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 INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 1939

Gratitude
 For starry night and dawn of day,
 For shade that in the willows play,
 For every gift that comes my way,
 I'm grateful.

For sunshine bright and silvery rain,
 For harvest time and ripening grain,
 For joy that ever follows pain,
 I'm grateful.

For steeple bells that gaily ring,
 For homing birds upon the wing,
 And love that only worth can bring,
 I'm grateful.

For furrowed fields and upturned sod,
 For paths that I alone have trod,
 For faith that lifts my soul to God,
 I'm grateful.

—Alice Whitson-Norton in "The Uplift."

Holiday Precautions

Every holiday season we read accounts of accidents with fire. Before anyone can raise a hand, someone's happy Christmas is changed to stark tragedy!

This year do something to protest your loved ones from the special fire hazards brought into most homes for the holidays. The National Board of Fire Underwriters suggests:

Anchor your Christmas tree securely, locate it away from heating and lighting fixtures and trim it with non-inflammable ornaments and cotton. Lighted candles are dangerous. Use strings of miniature electric lights that have the approval tag of Underwriters' Laboratories attached. Keep all sources of flames away from decorations and tissue paper. Dispose of accumulations of paper at once. Smokers should use constant care when near inflammable materials.

In selecting toys avoid those requiring alcohol, kerosene or gasoline lamps, as they upset easily with disastrous results to self. If children are young, power toys should be operated under the supervision of adults.

Use safety film only in home movie projectors.

Remove all evergreens promptly after Christmas before they have a chance to dry out.

Let's take these easy steps to keep tragedy out of the holiday picture.

Get A Horse!

Remember when the automobile was considered a fit subject for jokes by the wits of an earlier day? That time has passed now, for industry and research have now produced low-priced, smooth-functioning automobiles that are the envy of the world, and that mark an advance that is general in all lines of industry over the years.

By way of giving a bird's eye view of progress and the changing times, "Automobile Facts" takes us on a swift tour of the way the motor car was being described around 30 years ago.

Even the advertisers, who were supposed to have faith in the automobile, described it in very reserved terms. For instance, one model was praised because it was "an easily controlled as the best mannered horse and safer because it cannot scare." Another was called "the trotting horse of automobiles."

And what would you say if you heard a modern car called "the rich man's car at a poor man's price . . . \$2,000"?

Then there were testimonials, but far different ones than there are today. One company proudly published a testimonial from two drivers who had made a 500 mile trip at a cost of 14 cents a mile. The over-all cost today is 4 cents a mile or less.

And so it goes. The day when the vaudeville comedian brought appreciative chuckles by telling about his car that had "wooden frame, wooden wheels, wooden body—and wood'n run" is gone forever. So if there is any inclination today to discount new products because they are less than perfect, this example is worth bearing in mind, for it proves one thing: that the record of American industrial progress is at one time the most rapid and most efficient man has ever known.

Borrowed Comment

SCIENCE AND WAR
 (News and Observer)

Dr. Alexis Carrel, the famous French scientist, is current example of what happens to the scientific mind in the midst of war. Speaking on the radio from Paris, he told his countrymen that every citizen must do his part to win the war. "You know," he went on, "what awaits us if we do not; forced labor for life for our workers and peasants, deportations to Africa for large masses of the population in our richest provinces and mass executions." Dr. Carrel speaks like a patriot, but as a man of science, he is talking fears and not facts. Such speaking is customary in wartime. The sad things about war is that it reduces the great scientific mind along with the ordinary mind to a common denominator of emotion and anger and fear.

CHEWING GUM
 (Greensboro News)

Mayor of New York calls for inauguration of returning chewed chewing gum to the wrapper in which it came. Almost we are encouraged to believe that inventive genius may yet prove able to cope with the problem of the used razor blade.

Mica Industry On The Boom In State

Mica mining in Western North Carolina is running on a 24-hour-a-day schedule under the stimulus of doubled and tripled prices, reports State Geologist H. J. Bryson on his return to Raleigh from an inspection trip.

Mica was at one time profitably mined in Cleveland county but no effort has been to revive it this year.

The geologist, who also reported a boom in kaolin and feldspar mining, said the mica industry "undoubtedly is more active in North Carolina now than in the past 10 or 20 years."

"Every washing and grinding plant is running at full capacity, most of them 24 hours a day," he stated. "All of the larger mines are also operating night and day, while more than 200 small mines, many of them little more than holes in the mountain sides, are being operated by the mountaineers and the mica hauled to the washing plants."

The boom in minerals was attributed to effect of the war in lessening American imports. Prices per ton on the cheapest grades of mica have risen from \$5 to \$10 in six months ago, to \$15 to \$20 at present, Bryson reported.

Mica large enough for washers and punch purposes is bringing from \$150 to \$250 a ton, while mica as large as four by six inches in size is being sold at \$2.50 to \$2.60 a pound, or \$5,000 to \$5,200 a ton.

