

Rep. Walter B. Jones Reports

Inasmuch as Congress is recessed until the early part of September and there is no legislative business to report, I thought it might be of interest to some of you to discuss a few of the Capitol City's historic monuments, particularly the Capitol building itself, for it would appear that with the approximately 15 million visitors it attracts each year, this landmark is a major point of interest for all Americans.

The building itself is located on Jenkin's Hill, rising 88 feet above the Potomac River, now popularly known as "Capitol Hill." However, such was not always the location of our nation's capitol, for in August, 1814, a British force set fire to the yet unfinished structure, and when the Congress reconvened it had to assemble in the cramped quarters of Blodgett's Hotel in the northwest section of Washington. At present, the capitol, with its spacious, well-kept grounds, occupies an area of 13 acres, has 540 rooms and 658 windows.

Strangely enough, I find that much confusion exists among the general public regarding "who stands on the top of the capitol." The bronze figure, weighing almost 15,000 pounds, known as the "Statue of Freedom," often mistaken for a knight, soldier or an Indian, is actually that of a woman with her right hand resting on a sword and her left hand holding a wreath and grasping a shield. Her head is covered by a helmet encircled with stars symbolizing endless existence and heavenly birth; while in a more practical vein, 10 bronze points tip-

ped with platinum are placed on the statue to protect it from lightning. The original hall reserved for members of the House of Representatives in the capitol prior to the completion of the House wing was designated in 1864 as "Statutory Hall." For Statutory Hall, the President was authorized to invite each state in the Union to furnish two statues of marble and bronze of its deceased citizens who had attained historic renown for distinguished civic or military service.

The statues representing the State of North Carolina are of Zebulan Baird Vance, a colonel in the Confederate Army, who was Representative, Senator and Governor, and Charles Brantley Aycock, a former Governor and best known for his contribution in the field of education, who was from our own eastern section of North Carolina.

On the black and white marble floor of this former chamber, a bronze marker has been fixed to mark the spot where John Quincy Adams, a former President of the United States, who later served in the House for many years, in 1848 was fatally stricken with paralysis. Too ill to be moved from the building, he died in the speaker's office just off the hall.

Beneath the rotunda of the capitol is a crypt and directly under this is a tomb, intended to hold the remains of the nation's first President—but it is empty. George Washington died in 1799 and his will revealed his desire to be buried on the grounds of his beloved home at Mount

Vernon. His desire was honored, but less than two weeks after his death, Congress passed a joint resolution requesting the family of the late President to permit his body to be deposited at a monument within the capitol building. Martha Washington reluctantly granted this request; however, the agreement was made prior to the completion of the rotunda. Thus, the body remained at Mount Vernon, and in 1832, upon its completion, lawmakers again petitioned the descendants of the Washington family to permit the removal of General Washington's body to the capitol; however, their plea was denied and to this day, the tomb remains empty.

I hope that all of our citizens in the First District will have the opportunity to visit this building and the other historic landmarks in Washington, D. C. Our office will be happy to arrange tours and assist in the planning for any individuals or groups anticipating a visit.

Services Set At Mt. Hermon

Revival services will be conducted at Mt. Hermon Methodist Church August 26 through September 1.

Rev. Lawrence Green will be guest evangelist. He is pastor of Riverside Methodist Church in Elizabeth City.

Mr. Green, who is married to the former Naomi Woodley of Creswell, attended Louisburg and Atlantic Christian Colleges, Emory and Duke Universities.

The series of meetings will close with the annual homecoming service Sunday, September 1.

The public is invited to participate in these services.

Pvt. Lavezzo Gets Promotion

John J. Lavezzo, III, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Lavezzo, Jr., 204 West Church Street, Edenton, has achieved accelerated promotion to the rank of Private E-2 while undergoing basic combat training here recently.

He accomplished this by finishing in the top one-third of his graduating company in the overall combined scores of rifle marksmanship, physical training and end-of-training general proficiency test results.

It Really Does

There isn't much to see in a small town—but what you hear makes up for it. —Inquirer, Cincinnati.

Make Church-Going A Habit . . .

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

A PROGRAM OF REFORM

International Sunday School Lesson for Aug. 25

Memory Selection: "The hand of our God is upon all them for good that seek him; but His power and His wrath is against all them that forsake Him."—Ezra 8-22.

Lesson Text: Ezra 7-10.

Throughout the studies we have followed in the Bible, we cannot help but have been impressed with the fact that God chose men of great stature and propensities to act as His go-betweens with the various nations.

Such a man was the prophet Ezra, skilled as he was in knowledge and translation of the law of Moses. He knew what the law meant; moreover, he knew how to apply it. Thus it is that we see Ezra, appalled at the conditions he found among the Jewish people in Jerusalem, instituting a program of reform that marked a turning point in the history of his people.

Intermarriage of the Jews with those peoples that still practiced idolatry could lead to only one thing—the falling into idolatry of God's chosen race—a race chosen for purposes of universal redemption. As, indeed, it had. For the people transgressed—and continued to transgress, almost unashamedly.

The corrective measures to be taken were harsh and uncompromising. Those who had intermarried outside their race and faith were commanded to divorce their foreign wives; to make full confession of their sins before God; and to mend their ways. God's laws were to become paramount. For them to be flouted and disregarded would defeat the redemptive purpose of God's decrees; indeed, it would strike at the very roots of the Christian movement.

Certainly there must have been a great sadness at the mass divorce as described in Ezra 10:16-44; but it is as true today, as it was then, that broken commandments and ideals bring inevitable pain in their wake—both to the guilty and to the innocent.

