PRINT SHOWS THROUGH

MERCURY VAPOURS

By Warren R. Fisher

PROVES BIBLE TRUE

The following appeared in the June 10, 1970, issue of "The Christian Caller," published weekly by the Russell Springs Church. It was given to The Dawson Springs Progress by Mrs. Joe D. Winfrey.

"The Christian Caller" copied the article from the "Evening World," published in Spencer, Ind. It is entitled "Space Program Proves The Bible True" and is rather thought-provoking.

"Did you know that the space program is busy proving that what has been called 'myth' in the Bible is true? Mr. Harold Hill, President of the Curtis Engine Company in Baltimore, Maryland, and a consultant in the space program relates the following development:

"I think one of the most amazing things that God has for us today happened recently to our astronauts and space scientists at Green Belt, Maryland. They were checking the position of the sun, moon, and planets out in space where they would be 100 years and 1,000 years from now. We have to know this so we don't send a satellite up and have it bump into something later on in its orbits. We have to lay out the orbit in terms of the life of the satellite, and where the planets will be so the whole thing will not bog down! They ran the computer measurement back and forth over the centuries and it came to a halt. The computer stopped and put up a red signal which meant there was something wrong either with the info fed into it or with the results as compared to the standards. They called in the service department to check it out and they said, 'It's perfect.' The IBM head of operations said, 'What's wrong?' 'Well, we found there is a day missing in space in elasped time.' The scratched their heads and tore their hair. There was no answer!

"'One religious fellow on the team said, 'You know, one time I was in Sunday School and they talked about the sun standing still.' They didn't believe him, but they didn't have any other answer so they said, 'Show us!' So he got a Bible and went back to the book of Joshua where they found a pretty ridiculous statement for anybody who has any common sense.' There they found the Lord saying to Joshua, 'Fear them not. I have delivered them into thy hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.' (Joshua 10:1-16)

Joshua was concerned because he was surrounded by the enemy and the darkness fell they would overpower them. So Joshua asked the Lord to make the sun stand still! That's right! 'The sun stood still and the moon stayed...and hasted not to go down about a whole day.' Well, they checked the computers going back into the time it was written and found it was close but not close enough! The elasped time that was missing back in Joshua's day was 23 hours and 20 minutes--not a whole day. They read the Bible and there it said 'about' (approximately) a day!

'These little words in the Bible are important. But they were still in trouble because if you cannot account for 40 minutes you'll be in trouble 1,000 years from now. Forty minutes had to be found because it can be multiplied many times over in orbits. Well, this religious fellow also remembered somewhere in the Bible where it said the sun went backwards. The space men told him he was out of his mind. But they got out the Book and read these words in II Kings, chapter 20:8-10; Hezekiah, on his deathbed, was visited by the prophet Isaiah, who told him that he was not going to die, Hezekiah did not believe him and asked for a signed in proof. Isaiah said, 'Do you want the sun to go ahead ten degrees?' Hezekiah said, 'It's nothing for the sun to go ahead ten degrees, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees!' Isaiah spoke to the Lord and the Lord brought the shadow ten degree BACKWARD! Ten degrees is exactly 40 minutes! Twenty three hours and 20 minutes in Joshua, plus 40 minutes in II Kings make the missing 24 hours the space travelers had to log in the logbook as being the missing day on the universe! Isn't that amazing? Our God is rubbing their noses in His TRUTH! That's right!"

--MV--

We would like to commend City Council on its new employee organization, salary, job description, benefits, etc which it adopted Monday night. A particular thanks should be given to Mrs. Kimball Booth who did so much of the research work and who compiled the information all of which took many, many hours of work. We feel that all of the City employees will benefit from these improvements.

--MV--

HOW TO COOK A HUSBAND

We have, in times past, made note of interesting recipes we've found in old newspaper clippings. One of our compatriots with the WESTVILLE (Indiana) INDICATOR recently discovered such an item in an old cookbook compiled by the ladies aid of Capitol Church of Wolcott, Ind. The item read:

How to Cook A Husband!

