

# Letters

## A few more stories about Dr. Ripley

I enjoyed Bob Rice's reminiscences about the Ripleys and have a few to add.

By the time they hit the sheet, I sincerely trust that Allen will be on a certain mountain-top in B.C.

I warned him long ago that he'd figure prominently in my most

colorful memoirs. He kindly promised to sue, thus assuring a modest return for my scholarly efforts.

After the war, while still living with Mother and Dad at 73 Mill Street, I would occasionally run strange high temperatures and lie abed dehydrating until they subsided.

On one of these arid occasions I rose from my fever bed, thinking to visit the loo. I took the wrong turn, reaching the lower hall in one easy flight without scraping a single vertebra.

Mother came to view the remains of her limp, late daughter. Detecting a flicker of life, she enquired if I would like to see a doctor.

"Yes," I breathed, "Call Ripley".

Allen considered himself supremely shock-proof and only Peggy could fracture his cool. She dragged him once, growling and protesting, to a masquerade ball. I believe he went as himself.

By the aid and contrivance of Beth Rice he beheld his bride superbly ungarbed as a Wahini. She wore a flower-decked bra, a few strands of swaying raffia, a lei and a flower behind her ear.

Allen paled and went into shock.

Peggy spent a pleasant evening.

Always pleased and unrepentant over her little triumphs, I was regaled next morning and the tale lost little in the telling.

There were other times when Allen suffered terribly with back injuries incurred while wrestling unborn colts and calves. He would have to sleep on the floor and Peggy's concern and pity drove her from her silken sheets to lie beside him on the bare boards.

One suffocating evening in July, I dropped by to pick up worm pills for my family. Cats, that is. We always wormed them before vacation. The place was packed like a cattle car. The fainting were held up in the press of bodies, human, canine and feline.

Allen was ready to drop, the sweat pouring from his brow steaming up the window. My turn came and he ignored it.

I'd have left in a huff but couldn't slither, squeak, shove or snarl my way to the door.

Finally, two clients remained. A lavender-haired lady, and I. Mrs. Purple Petunia won the toss, by her hair.

"Two worm-pills, please."

Allen popped the pair into an envelope and with his last drop of saliva, licked it shut.

"Two dollars, please."

The lady left and he glared at me.

"Now what do YOU want?"

Meekly, "Eight worm-pills, please." Eight were rolled into the envelope, but he didn't lick it.

"Two dollars, please."

"But," I croaked, "You just charged that lady two dollars for two pills!"

He turned his back on me, reached for his pipe, tapped it out carefully, repacked it tenderly, lovingly lit it.

When it was drawing nicely, he hauled himself round the counter and confided sweetly, "If you gave me half as much hell as that old bat, you'd pay a dollar apiece, too."

There was a titter from the kitchen, and we all broke up.

Coming of a large family, there've been numerous reunions catered by Mr. Grant Marshall. At one of these, Dr. Ripley appeared to pay his respects to the departed and comfort the

survivors. Met at the door by my brother, he enquired if I was present.

"Yonder," said my brother, "Rears her posterior."

The young have no respect. I was chatting with two seated elderly friends and bending just slightly from the waist.

Allen slipped up behind me, and when I straightened, he swung a me round his head a couple of times before

replacing me, shoeless on the Marshall carpet. I thought this treatment most unfair, since everyone beamed on him, and I received ten demerits for misconduct.

A couple of weeks ago, I met him in the marketplace.

"Hi," I screamed down the aisle. Turning, an ecstatic satisfaction lit his face. He had found a friend to brag to.

"Just had a great

check-up", he thrilled, quoting his B.P. "How are you?"

"Terrible," I moaned, clutching a few wilted vegetables to my bosom, "Just awful."

"Whasamatter?"

"It's the price of lettuce," I sobbed. "I am going home and snuff myself."

He then related to me in

grisly detail his latest piece of imprudence. He has a new golden lab which jumps on people and bolts into strange cars. Also Peggy is buying him a very large shovel to use when they camp in pretty parks.

Alas.

Dorothy Lowe,  
31 Aubrey Avenue,  
Oak Ridges.

Publicity appreciated

On behalf of the York Regional Health Unit, I wish to thank you for your co-operation during Dental Health Week.

The articles were very much appreciated.

Again, many thanks and best wishes in all endeavors.

K. Ambrozaitis  
Director  
Dental Services  
York Regional Health Unit

### Danson outlines abortion views

In response to Mrs. Hilda J. Martin's letter to the editor in your April 18 issue, I should like to correct her on my position on abortion.

Mrs. Martin writes that I have stated many times that I wish there to be NO LAW prohibiting abortion and that it be strictly a personal matter.

This is not so. What I have said is that a abortion is a very emotional issue and one on which people feel very deeply, on both sides.

I, too, feel deeply and do not pretend to have simplistic answers on a matter which affects the deep religious convictions of some, the moral and ethical convictions of others.

I have said further that I do not favor abortion as a means of birth control — and certainly not

Thank you from Lions

The Richmond Hill Lions Club would like to thank all those who contributed to the success of the Crippled Children's Easter Seal campaign.

The objective of \$4,250 is within reach.

This will be the first time for quite a few years that the objective has been attained.

So, many thanks from the Crippled Children's Committee.

"abortion on demand". I have come to the conclusion, however, that — as with almost all questions centred on morality — it is almost impossible to legislate effectively.

They are matters of individual conscience.

The type of legislation we have at present is, to my mind, a realistic position reflecting the attitudes of most Canadians, provided the Attorneys-General of the Provinces enforce the law properly.

I would however, urge procedures which would permit a personal decision after a "cooling off period" where there would be significant counselling — preferably between the parents and their physician, a clergyman or psychologist.

In my view, such a process would reduce the incidence of abortion.

It would certainly remove the hypocrisy existent at the present time and establish a thoughtful, sensitive and responsible practice.

This would be consistent with my own personal standards and could, I believe, realistically reflect our society today without forcing anyone to abandon their own convictions.

Barney Danson  
National Defence Minister, Ottawa

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