

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE

Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This is the word of the Lord unto Zerubbabel, saying, Not my might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the Lord of hosts.—Zechariah.

A Big Bottleneck Being Corrected

It is welcomed news for hundreds of motorists that a three lane highway will soon be built at Five-Points. This congested area, especially from about 3 to 5 each afternoon, is enough to try the patience of Job.

Hundreds of cars from the plants have to go by the area, and often one car, traveling east trying to make a left turn will hold up as many as 20 other cars, which only adds to the congestion and often "short patience."

The plan of the three lane system will enable through traffic to move along without interference of turning traffic. All will be regulated by a system of traffic lights geared so as to meet the latest in traffic engineering.

The proposal was made sometime ago by Mayor Lawrence Davis of Hazelwood to Commissioner Harry Buchanan, of the 14th District. In a short time an engineer was on the job, mapping plans for easing the traffic flow.

The project will require construction of about 500 feet of pavement six feet wide, which will give three 12-foot lanes in the area. The project is scheduled for immediate completion, and fortunately in time to take care of the additional load of traffic which will descend upon the section as more and more workers move into the new Unagusta plant, which is just beyond the Five-Point area.

This project will be money well spent, and a credit to all those who had a part in bringing it to a reality.

More Highways To Be Built

American drivers should be encouraged by the prospect of a 41,000-mile network of highways, to be completed within 13 years, linking almost all the cities in the United States of over 50,000 population. They can be more heartened by the fact that this new federal interstate highway system will allow no billboards or roadside business on the right of way. Instead, there will be plantings of shrubs, grass and trees.

Not only will these plantings make driving more pleasurable, but they will also provide very practical services, such as erosion prevention, traffic guidance, snowbreaks, highway noise reduction, crash protection, headlight glare elimination, and buffers to keep large animals off the roadway.

—The Herald, Hanska, Minn.

People believe some things right off, but others, they never believe. Take for example, you tell a fellow there are 279 trillion stars in the heavens, he'll take the fact at face value. Let a sign say "wet paint" and he'll touch his finger to the surface to find out.

VIEWS OF OTHER EDITORS

'Politically Palatable'

Governor Hodges terms a report by the Commission on Legislative Representation, made public Friday, as "practical and politically palatable"—and with that we agree.

A plan which is not "politically palatable" has no chance with the 1957 General Assembly. Reapportionment has been shamefully ignored for the last four years because it symbolizes a struggle for power between the agrarian East and the populous Piedmont. The East will tolerate no reapportionment which threatens its power, and therein lies the stalemate.

The question now facing the state is this: Will the General Assembly, furnished a patchwork compromise, do its duty on reapportionment where it has dismally failed during the last two sessions?

The answer to that question lies in practical, realistic study of the commission's report. Commission Chairman Carroll Weathers, dean of the Wake Forest Law School, admirably defended it at the Governor's state-wide press conference Friday. He granted forthwith that the report was neither utopian nor ideal—but represented the best workable compromise which might provide fairer representation than the state now has. The goal, let us remember, is fairer representation within the framework of what is politically possible.

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Editorial Page of the Mountaineer

TODAY'S QUOTATION

We cannot live on probabilities. The faith in which we can live bravely and die in peace must be a certainty, so far as it professes to be a faith at all, or it is nothing.—Froude.

Rambling 'Round

By Frances Gilbert Frazier

Seventeen years ago on December 20th, a deep sorrow came into our life and we said, bitterly: "What a mockery this Christmas will be." That same expression could so truly be said about the situations in the year 1956. Millions of peoples are at such violent discord that torture and murder are taken so lightly, and life at such a low valuation that it is a tragic situation. Affairs overseas are so well known that it isn't necessary to go into details, but the enormity of the crises is of such vital importance that it cannot be taken as a prosaic matter.

But we need not travel to other countries to find deep concern, for here in our own beloved America churches are being burned, ministers attacked, men blinded by acid-throwers, and other atrocities are being committed every hour of the day and night.

"Peace on earth, good will toward men" is the most beautiful precept on earth but it is as far away as the human race seems bent on making it. How can Christmas mean anything but horror to those in oppressed countries, and what price victory to those inflated with the lust for power and domination? Can the world ever look forward to a Christmas when harmony, peace and friendship celebrates the birth of Christ?

A friendly hand is never encased in a glove.

A recent editorial in The Mountaineer mentioned the fact of the confusion that must arise in the minds of the small fry because of the large number of Santa Claus scenes for several weeks before the Great Day. And this fact is not alone baffling to youngsters but a matter of deep concern to their elders. It is pretty hard to explain why one person can be seen at so many different spots at almost identical moments.