"A great many husbands are entirely spoiled by mismanagement in cooking, and so are not tender and good. Some women keep them too constantly in hot water, others freeze them; others burn them in a stew, others roast them, others keep them constantly in a pickle.

It cannot be supposed any husband will be good and tender managed this way. But they are delicious when properly cooked. Don't keep them in the kettle by force, as he will stay there himself if proper care is taken. If he should sputter or fizz don't be anxious, some husbands do this. Add a little sugar in the form of what confectioners call 'kisses,' but no vinegar or pepper on any account.

A little spice improves him, but it must be used with judgement. Do not try him with something sharp to see if he is becoming tender, Stir him gently the while lest he be too long in the kettle and become fat and tasteless.

If you follow these directions you will find him very digestible, agreeing nicely with you, and he will keep as long as you want."

We're not sure how well this old recipe will work today in the age of power-drive can openers, outdoor electric grills and kitchen cooking implements with control panels of such complexity as to tax the ability of a master engineer (which most housewives have to be these days.) But we seem to detect some elements in the "cooking" methods which suggest that the modern wife of today isn't too far removed from her maxi-skirted grandmother of yesterday.

Twenty and Forty Years Ago

Thursday, July 20, 1950

At a joint meeting Friday night of the Carlisle City Council and Nicholas Business Men's Club's directors, Lonnie Giffin, president of Giffin Manufacturing Company, squelched rumors that he intended to remove his plant to another city. The factory was established over two years ago, now employs 175 women.

Miss Doris Cloyd, R.N., Owensboro, Ky., has been named as supervisor of the new Nicholas County Hospital.

S.R. Barlow, County Farm Bureau president, attended a special tobacco meeting on Tuesday, July 11, at Winston-Salem, N.C. in the interest of Nicholas County Burley Growers.

Miss Patsy Cluy Barton, daughter of Mrs. W.R. Barton of Midway, student at Transylvania College, Lexington, has the main supporting role, in a theatre play, "Kind Lady."

Mrs. J. Clarke Leer, Scout leader and members of Senior Girl Scout Troop No. 1, Betty Sue Woodall, Shirley King, Kay Fisher, Emily Van Bever, Betty Caywood, Betty Shelby, Betty Baye Hall, and Minerva Bowen, spent the week camping on Licking River.

BORN--To Mr. and Mrs. Sammie Lemons, a son, July 14, in Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Adrian Anderson, a daughter, on Monday.--To Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Tapp, a son, Friday.--To Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Carl, a daughter.--To Mr. and Mrs. Arthur George, Moorefield, a son, Saturday.--To Mr. and Mrs. William McCarty, a daughter, Pauline Blaine, July 15, at Mt. Sterling.--To Mr. and Mrs. Milton Flora, a daughter, Monday.--To Mr. and Mrs. Jack C. Burris, a daughter, Sandra Holmon, July 14, in Paris.

DIED--Mrs. Ida Lynam, 80, at the home of a daughter, Mrs. Mayme Peffer, Williamstown, on Monday.--Hiliam Alexander Jones, 86, Monday, at the home of a son, Irvine Jones.--Mrs. Anna Lee McCormick, Hannah Hall, Monday, at her home in Bourbon County.--Mrs. Lucy Ellen Hill, 69, Tuesday at her home at Ruddles Mills.

Thursday, July 17, 1930

During an electrical storm in the Millport section of the county Saturday night, the home of Robert Russell was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. The family were able to extinguish the fire with buckets of water before it had caused any damage, Mrs. Russell, who was in the house at the time, was stunned by the bolt of lightning, but has recovered.

Prof. L.B. Woosley, of Bowling Green, has accepted the position of director of athletics and science to fill the place of Hobart Walker, teacher in the Carlisle High school who resigned to accept a position with the Frigidaire Corporation.

