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Editorial

This month's editorial has been written by Paul Amstalden.

Peter Bourne. A few weeks ago, had you asked this name off fellow New Zealanders on the street, with the question who this man was, I venture 80% would have stared blankly at you with "Peter who?" Had you asked the same question with the name "Possum Bourne", the result would almost certainly have been reversed, and 70% would have quickly answered "Oh, he's that racing-car driver isn't he?" And people say, "Oh what's in a name?" Well, names are very important! Even nicknames. They identify all humans as individuals, billions of us! But my thoughts have not been about names these past three weeks, but about life, and the tragic loss for all humanity of all races by the early death of a promising individual of any nationality. For who can foresee what the person may have achieved given a longer life? Another famous name that springs to mind immediately is another Peter.

Sir Peter Blake, that 'Possum Bourne' of yacht racing, whose life was also tragically and needlessly cut short long before his time. We will never know what exciting and intriguing new discoveries about nature and our environment Sir Peter and his new team may have discovered over the next couple of

decades in his new career with the Cousteau Foundation. No doubt his team will carry on the work he started, but it will be without Sir Peter's inquisitive drive.

So I come back to my primary thought, life, and its wondrous possibilities. Especially for our young to middle-age people, I implore you all to be careful out there! If driving on road or off, operating machinery, or just having leisure fun with family or friends, it takes only a half-second distraction to cause a tragedy sometimes. Most times, driving on a rural road or secondary highway calls for more cautious alertness than driving on a motorway or primary highway by virtue of the condition of the former, narrower, sharp bends, misleading little humps, narrow bridges and so on. So I will again say, especially to our young people, always be careful, especially when driving motor vehicles, day or night. Remember, if you die in a tragic accident, you leave behind grieving parents, siblings, maybe even a spouse and children as well as other relatives and friends. Life is far too precious not to do one's best to preserve it to a ripe old age, I should know at my age! Oh, yes, yes, I hear many of you young people loud and clear saying that "life stinks." And yes,

sometimes 'life' does throw a few 'hardballs' at us, but the trick is to catch them, hold them firmly in your grasp and study and learn from them so you are wiser and stronger for the next delivery, when it comes. But I can remember my smelling power back over 70 years of my life and I never ever smelt life stink!

So look after your life! Who knows, if not you, perhaps one of your present or future children will become a famous scientist, doctor, engineer, or even astronaut! The possibilities are limitless and perhaps very rewarding and satisfying in your future, when you get to my age.

"Not likely," I hear some of you mumble. Oh yeah? Let me give you one or two examples! The Wright brothers of America, and Richard Pearse of New Zealand. One hundred years ago both parties, living nearly half-a-world apart from each other and with no knowledge of each other's existence, started to build about the same time, some weird contraptions for their ideas of powered flight - and the rest is history. And about 140 years ago, Mum and Dad Wright in America and Mum and Dad Pearse in New Zealand had no hint that their dearly loved little boys would go into world history forever.

But not only men, many women too, have done tremendous deeds for humanity. Two names spring into my mind immediately, Florence Nightingale and Mother Theresa of Calcutta. Although they lived primarily 100 years apart from each other, what a difference they each made to millions of people, even during their lifetimes. Both their life stories will certainly go down in history forever also.

Then there is our own still-living legend who, 50 years ago, accompanied by an equally brave, tough and tenacious man from the local people with the funny name Tensing Norgay, accomplished what several hundred of the world's best mountaineers had failed to do. They made it to the top of Everest.

Using what, by today's standards can only be described as 'primitive' high-altitude mountaineering equipment, they had succeeded where so many before them had failed. They had conquered our world's highest mountain and returned safely to tell the tale! But what followed in these men's lives is even more remarkable. While living among them that first

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This and That Corner

Canton Fribourg,

Fribourg (capital of the Canton) is the greatest stronghold of Catholicism in Switzerland, seat of the Bishop of Lausanne, Geneva and Fribourg, and of a Catholic university. One of the finest old medieval towns in Switzerland, it lies on the river Sarine (German - Saane) which flows in a deep valley through the Mittelland. The Auge and Bourg quarters leading to the upper town are picturesquely situated, like Berne, above the rocky banks of a bend in the river.

A true picture of Fribourg is herdsmen, an alphorn, a wooden dish full of fresh cream, the Moleson (mountain) and the castle of Gruyere!!! But in reality Fribourg is more complex. Two languages are spoken (French and German), so you have two different services in church on Sundays. It is not an alpine canton and is not a canton with large plains.

Greyerzer Nudelgratin

250 gr Nudel

Salt

300 gr Gruyere cheese

200 ml cream

nutmeg, salt, butter

Cook the Nudels, and place in layers in a buttered oven dish alternating with the cheese (with cheese the last layer). Beat cream and add salt and nutmeg and pour over the nudels. Finally place knobs of butter on top. Bake at 200°C for 30 minutes.

Lamb Stew from Fribourg

1 kg lamb

2 big onions

Thyme

3 garlic cloves

250 - 300 ml of red wine

3 bay leaves

Butter

100 gr raisins

Cloves

Salt

Pepper

100 ml cream

1 tbsp flour

Cut meat in cubes and place in a big dish. Add one onion, Thyme, garlic, and Bay leaves. Cover with red wine and keep in fridge for 2 - 3 days. Turn meat regularly as it should be covered with wine. Dry meat in paper towel before frying in hot butter. Put marinade through sieve and add raisins and second onion. Pour marinade on meat, adding salt and pepper. Cook slowly for 50 - 60 minutes. Take meat out of dish and place in warm oven. Boil gravy, on high, for 5 minutes. Mix cream and flour and add to gravy. Delicious with mashed potatoes.

Bon Appetit
Lisette



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time, Ed Hillary saw how very poor these Nepalese people were, and a firm resolution formed in his mind. He was damned well going to try to help these people, and damned well he did, - for the next 50 years! Nearly 80 years ago, Mum and Dad Hillary, watching their Eddy jumping around in the back yard would have wished a good life for him. They too, back then could not have even guessed how famous he would be! A Knight of the Realm, world renowned mountaineer, a hero to 4 million fellow New Zealanders and loved and revered almost like a Deity by several million people in a far off land in the shadows of the Himalayas. We all know why the Nepalese love Sir Edmund as one of their own heroes. But just imagine for a moment, had the worst scenario occurred during those weeks 50 years ago, what a difference to history and especially to the Nepalese. It doesn't bear thinking about! Which brings me back to my main thought at the beginning of my editorial, life! And it's very importance. Now, maybe you are beginning to understand my insistence that our life should be nurtured and protected to our best ability. It should also be used as wisely as possible, for ourselves and our loved ones, and if we are lucky enough to get the chance, to help our fellow humans. We only get one 'life' in this world, there is no second chance!

Paul

I like life, I have sometimes been wildly, despairingly, acutely miserable, racked with sorrow, but through it all I still know quite certainly that just to be alive is a grand thing.

*Agatha Christie (1890 - 1976) -
English Mystery writer.*

The best way to future happiness is to be as happy as is rightfully possible today.

*Charles W Eliot (1844 - 1926) -
English educator.*

Diamond Wedding Anniversary



Ottilia (Tilly) & Tom WALKER celebrate their 60 years of marriage on June 8, 2003. They were married in the St Joseph Catholic Church, Hawera, Taranaki in 1943.

Tilly and Tom moved from Hawera to Reporoa in 1961 and dairy farmed for 18 years.

They then moved to Omokora, Tauranga where they are now retired.

With love and best wishes from your four children and families.

Contributed by the Walker Family