LAZY MAN'S LUCK

By E. P. WARE

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THE black eyes of "Cornpone" Joe Beasley glittered evilly as, crouched in the shelter of a buckeye bush on the steep slope of "Old Whetstone," he looked out over Black river, flowing deep and swift, two hundred feet below. He shifted his long rifle and swore viciously.

"Used to be a trappeh's country!" he complained. "Time was when a right peart trappeh could make his salt hereabouts, an' more! Now it's pearls, pearls! Nothin' but pearls an' mussels, an' back-bendin', an' sweatin'! But danged if I've done it yit, an' danged if I will! An' that settles it!"

Ever since the little flat-bottomed batteaus, bows equipped with windlasses, rope and anchors, began coming into the three mile stretch of water between Black Rock and Powhatan, in Arkansas' Ozark region, Cornpone Joe had ceased his more or less spasmodic activities as a trapper of small fur animals, and thenceforth compromised with work by putting in his time hating and reviling the invading pearlers. When his neighbors, living near the river, caught the fever and began toiling almost night and day, taking mussels, all of them potential treasure-troves, from the laden bars, his bitterness suddenly erupted in various forms of petty deviltry which soon earned him an unsavory name in the river country. He had been invited to stay away from Canaan, the village directly across the river from the point where he now lurked. Cornpone had retired to his cabin in the crotch where Whetstone divided, forming twin peaks resembling the knobby knees of a recumbent giant. There he had brooded alone; for, though nearly thirty years old, Joe was unmarried.

"Keeps me a-humpin' lak th' devil to git enough cawnpone for me an' th' dawgs, let alone a wumman," the lank trapper had once confided to an acquaintance, incidentally conferring upon himself a nickname which was to endure.

But Joe Beasley had never been known to hump himself in any cause whatsoever. His nearest approach to a display of real energy was in the perpetration of malicious mischief or in pursuits likely to yield something for nothing. His hostility toward those who toiled on the river was but a part of his antagonism toward manual labor of all kinds.

"Work! Work!" he spat, this day, loose lips curled back from snuff-stained and broken teeth. "Sweat an' strain! And what comes of it? One in fifty ketches enough slugs an' buttons to barely make his salt. One in five hund'ed makes as much as he could at th' button factory, an' works twicest as hard. Maybe one in a thousan' gits him a fo'tune lak Asey Bright. An' then," he ruminated, an ugly gleam in his eyes, "maybe even that one gits it took away from him!"

Joe Beasley was after something for nothing. News had come up the mountain that morning that Asa Bright had taken a fortune in pearls from his haul the day before. Ten thousand dollars, rumor had it, and the pearls were still to be seen at the Bright cabin in Canaan. Ten thousand dollars in pearls was enough to fire even the imagination of Cornpone Joe, and excite his cupidity—especially as there appeared to be a chance to possess them without any labor whatsoever.

Crouched in the shadow of the buckeye bush, Joe waited for darkness, and as he waited he planned his raid on Bright. The Canaanites were trustworthy and trusting; few ever thought it necessary to lock a door, and somewhere in the Bright cabin (which would undoubtedly be unprotected, Asa being a guileless soul) pearls could be come by—provided the right man went after them.

In Joe's mind there was no doubt that he was the right man.

As darkness came on, the pearlers, one by one, quit the river until only one was left. Dupree, the Frenchman, still toiled, and as he swung the heavy pearling-tongs into his boat for the last time that day, his voice rose clearly from out of the swiftly gathering night; he sang a Creole song about "Mam'selle Fortune," a tune for which he was famous along the river. For Dupree believed in his luck; despite the fact that his year on the bars had netted him nothing in the way of financial return, he still sang of fortune and swore by his luck, believing that sooner or later he would "strike it." Dupree worked early and late and did not count the hours. Singing lustily and musically, he made his batteau fast to a stake, simply and trustingly looping a chain over it, and staggered away along the path that led to his cabin half a mile away, laden with his "cotton basket" of shells to be opened that night.

This was the moment Beasley was awaiting. The Frenchman's batteau lay on his side of the river and it was not locked.