Miss Ida M. Howard suffered a broken wrist on Sunday morning when she fell on the wet pavement in the back yard of her home.

Mrs. Bettie Ritchie, of the Hookstown section, is reported quite ill at her home suffering with tularemia.

Paul Lawrence, 14, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ezekiel Lawrence, of the Stoney Creek section, accidentally shot himself in the right leg at his home Saturday afternoon when the trigger of the rifle which he was handling caught in the hem of his overalls, causing the gun to discharge.

A fairly large crowd was in town Monday for county court day but little business of importance was transacted. Farmers are more or less pessimistic over the crop outlook.

"Uncle Dick" Metcalfe, colored, 84 years old, who for many years conducted a blacksmith shop on the Myers Station road near Henryville, died last Wednesday at his home in Henryville.

BORN--To Mr. and Mrs. Jess Crawford, of the Maysville road on Thursday afternoon, a daughter.

MARRIED--Sallie Tubbs, 20, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Tubbs, of Bourbon County and William Morris, 23, son of Mr. and Mrs. Burns Morris, on the 11.

DIED--Will H. Snapp, 70, former Nicholas County resident, at his home in Parkaville, Ky. on the 9th of July.--Mrs. Lucinda Jones Morford, 89, Wednesday, at the home of her step-daughter, Mrs. T.B. Clarke.

From the State Capitol

Agree Or Not

I Say What I Think

by B. C. VanCuran

FRANKFORT--Some 30 cities and towns in Kentucky which levy an occupational tax may have it treated in Kentucky's highest court because of a controversy between Frankfort city officials and some members of the Court of Appeals who refuse to pay Frankfort's one per cent tax.

Only one of the seven judges and only one of the four commissioners now pay the tax. The argument has gone on intermittently since the ordinance was adopted, effective July 1, 1959.

Reason for it to resurface head again is the City Commission is contemplating increasing the tax to 1.5 per cent to meet growing operating costs. This is the City's surest method since the 1965 property tax "rollback" law prohibits an increase in property taxes.

The one per cent tax will produce $719,000, the new city budget estimates. The half per cent increase would provide another $358,500.

Previous City Commissioners always have "chickened out" when Appeals Court Judges have challenged the City's right to levy a tax on them, but the present Commission seems determined and may ask City Solicitor Allen Prewitt to file suit for collection. Judges draw $26,000 a year and the commissioners draw $22,000.

Every state employee who works in Frankfort pays the tax, regardless of where he lives. Many commute to work from a 50-mile radius.

The judges would be liable for $260 each year and the commissioners for $220...or a total of $1,220 a year that the City is not getting.

Some of the judges maintain they are not liable for the tax since they are elected from a district, but required by the Constitution to maintain offices at the Capitol.

They also have other arguments that they have raised over the years. One is that the ordinance exempts ministers of the gospel, legislators (paid per diem), and the concession stands run by the blind in state office buildings. They say the ordinance levying the tax does not meet the standard of uniformity.

When the subject has been broached in the past, people not paying the tax have said the city ought to file suit.

Former City officials have feared the occupation tax may be thrown out if it comes to a court test. Cities levying the tax uniformly, if taxed on that basis, would have no fear of having the tax thrown out.

However, court members have confided in the past that the occupation tax is nothing but an income tax. Salaried employees pay one per cent of their income, while business firms and professional people pay one per cent on their net profits.

Regardless of the argument voiced by the Appeals Court Judges, the Court has held in several cases in past that the tax is constitutional.

In the City of Louisville vs Schnee case in August, 1948, the court held, in an opinion written by then Commissioner Osso W. Stanley, that the tax was valid under Section 181 of the Constitution. Domestic employees are exempt in Louisville and Frankfort. He ruled that it was not an income tax, saying it was a tax "on the privilege of operating a business, profession, or occupation, but measured by income."

