

# Deep and Shallows

News Item: Navy leaves Midway to the Gooney Bird

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Authority: "The Leatherneck."

## Love Life Of The Beguiling Gooney

Dancing is the thing upon which pivots the whole social structure of the gooney bird on Midway Island. For gooneys are "that way" about tripping the light fantastic—and they sho' do have rhythm.

Picture two—sometimes three—goose-sized birds, shoulders hunched, dancing on the beach with the shuffling tread of a miniature Charlie Chaplin. Facing each other, they bow several times, clash beaks, tuck head under wing with a pecking motion, stretch neck skyward uttering harsh bray-like notes, and then begin all over again—all perfect rhythm.

And talk about cliques! Between the white gooney and the black-foot type, a slightly smaller variety, exists a perpetual feud. The youngsters are kept apart with Montague-Capulet severity. And like the young fry of old, the kids are inclined to ignore the feud. But just let Papa Gooney catch Miss Bobby-socks dancing on the beach with young Black-foot!

For one thing, the Black-foot is smaller and quicker on his feet, treading a livelier measure than his lovely partner, and while it appears to be fun, it is death on rhythm. And Papa Gooney is just nuts about rhythm. Lunging forward he will slash viciously with his powerful beak at the unwelcome suitor, who squawks like a mountain canary and gets out of there—but fast. Miss Bobby-socks is then driven home in disgrace, with an occasional whack on her back side, as much as to say, "Let this be a lesson to you!"

But Papa Gooney, though strict with his daughter, is no alabaster saint, himself. Many a Gooney home has faced the possibility of going on the rocks, owing to the philandering tendencies of the old man. And when Mrs. Gooney (always the last to know) hears that her spouse is being seen dancing on the beach with some sprightly Miss Gooney, who probably shakes a livelier foot than his more sedate missus, she is deeply hurt. Her usual reaction is to sulk, or go on a long sea voyage, or both. Neither course getting her anywhere, for Papa continues prancing.

Then, by sheer inspiration, Mamma does exactly the right thing. She lays an egg.

Papa Gooney is sure to hear about this (by Gooney underground, no doubt) and when he does, he is completely bowled over, naive gentleman that he is. Dropping his illicit partner like a hot potato, first bowing deeply several times by way of farewell, he hastens to the side of his rightful frau, and what with the sand,

his large web feet, and an occasional shrub which usually gets in the way, he is lucky if he doesn't land on his beak right in front of the nest. Making the best of it, however, he bows several times, by way of apology, uttering soft "ahs" as a tuning up process, then deliberately shoves the missus off the nest and takes her place. Instinct tells him that it is his role to take the first trick of the incubation deal,—no light task, for during the three-week interval no food is taken, nor any water, except what is caught in the beak during a rain.

Okay. The blessed event has taken place, and again the love of rhythm threatens the family life of the Gooney. For Mamma must choose between mate and progeny, and since the young is fed by regurgitation from the beak of the mother, feedings are apt to be sketchy and little Gooneys undernourished, if Mamma leans to her mate. These papa Gooneys are hard cookies to handle.

Comes a time the young Gooney must be taught to fly. A class is organized—an impressive sight, with the youngsters, agog and on tiptoe, beaks pointing windward, ready for the take-off. For, though once in the air the gooney is a strong and tireless flier, the take-off and the landing present a menace, even to the older bird.

But that's all right, for once at sea, the gooney remains there for months, rocking in the trough of a wave and feasting on sea delicacies. A sea-faring bird, surely, coming ashore only for the purpose of courting and breeding.

Since the advent of Marines on Midway, who often take pity on the weaker birds and assist them in learning to fly, the young have had a better time of it, for the feathered instructors are short on patience, and take off to sea after a certain amount of instruction, leaving the slow-in-the-uptake to fend for themselves.

Even the older birds must put their whole minds to it in making a landing. And if anything upsets the equilibrium, the result is apt to be a disastrous skid, feathers flying, and an end-over-end tumble, followed by a painful pivot on the beak, which was never intended for such a purpose.

The more one delves into the intriguing study of the gooney birds, the more strongly convinced is one that gooneys are almost human—or are humans almost gooney!

## Slip Of The Lino

"Does your kitchen gleam like a ski stop?"

