

The Future Pivots on Water

It can be said, without fear of challenge, that North Carolina's future pivots on water — navigable water, unpolluted salt and fresh water, and sufficient ground water.

On the first, navigable water, hinges the type of future to be experienced by eastern Carolinians. A State Waterways Commission has been proposed and in a hearing at Raleigh last week the commission was endorsed by coastal leaders.

The sole responsibility of the commission, as proposed, is the improvement of the waterways of the state for navigation.

Heretofore, North Carolina, as have most states, has depended on the federal government, through the Army Corps of Engineers, to make waters navigable. While much federal help will always be needed, the state, with an adequately financed waterways program, can handle some projects which the federal government might never touch.

As Col. Harry Brown has pointed out, some Tar Heel projects have been turned down by the Corps of Engineers because justification for the project has not been properly prepared. A waterways commission would be able to assist in effectively requesting federal aid.

Colonel Brown proposes, at first, an operating budget of \$150,000 a year. Source of funds, under his plan is \$92,900 obtained by cancelling refunds on gas to maritime users, with the remainder appropriated from the general

fund. It is also suggested that on local waterways projects, the town or county benefiting should bear a share of the expense.

Colonel Brown points out that since 1828, "only 1,300 miles of navigable channel, of which 41 are for deep draft ocean vessels, have been improved in North Carolina."

With the increase in use of boats and the popularity of water sports, North Carolina is missing a big bet — both from the sports angle and commercial fishing standpoint — if it fails to place proper value on the importance of navigable waters.

People Ignore Danger

A cat in Morehead City last week was found to have rabies. Now an inquiry into the matter has been made by the State Board of Health.

When the state actively steps in — if it does — there's no fooling around. Just "talking about pet control" stops. Yellow quarantine signs are posted on all highways leading into the area.

This does much to discourage travelers' coming here for a vacation — whether they have pets with them or not. Wrightsville Beach had this experience several years ago and businessmen still shudder when they think of it.

Is the county and are the towns going to DO something concrete about the proposed dog warden plan, or are they still going to just talk about it? Maybe it's already too late.

A New Look at the Driver

How do signs, publicity, warnings, traffic fatality reports, and information on safety affect the driver?

Opinion Research Corp. recently made a study of this, at the request of the Pure Oil Co. and the ATA Foundation Inc., the research and information affiliate of the American Trucking Industry.

The study showed that newspapers, radio and TV CAN motivate people to become safe drivers. People expect some solution to traffic safety problems to be presented through these media.

How does the average motorist consider himself?

First, most everyone thinks he's a "better than average driver". As a matter of fact, every person interviewed who had a record of a traffic violation considered himself "better than most drivers".

What does the driver think of a slogan like "Drive Safely"?

He thinks those slogans are for the ordinary drivers — and he's slightly insulted at the suggestion that he DOESN'T drive safely.

When asked questions about how to navigate new super-highways, people replied that they didn't know. They were very interested in finding out just HOW one enters a traffic circle. This shows that the driver is interested in doing the right thing, but apparently, safe driving information seldom answers the questions the average driver wants answered.

What do people think about traffic laws? Answers showed that most believe it is wrong to break them, but they are mainly concerned with doing what's most convenient for them at the moment they are behind the wheel.

The two violations people get most worked up about are drunken driving and exceeding the speed limit by more than 10 miles. But catch most people at those and the drunk one has "had

just a few drinks" and the other was "going only five or ten miles over the limit".

There is little evidence that "scare" signs or seeing mangled cars makes persons more careful drivers. Most people, however, say they have been impressed by wrecks they saw on highways. Drivers also feel that death isn't the worst thing that can happen — they're more impressed with serious injuries, such as months in a wheel chair involving either themselves or loved ones.

Professional drivers make these suggestions to cut down traffic accidents:

1. Make traffic laws and signs uniform throughout the country
2. Provide better markings on secondary roads
3. Set up driver clinics for habitual violators
4. Get adults to set good examples for young drivers
5. Post signs reminding drivers to check their speed.

Lengthening Shadows

A friend recently made a discovery about flowers, states Wilferd Peterson, of Grand Rapids, Mich. He found that it is not in the brightness of the sunshine hours, but in the dusk of evening that flowers are the most beautiful. It is then that flowers are judged by their own brightness.