Night came suddenly, moonless and starless, and five minutes later Cornpone Joe was paddling silently up-river, finding the "easy water" close in-shore. At a point half a mile above the village he ceased paddling and, using his oar to steer with, dropped with the current until he came abreast of the town. There he gently dropped anchor on a bar, the batteau swung around and lay berthed about two hundred feet off shore.

As Joe shifted about in the effort to find a comfortable posture for his lank body, having fully two hours yet to wait, his knee struck sharply against the Frenchman's pearling tongs. Angry, he snatched them up and moved to throw them far out into the river, but contented himself instead with easing the unfamiliar implement overside in the position he had observed others place them; then he began laboriously "tonging" for shells. Here was a chance to prove beyond doubt that his contention concerning the back-breaking qualities of pearling was well grounded. He worked awkwardly, and for a short time only, then raising the tongs above his head he hurled them far out; they sank with a splash such as a fish might make as it leaped above the water's surface. He sank back disgustedly in the boat.

"Goshalmighty!" swore Cornpone under his breath, spitting venomously on the heap of shells and rocks which his industrious impulse had betrayed him into bringing up from the bar. "Theah ain't no doubt about it! It ain't work fitten for a white man to do, an' I was plumb right to steer clear of it!"

Thereafter he lay in silence, recuperating. Two hours passed before he stirred again. Then, the village showing no signs of life, Joe cautiously poled the batteau in to the shore. Stealthily he stepped out on the coarse sand of the bar and reached back after his long rifle.

"Let th' gun be, you!"

The voice was very near, uncanny in the pitch blackness, unexpected—but instantly recognized. It was Lafe Ball, the constable, speaking, and he had addressed Joe before. A pocket light flashed out.

"I figgered it was you, Cawnpone. Gone to pearling after nightfall, huh? I heered your tongs rakin' agin' th' gunnels of your boat—or the Frenchman's boat, I reckon I'd ought to say. Kinda queer, you bein' so 'tarnally sot agin' pearlin', too!" The constable, while commenting, snapped a rusty handcuff on one of Joe's wrists and marched off toward the town, Joe holding back and protesting.

"I jest come over to git me some snuff, Lafe!" he pleaded in defense. "Why can't you let a feller alone when he ain't aimin' to do nobody no harm—"

"Shut up!"

Silently they proceeded through the deserted street to the one compartment log calaboose at the end. In silence, still, the door was opened and closed—and Cornpone, for one night at least, was rendered harmless to his fellow men.

"Theahs otheh nights—an' otheh pearls," he gritted under his breath, as he composed himself on the narrow bunk to wait for daylight. "An' don't you forgit it, Lafe Ball, dern ye!"

But when dawn came Joe's ears were greeted by certain news that took the fight completely out of him, causing him to sink back on his bunk, inert, too numb to swear.

"Yes, suh!" the constable was saying to a companion, as he unlocked the calaboose door. "French ain't kickin' none! Th' dern galoot tonged up some mussels whilst he was waitin' last night, an' when Dupree opened them this mornin' he run on to a pearl, fust thing, that's as big as a kid's taw—wuth a thousand dollars of any man's money. Cawnpone, th' sneak, had it right under his hand, but he was too doggone lazy to find it! Think of it—big as a kid's taw an' wuth a thousand if it's wuth a dime!"

Twin Superstition

In Nigeria, twin babies are looked upon by the natives as having been fathered by the devil. One is always either poisoned or thrown outside the village into the bush to be starved and eaten by the wild beasts. Often the mother is thrown out, too. Christian natives will tip off the missionaries, who rescue these unfortunates and nurse them back to health and life.

Canals Are Old

Canals are nearly as old as human history. The Assyrians, Egyptians and Chinese built them. Leonardo da Vinci invented the canal lock in the Fifteenth century.

Bewitching Lace on Gala Nights

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

TO GIVE the glamour that every woman covets for gala nights, the answer throughout the centuries has been lace. And so it is to this very day and generation. Easily to be understood, therefore, is the fact of lace being made a theme triumphant throughout current Paris couture showings as well as in the fashion pageantry so dramatically presented nowadays by leading style creators in our own country.

