

THE DUPLIN TIMES

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 A Duplin County Journal, devoted to the religious, material, educational, economic and agricultural development of Duplin County.



HEED ON THE HIGHWAYS

We might as well join the chorus and help sing that off-tung song of Safety on the Highways. Although, we wonder why we even bother, as daily we are reminded that there are persons not taking heed and are paying for the mistake with their lives.

But for the thousands who ignore advice on safety all that is written or spoken is well worthwhile if only a handful observe the rules and one life is saved.

We sincerely hope that more and more drivers practice caution and heed safety measures, especially now that summer is fully upon us and throngs of people will start to the seashore or the mountains, or any place, on vacations and pleasure jaunts. More driving, especially the carefree kind, is done in the summer months and consequently more caution is needed than ever.

When you start on that vacation, remember to come back relaxed and useful; not a highway statistic.

IMPORTANCE OF SMALL THINGS

Let it never be forgotten that glamour is not greatness; applause is not fame; noise is not influence; prominence is not eminence. The man of the hour is not apt to be the man of the ages.

A stone may sparkle, but that does not make it a diamond; a man may have money, but that does not make him a success; a student may be clever, but that does not make him a philosopher. It is what the unimportant do that really counts and determines the course of history.

The greatest forces in the universe are never spectacular. Summer showers are more effective than hurricanes, but they get no publicity. The world would soon die but for the fidelity, loyalty and consecration of those whose names are unhonored and unsung. There is, therefore, no life, however humble, but may take its place in the building of a braver and better tomorrow. It is so easy to exaggerate the importance of the important and to underestimate the importance of the unimportant.

-- Journal of Living.

WHAT CAUSES POLIO?

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Fred Revelle
 Phone 600
 Warsaw, N. C.



Beulaville News

(Intended For Last Week)
 Mr. and Mrs. Rolin Thomas, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Earl Griffin and Mr. and Mrs. Perry Williams spent the week end at White Lake.
 Mrs. R. E. Quinn of Raleigh spent several days with relatives here.
 Mrs. Lula Q. Parker was called

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Rebel Revelations

Many July's ago when there were still great men in our country, men of vision, men in whom burned a fierce desire for liberty and freedom, a certain Declaration was formally adopted by the Congress. The date of its adoption was July 4, 1776. Several days later this Declaration was read in a public place, later known as Independence Square. Copies were published in every city, town and village from Georgia to New Hampshire.

Early in that year Thomas Paine issued the first of his vibrant pamphlets, Common Sense, in which he called for absolute independence without fear and without apologies. "O ye that love mankind! Ye that dare to oppose not only the tyranny but the tyrant, stand forth!"

North Carolina, on April 12 of that fateful year, was the first to give explicit approval to the revolutionary idea of separating from Great Britain. Richard Henry Lee, in the name of the delegation from Virginia, moved that these united colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent states.

A committee was chosen to draft a state paper proclaiming the Revolution and stating the reasons. There was no one who had a more facile and persuasive pen than Thomas Jefferson and he was made chairman. For eighteen days and nights he worked at it, editing, cutting, polishing. Benjamin Franklin and John Adams made several pertinent suggestions. A bitter debate ensued when it was presented to the Congress.

Lines were deleted, others added. But the document was adopted, perhaps one of the most eloquent declarations ever made. As any school child knows the Declaration of Independence falls in to two principal parts.

The first part states the moral issues on which the Revolutionists based their case, the sonorous words beginning, "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created free and equal and are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

The second part was a summary of the grievances of the Colonists which made George III the scapegoat for Parliament and the ministry. The king was blamed for blocking laws passed by the local legislatures, imposing on the colonies judges they didn't want and so on and so on in a long bill of particulars. Therefore these men stated they had no course left except to declare themselves free and independent states.

It was a stirring time in which to live, we are told. Men still had principles for which they dared fight and die. For generations our country celebrated that day as Independence Day with bells and whistles, with bonfires - as John Adams wrote on July 3, 1776 to his wife, -

"The day will be the most memorable epocha in the history of America. I am apt to believe that it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival. It ought to be commemorated as the day of deliverance, by solemn acts of devotion to God Almighty. It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade, with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward for evermore."

