

April 27, 1952

“For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us therewith be content. But they that will be rich, fall into temptation, and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.” Tim. I 7-11.

The above quotation from the Bible carries much truth and prestige. I underlined “love” because I feel that only the love of money is the evil. Money can bring much happiness and help and is a necessity in the bartering of everyday necessities which is recognized by the writers of the Bible.

Today, as it was centuries ago, (and we have more temptation now) money rich is a snare to grasp men and tempt him into evil doing. Money does bring sorrow and worries to some. But a wise man can use his riches to good for the world and mankind. The Ford foundation and the philanthropic enterprises of DuPonts and others have eased untold suffering of all the world through their vast experiments and donations to hospitals.

Foolish man wastes his money on frivolities doing himself and no one any good; and usually it is money needed for his and his family’s necessities. The honest rich man would not be rich if he were not conservative and thrifty.

There are a few cases of miserliness where it is pure love of money and a selfish desire to see how much can be amassed and brag about so doing.

The only good money does me is what I can purchase with it toward the comforts and necessities of life and perhaps a few luxuries to make earning that money seem not such a drudgery. As far as owning material things beyond the average, that is not my desire.

April 28, 1952

Today Japan is again a sovereign state and entitled to rule itself; after seven years of occupation by the United States.

I wonder if the Japanese people do not feel somewhat worried or happy to be again their own boss. I say worried because they have the shadow of Russia in the background and technically are at war with the Communists as Stalin would not sign the peace treaty.

If they are happy it is to be much like an oxen freed of its yoke and able to roam the pastures without being harnessed and worked. From what I have read and heard, I would say Japan has greatly benefited by occupation and its peoples have progressed more in the seven years than they did for centuries.

There is one thing for sure, the young people will not live as they did before 1942; having a taste of Western ways and modernism, the old folks will never get them back to the olden ways.

Our occupation has brought industry to this little Asiatic island and that will surely be missed for the hundreds of troops will be withdrawn; but we will probably keep a watchful eye.

Freeing Japan gives us a good face to the suffering peoples under Communism; that is, if they are told the honest facts. It can be seen the United States is giving and not taking; but like any generous person, Uncle Sam, is accused of harboring ulterior motives for his kindness.

Japan paid dearly for its war and we hope gained more than she lost--and should have learned that trickery does not pay; and she can be glad it was the U.S. who occupied her rather than Russia.

April 29, 1952

When you live with teenagers there is always something new under the sun or a different version of the old. Adults who don't enjoy the privilege of daily association with this group of little people haven't really lived.

For years there has been much discussion on why young people don't eat breakfast and mostly the blame is placed on the teenagers not making themselves eat the first meal of the day because they weren't too hungry. Few people are ravenously hungry in the morn; unless they have done the unusual and gone for a mile hike or an hour's gymnastics. I don't exactly feel very hollow in the middle then, either.

But common sense tells us breakfast should be our very best meal. Don't we break a twelve hour fast and must also work many hours on the fuel consumed at the morning meal? Little wonder so many human machines die down toward mid-morning and puff around like an old worn out flivver.

Back to the teenager breakfast: Tests or studies have proven the best students eat a hearty breakfast and do eat all meals regularly. The thirteen year old in our household asks me, (out of thin air) "Do you know why kids don't eat breakfast?"

Not knowing whether this was another catch question I answered, "If this isn't some gag, why?"

"Because their Mothers won't get up and fix them any; if you didn't make my breakfast and insist I eat it, I wouldn't bother with breakfast."

Perhaps this is the key to the situation and a good hint for Mammias to get up in the morning and make attractive and varied breakfasts for their youngsters.

April 30, 1952

I am getting older every day and so are the millions of others around me. This is a dumb statement that everyone realizes is true; but I think there is something that can be done about it.

For one thing, we should never admit we are old unless we actually feel that way. A person at seventy might resent being called "old" because he really feels very spry and still able to do a full day's work or play. Because there are a few wrinkles and the hair is gray or partly gone, is no reason why the personality should be worn.

Many old houses are as good as the new ones and maybe a little better; being made of sturdier materials and with care through the years and a little remodeling, they are a pride to own. A man's body is only his castle and if it is kept in good shape and remodeled to keep up with the times, it is just as good as a new one.

To really be old is because we have not progressed and kept remodeling our minds and our bodies. Now I don't imply that we should throw on too much paint; but like any house, this can be over done and make our castle look out of place. Looking ahead and not backward is the best key to keeping young.

We complain of growing old; but I doubt if any of us would like to grow younger at the same pace--there are some things in the past no one cares to relive--all they are good for is to talk about.