A most significant contemporary event that has much to do with the present enthusiasm for lace was the grand lace ball given in Chicago this fall. Not only did this delightful occasion usher in the winter social season with real fanfare and much excitement, but the lovely fashions there presented set the pace for a "lace season."

Three models that were outstanding in this style-registering lace promenade are pictured herewith, with the thought in mind that whether you can afford to buy original models or whether perforce you needs must make your own clothes, the fact of having the best set before you proves helpful and inspirational. The woman with limited budget has every opportunity to look beautifully gowned these days (no matter how formal the function to which she may be invited) at comparatively little cost.

The present mode that voices an insistent call for formal gowns is bringing out a number of distinctly new and charming silhouettes, not the least important of which is the one with smoothly molded front lines and fullness at the back. The beautiful dress to the right in the illustration interprets the idea with tiny ruffles starting from a deep decolletage and sweeping down fan-shape to a widened hemline. The decollete at front is heart-shaped. The trimming features are all centered at the back with a sashbow of the lace to give added grace. The lace is of filmy cobweb texture in one of the newest colors, a deep blue violet shade. The gown would be handsome done in black chantilly.

The season started with glitter and as time goes on the glitter-gleam-sparkle idea is gaining in momentum. The evening dress of silver lame lace on a white ground (center figure) does justice to the present scintillating mode. The gown is simply cut with a full skirt. The jacket of the same silver lace is detailed smartly to the nth degree with soft flaring cuffs at the elbow, and a little stiffened standup collar, plus bow. The jacket does not close completely so as to reveal the decollete gown underneath.

The two-piece dinner gown to the left, created by Norman Hartnell, London dress designer, is made of white starched lace in an interesting manner which shows up effectively over the slip of black satin. The high neckline in front contrasts a decollete back which, by the way, is a silhouette much featured this season. What fullness there is centers at the peplum-back of the blouse and the slight train. A wide girdle of rhinestones and brilliants completes the costume.

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GAY PLAID ACCENT

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

If you are even a little bit handy with a needle you'll find it no trouble at all to make up the hat, scarf and pocketbook shown in this photograph. It is not difficult to secure patterns of this type. Make this attractive accessory ensemble of the new goodlooking soft-finished cotton fabric woven with a twill that looks and feels like wool. You can get it in authentic Scotch tartan plaids and being sanforized-shrunk as this fabric is it tubs without protest. Such a gay bonnet and matching gadgets would look particularly well with a dark frock—one of the new tailored cottons which can be made so successfully at home. In any event they will add life and character to the neutral tone of a smart camel's hair coat as you see in the picture.

FAVOR HEAD VEILS FOR EVENING WEAR

By CHERIE NICHOLAS

A veil with your hat in the strictest sense is now news, although we must admit the ingenious ways they are being draped and flung picturesquely and nonchalantly about is worth telling about. However, that which is news, exciting news, is the veils sans hat which socialites are wearing as romantically as any senora or senorita ever draped a mantilla head and shoulder deep.

It is a charming fashion that has come to us this season, that of a decorative veil caught with flower or ornament thrown over a beautifully coiffed head. There is romance and allure in this new evening headdress, especially when the veil is filmy and sparkles with glittering sequins.

Use Ancient Damascening in Chic Modern Compacts

Damascening, the ancient art of gold-wire inlay in metal, has found its way through reproduction in modern compacts. The art is traceable as far back as 490 B. C., and its origination is attributed to metal workers of ancient Damascus. Here, in order to cover streaks showing in the famous Damascus steel, workers developed the art of inlaying gold or silver wire into designs engraved upon the steel. The art has made museum pieces of decorated metalware throughout the centuries, and Damascene workers of ancient times competed for honors and acclaim in their fields.

Damascene compacts have simulated designs in a great variety, and many are taken from rare prints of ancient Damascene masterpieces.