## City Father Speaks

He insists it is not original, but we credit a City Father with the term "Delirium Trumans". At least he introduced the phrase to us.

—K.B.O.

## Immaculate Conception School To Hold Picnic June 1

The annual school picnic of Immaculate Conception School will be held Thursday, June 1 at Sunset Park. There will be races for the children in the afternoon and a picnic supper, each family providing its own food, in the evening. Races for the grown-ups will be held in the evening.

Ice cream and pop will be sold at the stand. Members of the Picnic Committee; Mesdames Robert FitzSimon, William Cortesi, Daniel Walsh, Aurelio Ori, Peter Piacenza, John Ori, Frank Sessorosi, Victor Benvenuti, Marco Bernardi, Robert Tilley, Dominic Pasquesi, Willis Jackson, Ray Werhane, Amadeo Menoni, and H. E. Lang.

All parishioners are invited to attend.

## L.O.O.M. Plans Entertainment For Servicemen

In the lodge clubrooms which will be installed in the old USO building, purchased by members of the Moose Lodge, a series of recreational activities for soldiers, sailors and Wacs will be held in the near future. This is a part of a civic affairs program which has been inaugurated by the Highland Park Loyal Order of the Moose, and its sister lodge, Women of the Moose.

Wacs of the Fort Sheridan post are being presently entertained every Sunday and Wednesday with a softball game followed by recreation in the lodge clubrooms in Witten hall.

## Welfare Center To Observe Silver Anniversary

Twenty-five years ago a sewing group of nine women was formed under the leadership of Mrs. John Glace. This group contributed articles of clothing to Infant Welfare. Two years later the local organization became the Highland Park-Ravinia Center of Infant Welfare, with Mrs. Malcolm D. Vail as president.

The membership remained small for some time, and every effort was made to interest others in the good cause of the society. The members practically pleaded with their friends to join the organization. Thirty members present at a meeting was a cause for celebration in those days. Today the present membership is over 300.

The silver anniversary of the Highland Park-Ravinia Center is being celebrated tomorrow at the Moraine Hotel in the form of a luncheon at 12:30, featuring "Anniversary Antics."

The Junior group will present two skits. One will be a typical meeting with its pitfalls and problems, and the other the trials and tribulations which befall a mother who is going to work at an Infant Welfare station. The Intermediates' part will be a poem on how their group was formed. The Senior group will present a skit showing how the original Highland Park Center was founded. The Wings will have a surprise number to complete the program.

Mrs. G. A. Shallberg from the Junior Group is chairman of the luncheon. Mrs. George M. Hough, Jr., is in charge of decorations. Assisting her are Mrs. Pierre D. Martineau, Mrs. Carlyle J. Coash, Mrs. Elwood Low, Mrs. Jess Halsted, Mrs. Clifford Makelim, Mrs.

## L.O.O.M. Sponsors Wrestling Show At Round Lake Stadium

The Highland Park Moose lodge is staging an all-star wrestling show to be held Friday, June 9 at the Round Lake stadium, through the courtesy and cooperation of Fred Kohler, popular mid-west promoter.

It has been agreed that the entire proceeds of the event will be turned over to the Athletic fund for the furtherance of out-door activities.

The feature bout will be between Jim McMillan and Rudy Kay, who have agreed to donate their services for the occasion.

This special event will mark the opening of the Round Lake stadium for the summer season.

## Dessert Card Party Planned For June 7 By Legion Auxiliary

The Highland Park American Legion Auxiliary will hold its regular meeting tonight (Thursday), May 25, at 8 p.m. at Witten's Hall. Entertainment will follow the business meeting.


A dessert card party will be held at Witten's Hall on Wednesday, June 7, at 1:30 p.m. for the benefit of the Auxiliary's child welfare and hospital work funds. This card party is open to the public.

Frank Mueller, and Mrs. Joseph J. Stefan, Jr. The "Anniversary Antics" have been written, and are under the direction of Mrs. John H. Kies.

## Little Giants Lose

The Highland Park high school varsity baseball team dropped a 3 to 2 game to the Waukegan Bulldogs Tuesday afternoon in a game that could well be labeled

the "Comedy of the Umpire" as no worse an exhibition of "how not to umpire" could have been given. This was even admitted by Ted Demos, the Waukegan coach. Mr. Pertz, can't you help do something about the rotten officiating?



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