In a 1952 test case from the City of Lexington that was filed by the then assistant director, Commissioner Robert Cullen held that a second class city could levy an occupation tax.

In the Louisville case, Stanley wrote, "Provisions are made for the allocation of compensation and net profits where only a part is for, or is the result of, activities conducted in the city. Thus, the

Continued on page 8

Farm & Home

COUNTY EXTENSION AGENTS

Estil J. Noffsinger, Sara Swango

Mrs. Margie Wilson

WHAT IS DURABLE PRESS?

Durable Press, sometimes called "Permanent Press," is a term used to refer to garments that can be worn, washed, and worn again innumerable times without losing their shape-retaining properties. This means that true Durable Press garments, when made with creases and pleats, keep the sharpness of these creases and pleats through countless washings and wearings, seams lie flat and unpuckered, and the fabric needs no ironing.

TEN CARE COMMANDMENTS FOR DURABLE PRESS

These will help you handle all Durable Press garments successfully. Do read garments' labels and appliance instruction books as well for some specific details on handling.

1. WASH FREQUENTLY. Durable Press garments stay fresh looking during wear, so there's a tendency to postpone laundering. Don't! Once fabrics become heavily soiled and stained, they won't clean easily. Pre-treat stains and collars and cuffs with soap or detergent. Sponge greasy stains with spot remover.

2. WATCH ITEMS WASHED TOGETHER. Some fabrics tend to pick up color and lint from others. Avoid similar fabrics together; whites in separate loads.

3. DO SMALL LOADS. Crowding the washer causes wrinkling.

4. CHOOSE CORRECT WATER TEMPERATURE. Cold or warm water produces the least wrinkling. Heavily-soiled clothes, however, will need hot water to come thoroughly clean. This may mean more wrinkling and tough-ironing--especially if garment is not dryer-dried. Use your regular laundry detergent. Don't use chlorine bleach if a label warns against it.

5. USE A SHORT AGITATION. It shouldn't be necessary to wash more than five minutes. If slower spin is provided on washer, use it to reduce wrinkling.

6. RINSE IN COLD WATER. A fabric softener or starch can be used in the final rinse, depending on whether you want a soft or a crisp finish.

7. HAND CLOTHES AFTER LAUNDERING. If ironing, do not throw over a line or drying rack. Place garments on a hanger (a non-rusting one) and hang pant by cuffs on a spring-clip hanger. Do this promptly after dryer-drying, too.

8. DON'T OVERDRY. Use the medium (140 degree to 160 degree) or "Wash 'n Wear" setting. It's a one-heat dryer and runs quite hot, removes garments while they are slightly damp.

9. DON'T OVERCROWD DRYER. Overcrowding will cause wrinkles. But don't dry one garment alone. If you have a very small load, add a few clean towels to help tumbling action.

10. TOUCH-UP WHEN NECESSARY. Use a steam-iron or a regular iron on "low" for synthetics and blends, "medium" for cotton; a press cloth, when needed to prevent shine.

Council Adopts City Employee Job Descriptions

CITY OF CARLISLE

Job Description

Operations Manager and Water Plant Superintendent (Regular)--Manage all operations of the city under the supervision of the Mayor. In accordance with the policies and ordinances established by the Council. Authorized to assign and direct all personnel and control the use of city equipment, supplies, and property authorized by Council. Low salary $450 per month. High salary $550 per month.

Maintenance Supervisor (Regular)--Repair streets and alleys, gas leaks, water leaks, sewer leaks, and meters. Keep city lot and barn clean, equipment serviced, repaired, and storm drains open. Turn off and on gas and water for customers. Cut weeds on city property. (See duties adopted by Council on Feb. 2, 1970.) low salary $400 per month. High salary $500 per month.

Police Chief (Regular)--Enforce all ordinances of the City. Keep order on the streets, work traffic, and parking meters. Supervise patrolmen and policemen. Low salary is $375 per month. High salary is $475 per month.

