

WHEN PERIODICALS TAKE OVER IT'S TIME TO START TOSSING OUT September 30, 2003

Our home is overloaded with periodicals of every size and description. Throw in the occasional book and how does one find time to peruse all of them? I suspect many of you reading this are in the same boat. Most of the material I enjoy and hate to part with, and therein lies the problem.

Every convenient receptacle, shelf and space is loaded with them. Why? Simply because most or parts of some contain useful or important information we plan to absorb when we can find time. We continually shift, sort and search through them organizing and reorganizing. Finally, in desperation, we eliminate those we conclude (perhaps reluctantly) we must of necessity toss out.

Some publications, of course, like the *Express* are devoured immediately and often kept in abeyance until the next issue for referral on local restaurants, movies or business services. Many of our favorite catalog sale purveyor's listings fall into this category, too. The temptation to hold them longer soon adds to and creates the greatest bulk of the paper pile.

At the present time I am on one of my bimonthly kicks to bring the clutter to within reason. One of the ways I am looking at to ease the pressure and save money to boot is to stop renewing the subscriptions on some. I am sure I am not the first person to find myself at this juncture and the publishers know it.

Every issue is filled with offers of free stuff for renewing your subscription or you are needed to complete a survey on issues dealing with subjects it features. The dodge in the later instance is to make you feel important and needed enough to reconsider any thoughts you may have about not renewing. I confess both machinations have worked on me. We all have our weak moments.

My latest crises started with the sudden realization that a pair of the four sporting magazines I subscribe to do not contribute a great deal to my interest in hunting, fishing or trapping. Both were outstanding in their quality of feature writing and there was very little fluff filling up the pages years ago. I wish they were the same today.

Years ago both publications featured world class authors such as Corey Ford, Byron W. Dalrymple, Nash Buckingham, and Robert Ruark, to name just a few. Many, such as Archibald Ruthledge, could be classified as classical writers I first learned about in high school English class.

I got on this kick for several different reasons – the most recent two days ago when I finally found time to thumb through the two above-mentioned sporting magazines. It suddenly dawned on me that with my years of experience, most of the material was rather innocuous and of very little interest – facts such as “Give a buck a prime food source and he'll visit it regularly.” I do not want to be hunting anywhere near the guy that doesn't already know that fact.

Come to think of it, I can recall several hunters who could really benefit from such timely advice. Two of them were the hunters who were lost for two days. The night before we fired several signal shots within a quarter mile of them and received no answering shot or yell, which we could easily have heard. The men walked out on their own the next morning.

I asked them if their guns were working and if they had ammo. When they answered in the affirmative I asked why they didn't answer the shot the night before when we were trying to contact them. The reply: "We wondered why someone was shooting at night."

Scary when you learn they were 25-year-old New York City policemen.