Knit Blouses Designed to Look Like Soft Woolens

Knit blouses are designed to look like soft wool and woolens are made to appear like handknit this season, so those who shun handknits can achieve the same effect with soft, lightweight woolens.

Twin sweaters are shown particularly for young girls and are designed with the two parts matching or with contrasting colors for the pullover and cardigan.

How to Distinguish Small-Mouth Bass From Large-Mouth Kind Is Explained

"The average fisherman will have no trouble at all distinguishing a small-mouth bass from a large-mouth bass, if he will remember just two simple differences between the two fish," says Dr. Carl Hubbs, curator of fishes for the University of Michigan Museum of Zoology. "In many books on fishes, the reader is confused by being told to count the number of rows of scales," says Hubbs, who adds that "counting scales is a hard enough job for a man accustomed to doing that sort of thing, let alone an average fisherman." Here are Hubbs' rules for separating small-mouth bass from large-mouth:

Draw a line vertically through the back of the eye. If the fish's upper jaw extends back of this line, it is a large-mouth bass. If the upper jaw goes back only to a point under the eye, it is a small-mouth. That's the first rule.

To check your conclusion, apply Rule 2. Study the shape of the dorsal fin carefully. (This is the fin on top of the fish). You will notice that this fin is made up of two parts, a spiny part forward, joined to a soft fin toward the rear. If the spiny portion of the fin is almost triangular in shape, and almost separated from the soft portion, it is a large-mouth bass. If the top of the spiny portion of the fin looks almost square - cut, and if there is no sharp dip dividing this part from the soft fin, it is a small-mouth bass.

These two rules will enable you to identify the two species of bass if the fish are adults.

China's "Small Child Fish"

In China the giant salamander is called the Wa Wa Yu, or "small child fish," because of its high pitched cry when disturbed.

What Women Want to Know About Fashions

Lace is used extensively by Chanel for dress trims.

Pine cones are colored to make smart boutonnieres for suit lapels.

Sequins, paillettes and "bugles" are being used widely on evening gowns.

The spiral, cone-shaped silhouette which has been adopted so generally in millinery, is appearing for muffs, gloves and other accessories.

Not all of the winter hats have great height to recommend them.

All sorts of smart novelties appear under the heading of suits this season.

Versions of the colonial or step-in pump for evening wear are noted in the new imports.

Black kidskin is dyed black to give it more luster and life, but all gray kids are kept gray.

IMPROVED UNIFORM INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL Lesson

By REV. HAROLD L. LUNDQUIST, Dean of the Moody Bible Institute of Chicago.

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Lesson for December 12

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

LESSON TEXT—I John 1:1-7; Revelation 21:1-7.

GOLDEN TEXT—Our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.—I John 1:3.

PRIMARY TOPIC—The Heavenly Home.

JUNIOR TOPIC—God's Great Family.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIOR TOPIC—Comradeship with Christ.

YOUNG PEOPLE AND ADULT TOPIC—Daily Fellowship with Christ and Christians.

Fellowship—the word is rich in meaning, even as it concerns the ordinary relationships of life. It speaks of the association of man with man in a common enterprise, a sharing of problems and of victories—a partnership. Such relationships are very real and helpful. They lead to friendships which bind the hearts of men together in noble purpose and in tender consideration.

It is, however, a long step forward when we add the prefix "Christian" to "fellowship." For by so doing we not only bring men into the most glorious partnership with each other but we do two other very important things: (1) we limit those eligible to this fellowship to those who are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ; and (2) we broaden the fellowship beyond the association of men with each other, and bring them into the circle with Christ. What a high and noble fellowship! Do you belong? Christ says, "I am the door: by me if any man enter in he shall be saved" (John 10:9).

Our Scripture selections for today are from two books of the Bible. Both speak of an eternal Christian fellowship but the first stresses its present expression in a life of holiness and the other its future of blessed communion.

I. Christian Fellowship—Now (I John 1:1-7).

The First Epistle of John presents fellowship with God as depending on three things "which form in their combination a very beautiful picture of truth . . . God is light (1:5), hence fellowship with God depends on our walking in the light. God is righteous (2:29), hence fellowship with God depends on our doing righteousness. God is love (4:7, 8), hence fellowship with God depends on our possessing and manifesting love" (James M. Gray).

