

Hi! Thoreau wrote "The mass of men live lives of quiet desperation". Scientists tell us that we have two opposing brain waves--Alpha, the quiet peaceful waves, and Beta, the ones of tension, anger and despair. One can get out of Beta into Alpha, & lose all despair by simply walking in the Sanctuary! No medicine or shrines do it better. All the trails are lovely in any season. In the warmth of winter the birds think it is spring and sing. Vast areas of fields look as tho' they are in bloom--dried flowers of purple asters are silver flowers now. Holly berries, emerald green in Oct., beige in Nov. are in the proper spirit now--Hollyberry Red. If you walk early, you may find a heron at Maple Swamp or a smart mink seeking his breakfast. If you walk late--and with Day Light Saving more of us can do that--you may find the deer have come out to eat in one of the pastures. There's nothing that can remove tension faster than the sight of deer grazing!

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The comet Kohoutek is a dusty comet, not as bright as a gaseous one would be. (In Czech the word "Kohoutek" means "Little Rooster"--proper for a comet which has a tail) Comets' tails are always away from the sun. If you fail to see Kohoutek in the evening sky, at sunset, right behind the setting sun, between Jan. 10 & 20, you'll have to wait 800,000 years to see it. Halley's will be 'round again in 1985. Hang in there.

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Pioneer X past Jupiter at 85,000 mph, taking pictures as it went. It has gone out of our solar system. It proved that Jupe's magnetic pole is south, that Jupe is gaseous and growing smaller, and that all the "building blocks" for life are there. In time we shall learn about the mysterious red areas. Floating around in space (but not so far) are millions of gypsy moth eggs. In Skylab, packed in and left there through their egg stage (6 mos.) are layer upon layer of eggs. The hope being that weightlessness will render the males sterile. When they are hatched back on Earth it is believed that the sexless males will mate with females & produce dead eggs. This type of breeding has been successful with the dreadful screw fly worm that attacks cattle. If it works it will mean the salvation of millions of trees that are eaten by gypsy moth caterpillars. The natural enemy of the gypsy is the wasp. Wasps were imported--indeed we've all been stung, but we are too impatient a people to let the wasps do their job. Our authorities sprayed, which killed -- wasps and gypsies. We paid for the wasps; we paid for the spray, and we still have the gypsies!

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The Lunch-Lecture series in Nov. brought in \$232.00. One dollar was voted to provide eggs for Whiff. She has a sort of mange, the result of an imbalanced diet. She's too fat, so she is to have less food, but some cod liver oil and an egg now & then. Somehow skunks don't get much exercise! The raccoon in the cage next to Whiff was a boy's pet. They had to part as raccoons bite. She has been left time & again on the Ridges but she always follows people back to The Barn. In Spring perhaps Nature will call, & she will go! Biting animals are not good in teaching--too many little fingers become blood red.

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Vandals got into Drury Ct., and upset Little Heat's cage. Little Heat was a screech owl. Note the past tense. Little Heat is dead. What have the vandals proved? That their muscles are tremendous and their brains are zilch. Little Heat was a pet. She travelled the school route & was a great love. When the animals travel they go in special cages, except Wisteria Mood & Halsey. They go in pillowcases. Snakes cozy down nicely in pillowcases.

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On Thanksgiving Day a handsome merganser (fish eating duck) was brought in in a starving condition. After several days of hand feeding it was put back in water, none the worse for wear. Starving birds usually denote poison, but not this time!

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Black Island went on Day Light Saving almost immediately after the Energy Crisis hit. It is amusing to realize that the ferry leaves the mainland at 10 a.m., and arrives at 10 a.m. It leaves there at 2 p.m. & arrives mainland at 4. Let us hope the Energy Czar will not give gasoline to snowmobilers. Snowmobilers say they've

done some good, but the harm they've done is not to be forgotten. They have chased deer until they drop from exhaustion. In the Public Lands of Central Idaho, a once proud herd of wild horses were brutally rounded up by snowmobilers and after unbelievable cruel treatment, those that survived the roundup, ended their lives in a pet meat processing plant in Nevada. The powers-that-be will not prosecute as there is not sufficient evidence! (That's what happened to the poisoner of Clem & Jethro. Despite two dead wolves with stricknine in the bodies, and the confession from the killer that she had killed them, there was "not enough evidence" to prosecute her!) Of the great herd only 19 horses are left. If you can do write to Rogers C.B. Morton Sec. of The Interior, Wash. 20240, asking for a reconsideration of this case, under The Wild Free-Roaming Horse & Burro Act. If the killers get away with this, all wild horses and burros are endangered. Those horses belonged to you & me!

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An abandoned house on 3rd Beach proved a horrid death trap for a raccoon. He fell in the ancient cistern and drowned. Fearless Leader tried to smash the old cement, but gave up and instead put in a ladder, so if another animal is trapped it can get out.

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We provided all the greens for "Christmas In Newport" sale at Harbour Inn. It was a jam-pack sale. All the items for sale on NBS table went like hot cakes. Home-made jellies, breads, bird houses & feeding stations. We made \$111.00.

