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A Rigid Test

Those who have taken their driver's test, as provided for under the new state law, point out that it is not as simple as just giving personal data, such as age, color of hair, weight, etc.

The actual road tests are just what they mean.

Many a veteran driver has failed to answer some of the questions, which most have been taking for granted for all the years.

One motorist who has been driving for many years almost fainted when he had to identify the different meanings of highway signs.

This thing of driving a motor vehicle these days is a serious business—in fact it is a business of life and death, and the state cannot be too rigid in the examinations put to those who get under the steering wheel.

We venture to say that more motorists have been studying highway signs and hand signals since July 1 than in any five-year period.

The program is splendid and the thorough checks of cars goes right along hand in hand with the test for drivers.

Lotteries Are Illegal

Down in Ahoskie the Kiwanis club staged a raffle with a \$3,200 Cadillac as the prize. At the drawing, the name of a 25-year-old Negro was drawn, and officials of the club ruled that the contest was for whites only. The Negro had paid a dollar for his 13,000-to-1 chance ticket, and nothing was said about race or creed when the sale was made.

A second drawing was held and the car awarded a doctor.

Protests started pouring in from over the nation. One congressman entered his bitter protest, and a New York newspaper started a fund to raise money to get the Negro a \$3,200 car.

The club officials called a hurried meeting and decided to give the Negro a car, and also the doctor, in order to bring the matter to a close.

While all this was going on, the attorney general's office in this state received more than 100 requests for a ruling on staging a raffle, or similar drawing. The answer was, "lotteries in North Carolina are illegal."

Since the Ahoskie case brought such a storm of protest, there is a feeling in many circles that fewer and fewer like events will be staged in North Carolina.

Two Seconds To Kill

How long is two seconds?

Not very long. Barely long enough for a pedestrian to say: "I've got plenty of time before that car gets here. Barely long enough for him to take six steps into the roadway, so the Morganton News-Herald points out.

An automobile going 40 miles an hour travels 118 feet in two seconds—and even on good pavement, even with good brakes, the driver cannot stop under 126 feet . . . that means 8 feet beyond the "hit pedestrian."

"Speed of oncoming cars is very hard to judge in daylight—impossible at night. Last year some 130,000 pedestrians were killed or injured between intersections because they guessed wrong or just weren't thinking at all. The place to cross the street is at a crosswalk, and if there is no traffic light, it pays dividends in life and limb to wait until the way is clear. Two seconds is often all the time it takes to die."

The Signs Were Late

Although late, the highway department has erected signs at the intersection of Highway 19 and 19-A, 23, which should eliminate a lot of confusion that has been existing since the Lake Junaluska cut-off was completed.

Some business people promptly estimate that 50 per cent of the travel coming as far as the Lake now keep on Highway 19, instead of coming on into Waynesville. We haven't any accurate checking figures, but we presume many travelers will not find their destination by the signs, and not take the wrong route. Even then, enough will by-pass Waynesville.

No Income Tax Reduction

The action of the Senate Friday took all doubt out of the minds of American people that next year's income taxes would be lower. Many people have been going along on the assumption that the tax rate would be cut, and gearing their economic life to taking advantage of the cut effective January first.

There is a lot of argument on the matter, but regardless of how one feels, the income tax rate will not be reduced.

The two prevalent lines of thought on the matter seem to be: (1)—Keep the present rate and pay off the national debt; (2) Stop loaning and giving money to foreign countries and reduce the rate.

The average citizen argues the point from the standpoint of his personal advantage, and often fails to take the national picture into consideration when going into the subject.

Family Reunions Start

The annual family reunions have started and from now until fall, scores of families will gather around the festive board and spend the day visiting and feasting.

This is a fine American tradition and we feel the world would be knit closer together if more old-fashioned family reunions were held more often.

More Applesauce

The Western Carolina Tribune tries to set us right about the apple crop in Henderson county. In an editorial recently we commented on the fact that Haywood had 77,000 apple trees, according to government figures, and Henderson had 50,000.

The Tribune said editorially "The Waynesville Mountaineer has been shocked from an old assumption as evidenced by its declaration that 'we have taken it for granted that Haywood led in the production of apples.' It adds that 'recently a statement was published in a magazine that Henderson county was the leading apple-producing county in North Carolina.' It then quotes census figures showing that Haywood has 77,000 trees, Buncombe 73,000, Alexander 59,000, Henderson 50,000 and Wilkes 38,000. Old boy they've been planting them on every hillside and on top of the Blue Ridge so fast in Henderson county it will take another depression with special WPA enumerators to catch up with what we are doing over this way in the making of a million dollar apple crop."

The Mountaineer hopes there will not be another depression, but if it should come, we would not be inclined to accept the count of WPA enumerators.

The question that is perhaps asked more today than any other, is "How is the tourist season?"

A perfectly natural question but one that often gets a variety of answers. The answer all depends upon the person answering the question.

This newspaper asked the owner of a business catering to tourists and was told, "Not as good as 1946."

As soon as the "boss" turned his back, one of his employees was queried and the answer was, "All the business we can handle."