Bryson termed the mica boom "a real God-send to many of the mountain people, who otherwise would be in a real want."

The demand for feldspar and for kaolin, a china and pottery clay occurring in great abundance in North Carolina, likewise has been increased by greater dependence upon domestic supplies.

State College Answers Timely Farm Questions

Question: What is the outlook for farming in 1940.

Answer: According to the U. S. Bureau of Agricultural Economics, prospects for an increased consumer demand for farm products next year are indicated. However, prospects for foreign demand are uncertain because of the war. In general, agriculture is finishing 1939 in better condition than it began. Prices of many farm products and total cash income are higher than in 1938.

Lives For Christmas

Along with practically every newspaper in the country, The Journal-Patriot has for many years hammered away on the subject of highway safety.

With highway deaths mounting steadily a few years ago, we began to despair of the task and were prone to think that people were going to kill each other on the highways despite all pleadings and warnings.

But the last year has shown a different trend and there has been a decline in highway mortality. Therefore, it is with pleasure that we reproduce the text of a letter from Ronald Hocutt, director of the North Carolina highway safety division, to the editor of this newspaper.

"As the year nears its end it becomes my privilege to express to you the sincere appreciation of the Highway Safety Division for your support of safety activities during 1939. Your use of materials sent out from this Division, as well as of other materials discovered by yourself, and your splendid editorials in behalf of safety, have all had a tremendous effect. For your support, without which our safety activities would be much less effective, you have our heartiest thanks. We have also appreciated the cordial relationship which we have had with newspapers during this past year. For this also we are most grateful.

"Enclosed you will find the final feature release of 1939 written in the form of a Christmas appeal. We hope that you can use this message in such fashion as to make it effective in promoting safety at this time of the year.

"I wish for you and all members of your organization a Merry Christmas and the Happiest and Most Prosperous of New Years!"

Following is the safety message mentioned in the above letter:

Since Christmas is so much the time for giving, it might be well to think of giving something of inestimable value. We cannot create life, but curiously enough modern automobile traffic has put every driver in the position of either taking lives or saving lives. Saving lives is always a desirable end. At Christmas time, the saving of life takes on an added beauty, drawn from the beauty of the season.

Think what it means to a family to lose a member at Christmas. When the cause is age, or a lingering illness, there is at least some degree of preparation. True, the grief may be no less, but it is softened by expectation.

How much more tragic is sudden and violent death! The family group is in the midst of holiday preparations. Relatives and friends are coming. There will be another of those happy reunions. Suddenly the word comes. The door bell or the phone rings. An exciting voice announces the news. Some family member has been killed or injured.

Christmas, the time of good cheer, of happiness, of gifts and laughter. All is wiped out. There will be but little cheer, little happiness, no laughter. Death is an unwelcome visitor at Christmas. A broken, crushed body makes a poor addition to the holiday spirit. The little son or daughter awaits that stange ecstasy of Christmas morning. Older sons and daughters full of cheerful plans. Father and mother with hearts full of happiness at having the children home again.

Give lives for Christmas! For unless you do, Mr. Driver, unless you are careful, Mr. Pedestrian, during this month, over 90 families will have tragedy as a guest for Christmas. Ninety people will not see Christmas. It is depressing to think of the criminal carelessness of it all. One ounce of care and caution, one ounce of Christmas cheer expressed as courtesy on street and highway, one ounce of good-humored patience will save lives not only at Christmas time, but every day. Give lives for Christmas. No other gift will do so much for everyone. Make this a Merry Christmas.

Polic officials say that safe cracking in Indianapolis is the work of amateurs. But after they take some money for their work they lose their amateur standing.—Indianapolis News.

Check Them Off With These . . .

GRAND GIFTS

Each one shown here . . . besides dozens of others . . . would be most acceptable to almost any name on your list. Let Reddy play Santa Claus for you and you're sure to please everyone

Electric Oven \$29⁹⁵

Electric Percolator \$5⁹⁵

2-Slice Toaster \$2⁹⁵

Universal Waffle Irons .. \$4⁹⁵

Reflector Heaters \$5³⁵ To \$9⁹⁵

Floor Lamps \$7⁹⁵ \$9⁹⁵ \$11⁹⁵

Duke POWER COMPANY

Electricity Is Cheap—Use It Adequately

TELEPHONE 420 NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C.

Merry, Merry Christmas

Greetings

to one and to all

If all the Good Wishes in the world were put together they'd express the Christmas Greetings to you from every member of our personnel. This Christmas all of us wish for all of you a most happy and joyful Christmas Season . . .

—Your Chevrolet Dealer—

Gaddy Motor Co.

W. F. GADDY, Proprietor

Tenth Street — — — North Wilkesboro, N. C.