Is it not true, too, of human character? It is not in the sunshine of success, but in the darkness of disappointment, discouragement, and despair that the true worth of a man is brought out. A man whose personality still shines brightly in the dark moments of human experience, who in the face of adversity becomes more noble, more understanding, more kindly, more courageous — he is truly great.

— Sunshine Magazine

THROUGH THE RED (ink) SEA



Ruth Peeling

Defendant Didn't Salt His Wife!

A defendant in county court Thursday was asked if he pleaded guilty.

The defendant said he didn't know how to plead because he didn't know what he was charged with.

He was told that he was charged with being drunk and assaulting his wife.

"Well, I guess I was drunk," he said, "but I didn't salt my wife, I don't even 'member havin' any salt."

I don't know the outcome of the case, but it does show that everybody is more familiar with salt than assault.

An interesting article on salt appears in the current issue of Service... the importance of salt is summed up in the words, "Without salt man would perish."

Primitive man salted his food 5,000 years ago. Salt fish was a staple in Troy a thousand years before Christ. Biblical reference to salt is frequent, possibly topped by the account of the fate of Lot's wife, turned into a pillar of salt.

God's pact with Aaron and his sons was sealed as a "covenant of salt" while Elisha, the prophet, used salt to purify water. Saint Paul urged the Colossians to "let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how to answer each other."

The Persian phrase "untrue to salt" implies base ingratitude and disloyalty, while a special pledge of fidelity between Arab tribes involves placing salted bread into each other's mouths while saying the words "By this salt and bread I will not betray thee." The Greeks and Romans consid-

ered the now commonplace article a divine substance and used it in many of their rites. To spill it, they feared, was to invite the ire of the gods. Leonardo da Vinci's "Last Supper" shows Judas turned from the table, a salt cellar overturned at his elbow.

The word "cellar" derives from the French saliere, meaning a salt holder. In the medieval days of salt rationing, ornate salt cellars graced the tables of the nobility. A person's social rank could be judged by his relative place—whether "above" or, alas, "below the salt."

One of the oldest Roman roads is the "Via Salaria" over which salt was carried to Rome. Soldiers along the route were paid in salt—hence the word salary. Their day's efforts determined whether the soldiers were "worth their salt."

Always heavily taxed because of limited commercial production, salt many times was deliberately withheld from the people. To exceed the salt ration in sixteenth century Venice might cost an offender one of his ears. Two hundred years later, salt was ranked with tobacco as a contraband article in English trade.

Its importance in the New World is suggested by the colonists' sometimes frustrating attempts to produce it and the fact that the first patent issued in America was to a Salem salt maker in 1635. Two centuries later the prominence of Syracuse, the "salt city," was a factor in deciding to build the Erie Canal.

And Don Quixote said, "A man must eat a peck of salt with his friend before he knows him."

Captain Henry

Sou'easter

I think the Little League season was mighty good. Saw some of the games and if Little League keeps on at this summer's pace, we're going to have some fine ball players in these parts in several years.

I'm glad to see the churches sponsoring a league for older boys... it's refreshing to have to contend with nothing more complicated than baseball when there's so much turmoil in other realms.

There are lots of stories about the fighting fitness of the Marine Corps. Heard a new one last week, "Those boys don't need tanks—just give each one of them an automobile and they'll do all right."

You guessed it—this comment came from an officer who has investigated many an automobile wreck.

Striving to break the news gently to the wife of his patient, the doctor said, "Mrs. Smith, I'm very sorry that I must tell you that your husband will never be able to work again."

"I must tell him right away," said Mrs. Smith, hurrying to the door of her husband's room. "It will cheer him up immensely."

Bill Willis says "One good tern deserves another. That's why you always see two terns sitting on the shore together."

IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS

**THIRTY YEARS AGO**  
The Rev. Dr. George W. Lay, rector of St. Paul's Church in Beaufort and of St. Andrew's church in Morehead City, announced that he would soon resign his pastorate.

Mrs. Alice Hoffman was suing John A. Royall for \$10,000 in an attempt to get the Salter Path residents off her property on Bogue Banks.

A new branch of the North Carolina Stores, a chain store dealing in groceries, was to open soon in Beaufort.

**TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO**  
There was a possibility of improving Fort Macon State Park as a project under federal relief work.

The Carteret Hardware Co. in Beaufort opened July 29.

The Morehead City police department had received a new "Black Maria."

