

BAPTIST FEATURES

Released by BAPTIST PRESS
127 Ninth Ave., N., Nashville, Tenn.

February 21, 1957

GOD'S WONDROUS WORLD
By Thelma C. Carter
(with illustration #3)

It takes an unbelievable amount of work and planning on the part of engineers to keep a big city like New York in running order. We are told that under the asphalt highways of this great metropolis there are a jungle of pipes and cables -- carrying water, electricity, gas, sewerage, etc.

This network of cables and pipes has been called a marvel of human genius! Yet, in 1947, when a great snowfall buried this city under tons of snow -- nothing worked!

Traffic was stopped! Utility companies were beset with emergency calls. People were marooned in buildings where they worked -- or in their homes.

Quietly, softly the snow fell and all movement and industry slowed down. Man's efforts and genius were of little avail in the face of nature's gift of snow.

People must have remembered the words of the psalmist who said: "When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man?"

Perhaps there were many who were reminded of Job when he queried: "Hast thou entered into the treasures of the snow?"

Isn't it strange how many limitations nature places upon man? And how great and powerful God becomes to us when we recognize and respect Him in nature?

(Baptist Press Syndicate, all rights reserved, used by author's permission.)

(Is there something about God's Wondrous World you would like to see described in this column? If so please send your suggestions to Baptist Press Syndicate, 127 N. Ninth Ave., Nashville 3, Tenn.)

-30-

GEORGE WASHINGTON THE GENTLEMAN
By Helen Seymour

George Washington did not spend very many years going to school, but he never stopped learning from everything he saw and did. Like the man with the ten talents in the Bible, he made the most of his abilities and through using what he knew and doubled his knowledge and talents.

While Washington spent a great deal of time in wild, frontier country, his manners were perfect. They were based, as all really good manners are, on our Lord's command to "Love thy neighbor as thyself." Here are some of the rules of behavior that the father of our country considered most important. They are written here as he copied them in a school copy-book when he was about fifteen years old:

"In the Presence of Others sing not to yourself with a humming Noise, nor Drum with your Fingers or Feet.

"Sleep not when others Speak, Sit not when others stand, Speak not when you Should hold your Peace, walk not on when others Stop.

"Turn not your Back to others, especially in Speaking; Jog not the Table or Desk on which Another reads or writes; lean not on anyone.

more

"Use no Reproachful Language against any one, neither Curse nor Revile.

"Play not the Peacock, looking everywhere about you, to See if you be well Decked, if your Shoes fit well, if your Stockings Sit neatly, and Clothes handsomely.

"Gaze not on the marks or blemishes of Others, and ask not how they came.

"Treat with men at fit Times about Business; and Whisper not in the Company of Others.

"Be not Curious to know the Affairs of Others, neither approach to those that Speak in Private.

"If others talk at Table be attentive but talk not with Meat in your Mouth.

"Labor to keep alive in your Breast that Little Spark of Celestial fire called Conscience."

We know that George Washington didn't just copy these rules of conduct and then forget them. He really lived by them. When he was appointed Commander in Chief of the American army he said, "I beg it may be remembered by every gentleman in the room, that I this day declare with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the command I am honored with."

Again, at Valley Forge, when the soldiers were ragged, freezing, and starving, some of Washington's friends suggested that he move into a nearby house, and command the army in comfort from there. He refused, saying that he could endure anything that his men had to endure. He loved his neighbors -- his soldiers, as himself.

Washington was a wealthy man. He could have lived in luxury. Instead, for years he underwent hardships that most of us cannot even imagine. George Washington was truly the servant of the people, and because he served so willingly and well, he is remembered and loved by all the world. His "little spark of Celestial fire" burned brightly.

(Baptist Press Syndicate, all rights reserved, used by author's permission.)