Yes, in those far off days, days so remote that they seem like an almost forgotten legend, there were men like the fiery Patrick Henry of Virginia. Addressing the House of Burgesses in Williamsburg in 1775, he dared to say,

"Tarquin and Caesar each had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell and George the Third ('Treason' cried the Speaker) - may profit by their example. If THIS be treason, make the most of it."

Ten years later at the Virginia Convention in Richmond on March 23, 1775, he made another speech, even more famous, a speech it would do us good to re-read at least once each year, preferably on the day we call Independence Day. Among the other immortal words he spoke are these,

"I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided, and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging the future but by the past."

"We are not weak if we make proper use of those means which the God of Nature has placed in our power. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone, it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave."

"If life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what courses others may take, but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!"

July, 1954, is another chapter in the history of our country. The enemies which beset our freedom and our liberty are still here, but are not as easy to fight. St. George might conquer a dragon whom he could see, a definite threat to the security of the countryside. But these new dangers are of not far reaching consequence.

Even if they are recognized, men of today are loathe to take a stand, afraid to stand up and be counted as one against the forces that

threaten liberty and independence. Instead we sit back sullenly assuring ourselves that it can't happen while our liberties are being taken from us one by one. That horrible day of government control of everything draws closer.

Daily we become more like the police state prophesied by the late George Orwell in his "1984" We were shocked by his book, but we failed to see the beginnings of that same condition all around us. Our "unalienable rights," guaranteed to us by the Constitution in the ten amendments constituting the Bill of Rights, are transgressed more and more. There is no longer any apparent need to prove a man guilty. Now a man is guilty by association, by accusation. He doesn't have to be proven guilty to be considered so - those in our government just have to say he is. Often the poor man is so naive as to believe he has a chance before an investigating committee, that he will be cleared. True, after long, well-publicized sessions he may be found loyal, faultless. But meanwhile he will have lost his reputation, his job, and many of his friends.

We crucify the best brains in our country. We hang in effigy not a tyrant of the faiths of George III, but a man who dares think. We discourage independent research, deny a man the right to his own opinion.

We found men of utmost integrity, drive them from government service. Our most brilliant scientists we dismiss even if they are proved to be loyal beyond any question of doubt - they may have fought for freedom in Spain against the Fascist government, the same government that we officially embrace, the same kind of totalitarian government of Hitler or Mussolini, no better no worse than a Communist government - they all amount to the same thing.

Have we forgotten so quickly the lessons of the 1930's when the mad men burned books and drove out scholars? We seem to have forgotten it all, have forgotten our sons and fathers and brothers who died to preserve our freedom for us, a freedom we valued so lightly that we dare not raise our voice to defend it against the mouthings of our senatorial demagogues.

In the case of our scientists, of men like George Oppenheimer, we begin to commit national suicide. We cut ourselves off from minds that we cannot replace. The men whom we persecute suffer, but I doubt that they will suffer half as much as we will, as our children will.

How incredible that in less than two hundred years we should be

careless about these freedoms for which our forefathers fought!!!

By what right do we dare celebrate an Independence Day in July, 1954! What a hollow mockery it must seem to the ghosts of the great men who wrote that famous Declaration!

I urge you to read a statement by the Association of American University Professors. I will quote only part of it briefly.

"We now seem to live in an age of unreason - an age when one hears the slander of many and fear is on every side. In this modern world the man in the street is a powerful individual. He holds the fate of more than his own country in his hands for he is a danger to everyone if he is ignorant and a prey to hysteria."

"He hears our scholars slandered and their loyalty questioned because they believe in freedom of opinion and the unfettered pursuit of knowledge. While he must not be blind to the real dangers without, he must not let unscrupulous men destroy his freedom within."

What happens in the future rests in our hands. We can sit back indifferently or in helpless bewilderment. Or we can stand up and declare ourselves. We have a common responsibility - to keep knowledge free and unbiased and available to all. We must have courage to resist threats from all quarters, prevent the demagogues and book-burners from taking over here. Our survival of the world depends on our taking our stand.

HELEN CALDWELL CUSHMAN

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