We suspect somewhere between those two answers is the correct one for the community as a whole.

With the general prevailing cool weather during June and July in most of the Southern states, many potential visitors have delayed their annual trek to the mountains until later. Some purposely waiting until September.

We believe that when the curtain rings down on the season, some time in October, that most everyone will find it has been a fairly good season after all.

Five times as much vitamin A has been found in the milk of cows fed on good alfalfa hay as in the milk of cows fed on poor timothy hay.

Men who enter West Point Military Academy must be at least five feet, six inches tall.



Rambling 'Round

—Bits of Human Interest News Picked Up By Members—
 —Of The Mountaineer Staff—

Have you ever thought of the tragedy behind some of the advertisements you find in the newspapers? For instance, "Have you seen a little white dog with a brown ear?" He was a child's pet and the owner is inconsolable. Perhaps the little white dog has just wandered away in search of new adventure; or some one has picked it up and carried it away; or maybe a careless motorist has crushed out its life. Whatever the cause of its absence, there is a broken childish heart.

Certainly no one can criticize the weather we have enjoyed this summer; so little really warm days have interfered with our comfort that summer seems to be a forgotten season. The rain has kept the foliage in such cleanliness that the usual dusty reminder of hot days has been noticeable by its absence.

And still speaking of weather, we have just ahead of us hardly six weeks of summer then comes the glory that is ours. The fall and early winter grandeur of these mountains is something that will always linger in the minds of those who have enjoyed it. If our summer visitors could only realize what they leave when they depart from here along about September first, we feel sure they would either

duck, which feeds on celery and has a much superior flavor. "It's not bad eating," says he. "I don't like white meat of any kind, and I think chicken is poor, but I'm willing to eat the dark meat of turkey on Thanksgiving."

Dr. Fisher retired from government service after 46 years back in 1931. It was in 1890 when Dr. Fisher, leading a party of six, got two weeks ahead of the chuck wagons out in Death Valley in California. When they got to the starving point the party reasoned that anything alive was food, so they

Joe Jack Atkins: "I have my doubts that a conference would do much good."

Charles Isley: "Anything is worth a try to straighten things out, because the situation seems to be very serious now. We've gone more than half way with Russia already."

Guy Messer: "It ought to establish better relations."

The Luth, or Leathery Turtle, is a marine animal inhabiting tropical seas; it reaches a length of eight feet and weighs as much as a ton.



By JANE EADS
 WASHINGTON — Dr. Albert Kendrick Fisher, first chief of the U. S. Biological Survey, says he is the man who discovered you could eat rattlesnake meat and live.

That was long before they started canning the stuff and selling it for \$1 a pound.

Dr. Fisher, who recently celebrated his 92nd birthday eating roast beef at the historic Cosmos Club with a group of cronies, says rattlesnake meat is okay when you haven't got anything else and you're starving.

Let the gourmets have it, says he. He prefers roast canvasback

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Looking Back Over The Years

5 YEARS AGO

A storage tank at the Standard Oil company bulk plant on Water street started leaking Tuesday morning and in some undetermined manner the fumes became ignited and caused an explosion which brought death to five Waynesville citizens.

Carmel Hollingsworth, a student of the Waynesville vocational agriculture class, won first place in the district essay contest sponsored by the Cotton Cooperative of Raleigh.

Sixty-seven men are scheduled to leave this area on Friday for induction at Fort Jackson.

10 YEARS AGO

Special engineers of the Westinghouse Electric company have completed the installation of the latest sound producing system for the Park theater.

On Friday afternoon Miss Frances Robeson gave a tea honoring several members of the faculty of Duke summer school.

Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Ward were given a surprise on Sunday, July 18, when nine of their ten children and their families arrived to celebrate with them their fifty-fifth wedding anniversary.

MIRROR OF YOUR MIND



Is an old man's interest in teen-age girls a mark of senility?

Answer: In the main, yes. For while on the surface he seems only to be trying to regain his lost youth, the more serious his obsession with "sweet young things" is, the more it reveals a loss of contact with the real world, and especially the fact that his interest cannot be returned. He thus goes beyond the "wishful thinking" in which almost anyone may indulge, and displays the loss of memory of recent events, and the tendency to "live in the past" which are the outstanding characteristics of a senile person.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Do you think a conference between President Truman and Premier Stalin of Russia would better relations between the two nations at this time?

Howard Clapp: "Yes. Two people can always profit by a discussion of problems."

Henry Hale: "No. I think there have been too many conferences. Let the situation stand as it is for a while, and let us wait until the Russians approach us."

Jim Killian: "I don't know whether it would or not. If Truman was as good a diplomat as Roosevelt, it would be all right, but I doubt if he could come out as well in a conference with Stalin."

Joe Jack Atkins: "I have my doubts that a conference would do much good."

Charles Isley: "Anything is worth a try to straighten things out, because the situation seems to be very serious now. We've gone more than half way with Russia already."

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Inside WASHINGTON

Mon Wallgren Suggested As Truman Running Mate

Special to Central Press

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They'll Do It Every Time By Jimmy Hatlo