

Frankly Speaking

By Frank Roberts

Did you know that John Kennedy was a North Carolina state representative? This particular John Kennedy comes from Mecklenburg County. A bowling team that represents a radio station in Seattle, Washington, has actually lost matches to teams comprised of Seattle housewives, old men, children and matrons. Still in there pitching, or bowling as the case may be, their next match is actually against a team of grandmothers. That new voice you've been enjoying from 1260 belongs to Walter Lynnwood Johnson, Jr., a good-looking young man from Lillington. Sorry girls, he's engaged.

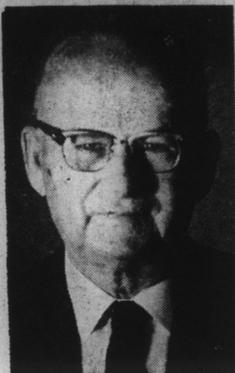
Awful lot of hubbub lately concerning violence on television. All sorts of free advice and wild solutions, too, on how to do away with it. Everyone seems to have ignored the simplest solution of all, though. Turn the knob if the program isn't to your liking. Or, if Junior is watching, supervise his tele-viewing, if it's felt any particular program he's watching might have an adverse affect on him. Many people like the blood-and-guts type of entertainment. For them, it's a healthy outlet for what they may consider an otherwise humdrum existence. Oh sure, some youngsters are badly affected by it. A very few will try to imitate some of the rougher things they see on television, but you certainly can't dictate to the masses what they can or cannot watch simply because of a very small minority. That's censorship and that's something that's been advocated by such as Hitler, Stalin, Castro and their ilk. Not for this country, one should hope. If you start dictating what types of shows should be seen, you'll have to do the same with movies and books and art. That minority of youngsters who try to imitate what they see will always have something to turn to. Parental control should be the main concern, so that each individual

youngster sees, reads or does what his or her parents think best. So, if things get too violent on your 21-inch screen and you don't think it's healthy for your children, or yourself, turn the knob. Of course, there's always the argument that the only thing you can turn to, is more violence. That's sheer nonsense. Just check your television listings. There's not one night where you can't, during any given hour period, switch from one program to another offering an entirely different type of entertainment, one which might be more suitable to your family's taste. If there's nothing on, try reading a book, playing family games, or just plain talking. All of this looks like a defense of television, but it's not to be construed that way. It's actually, of course, an individual opinion, and a defense of freedom of choice. On this subject, I'd like to mention that the closing quotation was authored by Thomas Jefferson. As I checked it, I realized that the same problem has occurred down through the ages. Shakespeare, Dickens, Twain were all considered immoral. Listening to Bing Crosby in the 20's used to be considered the height of vulgarity. Comic books were going to poison the minds of the younger generation in the 30's and 40's. Well now television is the newest form of entertainment, and it's taking its turn as the scapegoat. It's television's turn to take the blame for many of the nation's ills. Who knows what it'll be some 10 or 15 years from now.

Closing Thought: I am mortified to behold that, in the United States of America, the sale of a book can become a subject of inquiry and of criminal inquiry, too. —Jefferson.



New President



Paul A. Johnston of Littleton, shown here, is the new president of the N. C. Merchants Association. He succeeds A. Finley Atkisson of Burlington.

Automotive Club Holds Two Meetings

The 4-H Automotive Club met May 11 at the Oak Grove Community Building. Ronnie Toppin, president of the organization, called the meeting to order. C. W. Overman was in charge of the lesson "Car Costs and Keeping Car Records." He stressed the importance of keeping a small ledger in the car so a record can be kept of all expenses.

After the lesson, plans were made for the next three meetings. Those who attended the meeting were Ray Evans, Jo Ann Copeland, Emmett Jones, Ronnie Toppin, Linda Byrum, Judy Evans, Dick Lowe, Miss Catherine Aman and Mr. Overman.

The fourth meeting of the club was held at the Edenton Motor Company on May 16. Ronnie Toppin, president, called the meeting to order and Judy Evans read the minutes of the last meeting. The topic of the lesson was "Know The Owner's Manual." Gene Perry discussed the owner's manual, using an automobile to point out the different parts as described in the manual. All received a lot of

information from Mr. Perry's demonstration. Those attending the meeting were Ray Evans, Key Bunch, Jo Ann Copeland, Richard Dixon, Dick Lowe, Linda Byrum, Ronnie Toppin, Jack Perry, Carlton Perry, Emmett Jones, Johnny Winborne and Judy Evans. Refreshments were served by Mr. Perry after the meeting.

ARE YOU SAFE FROM BLACKMAIL?

Blackmail is the most-detested, but least reported crime because the victim is afraid to talk. Now a new plan seems to be ending all that as newspapers cooperate with District Attorneys in protecting the victim. Read about this new plan in June 4th issue of

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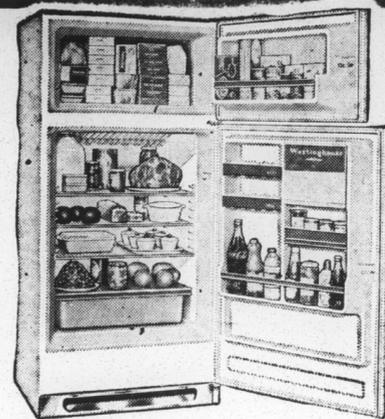
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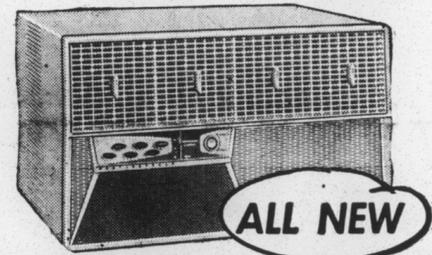
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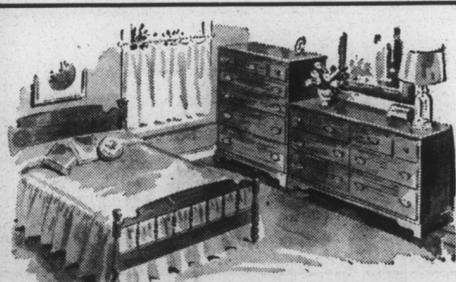
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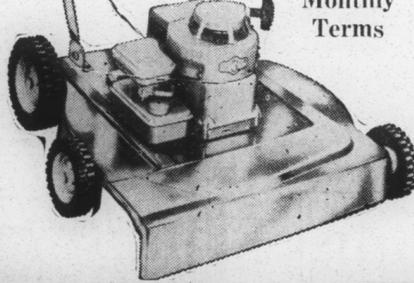
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