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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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THURSDAY, MAY 3, 1945



Music Week May 6-13

The week of May 6 through the 13 will be observed throughout the nation as National Music Week. During this week we have been asked to make special efforts toward making the public more music conscious.

The tribute paid to our late president, between the time of his death and of his being laid to rest at Hyde Park, was so impressive that it will long remain in the consciousness of the American people. The words expressed the thoughts and feelings of the nation's leaders as far as words can express them, but the music carried on where the words left off, and it welded together the general public into a unity of thought and feeling which voiced the people's tribute.

It is suggested that the churches play some of the President's favorite hymns on Sunday, May 6, the opening day of Music Week, and it is recommended to the schools that they pay similar tribute on Friday, May 11, the last day of mourning and also of Music Week.

When Politics Spells Tragedy

Criticism of the calibre of treatment being received by war veterans in the veterans' hospitals throughout the nation, is spreading with the rapidity of a prairie fire. American men in the armed forces on active duty received the best medical care in the world. But when they are retired to the status of veterans and are referred to the tender mercies of the Veterans' Administration, they are subjected to incredibly poor hospital and medical care, according to reports. They have been receiving this kind of abuse apparently because the veterans' hospitals are swamped in red tape and high authorities are politicians rather than medical experts. Altogether, it is a shameful episode, and not the least tragic fact is that it will take precious time to effect a clean-up.

With public opinion aroused, there will undoubtedly be an investigation—a bill has already been introduced in congress demanding a thorough one. But there will be interminable delays while the bureaucratic machinery of government turns out endless reports. Some day, months or years from now, veterans lying helpless in wards of these government hospitals, who all this time are getting care which would not be countenanced for a moment in a modern hospital, may get relief, if s'till alive.

This is what happens when politics is mixed up with medicine. It is a terrible example that should awaken all of us to the danger of hasty action on the question of how far we permit government to go in controlling civilian medical care. A mistake could mean lowered medical standards and the needless sacrifice of countless lives.

We Could Be Less Careless

A heart-rending story came from across the Pacific the other day. A bomber crashed and a member of the crew was hopelessly trapped in the flaming wreckage. After a number of futile attempts at rescue, an officer among the horrified

spectators, unable to stand the victim's screams longer, stepped up and ended the doomed man's life painlessly with his service rifle. The officer was later exonerated at a military trial.

The foregoing incident was a tragedy of war. Yet it differs from similar incidents that happen regularly in peacetime only in respect to the method by which the person dying in the flames was put out of his misery. The ten-thousand-odd souls who die by fire in this country every year do it the hard way. They simply scream until they are cooked.

If this sounds unnecessarily morbid and merciless, take a look at the nation's fire bill—upwards of half a billion dollars. When it comes to fire, America is grossly careless. We are careless in our homes. We are careless in our factories and around places of amusement. We are careless in our forests. The result is fire destruction on a scale of almost unbelievable proportions.

We could do something about fire if we wanted to. We could be less careless. We could heed the lessons of experience and fire prevention authorities, which tell us over and over that real fire prevention is a highly individual business—a question of detail, of putting out matches and cigarettes properly, cleaning up the basements and attics, keeping heating facilities in good order.

Most of these things could logically be done now. Spring is here and spring is clean-up time. Why not clean up right? Prevent fire, help save lives.

— THE — EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Rev. Herbert Spough, D. D.



These are critical days. The hand of Providence points with unerring finger to our national destiny—leading the world to a Christian way of life, a Christian peace. Franklin Delano Roosevelt has gone from our midst as an earthly leader. His passing serves to remind us that the founding fathers set God at the head of this country and arranged for men to be elected to serve under Him. They gave us the uncrowned bald eagle as a symbol of our liberty in comparison with the crowned eagles in the heraldry of Europe.

For four days the great radio systems of the United States gave us solemn reminders of these facts—now we are in the midst of the San Francisco peace conference. How earnestly we should pray for the guidance of God in this conference that plans for a just and durable peace may be perfected. Let prayer be said in every home in every heart every day. This solemn message was long ago proclaimed for us in our national hymn and our national anthem—the last stanza of each. In our rush to be through with things we have been content to sing the first stanza only of each. If we can sing one stanza in these days, let it be the last. For those who do not know these historic verses, we quote them below:

"Our fathers' God, to Thee, Author of liberty, to thee we sing;
Long may our land be bright with freedom's holy light;
Protect us by Thy might, Great God, our King. Amen."

"O thus be it ever when freemen shall stand
Between their loved homes and the war's desolation;
Blest with victory and peace, may the heaven-rescued land
Praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation;
Then conquer we must, when our cause it is just;
And this be our motto: 'In God is our trust.'"

