

From the Rolltop Desk

HERE AND THERE

The end of last week saw for the second time this year the arrival of the equinox, that time when the days and nights are exactly equal in length. Last March, however, we looked forward to spring and summer. This week makes it quite clear that we are looking forward to fall and winter now. Each day the length of sunlight will be a little less, and night will last a little longer, until December, when the opposite will be true.

Although many of us think summer is the pleasantest time of year around here, no one can seriously question that fall is the most beautiful. As the trees start turning their colors, the whole appearance of the countryside we know so well changes. Starting to smolder already, in a couple of weeks the trees will all erupt in a flame of color. Our versatile hills will be even more a pleasure to drive through. In fall we surely envy those fortunate enough to have a panorama view from their homes allowing them to see the changes in color and the beautiful kaleidoscope when fall comes to its fullness.

With considerable disappointment it must be admitted, we apparently must look forward to an-

THE SOUTH NEW BERLIN BEE

Established 1897

Published Every Friday

ALAN D. BRUCKHEIMER

Editor and Publisher

Subscription Rates — \$2.00 Per Year in Advance

as Second Class Matter

Entered at Post Office at Gilbertsville, N. Y.

other subway world series From all indications, the Giants are not going to be able to reach the Dodgers, and New York will win enough of the last few games to keep the title in her league. Cleveland is panting hard, and Boston is perennially up there, but there just isn't enough time left for any major revisions. It's possible that Boston has lost its last chance to win a pennant for the next few years. On paper, the Red Sox have been tops for three years. Cleveland has made a valiant showing, and has come awfully close. The Yankees phenomenal ability to get the best out of the old stars and regularly come up with a flock of new young ones, has done it again.

Funny what a little innovation can accomplish. When a part wore out on our linotype machine—a felt gadget that wipes off metal chips from the brass matrixes which form the letters, before they are restored to the magazine for later use—had outlived its usefulness, our operator said he could fix it if he had some pieces of felt. Anything, he said, even an old hat would do.

Well, we went down to the drygoods store in town and asked about a little felt. Unfortunately, although they had about everything else, they didn't have any felt.

Remembering the words of our operator however, just as we were about to leave, we jokingly said, you don't even have an old hat around, do you? That did it. Some years ago, it seems, someone had left an old hat there, and for all that time it had been hanging in the back gathering dust. It was exactly what we needed, and Paul Moore was kind enough to get us out of our quandry by contributing it to the common cause. Monday our operator expertly converted the derby into a felt mold wiper, and the machine was as good as new. A topper performance if we every saw one and we are appreciative of the bonnet-full-ness of Mr. Moore for lidding us do a conversion job on his fedora.

Ma Tries The Slide

By Perry Barton

John Hawkins, a rather ingenious chap, With an inventive streak in his make-up mayhap, While sorting things o'er, in the barn one day, That had accumulated in the usual way.

Found among the collection there, A long smooth chute in good repair, John gazed at the chute for quite a while, And his lip was touched by a little smile.

As a bright idea flashed through his head, "I'll build a slide for the kids," he said. Hammer and saw forthwith he sought, And a kiddie slide was quickly wrought.

The kids slid down in joyous glee, Se he called the women-folk to see, And in off-hand manner his smile to hide, He suggested to Ma that she try the slide.

Now Ma wasn't built for a kiddie slide, Nature had fashioned her beam too wide, But up she climbed and down she shot, And away on the downward slide she shot.

But things, so I have understood, Didn't work out as Ma thought they would, Ma's clothes flew up in that downward race, And the chute got hot on the set-down place.

Now the kids are using the chute today, While the barn re-echoes their childish play. But John isn't what he was before, Ma doesn't love him any more.

Honey Creek

By LOIS ADAMS BYERS

PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN

I ONCE knew a young mother who was too busy to care for her own children—or so she thought. With her husband, she helped operate a small business place on their own premises. To serve their trade—and business was heaviest at about the children's bedtime—a neighbor's child was paid to wash the supper dishes and put the little girl and baby boy to bed.

This "mother's helper" was a capable 12-year-old, who "had a way with children." Everyone in the neighborhood marveled at her power to transform a group of noisy, dirty-faced youngsters into quiet, well-scrubbed models of excellent manners; she made nursery rhymes come alive, and told stories dramatically; and she could rise to an occasion—having been known to prepare a meal, or iron a shirt, or stoke a furnace without being told.