And speaking of the jovial old gentleman of the white whiskers and extended waistline, we had the pleasure of seeing "double" in Asheville recently. The extremely joyous Santa Claus in Ivey's window was so laugh-provoking that one completely lost sight of the exhausted condition of the poor reindeer who floundered, fell and flopped. A few moments later we were greeted by a Kriss Kringle at the next corner whom we thought was directing traffic but we were informed, was waving at us. To have a man wave at us was exhilarating enough to make the evening perfect, even if he waved indiscriminately throughout his tenure of office.

Long live Santa Claus, Or, at least, until December 24th. After that, he's a bit passe.

Heard in passing: "If I bought everything that child wanted, I would have to use a blimp instead of a stocking."

The number of disastrous forest fires recently gives grave cause for worry, and North Carolina has been the victim of several that have caused tremendous loss of valuable timber; timber that has withstood the ravaging seasonal storms only to be swept down by blazing destruction . . . and the tragedy is that most of this devastation is caused by thoughtlessness.

It is hard to realize that a carelessly tossed match or lighted cigarette can bring about such a frightful thing as a forest fire. A tiny spark in a bed of dry grass can spread into an inferno of terror and ruin that will, in minutes, undo the work that Nature has taken years to develop.

If necessary, hold a lighted match between the fingers until it burns you, then you can easily be made aware of the damage it can do if thrown on the ground. It is an excellent remedy for forgetting that matches can do harm when thrown from a car while riding in a wooded section.

No branch of mistletoe is ever complete without a beau.

Views of Other Editors

PLEASURE OF GRANDFATHERS

If there is any joy in this world that somehow does not hold its small irritations, its occasional

sadness, we know it not.

Grandchildren are just about as great a joy as this world can bring.

The other day a friend who lives a couple of blocks from us said:

"I wish you and your General Manager would come to see us. We have our three small grandchildren visiting us."

Then he paused and added soberly:

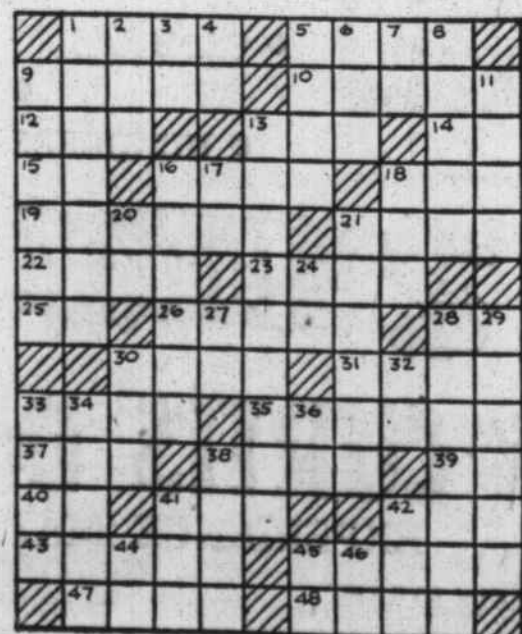
"After a half hour with them you will be able to appreciate your solitude."

—Goldsboro News-Argus

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1. Electric catfish
5. Serpent lizard
9. Gelatinous substance
10. Limp (dial.)
12. Hall!
13. Indian mulberry
14. Hawaiian bird (hyphen)
15. Music note
16. Speedy
18. Coin (Peru)
19. Granulates
21. Pro-Nazi organization
22. Eskers (geol.)
23. Shrub (Jap.)
25. Neon (sym.)
26. Set of boxes (Jap.)
28. Part of "to be"
30. Wild ox (Celebes)
31. Distressed
33. The common heather
35. Required
37. Remnant
38. One-spot card
39. Sloth
40. Public notice
41. Perish
42. Milkfish
43. Last
45. Mohammedan bible
47. Three-toed diving birds
48. Absent

DOWN
1. Opposite
2. Malt beverage
3. Man's nickname
4. Two (combining form)
5. Began
6. Old measure of length
7. Italian river
8. Wooden head golf club
9. Cant
11. Vended
13. Guarantee
16. Discharging a gun
17. Indefinite article
18. Genus of swine
20. Rough lava
21. Manages
24. Note of the scale
27. Negative area leading to a cellar
29. Middle of length
30. Particle of addition
32. An alleged force
33. Part of a plant
34. Asiatic country
36. Electrical engineer (abbr.)
38. Troubles
41. The mail (E. I.)
42. Constellation
44. Greek letter
45. The unknown god (Hinduism)
46. Cry of pain



THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



Looking Back Over The Years

Letters To Editor

A CHALLENGE

Editor, The Mountaineer:

I have just read your signed editorial, "Another Phase of Our Progressive Program Needed" in the Dec. 6 issue of your splendidly-edited paper and I want to congratulate you on the challenge you have thrown out to the citizens of Haywood County and vicinity. I am sure this problem is not peculiar to your area, but you are wise in recognizing its existence. Three young people were killed instantly near the Greensboro-High Point Airport the other night. Beer and whisky found in the car told a sad story of the reasons for the tragedy.

