

Opinions



Memorial Day should be just that

By Lucien Coleman

In our country, we seem to have a talent for prostituting our most sacred traditions to our passion for entertainment. At Easter, traditionally the most significant season in the Christian calendar, "Peter Cottontail hopping down the bunny trail" has all but obliterated any thought of the empty tomb.

At sporting events, the local parson has to talk fast to get a decent "amen" tacked on to his pre-game prayer before the shouting and whistling smother his words. A whole generation of children has grown up thinking that the national anthem is supposed to end with "Hoorah!"

And to thousands of Americans, "Memorial Day" is synonymous with the roaring din of the Indy 500 auto race, hotdogs and hamburgers on the backyard grill, and company-sponsored beer-busts in a local park.

It has not always been so. There

Things That Matter

was a time when the climatic moment in a Memorial Day observance was a silent tribute to fallen veterans of America's wars, accompanied by the spine-tingling sound of taps played on a distant trumpet.

I saw a similar observance in York, England, last November on "Remembrance Sunday." My wife and I stood on the old city wall and watched a crowd of local citizens stand bare-headed in a freezing, sleet-filled rain, as wreaths were laid at the foot of a monument to their dead.

In the same spirit, General James A. Garfield, began his address at the first Memorial Day ceremony in Arlington National Cemetery in 1868: "I am oppressed with a sense of the impropriety of uttering words on this occasion. If silence is ever golden, it must be here beside the graves of fifteen thousand men whose lives were more significant than speech."

He was speaking, of course, about the men who had died on the battlefields of the Civil War. Until 1900, Memorial Day in this country was devoted to honoring the dead of that great national tragedy.

In its early years, the occasion was popularly known as Decoration Day, since one of the major events of the observance was the decorating of graves with flowers and garlands. And in many church cemeteries in rural Kentucky "Decoration Day" is still an annual event. But, today, the floral tributes are not limited to the graves of military personnel.

As I stood in the rain on that cold Remembrance Sunday in England, I was deeply impressed by the contest between those men, and women, and children standing with bowed heads, and the raucous noise of our Memorial Day events.

Perhaps it would do the living more good than the dead if we could persuade ourselves, at least for a moment, to stop, pray, and remember.

Inflation should be remembered

By John Sledge

N.C. Farm Bureau Federation
The biggest single problem facing America less than three years ago was inflation. We reached double digit levels in 1980 and 1981. Since then, inflation has dropped dramatically 6% as measured by the Consumer Price Index in 1982.

Now that we're in a period of price deceleration or disinflation, we can look back on where we came from to where we are now. An inflation survey published in *Chicago Magazine* has some real eye openers.

For instance, between 1972 and

1983, housing costs rose by 236%. Health costs grew by 196%. The cost of meat, poultry and fish went up 137 percent.

Looking at some specific items; the cost of a first class stamp rose by 150%...bacon was up 13%...the price of a luxury car up 179%...a private hospital room rose 244%. Or you could buy a peanut butter sandwich for 120% more for bread and 141% more for the peanut butter.

Well, have we wrung inflation out of the system? Don't be too sure. Congress decided to deal with unemployment by stimulating the

economy with a multi-billion dollar jobs bill.

And Federal Reserve Board Chairman Paul Volcker warns that the nation's basic money supply is rising higher than compatible with progress on inflation. Volcker warns that we're not paying enough attention to federal overspending and budget deficits.

One analysis of the situation predicts a resurgence of inflation in a year or two. The trend since the mid '60s has not been steadily upward, rather, inflation has been cyclical, and each new cycle has carried us to even higher rates of inflation.

UCB DISCOUNT BROKERAGE SERVICE.

It gives you the option to save when you trade.

Until now, you needed the services of a full-cost broker even when you wanted to make your own buying and selling decisions. With UCB's new Discount Brokerage Service, you'll save money on every transaction you make. And you'll receive the kind of friendly, personal service that UCB is known for.