**TEN YEARS AGO**  
The third victim to be stricken by polio in the county was Richard Salter of Sea Level.

Mayor George W. Dill of Morehead City announced that \$3,678 had been collected from parking meters in the past six months.

Morehead City and Beaufort were going to undertake a program in hope of exterminating rats, mosquitoes and flies.

**FIVE YEARS AGO**  
The state legislative commission began its investigation of dog tracks. It was at Currituck at the beginning of the week and would be at Morehead City this weekend.

The Morehead City Golf and Country Club opened.

The bas on night shrimping was lifted by the Conservation and Development Board.

Another interesting item in Service is a picture of a tent pitched by the sea at Cape Hatteras National Seashore Park...

Gene Smith claims Detroit is now turning out cars with boat trailers and boats to match. True or not, it sounds like a good idea. A boat and trailer seem to be the "necessary accessories" these days, just like a woman's outfit needs hat, shoes, bag and gloves.

Comment... J. Kellum

Hollow Victories

Men who are charmed by wealth and earthly power litter their surroundings with buildings and monuments, evidences, they fancy, of their great importance. A perfect soul may leave no mark behind that it has lived here—no mark we can see—but the successful materialist is likely to leave considerable masonry about to record his existence. What becomes of his efforts is told in the following two poems.

**The Spell of Gedi, Near Mombasa**  
These ruins, really nameless, call to mind  
A great and gifted people, men of ships  
Who traded with their Eastern world, the kind  
Of sailor folk we are, freeborn, at grips  
With life and liking it; their will was strong  
As proved by dome and tower, strangled now;  
The teeming forest rules, nor likes the song  
My carefree comrades render, black of brow  
The giant ape above our heads whose threat  
Is echoed by a hissing from this heap  
Of rubble; thoughtful we depart and fret:  
What we revere the jungle holds so cheap,  
Tomorrow poor remains that we have seen  
Will rot and feed a shroud of avid green.

—John Ackerson

Ozymandias

I met a traveller from an antique land  
Who said: two vast and trunkless legs of stone  
Stand in the desert... Near them, on the sand,  
Half sunk, a shattered visage lies, whose frown,  
And wrinkled lip, and sneer of cold command,  
Tell that its sculptor well those passions read  
Which yet survive, stamped on these lifeless things,  
The hand that mocked them, and the heart that fed:  
And on the pedestal these words appear:  
'My name is Ozymandias, king of kings:  
Look on my works, ye Mighty, and despair!  
Nothing beside remains. Round the decay  
Of that colossal wreck, boundless and bare  
The lone and level sands stretch far away.

—Percy Bysshe Shelley

Smile a While

The woman appeared at the ticket window for the sixth time. "Er..." she said, "when does the train leave for Memphis?"  
"It leaves at 2:48, madam," answered the agent with a trace of annoyance. "I have told you that five times during the past half hour."  
"I know you have, sir," replied the woman, "but Johnny likes to see you come to the window. He says it reminds him of the zoo."  
—L. and N. Magazine.

Louise Spivey

Words of Inspiration

In recent weeks we have been hearing the rumbling of war. The great ships that dot the shorelines of our harbor, the convoys that pass us on the highways, the serious face of our fighting men as they board the ships at port terminal, add to the anxiety that we feel in our hearts.

Parents all over America whose sons are now serving in some branch of our armed forces, listen, watch, pray and hope, for peace. In the midst of all the confusion, where and how can our world find peace?

The answer is simple. It is the same when it comes to a nation, as with individuals who find themselves filled with hate, prejudice, misunderstanding, selfishness and greed.

The Rev. A. Purnell Bailey tells the story of a group of outstanding business leaders from all over America, about 40 of them who met in New York City just after World War II to discuss the economic needs of the nation. These men were chosen from industrial leaders and bankers of America.

At the end of the conference the newsmen asked them, "What do you have for the people of America?"

The climax of the report from these 40 hardboiled businessmen was this statement:

"The root cause of the world disorder is spiritual; they way out is the way up, and the world will never get right until it gets right with God."

Roy O. McClain says, "If Christianity is to have power in America, it must have a stronger home base."

To me, this means every American needs to look into his own heart and see if he is doing things just as God might want him to do.

It is good to see that most of our politicians for once agree with our President in sending troops into Lebanon. We feel sure that whether this action proves to be right or wrong, that at the time it seemed the right step for America to take. We feel sure that President Eisenhower gave this decision much thought and prayer.