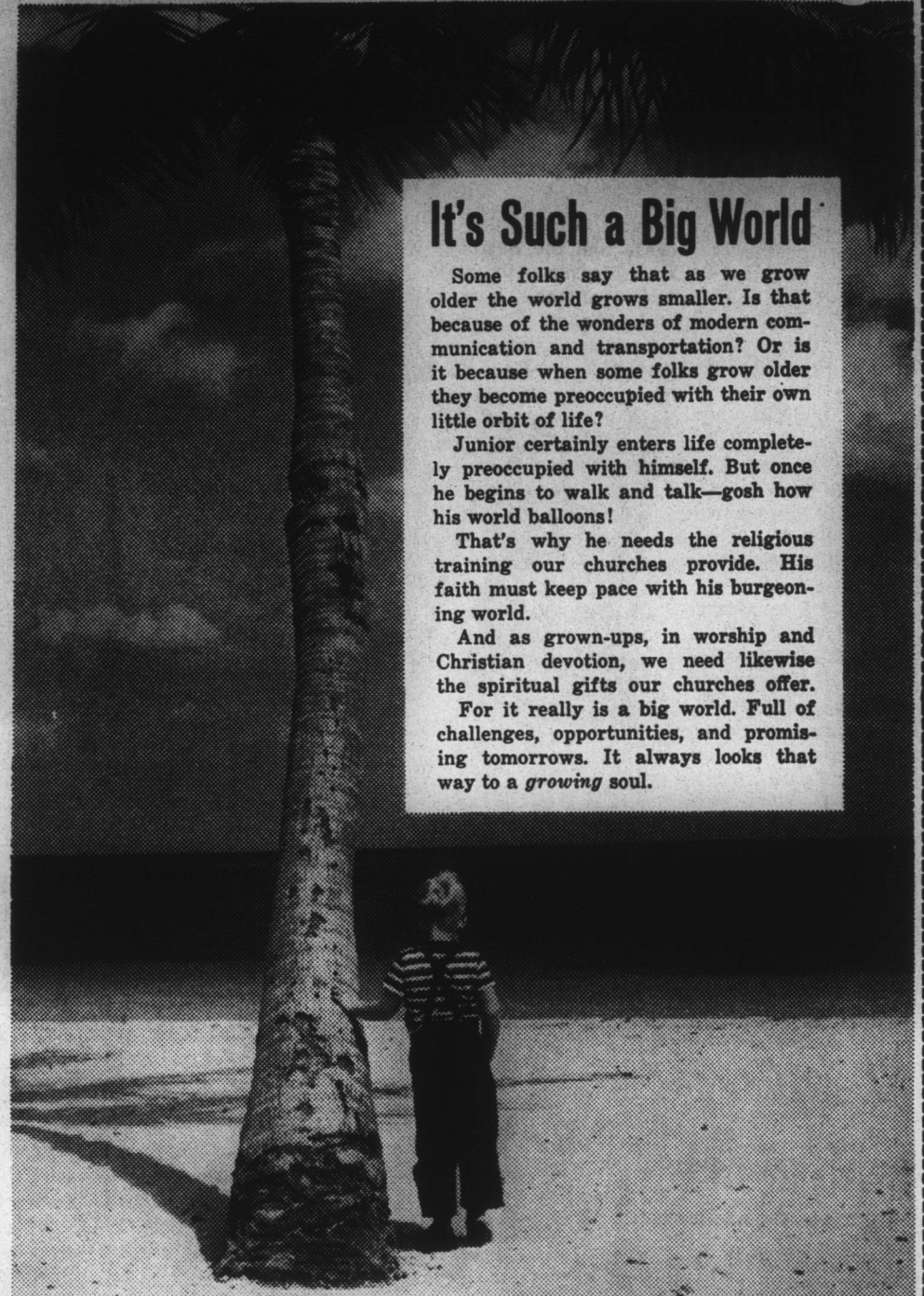
Repentance is automatic, but atonement sometimes comes hard. Drastic conditions demand drastic action.

We sin today just as flagrantly as the Israelites sinned in their time. We need, today, men of uncompromising stature, to lead us to redemption, as Ezra led his people in Biblical times. A strong, uncompromising voice is what is needed to command our attention and stir our consciences.

Certainly there have been strong preventive measures passed into law in this country, motivated as they were by the over-all good of the people; reforms such as the liquor law, equal opportunities for all, etc. And while these reforms may have been unpopular with some, it should be borne in mind that the welfare of ALL was the basis of their conception.

A major source of social and moral corruption is the consumption of alcohol. How many

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It's Such a Big World

Some folks say that as we grow older the world grows smaller. Is that because of the wonders of modern communication and transportation? Or is it because when some folks grow older they become preoccupied with their own little orbit of life?

Junior certainly enters life completely preoccupied with himself. But once he begins to walk and talk—gosh how his world balloons!

That's why he needs the religious training our churches provide. His faith must keep pace with his burgeoning world.

And as grown-ups, in worship and Christian devotion, we need likewise the spiritual gifts our churches offer.

For it really is a big world. Full of challenges, opportunities, and promising tomorrows. It always looks that way to a growing soul.

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
I Samuel 2:1-10	I Chronicles 16:23-36	Psalms 19:1-14	Psalms 24:1-10	Matthew 13:33-43	Matthew 16:21-28	II Corinthians 5:11-21

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Respectfully,
Marion Willford

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