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Murphy, North Carolina, Thursday, November 19, 1936

NORTH CAROLINA IS DOING A LITTLE BETTER

The Atlanta Journal Sunday carried a reproduction of a map which recently appeared in "Public Safety" showing the highway death rates in all the 48 states which were computed from the number of persons killed for each 10,000,000 gallons of gasoline consumed.

It was interesting to note that North Carolina was among 20 states that showed a marked decrease of fatal highway accidents during the first eight months of this year.

As best we can remember, it was about this time last year when North Carolina was seemingly leading the death toll list.

The honors, however, seem to have switched to Georgia which is leading the 19 states that show an increase above 5 per cent in the death rates on the highways in their states.

What has brought the change about is hard to say. Probably the stark tragedy of hundreds of people being killed yearly on the highways taught its own bitter lesson.

Add to that the fact that many motor clubs and publications have warred against indecent driving, and you probably have the answer.

At any rate let's keep the record clean

YOUNG CRIMINALS ARRESTS HIGHER

Some interesting figures on crime and youth are revealed in an article from J. Edgar Hoover's headquarters in Washington which appeared in the Knoxville Journal Monday.

"Seventeen of every 100 persons arrested throughout the United States during the first nine months of 1936 were less than 21 years of age, tabulations by Director J. Edgar Hoover, of the Federal Bureau of Investigation of the Department of Justice, show.

"The ratio of young criminals to older ones was obtained through examination of arrest records of 343,132 persons whose fingerprints were forwarded to the bureau by state and municipal law enforcement agencies.

"Records of the bureau for the four-year period ending the last half of the 1935 calendar year also show that 19-year-old individuals arrested throughout the nation outnumber those of any other single age group. Since June, 1935, the majority has shifted to persons 21, 22, or 23 years of age.

"The bureau is not quite certain whether to attribute this shift to the fact that the 19-year-old age group may be continuing its criminal tendencies and becoming second offenders or to an improvement of economic factors.

"More than half of the persons arrested for three major offenses during the first nine months of the present year were under 25 years of age, the bureau's tabulations reveal.

"Other interesting facts revealed by the statistics are that of the 59,954 youths arrested, 526 were charged with criminal homicide, 3,622 with robbery, 2,307 with assault, 8,660 with burglary, 3,944 with automobile thefts, 11,081 with larceny, 696 with forgery and counterfeiting and 708 with carrying weapons."

DIGNITY IS LACKING

It seems to us that the court room, where reprimands are supposedly made, meted out and dispensed with in precise and orderly fashion, as the law requires, is losing some of its judicial dignity.

It was our displeasure to attend a session of criminal court recently when the following scene took place.

A man was called before the judge to prove "good behavior" during the interval between the term of court and the preceding one that he might not have to go to jail for some minor offense he had committed.

Officers were called to the stand and they vouched for the man's good behavior. They said they had had no trouble with him, had heard no complaints and that he

was working when possible.

In some way it was brought out that his mother had died several months ago.

The judge dismissed the charges against the man and passed this remark as the man was leaving the stand, "You didn't kill your mother, did you?"

We like to believe that the man did not even hear the remark for he hurried away happy from having escaped serving a sentence.

But knowing the principals in the case we remember the mother referred to as being one of the finest and most respected ladies that ever lived in this community and her family is traditionally one of the best.

What prompted the judge to pass that remark is hard to say. He was obviously trying to be funny at the other man's expense. Court routine is a tiresome thing when it is followed day by day, and it is usually during the criminal session that the judge meets the lowest type of people who would not resent a remark like that.

But it is very evident that not only in the court referred to but in other courts in general, much of the prestige and dignity that should go with the bench is lacking.

The law does not believe in dilly-dallying and neither we think, should its procedure.

This is another example of English court superiority over others kinds. Dignity on the bench, there, is never lacking

DISTRIBUTION OF TALENT

The economist views education uniquely. At least Professor Thomas Nixon Carver does.

Professor Carver says that the bad distribution of wealth is mainly due to the bad distribution of human talent, and that the most constructive program for improving the distribution of wealth would be an educational program for improving the occupational distribution of human talent.

If there were just enough competent men in every type of human activity, the scale of pay in each line would be approximately the same. The best in each occupation would get the same high income and the worst would be on an equal, but lower, basis. The ideal educational system, therefore, should seek to train men as fast as it can for those lines in which talent is rare. It should discourage men from training for work in which the competition is already keen.

College professors, untrained in economics, sometimes resent receiving salaries that do not compare favorably with the incomes of delicatessen merchants. Instead of berating the system that permits this inequality, they might determine that their sons shall train for the proprietorship of delicatessen stores.

Right now, mass education is effecting a noticeable change in the salaries that high-school and college graduates can command. It is not uncommon for a college graduate never in his life to make as much money as a comparatively illiterate carpenter or structural iron-worker. A newspaper editor recently confessed that in the immediate years ahead the army of chronically unemployed would more largely consist of college graduates than of common laborers. The college men are crowding to suffocation the fields that seem to befit their dignity. Wages in these lines not only are low, but jobs are unobtainable at any wage.

