



FEB.
1954.

BLACK 121
PARRY SOUND ONTARIO
CANADA

LOAFING TIME AND NIGHT CLUBS

This appeared under the column head "Rough Cuts" in the Canadian Industrial Equipment News, for November 1952. It appears through the courtesy of Sam McCoy who sent it in.

One of the rewards of this human, work-a-day rat race is the right to loaf after the five o'clock whistle. Loafing time is that rare vacuum crying to be filled after we've done the chores at the office and at home. Loafing time can be spent sleeping, reading or drinking beer. Many of us plunge in pursuit of a moth called pleasure and some people-- those with money left after food and taxes-- go to night clubs.

This brings us to the point: if Satan himself had thought of it, he couldn't have invented a bigger monument to man's knack for self-delusion than the night club. And it's darned expensive. But let's face it. Man must have his fling and as long as there's a man with a bulging pocketbook to empty there will always be a nightclub around to help him.

But what about the poor undernourished Joe-- and that includes most of us-- who can't afford it. What's he to do to flatter his ego? How can he get that joy of a whopping ~~ing~~ good time, that feeling of "painting the town", that sense of rash abandon-- how can he have all this and eat?

Here's how. For all the ingredients of a real night club atmosphere in your living room follow these instructions:

1. Tie a hammer to the turntable of the record player so that it chugs like a Maxwell at 20 below. Play records of Johnny Ray.

2. Into the fire-place throw a few

NO. 57

large chunks French tobacco and some old mops. Light fire and close damper.

3. -- Invite the neighborhood kids for a game of indoor rugby and ask your wife to dance.

Of course there are other ways of filling one's loafing time. As one backwoods philosopher said: "You can't beat a quiet woodshed and a jug of apple cider."

Not a bad idea.

-30-

LITTLE WILLIE SLEW HIS WIFE;
SLIT HER THROAT WITH A CARVING KNIFE;
LOOKING AT THE BLOOD UPON THE FLOOR:
QUOTH WILLIE: "SHE HAD TO SMOKE!"
--Les Croutch '53.

-30-

STOMPIN'
ALL OVER
TH' 65TH
MAILIN' WITH
"BIG FEET"
CROUTCH

DREAM QUEST #11

Wilson sounds to me like a phlegmatic sort of a person; the kind unlikely to ever develop a stomach ulcer. I think possibly I am like you, Don: I dislike hustle and bustle, and cannot quite understand these people who, to be happy, must be always on the rush-- always looking for something new and exciting-- living in a sort of perpetual high gear that leaves everybody around them worn out and gasping for breath. I am not afraid of the complicatedness of modern living, but can do without it. I don't believe in the good old days when nothing travelled faster than the horse and buggy, and yet I don't believe we have to be always travelling a thousand miles an hour to get someplace just to have more time to sit and steam because there is

nothing to do. I don't think everything is going to go to smash next tick of the clock, and I don't think man is going to develop any fearful weapon that is going to end the human race overnight; but I still believe in protecting myself, and carrying my little rubber boat along in case the next bridge I have to cross has been demolished by some uncouth being.

IRUSABEN #13

Hah! You aren't the only one who is amused at the name "Progressive Conservative". The very name is a contradiction. A fact that has been pointed out by various Canadian writers, and various Canadian newspapers. The party may possibly be progressive for a conservative, but what does that prove? That big horses have little horses? -- That picture that has two endings-- was it the British film, "The Men of the Kings Navy"? But what is so strange about that? The crud Hollywood turns out these days hasn't got enough story to have an ending to, let alone TWO!

STFSTUFF #5 & FLOP #4

Hey, Charlie, this what you want? TV scanning lines:

Denmark	Copenhagen	625
France	Lille	819
	Paris	441
	Paris	819
Germany	Berlin	625
	Hamburg	625
	Hanover	625
	Cologne	625
Gt. Britain	Langenberg	625
	Belfast	405
	Brighton	405
etc		
Netherlands		625
Italy		625
Switzerland		625
U.S.S.R		625
Yugoslavia		625

Canadian TV uses U.S. standards. Sorry I can't give the fps of the Europeans-- my information source doesn't have them.