I shall follow with interest the program your progressive county will work out to remedy this situation.

Perhaps you can perfect a "pilot" plan that can be adapted in other sections which are also aware of the need to give our young people a better chance in life. Great emphasis is being put on conservation of our natural resources in America and the time has come for more community-wide effort to be put in conservation of human resources, beginning with children and young people in our midst.

Sincerely,
Marse Grant, Editor
Charity and Children
Thomasville, N. C.

A JOB WELL DONE

Editor, The Mountaineer:

Our United Fund has just completed another successful year and I feel confident that the untied way of giving has become a permanent thing in this community and will continue to grow and be of greater service in the future.

It would be impractical to name all of the fine people in this community who have helped to make our United Fund a success and yet I do want to especially thank our Campaign Chairman, Charlie Woodard; our Publicity Committee, Ken Fry and Curtis Russ; our Treasurer, J. B. Siler; our Clerk, Mrs. Jackie Caldwell, for their fine work this past year.

While we can and should express our appreciation to the various officers and committees



MATTHEW 11:10—"This is he of whom it is written, 'Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, who shall prepare thy way before thee.'" (RSV)

Our Lord does all honor to John the Baptist as the preparer of the way for the Kingdom of Heaven. The Baptist did yeoman's service in levelling the hills, filling up the valleys, making the crooked places straight, making a highway for the Kingdom of Heaven.

We know that things don't just happen in our world. We literally level off the hills, fill in the valleys and make the crooked straight.

Believe me, in this business of religion, we do not believe in miracles. Just as the world was prepared for Christ by John the Baptist, the prophets before him and many others, so also if we are going to come by the "Good News" of Christ we have to do something about it.

We have the Christian life today because others have made it possible. Christ can come to us only as the way is made ready. Others can and do help us but we have got to help ourselves. God has sent His servant, Jesus, to help us. He stands at the door and knocks. Only we can open that door.

The Rev. George McKinley,
St. John's P.E. Church,
Palmerton, Pa.

Views of Other Editors

CONSIDER THE HURRICANE

"Are you a hurricane driver?" asks the National Safety Council.

Stop and look yourself coolly in the eyes before you answer "No." For these modern automobiles, magnificent in getting drivers out of tight spots, are also deceivers in the grand manner. On today's straight, wide highways they can entice the motorist up to 70, 75, 80, 90 . . . miles an hour. They glide so effortlessly.

Yet 75 miles an hour is weather bureau hurricane speed for wind—for just nice, soft, moving air. And hurricanes can tear up cities and countryside. What can two tons of hard steel automobile do? Physicists can tell us that one moving at 60 miles an hour carries eight times the lethal force of one moving at a mere 20. And, the Safety Council tells us, during the last Christmas holidays driving in excess of the legal limit or too fast for accompanying conditions entered into 85 per cent of the fatal accidents.

So curb your two-ton hurricane, Mr. Driver—even on an arrow-straight, four-lane, dual turnpike. —Christian Science Monitor.

LIQUOR GETS THE BOOT

A brave Chicago company has a new plan for entertaining conventions: No liquor.

And word-weary convention goers are finding phrases to praise it.

"It was time for someone to change the trend away from liquor." That was a typical comment at the American Hospital Association convention in Chicago last month.

The "someone" is Bauer & Black, Chicago producers of first aid and hospital supplies.

The company decided to do away with cocktail parties at conventions and trade association meetings.

Instead of liquor, Bauer & Black serves a late evening "ice box party," a buffet spread of cold cuts, cheese, bread and butter, coffee and milk.

"We just thought how people like to raid the ice-box and decided to give them a chance to do it at conventions," a company executive said.

He reports "enthusiastic reactions everywhere" to the new system and adds that "the milk goes over biggest."

—Chicago Daily News

EXTRA-VAGANT WOMEN

Wives more often than husbands are responsible for saving money. According to recent surveys, both husband and wife manage the savings in 59% of the families, the wife in 25% and the husband in 15%. In families whose income is above \$10,000 a year, the husband is more likely to see that some money is put away. But in families in the \$2,000-\$10,000 bracket, the wife plays the more active role in making sure something is saved. —Changing Times.

ARE THINGS BETTER NOW?