Every clause and phrase of the passage before us is so full of spiritual truth that it should have our full time but we must limit ourselves to pointing out one outstanding fact; namely, that Christian fellowship is made possible because we have a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ. He it is who reveals the Father—the One in whom there is "no darkness at all" (v. 5). If we follow him we must "walk in the light as he is in the light" (v. 7). This allows for no dark corners, no crookedness in word or act, no backbiting nor evilspeaking.

Let us open the hidden recesses of the heart to the light of God and put every evil thing under the "blood of Jesus Christ which cleanseth us from all sin" (v. 7).

II. Christian Fellowship—for Eternity (Rev. 21:1-7).

Our present communion with God and with one another is most precious—but how often it is marred by sin and disturbed by the wickedness that surrounds us in the world. We look forward to that day when we who are the followers of Christ shall be delivered not only from the penalty and the power of sin, but also from its very presence.

While we have no pleasure in the destruction of the sinner and would plead with him to turn to Christ, we are assured by Scripture that a time will come when every one who has rebelled against God will have been judged and taken away to follow their leader Satan in eternal punishment for sin.

There will be "a new heaven and a new earth" from which every evil thing has been taken away, in which all has been renewed in righteousness. Then will come the glorious consummation of all things when God shall come to "dwell with them and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God" (v. 3).

That communion shall never be disturbed by the falling of any tear. There will be no mourning, no crying, no pain (v. 4). Little wonder that these words have been the comfort of God's people in their darkest hours. They are not the futile words of human solace. They come from the eternal God.

Three questions have intrigued the curiosity of man: (1) Where did I come from? (2) why am I here? and (3) where am I going? The Christian is the only one who has a satisfying solution for the problem of the origin of all things, "In the beginning God"; a reason for the existence of all things, "To me to live is Christ"; and a satisfactory consummation of all things, "And God himself shall be with them." It is a great thing to know Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord.

Spiteful Words

A spiteful word cuts both ways. A slander hurts the man or woman who spreads it in a more deadly, though unseen, way than it hurts its intended victim. Victor Hugo nobly says, "Every sword has two edges; and the man who wounds with one, wounds himself with the other."

Lesson of Experience

Experience teacheth many things, and all men are his scholars; yet he is a strange tutor unteaching that which he himself hath taught.

Only One Real Failure

There is only one real failure possible and that is, not to be true to the best one knows.—Canon Farrar.

FARM TOPICS

USE FIELD STONES IN FARM MASONRY

Rocks Have Value in Making Walls, Yards, Roads.

By E. R. Gross, Agricultural Engineer, New Jersey Agricultural Experiment Station.

WNU Service.

Stones, a nuisance in the field, have a value in masonry or concrete work, but whether it is worth while expending the energy and time necessary to remove them from the land depends upon conditions on individual fields.

Complete stoning is necessary for growing vegetable crops but, land used for tilled field crops, grain crops, meadows, pastures or forestry need only be partially stoned in most cases. Land used for pasture or forestry sometimes does not need stoning at all.

If stoning is advisable, the only way to do it is by hand. Transportation may be by means of the old stone boat, if there is a tractor on the farm, or the stones may be hauled away in a low-built, sturdy wagon. The stone boat is not recommended where there is no tractor because it is too hard on horses. The wagon permits moving a much larger load at each haul. Removal should be preceded by breaking the larger stones with dynamite, reducing them to a size which may be handled by one or two men.

Piling the stones along fence lines is taboo on a well managed farm, for it takes up valuable space and becomes a weed-breeding nuisance. Burying stones in a trench involves much digging and is not a complete means of getting rid of them, since stones left above the frost line tend to come to the surface again. However, filling a gully with stones and covering them with soil has advantages since it provides additional well-drained field area.

When using stones for concrete work, all those measuring more than three inches should be crushed. At least two-thirds of the concrete mixture should be occupied by stones, otherwise too much cement is needed. When not crushed, the best use for the larger stones is in a masonry wall, the stones fitted closely together and imbedded in cement mortar.

