

The Sunday Spotlight

What for Vacation Variety?

By WILLIAM L. DODD

(State Journal Radio Editor)

As you read this, I (the lucky guy) am on vacation. So what does a guy in my place do on vacation? It's really tough, with my kind of job, because one is supposed to "get away from it all" when one goes in for entertainment.

In order to avoid vacation occupations for my time, I shall have to:

1. Stay away from shows;
2. Leave the radio turned off;
3. Eschew concerts;
4. Turn the other way when I pass sculpture or painting;
5. Keep the phonograph locked;
6. Read newspapers, magazines, and books with a non-professional eye.

Of the remaining available amusements, there are few to which I can turn.

I haven't played golf since 1928, when my average climbed to about 110, which was the same as my bowling average when I gave up that sport in 1926.

Fishing has always been unproductive of anything except sunburn, boating yields nothing but backache and more sunburn. I never learned to swim well enough to enjoy it.

Motoring, on the other hand, is just fine, and so is gardening, but you can't do both at once—or at least I can't.

So it looks like the vacation will consist largely of the last two, which are permitted under the vaca-

tioning code of ethics, and violations of the rest of the code—radio, records, shows, etc.

As you have been reminded frequently on the air, this is the 25th anniversary year of the National Broadcasting Co. (NBC). And since this column has been pretty personal so far, it might as well stay that way.

It just happens that NBC's silver anniversary coincides with my first work editing radio copy. Back in 1926, when I was telegraph and sports editor of the Merrill Daily Herald, that newspaper had, for one day, a special page devoted to this new means of entertainment, and I was elected to handle it.

The next year—1927—I came to The State Journal, and in one more year I became radio editor. At that time, the job was an adjunct to the state editor's, and consisted only of preparing mimeographed lists of programs, which came from a Chicago news service, for the printers.

Don Anderson, then managing editor of The State Journal, recognized the growing news value of radio, and this newspaper began, in that year, to devote at least a half-page each Sunday to radio developments.

On Oct. 28, 1928, The Sunday State Journal carried its first column of program notes under the heading "Radio Review." On Nov. 11, 1928, this became a daily feature which has not missed an edition since that time, although it has had several titles.

While the column has not been mine all of these years, I have always had a fatherly interest in it when other staff members were writing it.

And my vacation probably won't interrupt this.

Uncle Ray's Corner

Britain Started Stamp Idea

Millions of postage stamps are used nowadays. They are so common that it is hard to think of a time when the world was without them. They have been used, however, for little more than a century.

There are many kinds of stamps besides postage stamps. Any mark or design of a special kind may be called a stamp. We have rubber stamps today, and people of long ago used signet rings to press marks on wax or clay.

An old record tells about the "little post" in Paris. A certain Frenchman, the Comte de Villaret, started a small business in delivering letters 298 years ago.

He sold wrappers for letters, each marked in a special way, and boxes were set up to hold the letters. Footmen called at the boxes, and delivered the letters to persons in Paris whose names and addresses appeared on the wrappers.

To keep the wrappers from being used over again, the footmen took them off the letters at the time of delivery.

Those wrappers were something like our modern stamped envelopes. They were a great forward step, but the marks on them differed from adhesive postage stamps.

Suggested by Hill
The first man to describe an



wanted to let the boys govern themselves as much as possible, and the plan worked well at that school.

After keeping on with his work of teaching until he was 37 years old, Hill turned to inventing, and devised a rotary printing press.

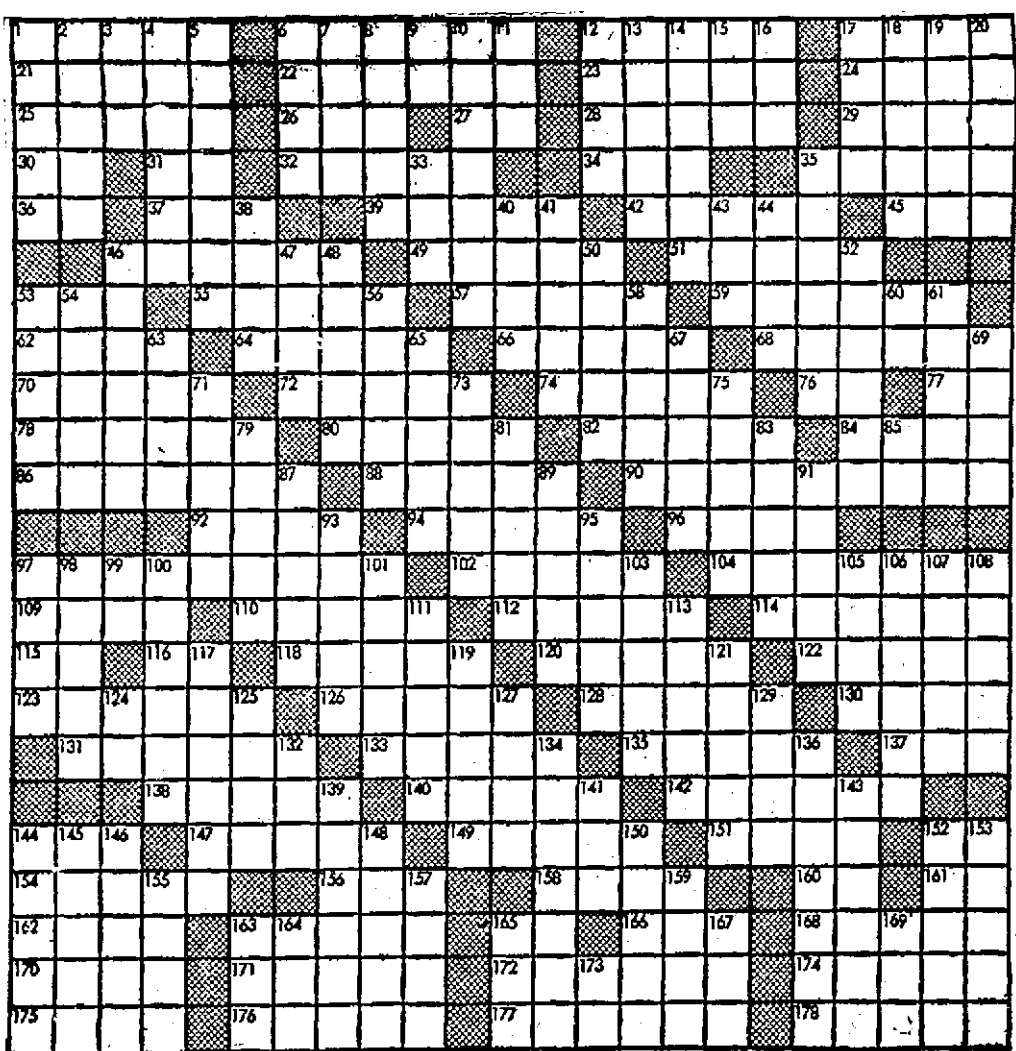
Shortly after he proved that his press would work, he turned to another field—public service. He wrote a pamphlet in favor of "penny postage."