On nights when the baby sitter was absent, things did not go so smoothly. Bedtime was hateful to the 4-year-old. She demanded that her mother stay close by and held her hand while she went to sleep. This took a long time, for the child was tense and sleep did not come easily.

One evening business was rushing. The adolescent "mother's helper" was absent. The little daughter began to scream and to cry out frantically. She put her head out of the upstairs window and yelled un-

til neighbors heard her and came to tell her busy, overwrought mother that something must be terribly wrong with the child.

The mother rushed in—saw nothing to alarm anyone, spanked the child firmly and put her back to bed, stopping the incoherent pleadings with an abrupt command.

A few minutes passed. The mother was back at work, when again the child appeared at the window, pale-faced and screaming, in her night clothes.

This time the mother was alarmed by the child's hysteria and the convulsive way the child clung to her in spite of punishment. She stayed awhile, talked quietly, and held the cold little clutching hand—but no questioning disclosed what had caused the fright.

Years later, after the daughter was a grown woman, it came out that the baby sitter had forced younger ones to do their bidding by peopling attics and closets with uncanny monsters—and promising dire things if the secret was revealed.

The mind's eye of a child is a precious and tender thing. Children need love, security and freedom from fear in order to be healthy animals, even. Appetite and digestion are both affected by emotions. Did anybody ever frighen you when you were little? I believe parents often neglect little children unwittingly.



FARM TOPICS

SEASON HERE FOR LAYING OUT CONTOUR STRIPS FOR 1952

Now that summer is almost over, farmers should begin to give some thought to the conservation practices that they intend to install next year. One of the most important conservation measures adaptable to farming here is contour strip cropping. By dividing sloping fields into strips and rotating the crops so that strips of cultivated crops are separated by a strip of grass, the rate of water runoff is reduced. This means that less top soil is lost by erosion and also that the lime and fertilizer stay on the field instead of washing into the nearest stream. This factor can account for as much as 15% increase in crop yields under the same fertility program. The fall of the year is the best time to lay out contour strips in preparation for spring plowing. If the strip boundaries are marked with a single plow furrow, they can be easily seen throughout the winter.

CORNELL PATHOLOGISTS ADVISE ON TOMATO DISEASE

County Agricultural Agents announce that Prof. Charles Chupp and Grower Sowell, plant pathologists at Cornell, are receiving from growers and gardeners a number of tomato fruit specimens affected by a peculiar disease. Some growers refer to it as "streak" but there is another virus disease by that name, and the two diseases should not be confused. Agents say the diseased tomatoes show ribbing above the affected tissue. The fruit has a rough feeling and ripens irregularly, giving an off-color area among normally colored, ripened areas. "These unripened areas of the tomato fruit may be greenish pink or greenish gray. The water-conducting tissue is green or white and hard, forming streaks of

light colored tissue thru the pink tissue. In places, especially near the outer wall, the tissue is dead, having a tan to brown color." Doctors Chupp and Sowell advise that the disease is caused by plantain strains of the tobacco mosaic virus. "And the only control measure is to destroy all plantain especially around the greenhouses and cold frames where tomato seedlings are grown." Plantain can be killed by spraying with 2, 4-D or other herbicide while the weather is still warm. "The disease is so drastic much time and expense is justified in eliminating the weed that carries this destructive virus."

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Report of Prices At Livestock Market

The market on dairy type cows for slaughter was 50c to \$1 lower, dairy type bulls for slaughter were \$1 lower, bob calves were \$1 lower at last week's auction at Oneonta on Sept. 20.

Dairy type cows for slaughter: good, 28-28.50; commercial, 25.50-27; utility, 24-25; cutter, 22-23.50; canner, 21.50 down.

Dairy type bulls for slaughter: good, 29.75-30.70; commercial, 27.50-28.50; utility, 24-26.50.

Calves: good, 40-41; commercial, 36-39; 110-115, 32-34; 100-105, 30-33; 90-95, 28-31; 80-85, 27-29; 70-75, 25.50-27; 60-65, 24-26; 55 down, 25.50 down.

Dairy replacements: springers, b & w 325-347, col. 220-357; handling cows, b & w 207-347, col. 242-295; fresh cows, b & w 232-330, col. 152-267; milkers, b & w 170-267, col. 160-220; first calf heifers (close), b & w 277-380; bred heifers, b & w 162-227; open heifers, b & w 141-158, col. 75-78; service bulls, b & w 185-257.

Hard water will quickly clog some steam irons.

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YOU'LL REST IN PIECES IF YOU JAY WALK

Illustration of a car crashing through a tombstone.

The Travelers Safety Service