

THE HIGH-PRICED PORCH

By JOHN D. McCREADY

Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles written by John D. McCreedy, head of the English Department at Chowan College. Mr. McCreedy for 18 years was pastor of the First Baptist Church at Morganton and served as army chaplain in World War I and was state chaplain for the American Legion. Since connected with Chowan College, Mr. McCreedy has preached at many churches in this area.

A famous state university had just suffered a serious loss. Fire, breaking out late at night in the science building, had destroyed that structure and all its valuable equipment. The next day an atmosphere of gloom hung over the campus. The smoke that arose from the ashes was a symbol of the dark dejection of the faculty and many of the students.

An exception to this general air of depression was found in one of

the fraternities. The Alpha Betas were distinctly cheerful. One of the brothers, whose first name was Phil, had offered that day to present the chapter with a handsome new porch for their house. This would not only be enjoyed by the members, he felt, but would give the Alpha Betas new prestige on the campus. In the fierce competition each fall for the choicest freshmen entering the university, it would be a distinct advantage to their group to have such a fine addition to their home.

Phil's offer, needless to say, was accepted with enthusiasm, and he was given many a pat on the back by his mates for his liberality. Some of them confided to each other that they were sur-

prised to find that Phil was able to make such a generous gift; but they were certainly glad. They dubbed him "Phil the philanthropist"—a title he wore with much pride.

Before the week was over plans were being drawn for the new addition to the house, and within a matter of weeks carpenters were busily at work. As the porch took shape day after day, many compliments were heard, some of them half admiration, half envy. Members of other fraternities were duly impressed.

And then suddenly another subject was once more the center of attention—the science building fire. A new angle had developed. For some time the universities had been carrying on a quiet investigation. The building which had been destroyed had contained a box of platinum worth thousands of dollars. After the fire a diligent search had been made for this. The ashes had been carefully sifted. They contained no trace of the costly metal. Then the thought occurred—Could the fire have been started by some one who wanted to steal the platinum and conceal the theft?

On the day this new possibility spread over the campus some of the Alpha Betas were having an animated discussion of the subject as Phil came in to lunch. For some reason he did not take part, but quietly finished his meal and left the room.

Phil was able to get away from his fraternity mates that day, but he was not able to get away from the investigation of the mysterious fire. It caught up with him, and he made a full confession.

From that day forward the porch, which had been the pride of the Alpha Betas, became their year-around modification. Where they had once loved to talk about it the subject was now strictly taboo.

The other fraternities, however, now alluded to it with a new zest. They would point it out to freshmen and visitors on the campus as something of exceptional interest.

And in doing so they took especial care to give it the name they thought suitable because of its unusual history. They gaily referred to it as "the platinum porch."

Too Much

Overheard at the bureau of naturalization:

"Do you promise to support the Constitution of the United States?"

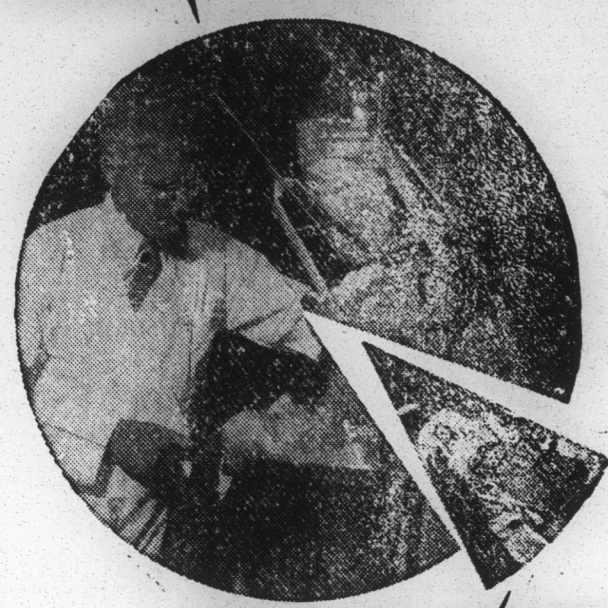
"Me? How could I? I've got a wife and six children to support."

"Tis the mind that makes the body rich."
—Shakespeare.

THE HIGH COST OF SURVIVAL

How March of Dimes Funds Were Spent for Polio Patients in 1957

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10% FOR NEW PATIENTS

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60 - SECOND SERMONS

— By —
FRED DODGE



TEXT: "I can live for two months on a good compliment."
—Mark Twain

A famous actress, at the height of her beauty and fame, met an African king at a semi-royal dinner. The gracious and lovely lady, seated beside the king, did her best to amuse and please him. Her animation and beauty, apparent to everyone, were not lost upon the king. As the dinner ended, he turned to her and said, "Ah, madam, if heaven had only made you black and fat, you would be irresistible!"

Suppose no one ever complimented anyone. What a sorry world this would be. Compliments are shining high-lights that accent all of living. Yet many of us do not offer compliments unless we are forced into it.

To withhold a few words of praise because we "didn't think", is selfish. We bore our self-

centered ways through life, concentrating intensely on our personal desires and goals. Occasionally we bump into an achievement

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—also—
Brian Donlevy in "ESCAPE FROM RED ROCK"
Both in CinemaScope

Sunday and Monday,
February 2-3—

Jerry Lewis and David Wayne in "THE SAD SACK"

Tuesday and Wednesday,
February 4-5—

Double Feature
Steve Terrell in "MOTORCYCLE GANG"
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HI-WAY 17 Drive-In Theatre

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Saturday and Sunday,
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which we must acknowledge, but for the most part, we don't think to compliment others.

Do you want to have fun? Simply determine, once each day, that you will try to make someone think better of himself. The fun you have will set your heart singing for the balance of your life.

Consciousness of right-doing brings its own reward; but not amid the smoke of battle is merit seen and appreciated by lookers-on.

—Mary Baker Eddy.

HOUSEKEEPING IN MOSCOW

Nancy Levine, wife of NBC's famous Moscow correspondent, Irving R. Levine, tells of problems involved in setting up housekeeping in the Russian City. Her interviewer, reknown Hearst campaigner, Bob Considine, relates her strange experiences with the unpredictable Russian temperament. Take an inside look at her frank story about Russian shops and Russian men in the February 2nd issue of

The American Weekly Magazine in color-gravure with

THE BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN

On Sale At Your Local Newsdealer

LIFE INSURANCE RECORDS IN ENGLISH SPEAKING LANDS

Life insurance purchases set new records in all of the English speaking countries last year, according to the Institute of Life Insurance.

Preliminary reports indicate that 1957 purchases were up 20

per cent in both the United States and Canada, at least 15 per cent in Australia and over 10 per cent in the United Kingdom.

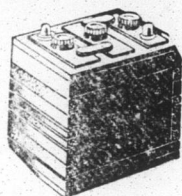
Still greater purchases are expected for the coming year, life offices in the U. S., seeing a 10 or 15 per cent rise over the past year's record volume.

NOTICE!

This is to notify the shareholders of the Edenton Building and Loan Association that the annual Shareholders' meeting will be held on Monday evening, February 3rd, 1958 at 8:00 o'clock in the Court House in Edenton, N. C.

R. E. Leary, Secretary

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