Maintenance Assistant (Regular)--Perform duties assigned by Maintenance Supervisor and understudy his duties. Low salary $350 per month. High salary $450 per month.

City Clerk-Treasurer (Regular)--Maintain all financial and clerical records of the City as required by Ky. Statutes and Council. Supervise other clerical Staff. (See duties adopted by Council 1/20/70.) Low salary $325 per month. High salary $425 per month.

Sewer Plant (Regular)--Keep plant and ground clean, and machinery greased and oiled. Keep accurate records on all sewage processed. Train relief operator. Low salary $325 per month. High salary $450 per month.

Water Plant Operator (Regular)--Maintain adequate water supply for City usage at all times. Keep grounds and buildings clean and neat. Watch river pump and line for leaks. Keep all pumps and machines oiled and greased at all times. Keep accurate records on all water pumped. Train relief operator. Low salary $325 per month. High salary $425 per month.

Maintenance Assistant (Regular)--Perform duties assigned by Maintenance Supervisor. Low salary $325 per month. High salary $425 per month.

Policeman (Regular)--Maintain law and order on the streets, work traffic, and enforce ordinances of the City under the supervision of Police Chief. (Also meters, if daytime.) Low salary $325 per month. High salary $425 per month.

Clerical Assistant (Special)--Perform clerical duties assigned by Clerk-Treasurer. Low salary $1.75 per hour. High salary $2.00 per hour.

Patrolman (Special)--Perform peace officer duties as assigned and directed by the Police Chief. Low salary $1.60 per hour. High salary $1.85 per hour.

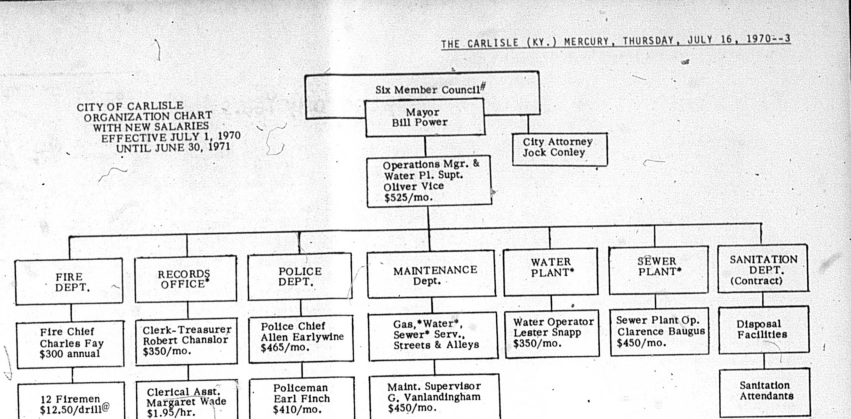
Maintenance Attendant (Special)--Perform duties assigned by the Maintenance Supervisor. Low salary $1.60 per hour. High salary $1.85 per hour.

Fire Chief (Volunteer)--Train firemen and direct all fire fighting operations. Low salary $275 annual. High salary $325 annual.

Fireman (Volunteer)--Perform fire fighting duties assigned by the Fire Chief. Attendance at annual fire school and ten drills per year required. Low salary $10 per drill. High salary $15 per drill.

The Council reserves the right to revise or amend these rules and regulations as needed.

CITY OF CARLISLE
ORGANIZATION CHART
WITH NEW SALARIES
EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 1970
UNTIL JUNE 30, 1971



@Paid if drill attended or fire call answered within month.

Junior Ishmael (Asst. Fire Chief), Kenneth Ishmael, John Ring, Dallas Vaughn, Bobby Berry, Gayle Vanlandingham, John Smith, Bobby Fay, Mike Jones, Bobby Barnett, Arthur Buzzard, Jerry Wasson

*Professional consultants employed by Council.

#COUNCILMEN

Alex Crawford
Richard Hunt
Jane Ellen Booth
Gene Kelley
Clifton Waugh
Charles Wilson

Hospital Notes

July 5, 1970 to July 10, 1970

Visiting hours are 2:00 to 4:00 and 7:00 to 8:30.