--- Our library also handles the local National Film Council. You can obtain 16mm sound films for home or church or what have you showings. You can also get the use of a 16mm sound projector. Naturally you have to be a

member and also hold a card showing you have taken the projectionists classes and passed. I am not a member but I hold the card. Films obtainable are National Film Board productions, various industrial training films, and so on. Films are rotated around the circuit, so every library always have a fairly new supply on hand. I've considered more than once joining so I could see all the Eye Witness and Canada Carries On films. These are also released in 35MM but our local theatre doesn't run the short half the time so we miss about 90% of the two above mentioned films. --- The other evening I was reading some psychology stuff anent love and hate being almost the same thing, and how one can turn into the other so easily. You know the line? For some reason McCarthy came to line. Is it entirely beyond the realm of possibility that Joe HATES Communism so much because he once loved it too much, or tried to join the party, or was a partymember and got kicked out? Just a thought. Maybe Carr will slit my throat for such obscene language in public, but-- !!!!!

FANTASIA

Although I haven't anything to say in comment or rebuttal to Helen's Magazine, I still must stick my oar in here just say I always enjoy anything she and Wessonmale turn out. Their offerings always seem to be so full of the unusual. I just hope they remain with us.

SHADOWLAND 4 1/2

How about:

Little Annie bought a fish
To bake her lover a Sunday dish;
Slipped in a little ground glass

too,

Just to see what it would do.

- Crutch.

It may not show the pure crystallization of the Little Willie odes, or something by CASmith, but I composed it and I like it!

LARK

The AC/DC crappies DID make things tough for the service shops, Bill, but it wasn't as bad up here as in your country. For one thing our manufacturers never did

get down to the ridiculous prices yours did. We did get down to \$19.95 but I don't recall anything any cheaper. Right now they run from between \$25. and \$30. on up. Personally I refuse to cut my rates just because the set needing repairs is worth only a few bucks. I take the stand that my time is worth a certain amount-- parts aren't any cheaper just because they are going into a cheap little second-hand bastard-- and I just can't cut my price. I've shown owners the insides of their radios-- sometimes it convinces them, sometimes it doesn't. My experience has been that if the owner wants to argue and beef, all the evidence in the world won't make him any different. Actually the only profitable way to repairs the little stinkers is to just do the absolute minimum, just enough to make the set work, in order to keep the bill to a minimum, and let it go at that. I always explain to the owner when the sets needs more done, and what a total job would cost, then I tell him what it will cost just to make it work, and let him make up his own mind. Up here, right now, though, owners will go as high as 50% of the value of the set to fix it up, on the average! It isn't hard to get \$10. or around that to repair one as old as 7 years! One way the repairman can repair the AC/DCers at a profit, is to keep his eye open for bankrupt stock and surplus stock purchases on the more expensive items, such as speakers and L.F. transformers. I've bought such items at such low prices I have been able to retail them at regular wholesale price and yet get my regular markup! +++ If repairs on regular AM radio keeps up as good as it has been since the middle of the year, I won't cry if I NEVER work on a TV set, except my own! S'fact! +++ Nope, sorry, old man-- I don't believe in giving stuff away and I don't believe in working cheap-- but my code of ethics forbid me to sell a guy a 6L6 for a 6K6 when I KNOW it will only get him into trouble. Maybe I WILL lose a sale and a chance to teach the guy a lesson, but I figure honesty pays off in the long run, and that I will gain more than I lose.

--LIGHT PAGE FOUR--

I still intend to purchase a TV set for my own amusement. But not a new one. Not at our prices, anyway. I'll get a used job and take it from there. +++ For my money RCA doesn't make the set they did before the war. Right now up here I think my favorite would be Electrohome, made by a Kitchener firm. Maybe I am prejudiced because Electrohome sets are so nice to work on! +++ Why worry about the sound quality on a used tv set you are buying? You can always disconnect the piddling little speaker most of them seem to be plagued with, and hook up a nice big 12"-er in a separate enclosure. +++: While on radio, the one I am building is progressing slowly. Got the tuning capacitor, dial mechanism, rf coil shields and band switch assembled and laid out on the chassis. That dial was a dilly of a job. If I built one I built a dozen before I settled on this one. It is a combined planetary split gear drive affording a ratio of approximately 100:1 between the knob and the tuning capacitor. Between the knob and an auxiliary logging dial there is a ratio of approximately 5:1-- between this logging dial and the tuning capacitor there is the final ratio of 20:1. This should give me good ease of tuning as well as adequate mechanical bandspread for logging purposes. Reduction drive between knob and auxiliary dial is a planetary one-- between this dial and the final main dial-tuning capacitor the drive is gear. No belts or cords to wear out here, no-sires. Tuning capacitor is a 4-gang 365 mmf. Insulation throughout the rf end will be mica-filled bakelite or stentite. All unused rf coils will be shorted out to eliminate dead spots. Range in four bands will be approx. 540kc to roughly 32 mc without skip. The band switch has facilities for two extra bands if I ever desire so, but I doubt it. I'll keep you posted as things progress.

