



and Clay County Progress

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Adventures in reading

By J. Shelby Cook



ANTIGONE by Sophocles. The Great Books Foundation, Chicago, 45 pages.

This play was written by the Greek dramatist, Sophocles, who was born at Colonus in Greece about 495 B. C. As far as we know, his life was quite successful. He had social position and wealth. Interested in politics, he held several positions in the Athenian city-state.

Living during the "Golden Age" of Greece, he added greatly to its accomplishments. As a great dramatist, he was awarded many prizes. He produced more than one hundred and twenty plays during his eighty-nine years. Unfortunately, only seven of his plays survive. We are told that "Antigone" was first performed in 443 or 441 B.C.

Great literature is that which endures the ages. A masterpiece such as "Antigone" is well worth reading again and again. It speaks to every generation, to all who will give a ready ear.

Antigone's brothers, Eteocles and Polyneics, had a curse laid upon them by their father. After quarreling about the royal power, Polyneics was driven from Thebes. He took refuge in Argos and married the daughter of King Adrastus. After marching on Thebes to recover his throne, the two brothers, Eteocles and Polyneics meet on the battlefield, on opposing sides. They killed each other. As a result, Creon becomes King in Thebes. "His first official act is to forbid, on pain of death, the burial of Polyneics." Such is the background to this exceptional play.

The primary character in the play is, of course, Anti-

gone. Even though she is engaged to Creon's son, Haimon, she dares to disobey the King's decree. Ismene, her sister, refuses to be a part of the act.

Antigone is caught in the act of covering her dead brother's body with a light dust. She is brought before King Creon. He asks, "And you Antigone, you with your head hanging, --do you confess this thing?" She replies, "I do. I deny nothing."

In touching words, Haimon, King Creon's son, tries to persuade him to change his mind. Creon is determined to have Antigone killed. She is carried out in the wilderness and locked in a vault of stone, there to perish.

Personally, one of the most brilliant scenes is when the blind prophet, Teiresias comes before Creon and foretells tragedy. Teiresias tells Creon that he is sick to carry out such a punishment against his son's bride. The King, in stubborn resistance says, "Whatever you say, you will not change my will."

In desperation, Creon does change his mind. But it is too late. The chain reaction of tragedy has begun. Antigone is discovered in the cavern. "She had made a noose of her fine linen veil and hanged herself." Haimon, then kills himself with his sword.

Upon hearing the tragic news, Eurydice, Creon's wife, kills herself. "The Queen is dead." As Creon laments the deaths, he says, "Lead me away. I have been rash and foolish. I have killed my son and my wife. I look for comfort. My comfort lies here dead. Whatever my hands have touched has come to nothing. Fate has brought all my pride to a thought of dust."



Dear Doris

Advice from

Doris Clark

A Harmless Tryst?

DEAR DORIS — I expect to retire soon and that is what I am afraid of. I have raised a family — all married now. My marriage is particularly joyless.

Recently I met the girl I should have married many years ago. I feel we have travelled parallel paths and our recent communication proved that we have never forgotten those few weeks when we were single.

What harm would a day or two with this old girl friend do, from a yearly vacation? Don't you think the rejuvenation from such a communication could be a shot in the arm when we are back to work in our own communities?

Sad Grand-Dad
DEAR SAD — Exciting prospect — but wouldn't it be like rubbing salt in an old wound? Even assuming the contact would be merely that of a friend with mutual interests, could it stay that way?

Much as I sympathize, I simply can't give you a go-ahead on this.
DEAR DORIS — Our math teacher is impatient with those who are a bit slow, and he rushes through each chapter as if it were a race. When we ask for extra help we are politely refused.

I have failed this exam, for I wasn't able to finish (along with many others). I am not as fortunate as one of my friends who has a math teacher living nearby who helps her for one hour a night. Doris, is there anywhere I can get help?

One Plus One Equals Three
DEAR ONE — If your teacher can't give extra help, go to the principal. Ask for a suggestion about someone who would coach you. Or see whether the teacher who helps your friend would tutor you, for a fee, for a time.

If the teacher is not adequate this will become obvious. But even the most brilliant of students occasionally needs individual help.

DEAR DORIS — For the past two years I have run very wild and got an extremely bad reputation as a make-out girl. The

boys used to take me out for only one reason.

Now I've met this wonderful boy. He knows about what I've done from other people. He still says he loves me; but also says he can't believe me when I tell him I love him. He wants me to go out with other boys but to behave to show I've really changed.

