

July 20, 1952

There is much disagreement as to the perfect spot on this earth--being the Garden of Eden doesn't exist in these times. I have heard it said that California is the paradise; but after the earthquake today, I am beginning to have doubts.

Is there a perfect place ever. No two people can agree. The Pacific Isles are advertised as the paradise; but becomes a monotonous "hole"; the sameness of weather offers no surprises nor topic of conversation as does the elements here.

Extremes of temperature as endured inland, entice me not; I prefer not to be frozen one season and roasted the next. I like trees and greenery yet there is a fascination about the high altitude (and you cannot have it without cold and snow).

I like the sun; but not in huge doses. I hate the wind; but a place without it, is stagnate. I like the coast for its gradual climatic changes; and I tire of the rain.

Now how can anyone be pleased; especially with the weather? In Washington some of the farmers want rain for their wheat crops and to the fruit rancher, rain at the wrong time is ruin; so the battle is on.

Whether you like or dislike a place really depends upon the climate and that is the first question a would be settler usually asks. I don't suppose in the great yonder there is any argument on this subject--it's either hot or just right!

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*Note: Another example here of how much Marj loved the place where she lived. Below is a report about the earthquakes she mentioned except its on the 21st not the 20th. Maybe she actually wrote the 20th entry on the 21st. -Virginia Vandehey, Marjorie's niece*

[http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/states/events/1952\\_07\\_21.php](http://earthquake.usgs.gov/regional/states/events/1952_07_21.php)  
Kern County, California  
1952 07 21 11:52:14 UTC  
Magnitude 7.3

This earthquake was the largest in the conterminous United States since the San Francisco shock of 1906. It claimed 12 lives and caused property damage estimated at \$60 million. MM intensity XI was assigned to a small area on the Southern Pacific Railroad southeast of Bealville. There, the earthquake cracked reinforced-concrete tunnels having walls 46 centimeters thick; it shortened the distance between portals of two tunnels about 2.5 meters and bent the rails into S-shaped curves. At Owens Lake (about 160 kilometers from the epicenter), salt beds shifted, and brine lines were bent into S-shapes.

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July 21, 1952

We can't get along with them and can't get along without them--referring to people. The fellow who lives alone and never hates nor enjoys human companionship, soon gets "tetched" and harbors hatred for men. Such is the case of the recluse in southern Oregon.

He has the vicinity almost scared of their own shadows and I don't blame them. I would probably lose some sleep, too; if I were there.

The shepherd and the old prospector talk to themselves and rated as "off" in the attic. We would probably become the same if we had no one to answer our questions or supply an argument. It is handy to have someone around, if you do talk to yourself you can have an alibi.

All these old buggers living by themselves should be rounded up, like the wild horse round-ups, and corralled and given a few doses of human companionship; so they can get tamed again.

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July 22, 1952

Daughter has been sewing and the misery of learning is beginning to tell on Mother. I think it is costing more in electricity and errors than to buy the garment ready made; but a fellow must learn some time.

And credit should be given for trying--though it is a sad and "trying time" for everyone. Now I can see why so many girls neither learn to cook nor sew. Many Mothers can't take that rough road of teaching. I will bear through it all; so it cannot be said I am weak.

If I were to add up the damages incurred from all the learning days around here, it would be a sizeable figure and one might lose faith. For instance there is the full length mirror that really is the cat's fault; but daughter had no business putting the vacuum cleaner on the cat when he was asleep; so he would jump against the mirror and break it; but a gal must learn to clean the house.

There were the cakes that were never graduated from the pancake age; so weren't all eaten; and the dozens of other cooking failures; but a gal must learn to cook. What my poor Mother went through with five daughters?

Yes, the high cost of learning is spent in every occupation through every generation and it will go on and on; how else can it be?

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July 23, 1952

Today I canned some Apricots. I am not preserving as much as I did a few years ago because we don't need to be eating such full meals now that we are older and don't move around so fast. And the "little one" is a teenager and so thinks she must watch her pounds; but Mama will watch and see that she gets her vitamins. It is probably best she watch that poundage and not form a big eating habit that is hard to break in later years. Do I know?

In the past, canning almost became a race between neighbors to see who could do the most and much of the foodstuffs went to waste. I am going to try to do only what I think we will use and eliminate labor and waste. It does take fuel and produce to can and it could become more costly than the good derived. I am not going to preserve those things which my family won't eat. Some years I make pickles and they are only opened when there are guests. It would be cheaper for me to buy a few from the store.

A well stocked larder is a sign of industry; but also a sign of hoarding. This year mine will be a sign of just enough--anyway, food is best canned fresh each year.

