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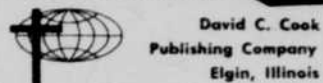


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GRASSROOTS
GLEANINGS

by Bill Stokes

Do you ever get the feeling that maybe the space age is moving too doggone fast in some areas? I got that feeling some time ago when I thumbed through the *Redfield (S.D.) Press* and read that the modern way to spread fertilizer is with aircraft.

"No waste, even distribution, fast application," the advertisement read.

I'd just like to know if the fellow who wrote that ad copy ever had to hand-spread a load of manure on a windy, wintery day?

The daily manure run was one of my youthful chores when school wasn't in session, and I can vividly remember the necessity for developing a successful spreading technique. When throwing a forkful into the teeth of a blizzard, for example, it is absolutely essential to turn your face immediately away from the direction in which you have thrown.

Frequently, I suffered the consequences of not moving quickly enough. One learns from such experience.

We used a bobsled and a team of horses, and the horses were guided from a precarious perch on the rear of the sled. You had to stand with your feet spread wide apart, because it just wasn't smart to fall to either side. Nor was it advisable to fall forward. This meant that you leaned backwards, and if you lost your balance, the chances were fair that you'd fall off the back of the sled. This made for a longer but much cleaner fall.

Sometimes when a runner of the sled hit a rock, there would be a sudden interruption of forward progress, and avoiding a forward fall was absolutely impossible. It is an unforgettable experience, and must be the basis for the saying about it being possible to take the boy out of the farm but not the farm out of the boy.

My father was a very particular barn keeper. He demanded that the floor be white and spotless. It is only too obvious that he wasn't concerned about his son staying in like condition.

Dad's way of telling me to make the manure run was to assure me that I needed the fresh air. I could never quite figure out how you were supposed to get any fresh air while riding on a mound of manure.

I never asked him about it though, because he would have told me to "think fresh," and under the circumstances I just wasn't up to it.

An editorial in the *Crookston (Minn.) Daily Times* criticizes college boys for "that silly and dangerous business" of competing

for the record of being tumbled in a clothes dryer for as long as possible.

You can't but tend to agree with the *Crookston* editor that it is silly and dangerous, but you just might ask why this fad hasn't given someone the idea of marketing a machine especially designed to wash boys—*younger boys*.



The machine would, of course, have to slow down the agitator action and provide for an air supply while a boy was going through the washing cycle. And if most boys are anything like ours, there would have to be a huge sand and mud filter on the machine's drain in order to avoid plugging up the plumbing.

If enough mothers would like to see a clean-boy-machine, perhaps this column can persuade a manufacturer to try the project.

A United Press item that doubtless appeared elsewhere also, but which came to this column's attention in the *Watertown (Wis.) Daily Times*, said that people could improve their posture by acting like cats.

It said that if a person would get down on all fours and arch his back like a cat, his posture would improve. Another suggested exercise was the "dog stretch" in which you bend down from a standing position until the palms touch the floor. The fingers are then "walked" forward until the body is in a "push-up" position. The feet are walked toward the hands and you stand up straight, or straighter.



Now, if I tried either of these exercises the following things would likely happen: someone would step on my fingers, one of the kids would jump on my back, the dog would bite me, my wife would demand to smell my breath, and if the neighbors were looking in the window they'd call the police.

GLASSES —
OLD AND NEW

It may not look it but it is the same girl, wearing old and new sun glasses. The pair at left was made in France with hand-engraved design details for a feminine accent. At right, in contrast, is a pair of 1860 glasses that feature yellow-tinted glass in the center surrounded by white opaque glass.

