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-- Overlook On Life --
 By WARREN S. REEVE
 The idea of "Overlook" is taken from the Overlooks provided for viewing panoramas along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

My thoughts today are on our need for a sense of proportion; and, as there are too many points to take up adequately in the space that is available to me, I will carry over the discussion into next week's columns, hoping that you who read today's Overlook will not fail to read the sequel and conclusion next week; for much of the point that I wish to make will come out most forcibly at the end.

Keeping things in proper proportion is one of the important things that our civilization learned from the ancient Greeks. There are many evidences today, however, that we are forgetting the lesson, and that we overbalance the load in one direction or another. Let me explain what I mean in more detail.

It is plain that for the sake of good health our bodies require rest and activity, food and sleep, in proper proportions. Likewise, the ingredients of our diet must consist of starches and proteins, minerals and vitamins, calories and bulk, each in the amount that experience and science show we require, if we are to keep well and strong.

With a moment of thought, we easily recognize and assent that they are in error who make the diet too rich in one or more of these elements, and deficient in

others. I once heard a person say that if a little of such and such a thing is good for one, then a lot is, too. He talked nonsense. It is simply not true, as a general principle, that because a little of something is good, more is better.

A great weakness in the character and behavior of many people is a going to extremes. And indeed in the American character in general I see a tendency to go to extremes. For example, we do it in our attitude towards prominent people. If we like them and admire them, we are apt to go head-over-heels in worshipping them as if they were heroes. If they are unpopular and we dislike them, we will probably speak of them in most uncomplimentary terms. We will be quite blind to such good points as they may have.

Sometimes, extreme adulation will suddenly switch around and give way to extreme disapprobation. I well remember being in New York City, looking out from the window of a high office building and seeing the deluge of paper streamers and confetti that were being poured out in wild acclaim as Charles Lindbergh, just back from his solo non-top flight to Paris in 1927, rode up Fifth Avenue in a triumphal procession. New York City, and the whole country, were moved with profound admiration at Lindbergh's

accomplishment. A nation which would quite likely have shown that he was judged the greatest American at that particular time. But ten years or so later, when he, with undoubtedly sincere motives, advocated a somewhat softer policy toward Hitler, the country repudiated him, and ever since then he has lived more or less in obscurity. One may well query whether we didn't overdo our commendation of his brave feat in 1927, and then overdo our disparagement of his character in the late 1930's.

In our own local community I expect that there are numerous instances of some one's getting a "crush" on another person and overdoing it; and, conversely, there will be many cases of virulent animosity against some one who is disliked. It would appear that we lack within ourselves the power of restraint. We seem as if it is hard to do anything without doing it to excess!

Let us consider some further examples. To be a normal person, one's life should include a happy combination of solitude and "socializing". We can think of those who, incessantly in the company of others, become shallow in character because their daily program has too little place for any

solitude. In contrast, we know of those who are recluses and who become almost queer because they are too little with other people. We have genuine sympathy with those who because of age or disability or the demands of work have to be all by themselves hour after hour and day after day, and who wish that they could enjoy the company of others. But I have in mind, now, those who could live closer to the society around them who deliberately do not want to.

Many people have failed to secure a wholesome balance between the time they spend in work and the time they spend in loafing. Among the people I know, I can think of those who do not work enough. Perhaps they are lazy. Perhaps they lack ambition. At the other extreme, there are many splendid people who overwork themselves. Probably not a few parents feel they have an almost daily struggle to keep their children from looking at TV for too much of a chunk of their daily time. Should not doing home work occupy a larger period in the daily time schedule? And in the allocation of time spent on this job as compared with what we spent on that job, are we not often annoyed with ourselves at

having let one job gobble up more time than it deserved?

The Greeks surely had it right when they urged that we should think things through, and do a little planning, and see to it that everything in life should be put in its proper place and that we should guard against having more than enough of this and correspondingly too little of that. The tragic fact about human nature is that most of us are lopsided. We have not managed to make the picture of our lives symmetrical.

The Greeks reckoned that harmony and symmetry were to be attained by reflection and by contemplation. Plato, then whom perhaps there was no greater one among all his illustrious contemporaries, aimed to look "at life and the world from the vantage-point of eternity. For, if you look at life from the particular spot where you happen to be, you are bound to get a distorted view, which means that some things will loom too large and others be compressed into an obscurity they do not merit.

This may be illustrated by the way we get engrossed in work sometimes. This fault we can see better in others than in ourselves. We notice how so-and-so

Obituaries

ROBERT V. ANGEL

Robert V. Angel, 79, retired farmer and Spanish-American War veteran, died at his home in Burnsville Thursday morning, April 17, after a brief illness.

Services were held at 2 p. m. Saturday in West Burnsville Baptist Church with the Rev. Eulas Adkins officiating. Burial was in McIntosh Cemetery, Edburnville, under the direction of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home.

Mr. Angel is survived by his

wife, the former Alice Angel; a daughter, Mrs. Zula Saulmon of Baltimore, Md.; two sons, Para of Burnsville and L. D. of Plainfield, N. J.; a brother, Willard of Leicester; four sisters, Mrs. Jasper Roland of Leicester, Mrs. Hattie Briars of Los Angeles, Mrs. Sam McIntosh and Mrs. George Green, both of Burnsville; eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

MRS. JULIA YOUNG

Mrs. Julia Young, 76, of Celodied at a Burnsville nursing home Tuesday afternoon, April 15, after a long illness.

Services were held at the Newdale Presbyterian Church at 11 a. m. Thursday of last week.

The Rev. Mr. Dawkins and the Rev. John Young officiated and burial was in the church cemetery.

Surviving are the husband, Wilton Young; a daughter, Mrs. Veston McKinney of Old Fort RFD 1; and a sister, Mrs. Mary McNeil of Celod.



ANNOUNCING
 THE 18th
ANNUAL MEETING

OF THE
FRENCH BROAD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION
SATURDAY, APRIL 26 MARSHALL HIGH SCHOOL

Free Prizes -- Big Displays -- Co-op Reports -- Discussions
 Election of Board of Directors

Displays Open at 11:00 A. M.
 Registration Begins at 12:30 P. M.

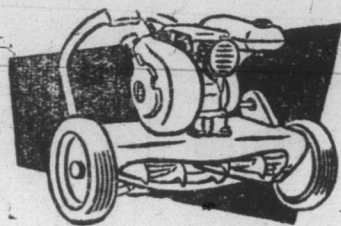
Speaker -- Dr. Robert L. Holt
 Vice Pres. Mars Hill College

To be eligible for prizes you must receive electric service from co-operative, be registered, be present at the Meeting.

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