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July 24, 1952

The French have a word for it—that something new in the bathroom; it's a "Bidet".

Now the bidet is a combination inside "privy"—minus the catalogue—and a shower. It is somewhat larger than the ordinary indoor plumbing seat and all rigged with hot and cold water.

You ride it like in a saddle and when nature's work is done—adjust the water and presto your posterior has a cleansing shower. According to what I have read this is very hygienic and in some illnesses serves as a therapeutic treatment.

It sounds fastidious and I am sure many people should own one; but I am thinking it would be very hard on the towel supply; so there will have to be some American improvements made upon this invention; and that is, a blast of warm air following the water treatment to do the drying trick.

It will probably never take the place of the popular bathroom throne; because it wouldn't be too comfortable a seat for the morning's session of reading; and it certainly wouldn't be appreciated by the fellow in a hurry; unless he was too hurried and had an accident.

It is a shame for the Americans to let the French best them; especially that we pride ourselves for extreme cleanliness. I would like to think the French only enlarged upon a good American idea—the indoor toilet and the shower.

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July 25, 1952

If it weren't for the dust, flies, moths, spiders, and grease; I wouldn't have much housework to do. I have always wondered why such things were put on earth; but the reason is now very clear.

A woman must have her exercise and doing the daily chores and cleaning after the insects, keeps her very fit. The experts recommend all sorts of reaching, bending, and stooping exercises to slim the human torso.

In keeping the home spotless the housewife can keep in trim, too; providing she doesn't raid the handy ice box too often. This morning I chased cob webs; so had my reaching exercise and before the day is over, I had scrubbed the floor and up and down on the wood work and got some needed bending.

Dishwashing keeps the hands soft (but use care in choosing the soap) and clean. Making beds supplies work for about every muscle in the body and if you sing or talk while so doing, the face gets exercised, too.

It would be interesting to note how many miles women walk per day in her own home. Those who have an upstairs to keep up get added exercise; but should use caution that they do not overdo the climbing. This is the same as mountain climbing; perhaps, not as interesting; but as beneficial.

If you are a furniture mover, you will get some brawn; and maybe a kink in the back. The home is rated as the worst hazard; so we women should always remember to use common sense and caution and keep the house a safe as well as clean place.

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Stale bread is quite a problem and a waste. Cut into squares and toast under the broiler. Roll in melted butter and serve with soup or salad and it will be eaten. Tastes as good as roasted nuts and could have more salt added for extra zest.

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July 26, 1952

Now that the conventions are over, there will be more room on the front of the newspapers for all the murders and the strikes. There isn't much difference between the latter two as these strikes sure murder the pocketbooks and makes a lot of people feel like committing mayhem.

I don't know whether it is coincidental or not that the steel strike was settled the same time as the Democratic Convention ended. The southern politicians are on a political strike against the northern Democrats and they don't like the fellow nominated even though there is an appeasement by making a Southerner the V.P.

It's all a big headache and I wonder more and more if we every day folks have a thing to say who spends a third of our money. It must be a headache for the conventioners, too; all that yelling and noise and out of it is supposed to be nominated a man to lead the greatest nation on earth. I am sure the Indians never elect a chief during battle; but that is the white man's system.

The nominees of both parties are men who were drafted and did not run because of political ambitions; whether this will make any difference remains to be seen. The V.P.'s of both parties are younger men; and this is a welcome trend toward fresher ideas. The death of Franklin Roosevelt showed how important the second man in the race is.

The Oregon delegation had orders to vote for Kefauver; but one fellow is in the dog house because he changed boats in the channel of voting. I hope he stays there. If Kefauver was the man the Democratic Oregonians wanted, he had no right to change.

Because of television and radio, the conventions have had the greatest publicity ever known. Will this tend to show the voting public how un-American they are? Some have the opinion this will be the last of the political conventions.

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*Note: In 1952, the Democratic Party winners were Adlai Stevenson, from Illinois for President and John Sparkman, Alabama, for Vice President. The Republican winners were Dwight Eisenhower, from New York for President and Richard Nixon, from California for Vice President. ~ It's interesting to note that when the candidate has not been a President or Vice President, presidential nominees of the two main parties have been state Governors or U.S. Senators. The last nominee from either party who had not previously served in such an office was General Dwight D. Eisenhower who won the Republican nomination and ultimately the presidency in the 1952 election. Marj said that both Stevenson and Eisenhower were "drafted" and did not have "political ambitions," and wondered if that was going to make a difference. She must of meant that neither had held major political office before. As for ambitions, however, who knows? -Virginia Vandehey, Marjorie's niece*

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