

# Letters to the Editor

## To THE POST

Your editorial "Hunting" is in such direct contrast to the article enclosed, *Rice for a Mouse*, and the expression of life therein written by my son as he spent last winter in a small cabin because of the loss of his home and possessions by fire. I thought it might prompt some reaction from you as we not only continue to kill off our wild life, but, as your editorial indicates, the danger increases of our killing off each other.

The mouse story is a true story, for as we exchanged recorded tapes during last winter this particular mouse was always part of our

conversation. Since its publication in *The Atlantic Advocate* my son has received numerous requests for permission to reprint. If you feel it has a story to tell the readers of your good paper, permission is granted.

Sincerely,  
W. J. KOTZWINKLE  
Clarks Summit, Pa.

(Mr. Kotzwinkle's appropriate "Rice for a Mouse" with an illustration by Marjory Donaldson appears elsewhere on this page.—Ed.)

# Rice for A Mouse

By William Kotzwinkle

A mouse lives in our cabin with us. At first, when winter began, he raided our shelves, leaving his characteristic tracks. I decided to make him less of an outlaw and more of a guest. A small tin of brown rice was left out for him, in the wood cupboard, which gives access to his inner chambers, within the walls of the cabin. Each night now, as soon as we retire, we hear him coming through the walls, and then he is at the rice pan, nibbling some, and carrying the rest back to his storehouse. One night, when I forgot to feed him, and was seated by the fire, lost in dreams, I saw his small brown face suddenly, at my feet, looking up at me. He'd come for supper and I hadn't served him. We both quickly hopped to it, me to the rice container and he to his cupboard to receive it.

Around the relationship, there is peace. Our dispute over territory has been settled; we each surrendered something to the other. He is no pet. We've made no attempts to change him to such a degree. He is still secure in his instincts and we are forging a new one of our own—coexistence with all that lives—*revenge for life* as Dr. Schweitzer calls this deep sympathy. Without it, man will continue to isolate himself from every other life form, plunging himself deeper into cosmic loneliness.

The mouse no longer raids the shelves, being content with the rice, and an occasional spot of cooking oil mixed into it. His tiny footprints in the wall at night are a welcome sound, out here, deep in the woods. It would have been a small thing to kill him, in trap or poison. It is a much greater thing to live with His Rodentship, as we call him. We recognize that his world is our world, and we are not separate, neither in diet nor desire. Should his desire bring him a lady-friend in spring and subsequent little ones, we shall face that too. And we will trust in the way of nature to keep us in harmony, neither violating

paper, and blown to safe quarters behind the wood.

Only those who have taken the vow will know the feeling of inner calm, and greater than that, of joyous communication with the things of field and sky. The flies have lived with us in the cabin all winter. Drunk they swoon and dancing pass along the window frame. Their wings cold, their senses numb. I hear one on the floor, buzzing on his back, unable to right himself. His buzzing buzzes through my



brain. I am he, upon the floor, a summer fly out of season, wings stiff, wondering what to do that I might continue the only existence known to me. To be a fly! And so I slip a sheet of paper under his back and carry him over to the window sill, where he sits upright, and stares with his thousand eyes out at the day, his day, our day.

A moose with her calf stopped by our cabin and stared in through our window. Then, majestic, strange, they travelled on, and they are somewhere now, with themselves and their own dream of life, as real and as precious as my own, standing in the snow drifts, waiting as I am, for spring. I do not need nor want their head, their hide their flesh to sustain my own. My sport, dizzying, wonderfully satisfying, was in seeing them go their own way.

A raucous squirrel looks in the window now if I forget to give him bread crumbs in the morning. I trust he will not eat my snowshoes. And if he does, it is far better than a bullet eating through his head, destroying with one maddening ravage of pain his sensitive nose, eyes, brain.

Yes, they might all eat my valuable papers, and chew the buttons off my vest. But who am I that I should complain of dog-eared pages, and a hole in my suit? My life is neither so long nor fine that I dare shorten some other creature's in favour of my lifeless clothing. I shall trust in life to treat us fairly, if we do nothing to disturb its great and perfect balance. A man who has observed a mouse closely will see all the emotion of his own heart there, in those large curious eyes, in that quivering nose.

This is an enormous undertaking. It is further from our present minds than the further from our present minds than the moon. For each of us the beginning is an act of kindness toward another living creature. It is, perhaps, the one hope for emotion which can turn back the tide of war. Rice for a mouse, bread for a squirrel, it will bring good luck to the world, don't doubt it.



the freedom and happiness of the other. Listening to him at night, going toward his dish. I have imagined myself coming up the dark corridor of the wall for an offering of rice. And he, just this morning, quite unexpectedly came out. He had never before shown himself in daylight. I happened to be without my glasses, so I did not see him too clearly, but he was watching me carefully. And then he returned to his wood cupboard, some small curiosity satisfied in him as to the kind of creatures with whom he shares life.