"Grow old gracefully," they say; and this is good advice. One thing younger people resent in oldsters is too much domineering and advice. It flatters them for older people to ask them for the advice; and makes much better relations.

As I climb the ladder of time, I find I am breaking the rules of young ideas and must stop and count to ten too often.

May 1, 1952

The Mayflower was a small ship in comparison to modern day boats; but it was filled with many wonderful things--one item did not actually take any cargo space; but for many years meant much to us--the May basket custom handed down from the Pilgrims. I wonder if the idea originated from the name of the boat or visa versa.

In some parts of the world, May Day is greeted with riots and demonstrations of might and brutality; but I am glad that May 1st. in our country is usually heralded by the soft ringing of the door bell and a lovely basket of Spring flowers.

This custom is somewhat fading; but still has memories of my childhood when I worked for days fashioning pretty paper baskets and picking flowers (sometimes forbidden) and then joyfully surprising our neighbors. Think what a joy it must be to

some lonely old lady or forgotten spinster to be remembered with a bouquet of flowers; and what a delight it is to youngsters to find a precious basket on their doorstep?

The good things of life are the little ones and the May baskets is such a wonderful herald of neighborliness and friendship taught to youngsters in a pleasurable way, it is a shame it is disappearing from the American scene.

My children have grown past the May basket age and the youngsters in our neighborhood seem not to know of this lovely quaint custom; so the first of May is merely a date on the calendar.

To remember, I always try to pick a special bouquet for this occasion and take some flowers to some one I know who will especially enjoy them; and I don't think any of my kinfolk came over in the Mayflower.

Note: Although none of Grandma and Grandpa Ludemann's ancestors came over on the Mayflower, their youngest daughter, Anna, married a man whose ancestors did. It was on Frank Beard's mother's side that a far-removed relative was the famous Captain Miles Standish, himself. ~ May Day celebrations have been on going for centuries, it seems, and although they originated with a "pagan" festival, these traditions were readily adapted by Christians and brought to America. As a grade-schooler, not only did we make May Baskets, but we danced around the Maypole as well - it was a rite of the celebration of spring for school children then.
– Virginia Vandehey, Marjorie's neice.

May 2, 1952

At a recent P. T. A. meeting there was quite a discussion on the necessities of basic teaching and what is the most important subject in school.

It was agreed by teachers and parents that reading is the basic of them all. A child who does not get a good reading foundation from his first year in school, is handicapped through all his following years of schooling, from the grades through high school.

This is good common sense and anyone can readily see that a child, not being able to read, cannot understand much of any subject. Various methods have been employed to teach little ones to read and now several are combined and I do hope some satisfactory solution is found. Personally, I think the good old fashioned phonetics are the best; but for several years this method was junked; and now it is being revised and used with some of the newer ideas.

Reading is very important in school, sure; but more so in later years as it can provide a means of pleasure to people physically unable to consume time in any other way. Reading can be a trip around the world and a means of taking us to another world and drowning out our troubles.

A good reader can often obtain his own education without much schooling. Material for reading is both good and bad; and there is so much good, it is foolish to waste time

with the bad. Two years ago I had the pleasure of visiting the library of one of our colleges and a trip through the book stacks. I was amazed at the thousands of volumes and I can bet they were all of the very best reading. I can only think how many hours were spent in the writing of these countless volumes. The world is a vast thing, and knowing how to read is so important, what do the unfortunate illiterates do?

My only regret is that I cannot find time to read more and at least stay awake long enough to finish a story.

May 3, 1952

Mr. Shakespeare said, "All the world's a stage and all the people its actors." He must have been sitting on a busy street corner when he thought of this. That was over 300 years ago. I wonder what he would say now.

From the time we breathe the first breath, we are actors. It is amusing to study human characters and note how fast they can change parts to gain personal desires. The expression, "He is a natural born actor," applies to everyone; but, of course, there are the more talented and they arise above the meeker.

I have seen the human animal jovial one moment and the next a wretched man playing this part to gain sympathy. We could not live in this complex web of a world if we were not actors. For each friend or relative we meet, we have a different act; according to the impression we wish to make.

When we train these natural talents, then we are classed in the Hollywood category and could climb financially and socially in the world. I prefer to use my acting ability at home.

Just for study, I often watch various people to see what their act is going to be. Often we can tell by the first glance, if a party will like or dislike another. Children began to use this device from the time they associate with mankind; and most young ones nowadays really are actors and can obtain any desire.

Why can't we just act natural? If some people did that, the whole case against evolution would be useless. There are times we become bored with acting and let down the bars; and are accused of being a little "off".

And a part can be acted so long, it finally becomes a habit and a trait. We all have these and once established it is hard to act them out. I just don't know what act I am playing; but whatever it is, there is work connected with it.