ADMITTED: Julia Crump, Winston Fisher, Arthur Bretz, Vivian Scott, Lula Kash, Frank Ham, Lillie Bowles, Lyda Graves, Alvin Eckler, Allie Clark, Larry Ellington, Charles Payne, William Roy Hunt, Roy Snapp, Carlisle; Stanley Gray, William Hammonds, Ewing; Margie Bailey, Eloise Morford, Mt. Olivet; Lutie A. Bell, Millersburg.

DISMISSED: Judy Slvile and Baby Boy, Harvey Ellison, Mary Frances Sargent, Alvin Eckler, Johnny Scott, Julia Boyd, Jeanette Gudgell, Vivian Scott, Pauline Cartmill, Julia Crump, Winston Fisher, Lula Kash, Frank Ham, Georgia Clark, Lloyd Willoughby, Arthur Bretz, Larry Ellington, Carlisle; Raymond Barnett, Elizaville; Stanley Gray, Ewing.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CARLISLE MERCURY.

HEAD START HAPPENINGS

Mrs. Martha Arnette, regional director was guest speaker for the in-service program of Nicholas County Head Start on June 26, at the City School. The guests were Rosa Moore, director of Robertson County Head Start, Miss Gladys Shepherd, teacher and Mrs. Ruth Swartz, teacher aid. Mrs. R.L. Talbert, Educational director for Licking Valley CAP, gave a review of her trip to Atlanta. She told us of the changes in the Head Start Program.

On Wednesday, July 8, Dr. Eleanor Alsbrook from the University of Louisville spoke on Parent Participation to 28 interested parents, at the City School auditorium. After the talk a question and answer session followed.

On July 10, the Carlisle Head Start personnel attended an in-service workshop at Montgomery County High School, the morning a panel discussion of "Problems I Have Encountered" was given by a social worker, a teacher, a teacher aid and a director. In the afternoon an interesting "Idea Sharing" time gave every Head Start teacher new ideas to take back to his own group.

The Head Start children will be given a party on Wednesday, July 15, by the Garden Club, Carlisle Junior Women's Club and the Community Women's Club. This is everybody's birthday party and one of the nicest events of the Head Start program.

For Sale

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The discounts are higher than a miniskirt on a windy corner

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*Based on comparison with Ford's former lowest suggested retail price for a Torino.

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Torino GT SportsRoof

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National Award-Winning Syndicated Hometown Column

THE PIED TYPER

By Bliss Mattox

There Is No Substitute For Being Miserable

If my memory serves me correctly, a lot of this guff about losing weight and counting calories was started by a sick fellow named Elmer Wheeler. Old Elmer wrote several books on the battle of the bulge and some of these recipes for shedding land have become kitchen Bibles in many American homes.

And, to show you that Wheeler was not behind the barn door when the marbles were passed out, he also published a book on how to stop smoking. All of which enhances the sales of his previous books, since most people put on weight when they give up smoking. Something like perpetual motion in bookselling.

The Wheeler book on smoking is a good one, except for one minor detail: it won't stop you from smoking. Since the government scare story, a lot of kick-the-habit books have hit the streets to be gobbled up by weak-willed nicotine addicts in search of a magic formula to quit smoking without really trying.

Seems like the least they could do is print those books on burley leaves. That way, if the message didn't sell you on quitting, you could roll up the pages and smoke them, and the price you paid for the book would not be a total loss. Stopping smoking is no problem for the average man. It is staying off them longer than 30 minutes that throws him.

You can try to find the secret in books or you can join a Smokers Anonymous group and let someone try to talk you out of it. Neither will work. There is only one way to give up any of the good things of life, such as girls, sports cars, bourbon. Playboy magazine: be miserable.

