bend exit and up the river to Oakland. Those throughways are wonderful. We returned by way of 81 and Turnpike through Pittston and home. Traffic was not heavy, we made good time, the car behaved, and so did we!

That was an interesting account of Cathy's walk with our dog Tuffy, in last week's Post. You should see — and hear — Tuffy's antics when he thinks she's going with him. He can read all the signs of her excursion, the donning of walking clothes, getting the leash off the newell post. All of this causes ups and downs, twistings and writhings and a laughing face. Not that Tuffy is at all thrilled by "America the Beautiful", "the purple mountain majesties" et cetera. We do not know what he finds with his nose constantly to the ground. I will here record what we hear him saying (without interpretation): Sniff — sniff — sniff — snoozele, Whoops (what was THAT), snoo, snoo, snoo, pfmstzigh! (And so on for twenty column inches!)

Communications between dogdom and peopledom (or dumb peopled) are somewhat limited. But that is what he says and does while fields and flowers, hills and valleys continue to thrill us.

ROAD REPAIRS AT OUR CORNER
A dump truck unloaded a mixture of flat stones and dirt along the chewed-up berm around the inside and outside of the curve where the road turns downhill to Harding. Also along in front of Norman Lewis' and Howard Krum's places.

SMART CHEMICALS!
Norman Lewis was telling me that he was planning to spray weed-killer among his corn shoots. It is supposed to kill the quack grass and stuff and not hurt the corn. "Smart chemicals", I remarked. Recalled a story I had heard when I was a boy, about a city guy who was given a hoe and sent into the field to "hoe the corn". Later on when the boss went to see how he was getting along, horrors! There wasn't any more corn. He had hoed it!

THE WATER WORKS QUIT
When one lives in the country (it's really lovely here any time of year!) he becomes president and general manager of the whole sanitation system including the water works. He still can leave the electric system to the company that has generators and stuff. And the Commonwealth does the business of telephone (I used to turn a crank on the side of one, and kept the batteries down cellar renewed.) mechanics. But down in a rock cave clusters a pump and motor above the well casing. Just in case of power failure I have an old fashioned pitcher pump also mounted with an intake pipe running down that same well-casing.

Well, last Saturday late in the afternoon a call came from Cathy somewhere about the place saying

that something was wrong with the water supply. Down to the cave I went, and there the motor was whirling the drive wheel quietly but the wheel was turning loosely on the shaft and the pump was not pumping. I got my right sized Allen wrench (you always have to try two or three sizes, they are not adjustable!) and found the flat place on the shaft and turned the screw down tight. The pump worked then — for a discouragingly brief time, and then the motor quit. I don't know why, but I disconnected it and replaced it with the old motor which I still kept for emergencies. Only trick to that solution is that whenever the water pressure dropped I had to go down to the cave and turn on the switch, let the pressure go up to 40 pound then shut off the switch. You can use quite a bit of water, if you are careful, before you have to go back down and turn on the current again. That motor that I took off and set on my bench runs fine when I connect current to it there. Guess it must have got sulky because nobody paid any attention to it down in that dark damp cave. I'll give it a speech of appreciation and send it back to work.

That was not an auspicious time for the water system to act up — late on a Saturday afternoon when I wanted to relax and give the sermon notes a going over for preaching the next morning down town. Oh well!

AMONG 5000 ASSORTED DEGREES!
Nettie Parrish went last Tuesday with the Rev. and Mrs. Norman Clemens of Baltimore to Harvard University to witness David Clemens receive his doctor's degree in Education. There were 5000 assorted degrees being given! They returned on Friday.

SCOUT AND CUB DOINGS
There were 45 cubs and Scouts with their parents who went by bus last Saturday to Gettysburg. They visited the famous battlefield, went through the wax museum and witnessed the Cyclorama. The cubs were from Pack 313. All returned that night.

COOKIES APPRECIATED
Mrs. Janice Vosburg will appreciate very much if the parents of the children who will attend the Vacation Bible School next week will contribute some cookies for the refreshments.

THEIR FIRST CHILD
Paul Melton Dodd 3rd was born June 13 in Daytona Beach, Florida. The mother is the former Harriett Howell of Mt. Zion, daughter of Mrs. John Howell. The father is Dr. Paul M. Dodd Jr. formerly of Memphis, Tenn. Ida Howell plans soon to visit this her 6th grandchild. This also makes Lucy Howell's 6th great-grandchild.

IMAGINE THIS!
The Tommy Lloyd family (Tommy, Jane and the two boys) were at home on their wide back porch which is framed in with new petunias (which incidentally can be maneuvered among with front and rear bicycle wheels without crushing a pet!). Beyond is such a sweep of neat green lawn that rests your eyes to look at. Tommy was telling me about the fellows in Nelson Lewis' Sunday School class, always referred to as the Young Men's Sunday School class and will be so known long after medicare has been taking care of them! These boys wanted to do something other than just "going to a meeting". Something they could do that was worth doing and was fun doing it. So what did they do? They just happened to come together on a Monday night in the church's "lower level" (downstairs) with song books and sang. There were the two Roy Thomases, Cornelius Hastie, Edward Miles, Nelson Lewis, Tommy Lloyd and I don't know who else. Timmy Earl was at the piano for them. They had a wonderful time.

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