

HISTORY & FOLKLORE



Myrtle Karkowski in an original print dress which requires little ironing – and no washing – and is useful for wrapping lunches and lining garbage cans.



Naomi Riggs in an original can-can petticoat. A product of the Cuban crisis, the petticoat can furnish food for a week in an emergency.



Nita Neyland in a spring straw with orange chiffon scarf and matching orange bag and orange-t-straps.



From Illustrated Press of Liberty County, Thursday, March 14, 1963 –

Right-of-way clearance goes apace on the new route for Liberty's super highway. The burning apparatus at left can ignite the most stubborn debris. Once completed, the broad new thoroughfare is expected to kick off a sizeable building boom along its flanks.

Peculiar Beliefs of the Monax Philosopher

(Continued from previous page)

long time. And that is when you are liable to meet a monax and if you do, you will have to decide what to do. We can't tell you.

But what, you ask, do we mean, monax philosopher?

Why we mean a person who believes in the monax (or groundhog, if you want to call him that) and we are one of them. When the weatherman says in the paper, "Tomorrow fair and warmer, with winds becoming variable" and the monax says, "Six weeks of cold bad weather with the wind blowing straight down

from the North Pole," we go out and begin to chop and bring in a big pile of wood for the fireplace. And that is what you had better do.

But, of course, the monax philosopher believes in a lot of other things.

He never starts on a long trip on Friday. To do so means that his trip won't be worth the paper it is written on and he will have all kinds of bad luck. So, if anybody doesn't want us to come for a visit they can get away with it by sending us an invitation to be sure and come on Friday. We never go

anywhere on Friday, except to town, or down in the back pasture after the cows. In fact, we hesitate to go to town.

He never walks under a ladder. If there is anything that peeves us it is the telephone linemen, sign hangers and electric light workmen who set up a long ladder with its bottom at the very edge of the sidewalk and its top at the second story window so that all of us monax followers are compelled to walk, not only around the ladder, but clear out in the street and around the automobiles parked right where the ladder is standing, in order to get by.

Many is the time when we are forced to turn around and go back when we have started on a trip somewhere, just because a darned black cat has run across the road in front of us. We are not superstitious at all. We are just monax philosophers.

When the United States government changed the size of its money several years ago, we went to the bank one morning and offered to exchange some (not much) old money for

the new kind. The banker began to hand out the equivalent of our old money in brand new two-dollar bills. We handed them back. We can't use two-dollar bills. We want our money not in bad luck pieces.

We pity those who are not believers in the monax. Imagine some of you who read this dropping a mirror and breaking it into smithereens. Not being a person of understanding, of course, as some of you may be, you will be facing seven long years of the worst of your life and not know a thing about it. It is positively uncanny to think about it.

Not being aware of your terrible misfortune, you will go right ahead, of course, butting your head on frozen courthouse steps, getting run over by Ford cars, patronizing hospitals and hiring both day and night nurses from seven to ten dollars a day, utterly ignorant of the fact that your bad luck is really just beginning and that you are doomed to keep on with that kind of business for perhaps six or seven more years of

your life.

If I were money-crazy and either in the hospital or undertaking business, I would give away cheap mirrors with my advertising thereon in a prominent place. Even if only one out of twenty of them got broken the returns would soon make me a rich man.

We wouldn't anymore plant a field of corn in the dark of the moon than we would fish for apples through a hole in the ice at the North Pole. And, if you plant your potatoes in the light of the moon, you'll have to eat beans when vegetables come in and you won't have any

beans if you plant them in the dark of the moon, because they grow above the ground.

This is one reason why the "back to the farm" movement collapsed like a toy balloon. You take the boys who grow up on the streets of these large cities and what do they know about the moon? What do they know about the monax, or groundhog? They can never become successful farmers steeped in such drastic ignorance.

Take it from me, there is more in this monax business than most people think.



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