In tremendous earnestness as we begin to see the military victory, may I remind you that this is "the heaven-rescued land," and that we should determine anew to "praise the Power that hath made and preserved us a nation."

Resolve anew to make our national motto that of your life, "In God We Trust."

A NORMAL ABSURDITIES

By DWIGHT NICHOLS et al.



RAMBLING RAVINGS—

Many people have good aims in life but fail to pull the trigger . . . Tried some carpenter work and find that we drive nails like lightning, not striking twice in the same place . . . A contemporary newspaper gives this advice: "Do the best you can; that's all the angels are doing . . . Heathens have been defined as people who don't quarrel over religion . . . One friend made it worth far more than an enemy punished . . . And, being reminded that we all wait what we don't have, we quote this verse from an exchange: Each summer with the lawn to mow I'm sure I'd rather shovel snow; But long before the winter's gone, I'm sure I'd rather mow the lawn."

GROWING SMILES—

A smile is quite a funny thing, it wrinkles up your face. And when it's gone, you never find its secret hiding place. But for more wonderful is it to see what smiles can do; You smile at one, he smiles at you, and so one smile makes two. He smiles at someone since you smiled, and then that one smiles back; And that one smiles, until in truth you fall in keeping track. Now since a smile can do great good by cheering hearts of care, Let's smile and smile, and not forget that smiles go everywhere. —Author Unknown.

GERMS—

Adam Had 'em.

THE DOLLAR AND THE CENT—

A big silver dollar and a little brown cent— Rolling along together they went, Rolling along the smooth sidewalk. When the dollar remarked—for the dollar can talk. You poor little cent, you cheap little mite, I'm bigger and more than twice as bright; I'm worth more than you a hundredfold. And written on me in letters bold Is the motto drawn from the pious creed, "In God We Trust," which all can read. I know, said the cent, I'm a cheap little mite. And I know I'm not big, nor good, nor bright. And yet, said the cent, with a meek little sigh, You don't go to church, as often as I. —Author Unknown.

Americans Lose 14 Ships Off Ryukyus

Guam, April 21—The American army lost 14 ships, ranging from destroyers to landing craft, between March 18 and April 18 in the battle of Okinawa and associated operations, fleet headquarters announced today.

Gains of 1,000 to 1,400 yards by amphibious forces which started a big push against the entrenched Japanese on southern Okinawa Thursday were reported. Navy guns and marine and army artillery as well as carrier planes continued to support the new drive in its second day yesterday.

American troops continued to pound ahead also on little Ie Island, west of Okinawa, against bitter opposition. They counted 738 enemy dead there as of April 18.

1,253 pounds yield on the untreated plot; phosphate alone, 1,229 pounds; lime alone, 1,511 pounds; lime and phosphate, 2,794 pounds.

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

Get a Unit Plaque

Pfc. Roy J. Kilby, son of Mrs. Etta J. Kilby, of North Wilkesboro, has received the award of meritorious service unit plaque. The award was made to members of Pfc. Kilby's military police battalion "for superior performance of duty in the performance of exceptionally difficult tasks, and for the achievement and maintenance of a high standard of discipline." His battalion was cited for being "an outstanding example of efficiency, neatness, courtesy and military bearing. Its spirit has been one of service and helpfulness, and has been in keeping with the highest traditions of the armed forces of the United States". Pfc. Kilby is in service in Germany.

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Lime Needed For Permanent Pasture

Lime is important to permanent pastures and permanent pastures are important to livestock, says W. W. Woodhouse, Jr., associate agronomist of the agricultural experiment station at State College. "Farmers are particularly anxious to get the highest possible production from their permanent pastures during these war years and there is no other one thing that will contribute more toward this goal than the proper use of fleshy ground limestone," he explained.

Lime is essential to the healthy growth of legumes, the basis of any productive permanent pasture. Since the legumes are high in protein and minerals, they produce a more nutritious forage than do grasses alone. Also, the legumes provide nitrogen for the healthy growth of grasses. Lime has been found to increase the yield of permanent pastures by 25 percent in some cases and as high as 200 percent and more in others, according to Woodhouse. In commenting on the value of lime, he states that

"lime had a more pronounced effect upon the type of plants present in the pasture than it had upon the yield. There was a five-fold increase in desirable plants contributing to the increased yield." In discussing the plant food requirements of permanent pastures he said that lime was not the only material needed. "Phosphate is almost always needed and potash is usually beneficial," he explains. "Too often the value of liming is lost because the other necessary plant foods are not supplied. "Take this record for example: