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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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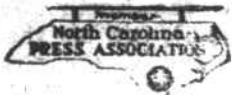
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Be Considerate of Property and Others

How would you like for someone to pass by your home and dump a pile of trash and rubbish in front of your house?

That is exactly what many people are doing without thinking about what they are doing.

Roadsides at the edge of town have become dumping grounds for people wanting to throw paper and other trash from motor vehicles.

It is a thoughtless habit on the part of those traveling in cars. They should think of the people who live along the highways, and remember that they do not want their lawns and grounds cluttered up with all kinds of trash.

Fatality Rate Now Apalling

Col. H. J. Hatcher, commander of the State Highway Patrol, gave some figures before the Safety Council meeting here that every citizen should consider.

People are killing themselves and each other on the highways of the state at the rate of 100 per month, and are injuring 2,000 others each month.

During the war every casualty was a tragedy, and truly so, but had you ever stopped to think that during the war more people in North Carolina lost their lives on the highways than were killed on all fronts?

Yet little is done to correct the appalling situation.

The public must rise in indignation and demand that the legislature tighten the traffic laws, and then quit trying to get every defendant out of the courts without punishment.

First Degree Murder

The laws of North Carolina are so written that only the ignorant and "dumb" commit first degree murder, for which the state asks the death penalty.

To convict of first degree murder the state must prove that the murder was committed with premeditation, deliberation and malice aforethought.

It is indeed a difficult task to prove that a man meditates and deliberates murder in his mind before committing the act.

The meanest criminal that ever lived could plan and execute a murder without any visible or known evidence of premeditation and deliberation. It is easy to realize that it is next to impossible to prove from visible evidence beyond a reasonable doubt that premeditation and deliberation took place in the mind of the defendant.

One other factor which makes it possible for cold blooded murderers to escape the death penalty is drunkenness.

If there is evidence that the defendant was drinking at the time of the crime, juries are inclined to be more lenient. But the cold and horrible fact remains that the murder victim is just as permanently dead when killed by a drunk as when killed by a man who never tasted strong drink. It is difficult to conceive that drunkenness, in itself a violation of the law, is a ground for leniency when life is taken by murder.

The shrewd murderer who would escape the penalty of the law would first take enough strong drink to set up that defense. He would then abstain from any act which would show premeditation and would go still further to execute the murder to make it look like self defense.

It then remains that about the only ones executed for murder are the poor, unfortunate, ignorant criminals who haven't

sense enough to do their premeditation and deliberation in the absence of prosecuting witnesses.

Borrowed Comment

FORECAST FOOD PRICE DECLINE

(Statesville Daily)

According to an Associated Press survey of commodity futures, food prices are due for a sharp decline by midsummer. There are probably two reasons why they will fall farther and faster than other commodities: first the decline in world requirements and second the fact that they have risen far above anything else, food costs now being about double what they were before the war against a rise of only about 50 per cent for manufactured articles except clothing, the latter having almost kept pace with food prices.

It is pointed out that butter can be bought today on the Chicago market for June delivery at about 53 cents a pound wholesale, which is 22 cents below present prices. The spot price of wheat is \$2.20 a bushel, but July futures can be had for \$1.79 or 41 cents less than today's market. Coffee, cocoa and other foods which are traded for future delivery show a similar trend, the only exception being eggs.

The futures markets reflect the opinions of the best informed men in the business, the traders and brokers who make a living by guessing right. So it seems the dollar is staging a comeback and some day may again be worth one hundred cents.

- THE - EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Rev. Herbert Spaul



"Why don't you print more letters from your correspondence in The Everyday Counselor, and discuss them?" This question is raised by readers. The answer is that people who write about personal and spiritual problems don't want them printed, even if their identity is withheld. This I have learned through the hard way of experience in writing this column over a period of years. I do discuss the problems raised in letters which come to this desk, but out of regard for those who write, I withhold their letters.

Channing Pollock, celebrated author and playwright, wrote an article some years ago called, "The Earth's Slow Stain." He drew a vivid word picture of how earthliness, materialism, the grind of everyday living, gradually discolor the soul of men, leaving it dingy and drab. The remedy he offered as the only sure one, was that we learn to refresh our spirits in constant communion with our Lord.

Just as the fine dust which is in the air all about us creeps into the best kept house and settles on the furniture, if the housekeeper is not active with the dust cloth, so the fine dust of materialism settles on our souls, dulls their luster, and if not removed, forms a hard crust.

That hard crust is usually broken up by some personal problem, difficulty, calamity, which breaks through earthly things, and plows often down deep into our very hearts. You remember what Captain Eddie Rickenbacker wrote about attachment to material things when you are faced with the preservation of life itself. What about being faced with the truth of eternity?

Men and women in such extremities usually reach out for God. Their hearts are sore; their spirits bleeding; their feelings are very sensitive. They shrink from having their troubles held up for public view.

At times such as this they need the refreshing observation written by David as an old man, near the end of the road, with much worry and trouble behind him, "Be Still, and Know That I Am God."

So much of this can be avoided if we keep our hearts and lives clean by constant communion with our Lord.

"They that feared the Lord, spake often one to another: and the Lord harkened and heard it. . . . It came to pass while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus Himself drew near and went with them."

The Lord is near us. If we accept His companionship daily, our hearts and minds can be kept pure and free from the earth's slow stain.

The guy that plans to build his house on a pole—is farther along than most of us that build castles in the air.

ABNORMAL ABSURDITIES

By
DWIGHT
NICHOLS
et al



Recent activities of the Coffee Club have been numerous. At one session a number of reforms were carried out, including the traffic situation. Of course, the police department will be most happy to learn that the great deliberative body called the Coffee Club, the United States senate's nearest rival, has solved all the traffic problems.

The solution, apparently, is to place a spotter on every dangerous corner to get reckless drivers.

And there followed a long and serious discussion about the apparent privilege of taxi drivers to drive at any speed and to go through lights of any color, or how can so many drivers be color blind? No decision was reached on this momentous question.

And there was also a discussion of the driver who always honks his horn when behind another car at a changing traffic light. The consensus of opinion was that all such drivers should be taken out and shot down like dogs, and before a Wilkes jury that would probably be called "dogslaughter."

TRUCK DRIVERS—

Recently a truck driver accosted this reporter with a request in the form of a demand that we write something about truck drivers. He said we had written about everything else and that he wanted to see something in these hallowed column inches about truck drivers. We asked whether he wanted it good or bad, and he said it didn't make any difference, but that we had better write about truck drivers, saying further that the truck driver was the forgotten man

as far as this column was concerned.

We sized him up carefully as being about six feet and one inch in height and with a weight of some 230 pounds. That being the case, we naturally say that truck drivers are wonderful people who never did anything wrong. If he had been just a little bigger, we might use "angelic" as a correct, descriptive word.

SHORT STORY—

Once upon a time a beautiful girl was walking through the woods when she came upon a poor little frog who spoke as follows:

Frog—Lady, once upon a time I was a handsome prince but a big black witch turned me into a frog.

Beautiful Girl—Oh, that's too bad. Is there anything I can do to help you?

Frog—Yes, indeed. If you will take me home with you and put me on your pillow I will be saved.

So the beautiful girl took the poor frog home with her, and the next morning when she awoke there beside her was a handsome young prince. And do you know, to this day her mother still doesn't believe that story.

PREDICAMENT—

Newlyweds were in a restaurant when a blonde smiled at the husband.

Wife: "Dearest, who is that woman?"

Husband: "Don't bother me about who she is. I'll have enough trouble explaining to her who you are."

Support the Y. M. C. A.

ADMINISTRATRIX'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of the estate of Archie D. Rhodes, late of Wilkes county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned, whose address is North Wilkesboro, N. C., duly verified, on or before the 12th day of December, 1947, or this notice will be plead in bar of their right to recover. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 12th day of Dec., 1946. MRS. MARGARET LOVETTE, MRS. LUCILLE BENTON, Administratrix's estate of Archie D. Rhodes, dec'd. 1-16T

Mountain View Dramatics Club To Present Play Friday

The Dramatics Club of Mountain View high school announces the presentation of a three-act comedy, "Your Face Is Familiar" in the high school auditorium on Friday evening, January 17, at 7:30 p. m.

The plot of the play centers around the ambition of a young doctor, Lewis Girard (played by Bob Bullie) to win an important position in a hospital operated by Mr. Harland (Ralph Miller). Several kinks are thrown into his plans by his pretty young wife, Gracie (Inez Elledge) and her two former fiancés (Everette Felts and E. C. Elledge) who are also after the position and who even resort to female impersonations to blackmail Girard. To add to the complications Snoopy Aunt Sarah (Nell Brown) and mother-in-law Girard (Carolyn Baugness) appear on the scene in time to do a bit of nerve-racking interfering. Gracie's best friend Holly (Maxine Blevins) helps to straighten out the situation, with the aid of Swedish maid Lena

(Dorothy Cook) and negro cook Lily (Gladis Huie).

The public is cordially invited to this first major production of the recently organized dramatics club. Admission charges will be 15c and 25c.

Make plans now to carry work-stock to the horse and mule clinics scheduled for the next few weeks. About 9 out of 10 animals need treatment.

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One table youths' Sweaters in all-over or button front, and many styles from which to choose. Priced, each—

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