Small stone crushers operated by farm tractor power can be obtained and the crushed stone may be used in concrete work, surfacing roads, lanes or barnyards. In some localities there is a market for crushed stones of this type.

Try Close Inbreeding in the Domestic Fowl

Studies with White Leghorn test birds at Iowa State college, through a ten-year period, indicate that close inbreeding may be practiced in the domestic fowl, providing careful and rigid selection for certain characters is maintained at all times, particularly for high hatchability. For most characteristics, the birds retained to a remarkable degree the excellent qualities possessed by the foundation individuals—four males and seven females, states a writer in Wallaces' Farmer.

The college workers hope that the favorable results obtained from their tests will encourage other investigators to undertake the development of good inbreds. If the problem of the utilization of inbreds for poultry improvement is to be tested adequately, it is likely that a good many different inbred lines must be developed and inter-crossed before superior combinations are found.

Seed Corn

Much seed corn is not fancy in appearance, but it may be entirely satisfactory for seed, nevertheless. In the dry areas, stalks that were able to mature even small ears may be regarded as having better than average resistance to drouth. It is advisable, however, to avoid saving moldy ears or those which come from stalks infested with smut, rot or any other kind of disease.

Storing Canvases

In putting away canvases for binders and combines, it is very important that they be protected from mildew and from mice, according to a farm correspondent. When through for the season, they should be spread out in the sun on a fence or hayrack until thoroughly dry, then rolled up and hung with wire from rafters or joists so that mice can not get to them. If put away in this manner, they will be found in first class condition for next season.

The Black Sumatra

The Black Sumatra apparently originated in Sumatra. It is a bird of fair size, slightly larger than the Leghorn, and is characterized by having a long, drooping tail which is abundantly supplied with smaller sickles and coverts. There are no standard weights for the breed, but the body is of good length and fair depth. The comb is V shaped; the color of the beak is black, and the shanks and toes black or dark slate. The ear lobes are red.

Storing Potatoes

Potatoes may be successfully stored in the basement of a house, provided the storage area is separated from the furnace room. If the cellar has a concrete floor, advises a writer in Wallaces' Farmer, a false flooring of boards, placed about one inch apart on two-by fours, and a false wall set four inches away from the foundation wall, will provide insulation against possible freezing and at the same time insure ventilation.

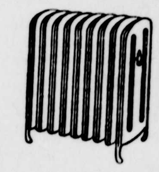
Home Heating Hints

By John Barclay, Heating Expert

Keep Air Out of Steam and Hot Water Radiators So Heat Can Circulate Freely

FREQUENTLY I get complaints from home-owners about failure of steam or hot water heating systems to keep radiators completely hot.

This condition is often due to air being in the coils of the radiator. This air must be released before the coils can fill with steam. This usually is simple, being remedied by automatic air valves. If your radiator has such valves and the radiators remain air-bound, un-



screw the little plug at the top of the valve, tightening the plug again when all the air escapes from the valves. Putting the vent valves for a few hours in a container of kerosene also helps to eliminate the air.

However, if neither of these operations corrects the trouble—or should the coils fill with water—it would be a good policy to have an expert check the valves and remedy the difficulty.

It is possible also for hot water radiators to become air-choked. To overcome this, open the air valves once in awhile with a valve key and leave them open until water starts flowing from them. Be sure to have something handy in which to catch the water when the valves are opened.

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Joys and Sorrows

The joys and sorrows of others are ours as much as theirs, and in proper time as we feel this and learn to live so that the whole world shares the life that flows through us, do our minds learn the secret of peace. — Annie Besant.

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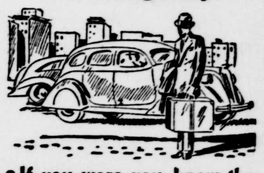

● If you were you know the true value of this newspaper

Alone in a strange city. It is pretty dull. Even the newspapers don't seem to print many of the things that interest you. Headline stories are all right, but there is something lacking. That something is local news.

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