SPACEWARP

That article on stamps accomplished one thing, at least: it bestirred an old correspondent to get in touch with me: The One and Only Laniac! Blighter wanted to swap stamps for magazines! Read! +++ The ads appear to be going over all over. One reader wrote to say he thought Whang

When Did YOU Last Have A Raise?

Who?
Me?

YES YOU

Thousands of men are wandering through life, stuck in a rut, and don't realize it. They have a raise perhaps once a year, perhaps twice a year. And the raise is a small one, short-lasting, incapable of filling the desires for a fuller, happier existence. ARE YOU ONE OF THESE UNFORTUNATE MEN? You needn't be. It will take only a few minutes of your time to fill out the coupon-- a few minutes that can change the whole course of your future. Just check the square that applies to you. Our comprehensive booklet will be mailed immediately, without charge, without obligation. Read what Throgmorton Q. McBallicks wrote us: "I had had only one raise in 18 months when I wrote you. Since commencing your course I have had six raises-- and I am only half through. It has brightened the lives of my wife and myself."

.....
I.C.S Institute, 1313 Katzbund, Katzville,
Ontario.

Name.....
Address.....
City.....
☐ Married ☐ Single ☐ Age ☐ Experience.

.....
Inter-Copulate Systems Institute, 1313
Katzbund, Katzville, Ontario.

Pa was terrific. +++ Every man to his own form of dissipation, I say. This introduces my remark that I don't go for wire sculptor, Grandma Moses, and such contraptions that parade under the guise of "art". All I can say is-- I am ill! +++

Little Annie slapped a cop--
Thirty days is what she got;
"Judge" she cried. "Ho pinched
my fanny!
But he wasn't gettin' annie!"
- Crutch

HORIZONS

It's happened to me, too. I've worked on a set that had some tubes in it that were so lousy it puzzled me how the set could work as well as it did. And it puzzled me even more when I put in brand new tubes that tested excellent and couldn't note any difference at all! It's just another case where radiomen go crazy so young. (P.S. In such cases I just leave the old tubes in. Tain't worth the arguing just to be able to sell a few extra tubes when nobody can notice any improvement.) +++ An intermittent is the toughest trouble to catch, Harry. It was the logical thing to do to replace the worn out tubes as they could have been causing your trouble. The proper procedure would have been for you to let the service technician know the radio wasn't any better, in which case, if he was conscientious and efficient, he would have checked your aerial. However, you found it yourself, and I am sure the technician would sooner you fix your own aerial than to have to spend time on it when he could likely make more working on tougher jobs. +++: Why didn't you beef when the Philco came back like that? Parry Saunders would have raised a squawk God Himself would have winced from! +++ Personally I LOVED FILLER. I hope Browne does it again, and soon. +++ I never heard that one-- about the money saved in gas by overdrive you use up by having to relino your brakes more often. Why? It doesn't sound reasonable. But I WILL tell you what I have read-- that the money saved in gas by having overdrive is

lost by the extra upkeep of the unit, especially when it gets a considerable mileage on it and you have to go to some garage for repairs. This sounds logical. +++ I enjoyed your talk on music. Keep it up.

-- THUTTY --

LIGHT FLASHES

Lately (January 29) I have been reading in the daily papers about a couple out in Victoria who deserve a seat with McCarthy, Mussolini, Hitler, Stalin, and the leaders of the South African and Australian governments. Mayor Claude Harrison and Mrs. Doris Loughheed, a member of the Library Board, have caught the book-burning and see-a-commie-under-every-rose-bush sickness. Mayor Harrison and Mrs. Loughheed want to start burning all books that do not meet with their Divine Wisdom. As it was reported that the good lady said: "I believe all books that incite the poor down-trodden working man to revolt against the rich should be banned". Well, God Luv us, Ma'am, and who set YOU up as a holier than thou Saint? And the same to you too My Good Mayor. As though we haven't enough of your ilk already on the face of the earth!

Next month there should be room to print Sam McCoy's rebuttal to my remarks on US versus British movies. Sam wrote it as part of a regular letter but switch my bitches if it isn't a regular little article. I don't entirely agree with what he has to say, but there's always two sides to every shield and why should I be stingy on space to print opinions?

I think this is as good a place as any to warn all you good people that when you write me from now on, better mark anything that you don't want to see printed. BOX 121, to be successful, is going to gobble up a lot of material, or so I hope, so I'll be watching your letters carefully with reprinting of portions thereof in mind. So if I print something and you didn't mark it as "private", don't blame me. You was warned, you was.

