

## Roving With Raymond

By Raymond Southard

This column is designed to keep you informed on the current happenings around Franklin, about people and their activities, in particular the teenagers and young people. Speaking of this group, here is a description of the class trip of the '59 graduates of Franklin High. For this story, I

will give credit to Miss Jean Franklin, my co-author this week.

At 6 p.m. Wednesday afternoon, May 27, 35 1959 Franklin High School graduates departed for Washington, D. C. on their class trip. Adding to the merriment and general confusion of departure were chaperones Harry Corbin, Mrs. Ellen Ledbetter, and L. C. Howard, Jr.

After the numerous pieces of baggage were stowed, we began the main activity of the night—eating. We were prepared for this—the Trailways bus could have competed with any cafe as far as the quantity of food was concerned.

After a stop in Asheville for pillows, the bus rolled downstate to Winston-Salem, then turned north toward Virginia. During the night, members of a "Don't Sleep Club" kept awake travelers who were trying to nap. The leader of this club appeared to be Tommy McNish, who with his insistent "Wake up, wake up!" and high-powered radio going full blast, accomplished this goal as many sleepy kids attested to next morning.

At 6 next morning, in Richmond, Va., we tumbled off the bus for breakfast, then proceeded to Mount Vernon and Alexandria, Va., for sightseeing tours.

Thursday night, one group took in a movie, and another group watched the Boston Red Sox defeat the Washington Senators at

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Friday was the big day, as far as the sightseeing was concerned. We walked and walked, and walked more, but the weariness was forgotten as we enjoyed visiting the Washington Monument, Washington National Airport, the White House, the Capitol, Jefferson and Lee Memorials, Lee's Mansion, the F.B.I. Building, the Bureau of Engraving and Printing, and many other points of interest in the capital.

About half the group, feeling adventurous, climbed the 898 steps up Washington Monument. Hayes Snyder raced madly up the steps and reached the top before the elevator which was carrying some of the Franklin group arrived!

Friday night we journeyed to nearby Maryland to an amusement park. After much pleading and planning, Bill Hopper finally persuaded Mrs. Ledbetter to ride the roller coaster. Although she was afraid she wouldn't, she survived, as all who rode it for the first time did.

Saturday saw us at Arlington National Cemetery for the impressive Memorial Day services. Also at Arlington we saw the changing of the guard at the tomb of the unknown soldier.

After lunch, we again divided into groups, with the ball game again on some schedules, and a trip to the Smithsonian Institute and a movie in Cinerama on the others.

The time for leaving came all too soon and we regretfully said goodbye to Washington, as we drove around one more time to observe the famous buildings bathed in moonlight.

Some unforgettable memories: Helen Setser, asking why the stone in the Washington Monument changed color about halfway up, was told "That's the high-water mark of the 1916 flood." The monument is 550 feet high. . . . Dick Wallace constantly ducking in order to keep from bumping his head in the Endless Caverns, of New Market, Va. . . . Nancy Siler continually hounding Mr. Howard about his incessant trips up and down the aisle of the bus. . . . Mr. Corbin sleeping with his head out in the aisle. . . . Clay Sams and Dennis Bates trying to get lost in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing. . . . John Killian trying to make an appointment to go golfing with the president. . . . James Clark and Phillip Franklin getting lost in the hotel.

and, of course, some confidence men who fleeced some members of the group (no names, please) out of several dollars.

Besides graduation, this trip will probably be remembered as the most outstanding highlight of four years of high school. Everyone will remember the excitement, the thrills, the merriment, and the pleasure of the trip. It was well worth what it cost, a perfect ending for the school years!

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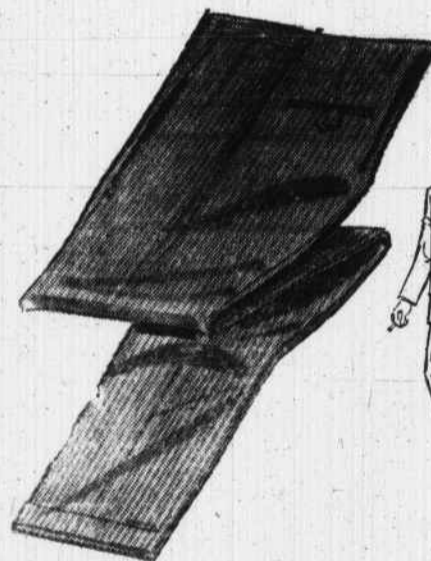


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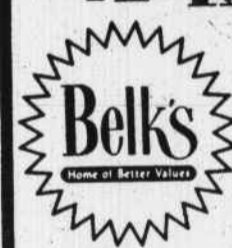
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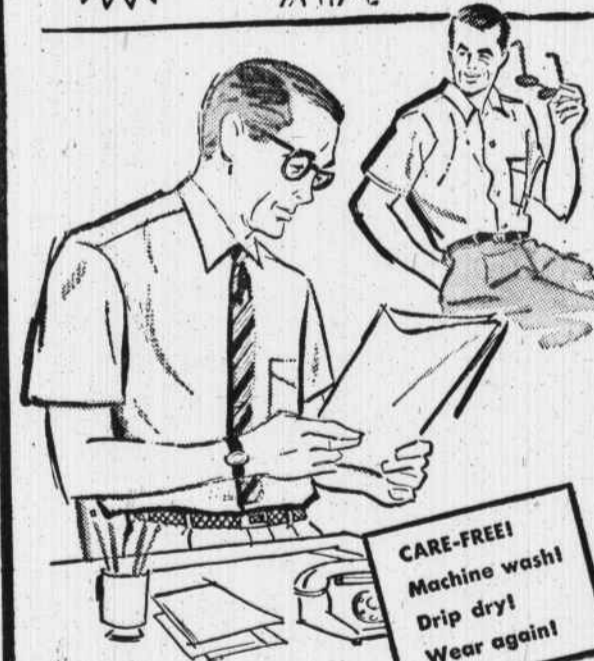
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