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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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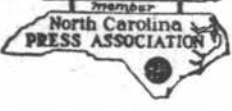
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Pastures Turn Red Hills To Green

Nothing gives a worse impression of the economy of a community than gully scarred hills, barren, infertile and absolutely worthless in that state.

During the past 20 years great strides have been made in Wilkes in the development of pastures. Hills once covered with broom sedge, except where scarred with red gullies, are now covered in verdant grass.

There still remains vast areas of land, in multiple plots and in every community, which produce nothing because it is eroded and wasted away. A greater livestock industry is beginning to utilize that land with permanent pasture, and some of the steeper slopes are being left to grow timber. If the trend continues we shall have a more prosperous and more attractive county.

Buying Seven Eggs You Didn't Eat

Did you know that last year you purchased seven eggs that you didn't eat?

Last year the government bought 2.8 million cases of eggs in its price-supporting operations. That's only 7 eggs per person! If each person had just eaten 7 more eggs sometime during the 366 days of 1948, the government wouldn't have had to enter the market.

The cost to each individual for those 7 eggs was 26.6c. The 143 million persons residing in this country paid for the eggs but they didn't eat them.

It looks like the government will have to drain off about the same number of eggs per person this year. How can we convince the public that it can avoid the \$38 million expense of an egg support program simply by eating 7 more eggs per person in 1949.

Eggs, along with milk, are classed as the perfect food, having all the necessary ingredients to sustain life. Seven more eggs for each person last year would not have been too much for anybody.

When Illness Strikes

One of the basic implications in arguments on behalf of compulsory government health insurance is that the great bulk of the American people are almost totally incapable of dealing with illness when it strikes. That implication is not supported by the facts.

According to one authoritative report, more than 52,000,000 Americans now have hospital insurance; 26,000,000 have surgical insurance, and 9,000,000 have medical insurance. In addition, 31,000,000 have disability benefit insurance. An article in the Christian Science Monitor says that "about half of the 30,000,000 American workers who come under unemployment compensation laws are getting added protection, now, through voluntary programs that insure against wage loss, while employed, due to illness or other disability."

This represents very remarkable progress, particularly in the light of the fact that the voluntary prepayment medical plans had to pass through a trial and error period at the beginning, and did not get going on a big scale until a relatively few years ago. At present, their growth is both steady and rapid, the cost is low, the extent of coverage has been substantially broadened, and they clearly provide

the soundest approach yet devised to the problem of paying for medical attention. There is a small percentage of the population which is actually indigent, and which cannot deal with the problems of illness without outside aid. But, certainly, this group can be cared for without taxing the American people billions a year for a compulsory scheme for all—and without setting the stage for completely socialized medicine.

Senator Connally warns Europeans that "the United States does not possess the Midas touch." But what probably worries Europeans most is the question of how long they will possess it in regard to us.—Greensboro Daily News.

"I think women can be beautiful," says a Kentucky cosmetologist, "from the cradle to the grave." But according to our observations, that's a little too much of a two-way stretch.—Greensboro Daily News.

THE EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Rev. Herbert Spough, D. D.



Here is a letter for you automobile drivers who take chances, especially the young couples who do part of their courting in an automobile. It could also be read profitably by new drivers who have just recently taken the wheel of an automobile. It was written by a railroad fireman whose train nearly crashed into a car at Fremont, Nebraska, and was sent as an open letter to "the youth and his girl" in the car.

"I don't know who you are, it's true, but I do know you were scared to death Sunday evening near 9 o'clock when you drove your car across directly in front of a speeding passenger train. It was so close that I, in the cab, could see the young girl (your sweetheart, I presume) throw her hands up in front of her face and cringe up against you in stark horror. "If I were that young girl, I'd pull away from you, fast. You probably say you love her. I wonder. Those we love we try to protect. But not you . . .

"And how do you think we in the cab of that engine would feel? We are human beings, too. We have young ones waiting home for us to return. We, too, could have been killed.

"And you and your girl were one second from eternity, Sunday, son.

"I hope you read this and know it means you, and that your girl will, too. Next time you go driving around, stop and look. We don't want to hit you but we are helpless, as we cannot swerve away from our given rail.

"If I were you, son, and you, too, sis, I'd thank God for that split second. He granted you Sunday evening.

"I said a prayer for all when I realized you were going across. Perhaps that's what saved us all.

"Now, think it over, both of you. And I'll bet you are both still shaking in your shoes.

"And, please, don't try it again."

It was discovered that the train in question was the Gold Coast Limited of the Union Pacific Railway. So impressive was the letter that the railroad gave it tremendous distribution in the territory which they serve.

Editor Olson of Now Magazine from which I took this story wrote, "Our interest in the incident is deeper than the physical safety element. We are wondering where in eternity the young couple would be, if God in His great mercy had not spared them!"

Many of us are nearer to that experience we call death than we think. I hear some of you say that you don't want to think about such things. Don't forget the advertising slogan, "Eventually, why not now?" Someday you are going to have to face it. Where you go then, will depend on where you are going now. If you are too busy to think about it, we are busy about the wrong things. Information on destinations is available in the Bible. If you want it explained, go to your minister.

If we walk with our Lord here, we will walk with Him over there. To an earnest seeker, the Apostle wrote, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shall be saved." That means believing in body, mind and spirit.

Eternity is a long time. All of us ought to be interested in where we will spend it.

Man Finds Father After 37 Years

Los Angeles.—For a good many years now, Herbert William Berthold has thumbed through telephone books wherever he traveled. He wasn't looking for numbers, but for a name. The other day Berthold, 37, who has lived here since 1934, got around to perusing a new Los Angeles directory. He's checked each new issue since his arrival. He isn't in it; he has an unlisted phone. But he turned to the B's anyway. There was the name—his name.

He dialed the number. "Is this W. A. Berthold?" he asked. "William Arthur Berthold?"

The affirmatives kept coming. "Did you ever live in Denver? Were you married to a girl named Bonnie Dowell?" still affirmatives. "The you're sure as hell my father, burst out Herbert W. Berthold. The other Berthold, agreed to a meeting. And when Herbert met William his search for a father ended. William, it seems, separated from his wife and left Denver six months after Herbert was born. Herbert and his mother went to Raton, N. M., and lost contact with William. The latter came here in 1928 but hasn't been in the phone book for years. Herbert has stopped thumbing through phone books.

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