Last night, February 1st., I saw the Robert L. Lippert production, starring Howard Duff, and Eva Bartok, "Spaceways". This was advertised, both in the papers and outside the theatre, as the story of the "space stations". Well, I am sorry to report that the closest we got to any space stations was in the dialog. Beyond the story is a triangle-spy affair laid at a rocket research station somewhere in England. Howard Duff was there for his Saturday check. Eva Bartok is a nice-appearing wench who looks sexy in plain white coveralls. Outside of Eva, the picture is a waste of time. --30--

STRICTLY FOR AUDIO-PHILES

by

Leslie A. Croutch.

This was written in reply to Harry Warner's queries about the life of audio tape as compared to discs. This was based on material written by G. J. LeBel, appearing in AUDIO RECORD for January, 1953.

Recordings can be stored in several forms, such as Pressings, Metal parts, from which the pressings can be made, Lacquer discs, and Magnetic tapes.

Apparently Harry Warner is not the only one to wonder just how long tapes would last, and as a result some experimental work has been done along this line. Tapes have been in use for such a short time, however, when compared to the well-known record, that the findings cannot be conclusive.

However, the following is known.

Because so much is known about the method utilizing a master mother and stamper, it is accepted that there seems to be little chance that all three will be damaged or destroyed. The stamper can be ruined during the pressing operation, so keeping it alone is not sufficient. New stampers can be made when both master and mother is available. If enough care is taken to prevent corrosion, this method is apparently the most permanent method available. Mr. LeBel says, "If we are to outdo the science fiction writers and store for a thousand years, then a metal master, mother and stamper preserved in dry helium form the only reasonably sure way."

Shellac pressings are about 50 years old. Many of them are still about and apparently in good condition. Modern pressings are more likely to be in vinyl, and there is only about 20 years experience.

To preserve recordings, dust must be kept away while they are in storage; dust, heat, and no chances of warping. Dust and heat will raise the noise level. Sufficient warping will make a pressing

temporarily unplayable. If the record is a particularly valuable one, such as a historic one, then great attention must be given the pickup, the tone arm and the stylus, for a worn stylus in an old-time heavy pickup could ruin a precious disc beyond reclamation.

But this is old stuff to you audio-philes, and to Warner. What he wants to know is— how long will tapes last?

Quoting from Mr. LeBel's article: The life of magnetic tape poses a very complex question, for we have both magnetic and physical effects to consider.

"The main question is one of physical deterioration of the base and binder. The standard cellulose acetate base material has some record for long life, but we know that temperature and humidity must be controlled to achieve this. Some accelerated life test results have been cited to suggest that the acetate may have a life of over fifty years. Unfortunately these accelerated tests were developed with thicker acetate, of different formulation, and normally used under more severe conditions; we therefore have no certainty that we know the degree of acceleration of the test. It may be greater or less than believed, and in fifty years we should know the answer. At the moment we do know definitely that storage under hot, dry conditions may reduce the life to a few months, so we recommend storing at 65 to 70° F., and 50 to 70% R. H. (relative humidity).

"Experience has indicated that the binder (which holds the oxide to the base) is not as susceptible to storage conditions. We cannot presently be sure that the binder will outlast the base, but we hope so."

The article goes on to suggest that experience has shown that the paper base tape is even more sensitive to improper storage conditions. The new polyester resins has is still a mystery-- nothing is really known about them.

"Some observers," LeBel continues, "have noted a considerable increase in magnetic print-through from one layer of oxide to the next, which we ascribe to the high peak recording level often used.

--LIGHT PAGE LIGHT--

High storage temperature will accelerate print-through. Exposure to even weak magnetic fields will have the same effect, while strong magnetic fields may produce partial erasure.

"If tape is run over a slightly magnetized recording head, there will be an increase in noise level, so historical tape should be run only on carefully selected machines.

"Finally, we know very little about demagnetization with time. We may expect a slow loss with time, but we cannot tell whether it will be proportional or whether it will effect the peaks more (which would introduce distortion).

"At the present state of the recording art, storage of metal parts or pressings seems most probable to give long life. Lacquer discs and magnetic tape are as yet uncertain in life, and dependent on proper storage condition.

"Under the worst conditions which may reasonably obtain, a lacquer disc may suffer an increase in noise level, but it probably is physically playable. Magnetic tape under corresponding conditions will remain quiet, but it is likely to develop strong print-through, and may deteriorate physically so much it cannot be played."