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No classes until Jan. 11 1974! Dec. 15 is party day for volunteers. Dec. 16 is Bird Count Day run statewide by the Audubon Soc. (Nation wide!). The NBS has usually led the state in numbers and rarity of birds seen. The green monk parrot has been sighted twice--in Newport & on 3rd Beach Rd.

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Studies are going ahead with the jojoba (hoHoba) bush, which grows in desert lands such as New Mexico, Arizona and Mexico, and can grow in Israel, Africa etc. The shrub has leaves like mistletoe and seeds like peanuts. It yields a waxy juice which may very well give whales a new lease on life! The Apache tribe which owns most of the land on which it grows has given the Us of Cal. & Arizona the right to experiment with it. There is a tremendous potential as a harvestable crop. Queries for it have come from all over the world. Maybe the Apaches have struck it!

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The pile driver has started smashing into 2nd Beach for the new bath house to be built there. To those who know the frailty of our shores, each blow is a physical thing. Some of us remember the Hurricane of '38, and the buildings piled like tooth picks against the banks of Gardner Pond. We remember too 30-40' sand dunes! When that storm was over all that stood was the chimney of old St. George's boathouse, facing as it was built, the sheltered bay of 3rd Beach, not the open ocean as the new bath house will face.

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Missing from the files are copies #9 & 17 of "The Norman Bird--A Flyer" Does any one have them & will loan them for xeroxing?

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Some people have given up feeding birds because of rats. Rat poison (warfarrin) comes in measured doses (Dio-cide Chucks sold at Agway). One chuck a day is the dose. It must be repeated for 3 consecutive days to kill a rat, weighing a few ounces. What does your dog -or child weigh in ounces? Warfarrin thins the blood. It is given by heart specialists to patients! If your loved one should eat it, all it will do is give the heart a rest from pumping thick blood for a day. Put the chuck out last thing at night--it will be pulled down into rathole long before loved one is out next A.M. You get out early on the 4th day! Another thing to remember about rats is this--they have the mentality of a 12 year old. We Americans have the mentality of a 13 year old. We should be able to out smart the little rascals.

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In the High Sierras 100 Bald Eagles circle old nesting grounds, but they do not stay to nest. Bird lovers there plan to aid the nest building by collecting twigs & branches in likely spots. Balds, like ospreys, take two years to make a nest. We helped our ospreys 2-3 yrs. ago but they have not as yet decided to come back to us,

There's been enough time for the results of the macro-biotic diets to come in--and they're not good. The man who did the brown rice diet & the gal who ate sun flower seeds both died of mal-nutrition. Even chickadees eat more than sun flower seeds! They like an insect now & again. If you are rich they will develop a passion for walnut meats, if you are not so flush and feed them peanut butter, do mix it well with corn meal as the butter jams their beaks and they will die.

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A gentleman in Barrington has done a 5 yr. study on the cost of heating his new home. He did it as a hobby, but now it is of interest to all. His house, well insulated, storm windows, the works, has 2 floors--1700 sq.ft. and a playroom 825 sq.ft. heated by electricity. 80% went to heat the house space, 9% went to heat water and 11% for other items such as stove, washers, dryer, TV, iron, toaster etc.. On the thermostat, using 70 degrees F. as a starting point, it cost 12.5% to heat the house to 74 F. and 6.2% less to heat it to 68 degrees F. As heating water takes the other single big %, don't let the water run. How about the unnerving idea of unplugging the dishwasher and doing them by hand? You used to!

Have you taken a look around your house and counted the gadgets you have now that you did not have 10 years ago? The appliance industry lists 24 items as "necessary" in the American home! surely we can brush our teeth, mix a cake, wind a clock, even erase our mistakes without electricity! LBJ used to say--and people made fun of him for saying it--"When not in use, turn off the juice." A good motto in times of power shortage.

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The Humane Society lists movies that use animals cruelly. They are being killed for "realism". Horses are being thrown by the cruel Running W Wire. Horses can be taught to fall without hurting themselves. The new movies that kill animals are: "Charlie One Eye", and "Man From Deep River". Those that are cruel to horses are: "Billy Two Hats", "Deaf Smith", "The Man Who Loved Cat Dancing", "Scalawag", and "Pat Garrett and Billy The Kid". People who love animals will not want to see those pictures or let the children see them.

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As in ancient Rome, packs of wild dogs are roaming the streets of our cities today. These poor creatures were bought to be pets & proved to be too much trouble, so the owners "lose" them. The new method of teaching children about birth and "Hobby Breeding" are two ways that unwanted pets are born, to be "lost" when interest wanes. Cats, as natural hunters, survive better than dogs. They become savage with hunger in our concrete cities. Animal shelters everywhere are snowed under by the numbers of abandoned pets. The total of their deaths is staggering. The fault of all this misery lies directly at the door of humans. If you plan to give a pet, be sure it is a wanted gift. If you adopt a pet, understand that it is for life--some 15 to 20 years of life together with a pet you love and which loves you.

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A thought for the Holidays: Only pigs & humans voluntarily drink alcohol!

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY HAPPY!