It is good to have as our leader a man who knows the value of prayer and believes in the power of God.

The prayer, made by President Eisenhower at his second inaugural address, would be fitting as our nation prays for peace.

"Before all else," he said, "we seek upon our common labor as a nation the favor of Almighty God. And the hopes in our hearts fashion the deepest prayers for our people."

Continuing, he said, "May we pursue the right — without self-righteousness.

"May we know unity — without conformity.  
"May we grow in strength — without pride of self.  
"May we, in our dealings with all peoples of the earth, ever speak truth and serve justice.

"And so shall America in the sight of all men of good will prove true to the honorable purposes that bind and rule us as a people in all this time of trial through which we pass."

Our President took the oath of office with his hand resting on a Bible that his mother gave him shortly before he graduated from West Point in 1915. The Bible was open at Psalm 33:12 (King James Version): "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord: and the people whom he hath chosen for his own inheritance."

Free Wheeling

By BILL CROWELL  
Motor Vehicles Department

**NO LAUGHS HERE . . .** I've never been able to see the slightest bit of humor in the fact that for many years we have allowed an impression to be built up in the public mind that enforcement of the traffic laws is a sometimes thrilling, and sometimes laughable, game between officers and drivers.

Typical of this attitude is the cartoonist's view of traffic enforcement: A trooper hiding behind a billboard waiting to pounce on some unsuspecting driver cruising by at a mere 85 mph. And who hasn't laughed at the near legendary jokes about "California drivers?"

And what average driver tells about the time he was caught and fined heavily for violating a traffic law? More often he tells about the time he talked the "cop" out of a ticket or threw his weight around at City Hall and "beat the rap."

Just as there would be nothing funny about a man who would stalk down main street with a loaded machine gun scattering gunfire in all directions, there's nothing humorous about the driver who aims his car down the highway and, because he violates the laws governing safe movement of traffic, endangers life and limb.

We would find it difficult to sympathize with either one. But if sympathy were to be extended at all I'd be inclined to direct it to the

machine gunner; he would probably need psychiatric help. The only excuse for the most errant drivers is that they haven't yet awakened to the fact that the privilege to drive does not give them the right to endanger the lives of others.

It's time our views became more adult about traffic and the hard-working people who enforce traffic laws. It's no game, brother, and no laughing matter when the stakes are so high.

**SUDDEN THAWT . . .** When driving, watching the scenery instead of the car ahead is one good way to become part of both.

**HOW'S THAT . . .** In addition to driving on the left side of the road, British motorists are at variance with our motor customs in other ways, too, including the language of their traffic signs. To illustrate, what we call a reverse curve, the British call a double bend.

In the following, the English sign appears first with the American translation adjoining:  
Accident area—Congested area.  
1 in 12—Eight per cent grade.  
Lay-by—Roadside park.  
Unadvised lane—Private road.  
No waiting—No parking.  
No overtaking—No passing.  
The bottom—Dead end street.  
Dead slow—Drive very slowly.  
No parking on the heath—No parking on shoulder.  
Three years in gaol for hitting cyclist (self-explanatory).

From the Bookshelf

**The Montesi Scandal**, by Wayland Young, Doubleday & Co. \$4. The mysterious death of a middle-class Roman girl named Wilma Montesi in 1953 created a crisis of national conscience in Italy.

To this day there is no certainty whether Wilma was murdered, died accidentally or was a suicide. Nor is it known whether she did or did not participate in a wild party of prominent persons the day of her death.

Yet on the basis of rumor — and some wildly inventive perjury — the Montesi case dragged on for years. A foreign minister resigned. His son and two friends — one a man about town with a reputation as dubious as his title and the other the head of the Rome police force — were tried and acquitted.

Mr. Young's book primarily is a report on the Montesi trial. For the lay reader, the book may be a confusion of strange names and legal procedures which make it hard going.

It is in his final chapter that Mr. Young gets to the heart of the Montesi case. The significance was neither in the mystery nor in the litigation, although his account of the wild trial will be an eye-opener for those familiar only with U. S. court procedure.

What was significant was that the people of Italy had become convinced, rightly or wrongly, that the authorities sought to cover up the case because prominent persons were involved. The reaction was a deep, corroding disillusionment among Italians over the in-

fluence of power, social standing and money upon a democracy. Mr. Young may overdraw the extent of Communist benefit from this cynicism, but his final chapter still is prescient and intelligent.

— Bob Price

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