So there you are, Warner and the rest of you. Little is definitely known, but it seems that, from the evidence so far heard in court, the discs are to be preferred for long life. I have little from personal experience to offer you. But I have here an old Columbia, made around 1915 or slightly before. On a mechanical phonograph it is noisy and almost useless. On a modern player with a light head the noise is very low, low enough not to be too troublesome, and the tonal qualities are amazing, considering the state of the art at the time it was cut. This disc is not warped, chipped, cracked. It has stood well the ravages of time. When I obtained it it had been collecting dust in an attic and had been thrown out into a trash barrel. I think Bill Grant has some records that were also badly mistreated but which he reclaimed and which are very enjoyable. Perhaps he will report for the benefit of you readers.

LET'S SWAP

LISTING NO. 125

I have on hand the following items for which I am open to offers. I'll either swap for something I want or I will sell outright. All offers on a strictly bid basis. Postage paid to buyer.

Macfadden Publications

GHOST STORIES

Vol. 1 No. 5

November 1926.

This magazine has front and back covers and all the pages. On the bottom edge of the front cover is what appears to be a cigarette burn measuring 1/4" x 1". This burn extends through the cover and pages 1 and 2, pages 3 to 6 are scorched while page 7 is barely marred. The magazine as a whole is clean but the pages are starting to yellow slightly from age.

AMAZING STORIES QUARTERLY

Vol. 2 No. 3

Summer 1929.

This copy has both covers. Has been mended along spine with cellophane tape. Spine covering all there. Covers not torn and only slightly soiled. Exterior all there and in good condition.

SCIENTIFIC DETECTIVE MONTHLY

Vol. 1 No. 5

May 1930.

You collectors and old timers know who published this: Hugo Gernsback. Spine (see back page)

SEND ORDERS TO
LES CROUTCH

BOX 121

SAM W. MCCOY, NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

You'll maybe be sending along the newish mailing, now the Xmas rush has been & gone past. I'll be interested in viewing same, altho', as I've said before, I'm beginning to view the discussions & discussions of discussions with a jaundiced eye. Maybe I'm just getting old, or perchance it was one of my bad days when I looked over the last one you sent me.

Certainly discussions are all very well, but I sort of draw the line at a "magazine" full of them. To me the term "magazine" does not include the type of material you find in many FAPA publications; my definition would cover something of the type of thing LIGHT was before you got on this "comments" kick-- articles, stories, reviews, poems, jokes, letters to the editor, and editorial comments-- which could include casual and occasional references to what has appeared in other magazines. But to cram these so-called "magazines" with comments-on-comments-on-comments ad nauseum is to misuse the term. Call the whole deal a round-robin letter, or court of opinions, or round-table discussion, or something, but don't try to dignify the whole deal with different names and logos when, after all, all the publications contain the same kind of material.

Does that make sense? Well, print it!

With which diatribe against the forces of Good & Justice in the Sad World today, I take my Departure (a new CCM bike) and go!

I have taken your dare. I have printed it. Now who else has the same viewpoint? Or who will take up spears with you on the field of immoral combat?--LAC/

NORMAN V. LAMB, SIMCOE, ONTARIO.

Thanks for printing "Fantastic Ramblings" in its entirety-- even if you did make me swear in one place-- you changed "dastard" to "bastard"-- which, I will admit, didn't change the sense of the sentence at all. Hope you got good reports about it-- I enjoyed writing it.

That Sludge you advertise in your paper-- it is no good-- it won't lay eggs. Ha. Ha..

Your article on the films was quite interesting and it positively made the issue of LIGHT. Come out with further ones when you see films that enrage or amuse you so much.

Newspapers we never expect to see-- "The Prostitute's Guide", published by at Much-Pimping-on-the-Moor; "The Whore's Guide" published at Much-Jazzing-By-the-Sea.

Not many English publications are represented on the local newsstands, Norm. I wonder if the same publisher as "The Whore's Guide" is responsible for "The Tail of Two Cities" by that great Indian author, Charleyhorse Dickins? I believe Charleyhorse also wrote that poem among poems, "Who Made Mabel on the Poolroom Table".--LAC/

--30--

SWAPS

has been mended with scotch tape. Spine not in good shape but still legible. Front and back covers present, but front cover has a rip in it at the spine edge. Stain through front cover and pages 1 to 4 or an area of about 1 1/2" X 1". All the pages are there. First 28 pages have tear extending about 2" in from the spine about 3 1/2" from the top. This rip coincides with front cover tear. Interior is otherwise in decent condition-- not dirty or stained, but starting to change color due to age.

I HAVE SOME MORE STUFF ON HAND THAT WILL BE LISTED FROM TIME TO TIME IN THE FUTURE. SEND ME YOUR BIDS FOR WHAT YOU WANT. THERE IS NO STARTING PRICE BUT IF I THINK YOUR OFFER IS RIDICULOUS I'LL JUST IGNORE YOU!