Substitutes don't work, that's for sure. You can chew gum until your molars fall out or suck on Lifesavers until you develop a sugar leg. It still won't dampen that craving for a good smoke.

Anyone swayed by reading a book on how to give up smoking shouldn't have taken it up in the first place. Someone may come out with a book on brain surgery made easy and you could find yourself in deals with the American Medical Association for hacking up your kid's cranium.

-tpt-

Even after taking thousands of photographs, it never ceases to amaze me what can be done with a camera. Or maybe it is what can't be done. That little black box has murdered more women than all the weapons of warfare. Despite all the fantastic qualities of the modern camera, none has been made that will take a decent picture of a woman.

But Cyrus Eastman didn't know that could not be done when he decided he could take pictures on celluloid, instead of glass plates. So he got up a company and tried to drum up some quick cash from the sale of stock. The money men then were not buying. They knew his little black box would never make it with the ladies.

Besides, the camera was already invented and he didn't have a Chinaman's chance of selling enough kodaks to pay the hired help. Only a few common folks were gullible enough to risk a few dollars in this dubious venture. One $12-a-week grocery store clerk bought 500 shares out of his paychecks. His boss begged him to drop it and save his money, but before the clerk got his 500 shares paid for, he began getting small dividends. So he took advantage of his option and bought another 500 shares on the installment plan. He ultimately became very wealthy from his confidence in George Eastman.

While Eastman was struggling to perfect his patents and defend the law suits the Camera Trust brought against him, he was flat broke and needed $250 desperately. He went to a well-to-do Rochestyr attorney and said:

"If you will loan me $250, I will assign you a half interest in the whole Eastman Kodak Co."

Being a man of sound business judgment, the attorney told him, "No, Mr. Eastman, I will not loan you any money, but I will give you a little free advice. Stop chasing rainbows and get yourself a job."

The moral of this little story is never try to borrow money from a lawyer. All you will get is free advice, which may be as bad as the paid kind.

There is one consolation in old age: you have renewed hope this old world just might outlast you. But you can't be sure.

Science is finally coming around to catching up with common sense. A panel of distinguished scientists recently said, more or less, that our good old world cannot much longer endure the human race. So it would seem if you have to get off, it's nice to get off while there is getting-off time.

It was all right back when men were forced to hide in the crannies from nobler animals like the dinosaur. But now that man is triumphant, he is getting his revenge by killing off the Earth.

The air is filled with chemical miasmas that chokes us while we sleep. All the rivers are a sludge of garbage and old macaroni and the dandruff and hair from 800 million combs. Detergents and insecticides are ruining our soils.

The way things are going, the meek will probably die off before they get a chance to inherit the earth.

It is funny that most doomsday scientists seem to base their conclusions on what is happening to the United States. They apparently think how the U.S. goes so goes the world. And it isn't necessarily so. When Greece and Rome fell, the world didn't come apart at the seams.

Of course they fell apart from different causes. Greece died not because they were any less gifted than we are today, but because the silver mines outside Athens petered out.

Rome folded because it could not feed its people. Then, too, Rome had a funny system of voting. Each family of the Roman freemen had one vote, and it could only be cast in Rome. Each family had a kind of a corral into which its members retired when it was time to vote. While there, they settled things, and the head of the gens came out and announced the vote.

It had to be right, or the fellow who was distributing the food stamps would cut that family off the public trough. That way, every politician had a built-in vote. In America the public trough threatens the politicians, instead of the politicians threatening the public trough.

As for the natural resources base, Rome had lost it long before Julius Caesar appeared on the scene. You could make out a pretty good case for argument that Rome lasted another 300 years simply because it turned out strong men, not affected by detergents and insecticides. On this basis, we ought to last a little longer because we have a better food supply and don't let our generals get involved with Egyptian women.

I guess the Romans did start the decline and fall of practically everyone when they built a municipal water system, which gave politicians an excuse for raising new taxes, and women an excuse for getting out of household chores.

Semper fidelis.