Here's what you'll get when you take advantage of UCB's new Discount Brokerage Service:

- You'll save money in brokerage commissions with each transaction.
- Fast, reliable order execution.
- Your knowledgeable local United Carolina Banker will assist you with all your transaction(s).

• WE DO NOT SOLICIT ORDERS OR OFFER INVESTMENT ADVICE, NOR DO WE EMPLOY COMMISSIONED SALES PERSONNEL.

- The convenience of many of our branch offices located throughout most of North Carolina.
- The services of the established New York brokerage firm of Pershing & Company, a division of Donaldson, Lufkin, and Jenerette Securities Company, with UCB acting as your agent.

• Transactions will be settled automatically through your UCB transaction (checking, UCB NOW, S.M.A.R.T. investment account or UCB SUPER CHECKING) account. There's no waiting for checks to come in the mail.

• The same efficient, friendly and personal service you always get when you bank at UCB.

UCB Discount Brokerage Service is simply the most efficient, economical way to execute your personal trading transactions. For more information, contact your United Carolina Banker. We'll explain all the ways that our new Brokerage Service can offer you more investment options... for less money!

Our Bank Is Built On People!

UNITED CAROLINA BANK

ucb

Member FDIC



Shots make dog walk backwards

DEAR DOCTOR: When our vet gave our four month old Toy Poodle his distemper, hepatitis, leptospirosis and parvo shots, he became violently ill. Within two hours of receiving the shot, he had cramps in his legs and stomach, walked backwards, and could not stand to be touched. Our vet said it was nothing to worry about since some dogs may react this way to shots. Should I be afraid to give him these shots again? Can you tell me what caused him to react this way?

ANSWER: Vaccination reactions are uncommon, but do occur in animals. Some feel discomfort, if anything, at the injection site and that usually disappears within a couple of days.

Like people, animals differ in their pain threshold. Some pets perceive discomfort more acutely than others. This seems especially true for the younger animal. A few pets, receiving sympathetic attention from their owners, use such opportunities to their advantage.

Your young dog would be in more danger if his vaccinations were neglected than he is from his reactions to the shots. For the true allergic vaccine reaction, your veterinarian may either choose a different product, or give an anti-

You And Your Pet

allergy injection at the time of the vaccinations.

DEAR DOCTOR: We have a nine-year old Pomeranian who is considerably overweight, blind, and has large black spots on his skin where hair has fallen out. Two different vets have diagnosed the problem as a thyroid condition and say it is not ringworm. We are giving the dog thyroid medication and using Tresaderm on the spots. The spots persist. Have you any idea what the problem might be?

ANSWER: A low level of thyroid hormone (called Hypothyroidism) is a very common cause or contributing factor in canine skin disorders. Hypothyroidism can mimic many skin disorders that slow down or stop hair production. A Hypothyroid dog may also tire easily, seek warm places, and become overweight.

Once diagnosed, time is needed to achieve normal blood levels when thyroid medication is given. This is especially true with an overweight dog such as yours. Sometimes a blood sample is submitted one to three months after

therapy begins to measure the level of thyroid hormone. This is to see if the individual needs a dosage adjustment or perhaps a different drug.

The black spots you mentioned can be due to hormonal problems, injury, or cancer, to name a few.

It is important to find one veterinarian you have faith in. Chronic skin problems are time-consuming and difficult to diagnose and treat. Success depends upon full cooperation and communication between pet owner and veterinarian.

DEAR DOCTOR: We had a female Toy Poodle who died in surgery from kidney stones. The vet removed two stones but a larger one became lodged in the urethra. Was there any chance the dog could have been saved? She was only four years old.

ANSWER: In a healthy animal, kidneys remove water and waste products from the blood to form urine that is excreted. Any factor, such as stones, that stops the normal flow to the outside, allows waste products to be re-absorbed into the bloodstream. Since these waste products are essentially poisons, blockage can result in death.