Surrender to a mouse is against tradition. They'll eat your shoes and hat and gloves, deposit excrement in your bed, and grow to impossible numbers. With gentleness somehow, we will handle the problem when it comes. In no instance will we settle for taking of life as an answer, and we extend this vow to the spider, climbing up the table leg. Into the wood pile with you, sir, carried on a sheet of

## Illustrations by Marjory Donaldson

# Dallas Senior High School

by Nancy Popielarz and Mike Kasper, Karen Purvin, Patti Van Etten, Diane Masoner, and Dave Lieberman had also contributed to try to make Dec. 22 a night to remember.

### Junior Class Dance

The Junior Class will sponsor a dance Jan. 14. Steve Chigna has been chosen as chairman. We hope all students come and support the dance. The profit will go towards the Junior-Senior Prom. We would like to have an unforgettable prom so don't forget the dance Jan. 14.

### Christmas Dance

The Christmas activities at school include a semi-formal dance Dec. 22, with music provided by the Shenandoah. The committee, headed by Priscilla Kloeber, are working very hard to make that evening a special one. Kathy Futch,

Assembly  
A preview of the Christmas concert was presented to the students by the band and chorus Dec. 17, in the high school auditorium. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the people involved in the program. Many hours of hard work proved successful.

Movie  
Movie night was a SUCCESS. A big thanks goes to Wayne Evans for his special effort in making this activity a success. His committee did a fantastic job. We hope to see more movies in the future.

### Chorus Trip

The Choristers, under the direction of Mrs. Sherwood, toured Wilkes-Barre Dec. 15. They entertained at the Veterans' Hospital, Valley Crest, the Sutton Home, the Court House, and the United Penn Bank.

**Pedestrian infractions—**Traffic law infractions that contribute most to pedestrian accidents include crossing between intersections, walking in the roadway, walking diagonally across the road, stepping from behind a parked car and crossing against a signal.



The Young Americans, a group of talented students from California high schools and colleges, will perform in concert Feb. 20 as the final presentation of College Misericordia's Theatre 3.

# Young Americans To Be Final Theatre 3 Concert

The Young Americans, a group of 35 students from Southern California high schools and colleges, will be the third and final presentation for College Misericordia's Theatre 3 this year, according to program director Robert J. Gower. The Young Americans will appear in Wilkes-Barre's Irem Temple Auditorium Feb. 20.

Formed in 1962, the group features students between the ages of 15 and 20 who were chosen for their combined vocal, instrumental, dancing, and academic abilities. Because of the many and varied talents of the young people involved, the group is able to present a wide variety of music in their programs.

As a group, they have toured 10 foreign countries and have appeared in almost every major U.S. City. They have also participated in over 20 major T.V. shows and have made three albums and two movies.

Currently, money received from performances is used for operating activities and for scholarships for members of the group. In the future, however, the Young Americans plan to found a resident school of the Philosophies and the Performing Arts to graduate certified teachers, foreign service diplomats, and professional entertainers.

Following the performance by the Young Americans, College Misericordia will contract three new presentations for the 1972-73 academic year, according to Gower. The three presentations will be announced with the commencement of Theatre 3's annual benefactor campaign in June.

Ticket information for any Theatre 3 presentation may be obtained by contacting Robert J. Gower at the college.

## Dog License Prices Unchanged Since 1921

Dog owners in Pennsylvania can't complain that their 1972 dog license's cost will send them to the bow-wows financially. And inflation won't bite them in this respect either.

The price continues the same this year as when the state license requirement was instituted, more than half a century ago in 1921, according to State Agriculture Secretary Jim McHale.

License for female dogs is \$2.20 and \$1.20 for males and spayed females. But dogs six months or older must be sporting the new tags by Jan. 15, 1972 for compliance with state law.

Licenses are sold by the state through the county treasurer's office in the state's 66 counties, excluding Scranton City, which issues its own licenses.

## Auxiliary Hosts Christmas Party

The auxiliary to the Daniel C. Roberts Fire Company of Harveys Lake held its annual Christmas party Dec. 13 at the fire hall.

Dollar gifts were exchanged. Mrs. Charles Murphy was in charge of games and prizes.

Hostesses Peggy Truska and Pauline Davis served punch and cookies to the following: Mrs. Joseph N. Desiderio, Mrs. Leo Yankoski, Mrs. Howard Jones, Mrs. Richard Williams Sr., Mrs. Richard Williams Jr., Mrs. Russell Taylor Jr., Mrs. Michael Clark, Mrs. Theo Davies, Mrs. Carl Swanson, Mrs. Waldridge Leinthal, Mrs. Otis Allen, Mrs. Michael Drobnicki, Mrs. James McCaffrey, Mrs. Thomas Coburn Jr., Mrs. Thomas Fetsko, Mrs. Arden Kocher, Mrs. Charles Murphy, Ret. Nelson, Pauline Davis, Peg Truska and Anna Stenger.