We may conceivably see the day when the top men in all work will receive approximately the same pay. Meanwhile the world will pay a premium for talent that is scarce. Judgment, discretion, courage, initiative, and leadership are some of the uncommon qualities today. To increase their supply is one of the foremost tasks of an educational system.

COUNTY SCHOOL LUNCH ROOMS

We think it is well that since the government has decided to diversify its funds for public benefit that they do not leave out the country school children.

At present the WPA, under the direction of Mrs. Walter Witt, has begun a program to supply hot lunches for underweight children in the smaller schools.

Through the plan a kitchen supervisor is provided by WPA funds and the children themselves bring in produce in exchange for hot lunches. Thus for a few vegetables a hot, nourishing lunch is provided the children.

Gratifying to hear also is the fact that citizens in the various communities where these lunch rooms have been opened have been donating generously to their welfare.

It is well that the lunch room project in this county has been successful so far as Mrs. Witt announced this week that the maintenance of the project here depended on the cooperation the people gave it.

But the cooperation is merited in this vitally necessary program of keeping young school children strong in body that they might learn more and have a better chance.

TURNING BACK HISTORY'S PAGES

10 YEARS AGO

Friday, November 19, 1936
Mr. and Mrs. Connie Holder and daughter and Mrs. J. H. McCall spent the week-end in Atlanta shopping.

Mr. and Mrs. Esco Wakefield and daughter, of Andrews were the guests of Mrs. J. C. Palmer, Sunday.
Mrs. Garrison Maneval, of Asheville is the guest of home folks

Mr. M. L. Mauney of Peachtree was in town Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Harrelson, of Donaldsonville, Ga., are visiting relatives here.

Mr. and Mrs. Jerry Davidson spent last week in Atlanta.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Phaup were in Atlanta over the week-end.

Bud King and wife, of Atlanta have recently been visiting relatives in town.

Dr. Mason, of Culberson was shopping in town Tuesday.

Dr. J. N. Hill was host at a smoker at his home last Wednesday evening of last week.

Miss Grace Albright of Asheville, and Waynesville spent the week-end with her sister, Mrs. B. W. Sipe and Mr. Sipe.

23 YEARS AGO

Friday, November 21, 1919
Mrs. T. J. Mauney has been visiting relatives at Hayesville for some time.

H. C. Ricks who has been confined to his home with influenza, is out again.

Mrs. Norine Gibson, of Almond, N. C., and R. J. Allen, of Union, S. C. were united in marriage last week.

30 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, November 20, 1906
Miss Blanche King has accepted a position with Candler's Department Store.

Mr. Ed Slaughter, of Robbinsville was a pleasant visitor to our town Friday.

J. B. Dickey, of Culberson, arrived Friday and was shaking hands with his many friends.

W. N. Cooper, of New York, and T. J. Cooper, of Sandersville, Ga., were here several days last week on business.

Mr. Samuel Bryson, of Beaver dam, was in town Wednesday.

W. E. Parham and wife of Knoxville, Tenn., are visiting the family of R. V. Swan.

43 YEARS AGO

Tuesday, November 21, 1893
Col. G. W. Hayes, of Columbia, Tenn., is here for a few days.

J. P. Phillips, of Blue Ridge, Ga., paid a visit to his brother, J. J. Phillips, of our town, the past week.

Drs. Sullivan and Sanderson, Sheriff Scroggs, W. F. Martin and S. D. Chambers, of Hayesville, paid their respects to Murphy yesterday.

Col. Tom Butt, of Blairsville, left

yesterday after paying a visit to his daughter, Mrs. W. S. McCombs, of our town. Mrs. Butt is still here enroute for Alabama to visit her mother.

Dr. G. G. Whitecomb, of Ocreeta, was in town Thursday.

Capt. R. L. Porter, of Franklin, spent Tuesday and Wednesday in town on revenue business.

HOTHOUSE

Well, old man winter has come at last, and the bitter winds are very strong

Miss Sadie Forster spent Sunday night with Misses Ruby and Pauline Montgomery.

Mrs. S. M. Montgomery is spending a few days with her children, of Etowah, Tenn.

Mr. A. J. Beaver and sons, Louie and Poley, both of Gastonia, spent the week-end with friends and relatives here.

Mrs. Cordia Rogers, of Isabella, is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Earl Helton.

Miss Mabel Payne, of Suit, was the Sunday guest of Mrs. J. B. Harris.

The many friends of Mrs. Dewey Jones will be sorry to hear she is sick at this writing.

Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Payne are visiting their children at Asheville.

Mr. Willard Forster was the Sunday dinner guest of Miss Pauline Montgomery.

Mr. and Mrs. Earl Mundy spent Sunday with the latter's mother, Mrs. O. L. Tilson.

Mr. Herman Dean of Isabella, moved into Mr. J. E. Mundy's house, which was vacated by Mr. Joe Morrow.

Mrs. Estella Forster spent Friday of last week with Mrs. W. T. Montgomery.

Mrs. Vernon Cover of Boulder, Colo., has a most unusual traveling companion, which she takes on trips all over the country. It is a buck deer, now 3 years old, with prominent antlers, and it rides in her specially arranged automobile. The animal is quite civilized, and smokes cigarettes.

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