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Southport, N. C.**

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JAMES M. HARPER, JR., Editor

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Wednesday, December 25, 1935

By doing what you are supposed to do you may hold your own, but it is by doing the extra things that you will get ahead.

There was a 'touching' Christmas card in all the post office boxes this week from Postmaster Yaskell—Box Rent Due.

Then there is the story of the man who was afraid to move his wife to Southport because he thought the seagulls were storks.

You have missed the Christmas spirit entirely if you don't get more real pleasure from giving than you do receiving.

Should Be Protected

We join with many local citizens in the sincere hope that the Naugatuck, coast guard cutter which last week was transferred to the U. S. Navy, soon will be replaced at her former base in Southport by a vessel her size, or larger.

The transfer of the Naugatuck was no act of officials of the coast guard service. They, better than anyone else, appreciate the strategic location of the Southport harbor in regard to protecting this section of the Atlantic coast.

At this stormy season of the year, there is real need of replacement as quickly as possible. Letters from local citizens to Congressman J. Bayard Clark and officials in charge of the coast guard service will help bring quick action in this matter.

Christmas' Gift

We praise the plan carried out in the Christmas chapel program by students and teachers of the Southport high school Friday in the final assembly period before the holidays.

Instead of drawing names and giving presents to classmates, each child brought gifts to be placed on the Christmas tree for others whose parents are not able to provide the added joys of the season. The final distribution of these gifts was made by Mrs. Lou H. Smith, county nurse.

Broken toys that have been given by boys and girls of this county to Mrs. Smith have been mended and repainted by her husband, Fred Smith, and his helpers. These, too, will help bring joy to many children who, otherwise, would find Christmas a barren day indeed.

We like to hear of thoughtfulness like this, for all who have had a part in these kind deeds will receive an added blessing on Christmas day.

Holiday Accidents

Dangerous accidents usually reach a peak during the holiday season. Recklessness has no place in the proper celebration of Christmas, so do your part to make this a safe yuletide.

Firecrackers are much more fun at a safe distance, so don't think you are being original when you muffle the report of one in a tightly closed fist. The startled jump of a frightened playmate when a firecracker goes off under his feet will not be worth his agony, nor your remorse, if powder burns result in tetanus.

Minutes you may save by rushing madly about during the holidays in your automobile will be paid for many times if a tire blows out, or the car fails to take a curve, and you have to stay in the hospital until the middle of next month. Then, too, there is the hazard of little children who will be trying out their new wheel-toys on the paved highway. Christmas for too many people will be ruined if you hit one of them.

Don't play a part in an "unloaded gun" tragedy. The one whose brains are blasted all over the room really gets off lighter than the accidental gunman, who must

hear the dying gurgling groans and watch the last fitful writhing. Strangely enough, an affair of this kind puts a damper on the Christmas season for everybody in the community.

Be sensible, be practical. Make this a Christmas holiday season free from accidents.

Good Teeth—Good Health

To us there is something pitiful in the fact that so many people must learn upon their first visit to the dentist's office that their teeth are causing rheumatism, or other serious illness, and that all of them must be extracted at once.

To this may be traced much of the exaggerated horror of a visit to a dentist. As a matter of fact, preventative dentistry is not painful, and that is the kind that has a chance to help you most. Members of the profession have decreed that it is unethical for a dentist to advertise, or to otherwise solicit business. We commend to you the advice of a well-known radio program whose parting advice each evening is "Brush your teeth twice each day; visit your dentist twice a year."

Perhaps members of the younger generation will be smarter than their elders about this matter of oral hygiene. A regular staff of dentists is employed by the North Carolina State Board of Health, and these men are busy all seasons of the year giving examinations and suggestions for correction before it is too late.

Last year during the month of February members of the dental profession closed their offices for two days and contributed their time and efforts for a series of clinics in the schools. The following quotation is a part of the tribute paid these men by Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, state health officer:

"It has been said that the North Carolina State Board of Health has the outstanding mouth health program in the United States. This is indeed a compliment and stimulates us to press forward. However, this could not be true were it not for the loyal support and co-operation of organized dentistry in the State. When we think of what organized dentistry has done for the public health in the State and the way it has stood by the State Board of Health every time it needed assistance, we cannot help but take our hats off to the dental profession.

"The mouth health program conducted in the public schools of the State on the 20th and 22nd of February, 1934, by organized dentistry was unusual and unique in that the dentists of the State closed their offices and gave their time on these two days to making an inspection of school children's mouths without any financial remuneration whatsoever."

Don't be afraid of your dentist—he is one of your best allies for good health.

Regular Inspection

Many automobile owners appear to lack sufficient pride and sense of obligation to keep their vehicles at mechanical par. This all too human failing is at the bottom of the growing realization of the necessity for periodic motor vehicle inspection.