The next meeting will be Jan. 10 at the fire hall.

WIN a one-year subscription to the Dallas Post by entering Daring's "First Baby of the Year Contest." A FREE ham will be awarded by Daring's to the winner. ENTER NOW!!!

# Christmas Eve

## Huntsville Christian

There will be a service of caroling, communion and candle lighting at the Huntsville Christian Church, Christmas Eve, at 7:30 p.m.

## Prince of Peace

A special children's service will be held at Prince of Peace Episcopal Church, Dec. 24, at 4 p.m. The service will include lessons, carols and candles. At 11 p.m., the Eucharist will be celebrated with the senior choir singing. The Eucharist will also be celebrated Christmas Day at 10 a.m.

## Trucksville United Methodist

There will be a service of carols, candles, and communion at the Trucksville United Methodist Church at 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve. Communion will be served in the pews. Special music will be provided by the Wesleyan, Aldersgate and Chancel Choirs. The Rev. Dr. Laurence T. Beers, pastor, will present a three-part meditation entitled: "The Happening at Bethlehem."

## St. Andrews Eastern Orthodox

Schedule of Christmas services at St. Andrews Eastern Orthodox Church, Huntsville Road, Lehman, includes Compline Decide at 7 p.m. Dec. 24, and Divine Liturgy at 9:30 a.m. Dec. 25.

## St. Therese's Church

The Rev. Joseph Sammons, pastor of St. Therese's Church, Shavertown, has announced that the first Mass of the Christmas season will be said at midnight Christmas Eve. Masses on Christmas Day will be at 7:30 a.m., 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. The usual Saturday night Mass at 7:30 will fulfill the Sunday obligation. Confessions will be held Thursday from 4 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 8 p.m. and Friday, 4 to 5:30 p.m.

# Friendship Class Plans Christmas Eve Service

The Friendship Class of United Methodist Church, Lehman, is sponsoring a Christmas Eve service for the entire Lehman Charge with Communion at 7 p.m. The First United Methodist Church of Wilkes-Barre is invited to attend.

Lehman, Idetown and First United Methodist Church choirs will combine to present a program of music.

John Shannon, organist of First Church and head of the music department at Wyoming Seminary, will be organist. Harriet Santos of First Church will be the soloist.

The Rev. James Wert, First Church, will give the meditation.

Friendship Class is in charge of the service, assisted by the Rev. Fred Whipple, pastor.

## Alderson Charge Plans Christmas Eve Worship

Paster Westfield announced that Christmas Eve Service for the Alderson Charge will be held Dec. 24 at First United Methodist Church, Noxen, at 7 p.m.

The program will be a musical Christmas cantata presented by The Last Hope teen choir. The choir is under the direction of Pastor Westfield and

has 30 members. The pastor reported that Allan Kitchen will be the organist.

Several solo numbers will be sung and at the close of the service, the congregational candles will be lighted. Pastor Westfield said, "All are welcome to attend the service."

Pastor Westfield announced the Christmas

# UGI Gets Rate Hike

(continued from PAGE ONE) on our request for rate relief. A lengthy suspension or postponement of the increases would have seriously jeopardized our ability to furnish adequate, reliable electric service."

PUC Commissioner Louis J. Carter, Lower Merion, was the only dissenting vote in the five-man commission's decision. Mr. Carter, who was appointed by Milton Shapp in April of this year, contended the \$2.1-million increase would still be too high.

Mr. Carter served as assistant counsel to the Public Utility Commission from 1955 to 1967. At the time of his appointment, he said he viewed utilities as special corporations with extraordinary powers which require intense regulation.

## Former Dallas Student

### Homebound by Illness

Robin Methot, a former resident of Shavertown, is confined by illness to her present home in New England and would very much appreciate hearing from her former friends and classmates.

Robin, formerly a student at Dallas High School, may be reached by writing her at 52 Clover, St., S. Burlington, Vt. 05401.

## Review fire escape plan—

With heating systems in homes running hard during the winter months, it is a good practice to take a little time every few weeks and review your family's plan for emergency escape in the event of fire. If you don't have a plan, devise one, and stage some practice drills, urges the Cooperative Extension Service Farm and Home Safety Committee of the Pennsylvania State University.

Skating on the smooth ice Seems something like paradise Sometimes I fall It's still a ball Skating is such fun In the bright sun.

Janine Szczechowicz Dallas Inter.