

ESTABLISHED JULY, 1936

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SCENE FROM TOP O' THE HILL

By: Jack Kelly

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Happy New Year to all from Blanche, Hobo, and myself!

Hobo, sitting outside the window, is reading this as I write it. He just gave vent to a dirty bark. Sort of a laughing-bark, but a nasty, snide sort of a laugh, not a real funny belly-laugh. When I turned and asked him what caused all of that, he sort of grinned at me and said "You know something?" but, before I could answer whether I did or didn't, he continued on. "I think you must believe those stupid words of that old song."

"What old song?" I asked him.

"You remember it," he said.

Then he sort of barked out the line of "Wishing will make it true."

I shook my head in a yes-no way.

He would stop clashing his teeth as he hum-barked. "Well, it ain't true," he said. "You write in the paper that all of us on the Hill here wish everybody a Happy New Year and too many of them are going to accept that wish and just assume that they are guaranteed a Happy New Year for 1969." He growled at the very thought of it. "Nobody gets a Happy New Year that easy. You can't just wish for it or have someone else wish it to you!" He raised his head and barked one of his finest-stentorian notes. "No sir! You have to earn a happy New Year. Most people are lazy and don't try to earn anything. That's why so many people end up having a perfectly miserable New Year every year."

"What would you suggest I do instead?" I asked.

"Don't you get lazy too," he answered. "It's your Column, so you go ahead and write it. Just write in right!"

I promised I would do it if he would cease being a buttinsky. So, I begin at the beginning, we will take the entire greeting: Happy New Year. If the Lord spares us and we live through

the next twelve months, we will make the year. Now, since it is upon us and has never been this way before (nor have we travelled its way either) it is certainly a "new" year. Those two parts of the greeting we cannot ignore — if we live. However, the third portion of the greeting, the Happy-part, I guess Hobo is right about it "Nobody gets a Happy New Year that easy." So — how do we go about having this?

For a starter, let's get our Moral life in order. How do we do that? Let's begin with the Ten Commandments. Then we add in the various virtues — and the greatest of these is Charity — and we become a bit more long-suffering; and we go to Church, and we actually become

Christians and lead a Christian life. None of these things are easy to do. If they were, we would have no need for organized Religion because everyone would be a truly confessed Christian. Like I say, it is not easy but, I assure you that if you make a real effort to do it, you will have a happier year than if you don't try it.

Secondly, let's get our Mental life in order. Most people give very little regard to how they think. Thinking is very important. Look at the immense amount of our people who are mentally disturbed in and out of Institutions — all because they don't think right. Your mind is doubtless the most important part of your entire makeup. If you think properly, the toughest day can pass and leave you undisturbed. Especially try to think kind thoughts — about your neighbor — even about your enemy.

The third portion of this "greeting" for the new year covers your "physical" condition. You have to watch over that. If you are sickly, it is tough to be happy or have any happiness, — except for the famed martyrs of Biblical fame. It is your duty and obligation to yourself, your family, your friends, and to everyone in the Nation (since we are all part of the economy) to keep yourself as healthy as you can.

Then, the fourth and final portion of the "Happy New Year" wished upon you concerns itself with your financial well-being. Now, if you have not observed the first three parts of this "Happy" new year, you would be Morally unhappy, Mentally unhappy, and Physically unhappy. Therefore you would be such a miserable person to be around that it would be impossible for you to make a living and utterly ridiculous to think that you could make a lot of money, therefore you would be Financially unhappy to boot!

So, for the first week or so this year when a friend greets you with "Happy New Year!" Don't be too quick with a "Thank you, the same to you!" Instead, why not look him in the eye and say "Thank you. I'll try."

HAPPY NEW YEAR



Citizens Complain About Bad Driving Practices

RALEIGH — That State Trooper knocking on your front door may have been sent by your next-door neighbor. Or he may be there because of the action taken by some total stranger who doesn't even know your name — only your license plate number.

Chances are the Trooper will not be there to make an arrest, but if you been driving recently with a disregard for traffic laws, he may advise you that someone was watching and didn't like what they saw.

Complaints from private citizens about the bad driving practices of other North Carolinians have increased dramatically in the last year, according to the State Highway Patrol.

Patrol officials say most of the complaints concern individuals. Letters and phone calls come in daily from concerned motorists who provide license numbers and ask the Patrol to find the person guilty of running them off the road, passing them on a hill, exceeding the speed limit or violating other motor vehicle laws.

Other complaints are from groups of citizens petitioning the Patrol to "do something" about a particular situation — usually prearranged racing or speeding on a rural paved road.

According to Colonel Charles A. Speed, commander of the Highway Patrol, all complaints and petitions are taken seriously. "We want these irresponsible drivers to know that they are in a minority, that the vast majority of drivers in our State do not condone what they are doing and want them removed from our streets and highways.

"In the case of individuals," Speed said, "we make every effort to contact them and let them know they have been observed breaking the law and that we have received a complaint. In the case of petitioners, we contact them for de-

tails and employ every means at our command to solve the problem that caused the complaint."

Speed cited a petition received last week which began, "We, the undersigned citizens are in dire need of your help to apprehend and prosecute to the limit of the law, those who are attempting to use the road by our homes as a race track and for other dangerous acts of driving."

The petition was signed by 16 property owners who pledged their full cooperation to the Patrol in efforts to apprehend the guilty drivers. The Patrol commander said appropriate orders have already been issued to Troopers in the specified area.

Speed said the significant thing about the growing influx of complaints "is that it indicates a growing concern on the part of responsible drivers. The people who know the importance of obeying traffic laws are becoming indignant about those who disregard those laws. They are reporting those people to the Highway Patrol and to local police and we are encouraging them to do so."