Letters were being carried in those days in Great Britain and many other countries, but the rates were high. Hill declared that the postal system should be reformed, and that the charges should be cut. The idea of the gummed postage stamp was only one part of the great plan.

At length the British government took up the idea, and penny postage stamps were printed and sold. On these stamps was the image of Queen Victoria, who was a young woman at the time. I wonder whether she realized what a great honor it was to be pictured on the first adhesive, printed postage stamps.

Seven years later, the United States government started using adhesive postage stamps. After that, the other nations of the world started to follow the plan of Rowland Hill.

Sunday's Crossword Puzzle



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| 1 Mountain lakes | 53 Fatigue | 123 Commercial combination | 1 Gateway to shrine temple | 54 Make explanation | 106 To excuse for non-appearance in court |
| 2 Greek devastations | 55 Unfastened | 126 Locates | 2 To get up | 56 Kind of duck | 107 Upright |
| 3 Germinated grain material | 56 Reached across | 128 Danger | 3 Narrow inlet | 57 Grounded, as golf club | 108 Breathe loudly asleep |
| 4 Constellation | 57 Reached across | 130 S. African hunting rifle | 4 Observe | 58 A bout | 109 Exhibit |
| 5 Constellation | 58 Reached across | 131 Treated maliciously | 5 The Virginia snakefoot | 59 City of Brazil | 110 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 6 Three-legged chair | 59 Reached across | 132 Stares | 6 The electric catfish | 60 City of Brazil | 111 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 7 Coin of Afghanistan | 60 Reached across | 133 Stares | 7 Turkish title | 61 City of Brazil | 112 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 8 Assisted | 61 Reached across | 134 Stares | 8 Sound | 62 City of Brazil | 113 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 9 Roman road | 62 Reached across | 135 Stares | 9 Proposition | 63 City of Brazil | 114 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 10 Lariat | 63 Reached across | 136 Stares | 10 Influence | 64 City of Brazil | 115 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 11 To be ill | 64 Reached across | 137 Stares | 11 Consume | 65 City of Brazil | 116 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 12 Book of Bible (abbr.) | 65 Reached across | 138 Stares | 12 Pouches | 66 City of Brazil | 117 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 13 Famous British general | 66 Reached across | 139 Stares | 13 Lodge | 67 City of Brazil | 118 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 14 An inlet | 67 Reached across | 140 Stares | 14 Let it stand | 68 City of Brazil | 119 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 15 Exist | 68 Reached across | 141 Stares | 15 Let it stand | 69 City of Brazil | 120 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 16 Inner guard (abbr.) | 69 Reached across | 142 Stares | 16 Let it stand | 70 City of Brazil | 121 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 17 Freed from moisture | 70 Reached across | 143 Stares | 17 Let it stand | 71 City of Brazil | 122 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 18 Selections (abbr.) | 71 Reached across | 144 Stares | 18 Let it stand | 72 City of Brazil | 123 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 19 Pacific island screw pine | 72 Reached across | 145 Stares | 19 Let it stand | 73 City of Brazil | 124 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 20 Satisfaction for the killing of a man | 73 Reached across | 146 Stares | 20 Let it stand | 74 City of Brazil | 125 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 21 Values | 74 Reached across | 147 Stares | 21 Let it stand | 75 City of Brazil | 126 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 22 Act in response | 75 Reached across | 148 Stares | 22 Let it stand | 76 City of Brazil | 127 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 23 French plural article | 76 Reached across | 149 Stares | 23 Let it stand | 77 City of Brazil | 128 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 24 To tell | 77 Reached across | 150 Stares | 24 Let it stand | 78 City of Brazil | 129 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 25 Jumps | 78 Reached across | 151 Stares | 25 Let it stand | 79 City of Brazil | 130 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
| 26 Fruit of blackthorn (pl.) | 79 Reached across | 152 Stares | 26 Let it stand | 80 City of Brazil | 131 Weight of fruit (pl.) |
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