People have more money today than they did before World War II. But here are some sobering comparisons: A worker who earned \$3,000 in 1939 needs \$6,122 today to be as well off. The family with a \$5,000 income in 1939 has to have \$10,583 now. And 1939's \$25,000-a-year man was doing just as well as today's executive who brings in around \$68,000 a year. Taxes and inflation make the difference. No denying it, the dollar has really shrunk. —Changing Times.

'GOING FOR CIDER?'

This is the time of year when country roads—yes, and suburban streets—used to ring with the laughter of people who were not too young to be out after dark and were headed in happy groups to the cider mill.

Of course, the cider mill still exists in some places, but it is not what it used to be or even what many of this younger generation may imagine it was. On many farms it was not so much an institution as an annex. The presses were set up in a wing of the barn, and the fragrance, pungent sweet, of apple juice, mingling with the smell of kerosene lamps, wafted out into the autumn darkness.

"Going for cider tonight?" used to be heard in high-school corridors as classes changed rooms. We would guess that only the echoes of such greetings now whisper unheard through the halls of learning. And to hear lighthearted banter and the stomping of feet down the road past your house, you must listen again with the memory. —The Christian Science Monitor

There Are Needy Ones Among Us

The Yule time season brings to our attention the number of needy folk in every community. Really, there are just as many, on an average, every season of the year as there are at Christmas, but it seems that their plight becomes more pronounced at this time of the year.

It is encouraging to note that some 20 families from the Welfare rolls have already been taken by individuals and groups. There are about 50 other families that have been checked by the Welfare Department and set up as being worthy and needing assistance.

It is fine that the people are checking through the Welfare office for names of families to assist. There was a time when many individuals and groups went out looking for a family, and in more than one instance, some families were remembered by several persons, while other needy groups did not get a thing. By checking through the Welfare office it is possible to take care of a larger number of folk, and to do it in a systematic manner.

When a family is listed on the Welfare roll, it is known that they have been checked, and re-checked by experienced Welfare workers as to their particular needs.

Yet Nothing Is Done About It

The weather this fall (winter is due next Friday) has been a mixed-up pattern. There have been five days of "average fall" weather, and then about the same length of time of spring-like weather. The off-season weather has caused a lot of concern, all the way from farmers trying to decide when to kill hogs to the ladies trying to figure out when to wear their fur coats.

It has been a puzzler, and even the furnaces have not known how to take the "off and on" cooler days. Over the weekend, we understand there was an epidemic of furnace breakdowns, even some of the schools faced a chilly day. So it goes with the weather, which seems more mixed up now than ever.

Highlanders Set Up Tempo Of Program

The county and regional group of the Highlanders have a wide and comprehensive program for the coming season.

The enthusiasm of both groups is a good sign of the amount of work which is expected this coming season.

The groups plan a larger promotional campaign than in the past, and are "gearing up" for a strong presentation of the advantages of Western North Carolina as a vacation center.

While Dean Weathers refused to comment on Commission Member Weimar Jones' dissenting opinion, his report did answer the Franklin editor by implication; it made concessions both to the principle of area (favoring the East) and population (favoring the Piedmont).

The plan would, in brief, give larger population counties more representation both in the House and Senate; but at the same time it would place limitations on the extent of that increase—and thereby quiet fears of the agrarian East.

Under the plan changes in reapportionment would not take place until after the 1960 census (a wise stipulation), but in the meantime the General Assembly would proceed with a long-delayed reapportionment at its session next year.

The changes themselves would add 10 additional members to the House of Representatives, distributed by population as at present so that the larger-population counties would get additional representation. At the same time each county would continue to be assured one representative regardless of population.

In the Senate two new provisions would apply: (1) No county could obtain more than two senators; and (2) no senator could represent more than four counties. In case of a conflict between these limitations, the four-county proviso would have priority.

Under this plan, if applied to the 1950 census, both Guilford and Mecklenburg would qualify for two senators and there would be a reshuffling of senatorial districts elsewhere in the state to comply with the four-county limitation. Most of the new representatives would go to counties which have grown substantially in the last decade but which have not had representation for such growth; at the same time certain other counties, such as Pitt and Cabarrus, which have not grown as rapidly, would still hold on to their present representation.

As the capstone of this plan, reapportionment would be turned over to a special commission, composed of elective state officers, which would be charged with the job of reapportionment after each decennial census. The Daily News agrees with Weimar Jones that the Republican Party should be assured some representation on this commission, not now provided; but otherwise we look on this change in responsibility as a constructive one.

Will the General Assembly go along with this plan—or something akin to it? We trust that it will, recognizing on the one hand that further flagrant disregard of the State Constitution must not continue and on the other that an ideal solution is not possible under existing political patterns. —The Greensboro Daily News.