Inspection figures from states and cities which require that every car be inspected, reveal that three out of four cars examined are in inferior mechanical condition as respects safety features. Obviously, a car with inefficient brakes, defective or badly adjusted lights, poor tires, wheels out of alignment, broken windshield wipers, or defective steering mechanism, is dangerous. Inspection is necessary to determine where such danger lies and to bring about its elimination.

It is not necessary to wait for a state legislature to pass an inspection law. Any city or town can require such inspection. Memphis, Tennessee, has done this, using modern testing equipment and meeting all expenses through a fifty-cent fee. So have Evaston, Illinois, and Des Moines, Iowa. And the citizens liked it, asked for more. In the two and one-half months after its testing station opened, automobile fatalities in Memphis fell off 25 per cent from the figure for the corresponding period of the previous year, despite increased registration and gasoline consumption.

Periodic inspection of motor vehicles certainly recommends itself to the serious consideration of public spirited citizens, public officials and all others who are seeking a solution of the automobile accident problem.

WASHINGTON LETTER

Washington, Dec. 24.—Two political bogey-raisers are taking much of the joy out of the holidays. The Townsend plan and the veteran's bonus are issues involving giving of taxpayers money to selected classes and should fit into the spirit of the occasion. However, the growing concern as to who will pay the bills and the general effect on the national credit and financial stability detract from the politician's contemplation of the Yuletide. The bonus controversy was considered inevitable but the fact that the Townsendite scare has been given new life by an isolated election in Michigan is something not in the books. The customary feeling of "good will to all men" is more perfunctory than sincere for bitter partisan battles which will extend into the November elections are scheduled with the convening of Congress within the fortnight.

Experts in drafting proposed laws are not taking a holiday vacation. The demands on their time are too numerous to be ignored. Tom, Dick and Harry with a proposed Department and every litical cure-all idea are asking for help in devising proper wordage for the many new measures which will be dumped into the Congressional hopper within a few days. The Senate and House leaders will pass the word as to the fate of these proposals down to chairmen of committees charged with handling particular measures. Only political pressure of the highest voltage will pry loose bills which committee chairmen assign to the pigeon-holes and oblivion. Departmental appropriation bills will have the right of way in the House during the early days of the session with an interruption of major importance—a forced vote on the soldiers bonus.

All members of the House and at least one-third of the Senate must go before the people next fall. During the last three years it has been a relatively simple matter to explain votes for enormous appropriations by stating that the money authorized would be expended at the discretion of the President. The change in policy at the White House whereby the Administration will ask Congress to vote on specific public works projects and relief measures on the basis of estimates submitted by the administrative branch is not likely to meet with cheers from the legislators. The inevitable effect is to raise serious questions on the eve of elections as to the influence of the lawmakers when certain sections of the country are favored and others passed over. It is really a smart trick if carried out to a logical conclusion. By bowing to the will of Congress in matters affecting public works projects, the Administration transfers much of the responsibility for patronage matters directly to the shoulders of the solons at a time when they would avoid the return of this delegated authority.

The thrill of expectancy which children experience awaiting the opening of parcels is nothing compared to the feverish uncertainty of the present Administration. The Supreme Court will meet again January 6, at which time decisions as to the constitutionality of the Hoosac case and the Bankhead Cotton control Act may be settled. If the rulings are adverse special orders will be placed at Capitol Hill to rush through legislation within the scope of the highest tribunal rulings or something of a stop-gap character. Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has been publicized so much that sceptics believe it is part of the scheme to put over an amendment stripping this judicial body of its great powers.

It has been observed that the Guffey Coal Act has been dragging through the lower courts. Opponents claim that the admission of the Administration that the measure was of doubtful validity before it passed Congress foreshadows little governmental resistance to a legal test. Meanwhile, the miners' unions which were able to negotiate favorable contracts with heretofore stubborn employers under threat of this drastic legislation seem to have lost interest in the fate of the Guffey Act. They succeeded in obtaining a top-notch deal by means of a legislative club rather than the old-fashioned and costly strikes.

The Senate Munitions Committee is adept at the game of winning headlines. They reopen their season January 7, with J. P. Morgan, the international banker, as a star witness. Ostensibly the committee wants to show the connection between credits to foreign governments in time of war and neutrality policies. Mr. Morgan will be asked about the part his banking house played in the World War. The Senators do not like the methods utilized by Sec-

Gran'pa Invites Some of the Boys In



retary of State Hull, a former colleague, and hope to enact drastic legislation regarding this country's place in world affairs. Mr. Morgan gives them an opening to the front page.

W. B. Humphries, of Bethel Hill, Person county, reported to farm agent H. K. Sanders a yield of six tons of lespepeza hay per acre and a 100 per cent increase in corn yields following lespepeza.

"What made you quarrel with Merlin?"
"Well, he proposed to me again last night."
"Where was the harm in that?"
"My dear, I had accepted him the night before."

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