

Mayor Angel Gets Unusual Letter From Bonn, Germany

An unusual letter was received this week by Mayor T. W. Angel, Jr. The communication was from Otto Kersten, a resident of Bonn, Germany.

Mr. Kersten requests assistance in finding a relative of his and indirectly asks for assistance in the form of food or clothing.

Mayor Angel said that the letter seemed very similar to letters reported to have been received by Mayor C. E. Morgan, of Asheville, in which the writers in every case first presented a strong human interest appeal, mentioned great privations, and asked for help.

Following are excerpts from Mr. Kersten's letter which was addressed: "To the Mayor in Franklin, North Carolina".

"Please excuse us for writing to you but may I kindly beg your assistance in clarifying a matter in which I am very much interested. In 1928 a relative of my wife Mr. Heinrich Kersten went to America and settled himself, as far as I know, in your town. We regret it very much that our last letters and news have gone astray due to the war and that we can give you only a very few catch words.

"My wife and I, myself, together with our 16 months old baby are suffering very much under the present living conditions in Germany and that we are greatly in need of food and clothing.

"Would you please be so kind

and make inquiries regarding our relatives and inform us of the result of your researches." Mayor Angel said that, in view of the similarity between this and other letters received by public officials in Western North Carolina towns, he did not plan to send any material assistance, but that if anyone knows of the whereabouts of Heinrich Brenning, he would appreciate their notifying him.

Motor Vehicle Auto Inspection Law News

(This is one of a series of articles designed to acquaint the motoring public with the requirements of the Motor Vehicle Inspection program which goes into effect this month.)

RALIEGH, N. C.—The Motor Vehicle Mechanical Inspection Program, which was designed to save lives by preventing needless accidents caused by faulty and defective equipment on vehicles, will get under way on January 12 with the opening of lanes in five North Carolina cities—Raleigh, Durham, Elizabeth City, Greenville, and Wilmington.

One week later on January 19, six additional lanes will open in Greensboro, High Point, Charlotte, Winston-Salem, Fayetteville, and Gastonia.

Suitable property has been obtained in these cities for setting up the inspection lanes, and all the testing equipment will be installed by the opening dates. Officials of the Department of Motor Vehicles, which will administer the inspection program, are urging all motorists in these areas to take their cars in for inspection as soon as the lanes are open.

It is anticipated that it will take around 15 minutes to inspect each vehicle as the program first gets underway. However, when inspectors become more experienced, it will probably take only five minutes.

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat

SWORDS AND PLOWSHARES



ATOMIC ENERGY— TOO OFTEN THOUGHT OF ONLY AS AN INSTRUMENT OF DESTRUCTION— IS BEING USED TODAY BY RESEARCH GROUPS IN THE STUDY OF CANCER; IN THE STUDY OF HEART DISEASES, BY SCIENTISTS WORKING UNDER THE LIFE INSURANCE MEDICAL RESEARCH FUND— AND BY MANY OTHER GROUPS, IN HOSPITALS, LABORATORIES AND CLINICS, SEARCHING FOR AND FINDING NEW WAYS OF COMBATING DISEASE AND PROLONGING LIFE.

THUS FREE MEN IN A FREE LAND APPLY THEIR ENERGIES AND TALENTS TO TURNING A POTENTIALLY DESTRUCTIVE FORCE TO CONSTRUCTIVE USE— FOR THE GREAT GOOD OF OUR DEMOCRACY AND THE WORLD.

The Inspection Law is a part of the Highway Safety Act passed by the 1947 General Assembly. It requires that all motor vehicles registered in North Carolina must be inspected once during 1948 and twice a year thereafter. Motor Vehicles include cars, trucks, trailers, semi-trailers, motorcycles, and motor bikes.

The program provides for the establishment of 40 lanes throughout the State, four of which will serve as emergency or replacement units. Opening dates for all lanes have not yet been announced, and it is not presently known how long those opening on the 12th and 19th will remain in operation in their announced localities. The law provides that the lanes will be moved from place to place in order to reach all vehicle owners, and sometime during the year, a lane will be sure to come near your town.

In this series of articles, requirements for passing inspection will be explained. Watch next week for the requirements pertaining to LICENSES.

LAUNCH DRIVE ON INCREASE IN MORONS IN N. C.

Sterilization Is Seen By League As Remedy For Feeble-minded

An educational program, designed to assist in curbing the steady increase in morons in the state's population and the attendant vice, crime and institutional expense such increase involves, has been launched by the Human Betterment League of North Carolina, Inc.

Pointing out that cases of mental defect and mental diseases occupy more than one-half of all the hospital beds in the state, at an annual cost to the taxpayers of about two million dollars, the league, which has headquarters in Winston-Salem and is headed by George H. Lawrence, of Asheville, is seeking to inform the people of the state about "the alarming extent of cases of feeble-mindedness."

Part of the answer, the league says, is selective sterilization of the mentally unfit through more complete enforcement of the provisions of the state's sterilization law. More than 40,000 copies of pamphlet containing questions and answers about the operation of this statute are being mailed to various groups in North Carolina.

The pamphlet emphasizes that a sterilized person "can lead a completely normal, satisfying sex life because sterilization removes nothing from the

body. The simple operation merely closes the tiny passages through which the life-producing cells must travel."

While medical science is learning more about ways to cure some types of insanity, feeble-mindedness "is not a disease and therefore cannot be cured. Feeble-minded patients are born with defective mental equipment which cannot be changed," explains the pamphlet.

"North Carolina statutes provide special legal safeguards to prevent any abuse of this important law. A careful investigation is made by the heads of certain institutions or by county superintendents of welfare, who make their recommendations to the State Eugenics Board. If the board finds that sterilization is indicated, it can order the operation performed at public expense. If a patient or his family feels that the operation should not be performed, appeal to the courts is possible."

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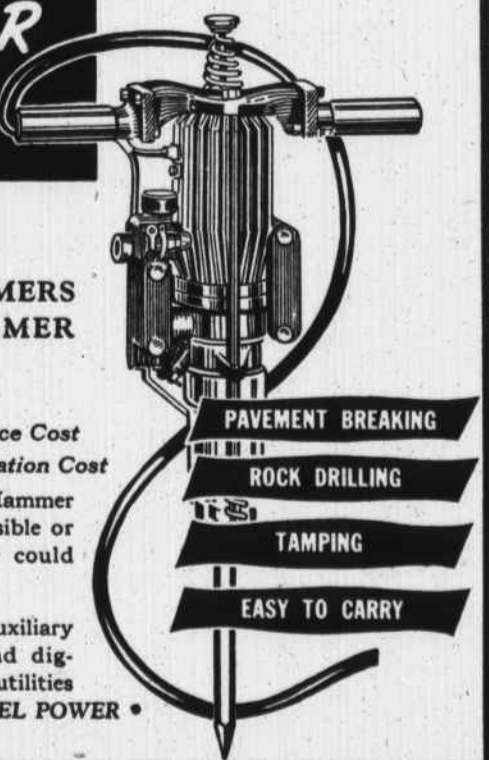
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