He says only when I've proved that I have, will he believe me.

Every time I see him we seem to fight. He doesn't like me to swear; I never really did (just d— and like that); but now I'm not even supposed to say that. Whenever he gets mad, I'm not supposed to lose my temper at all. Right now I'm so mixed up I don't know what to do. I really have changed, but no one believes it.

Changed But
DEAR CHANGED — Hang onto the lifeline. At last someone cares about the real you and is ready to be convinced.

The road to Perdition is still paved with good intentions, and you really need to prove to yourself that you've changed. Not by going out on a chaste date with a member of the old gang; but by learning to respect your body and yourself in any company.

Your new boy friend is no exception. Keep him at arm's length. No need for solo dates with other boys. But you can socialize with others at parties in such a way as to show yourself and him that you are a changed woman.

DEAR DORIS — Should your escort pin on the corsage or should you yourself? It's not very often that boys here buy corsages and they may not know.

Josie
DEAR JOSIE — Either way. The corsage may arrive ahead of time, from the florist. When Johnnie arrives and you answer the door, your flowers are already perched on your shoulder, with stems down, the way a flower grows.

Or he may bring it along when he comes. You open and admire it; then you, your mother or your boy friend, pin it on.

Weekly Features Syndicate

BACKWARD GLANCE

43 YEARS AGO JAN. 12, 1923

Miss Elizabeth Gentry returned to Athens, Tenn., a few days ago after spending the holidays here with relatives.

Misses Cassie Johnson and Ella Simonds, teachers of the Rosman High School have returned to their school work after spending the holidays here with relatives.

Mr. Idris Adams went to Copperhill, Tenn., where he will enter High School.

30 YEARS AGO, Jan. 9, 1936

The marriage of Miss Al-

wayne Burnett and Olen Stratton of Andrews took place in Gainesville, Ga., Sunday, December 22. Dr. J. L. Johnson, justice of the peace performed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Stratton will make their home in Andrews after March 30, 1936.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Stalcup and small daughter left Saturday for Holly Springs, Miss.

20 YEARS AGO, Jan. 10, 1946

Miss Elizabeth Gray spent the week-end in Sylva as guest of Miss Martha Barnett.

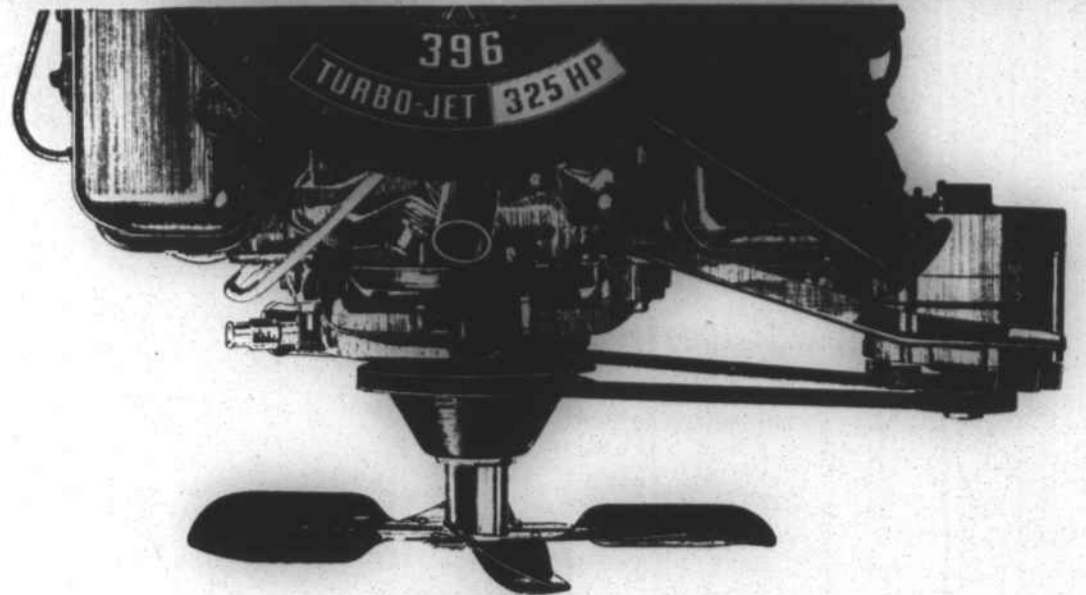
Mrs. Dale Lee will leave Saturday for New York City where she will be for 10 days.

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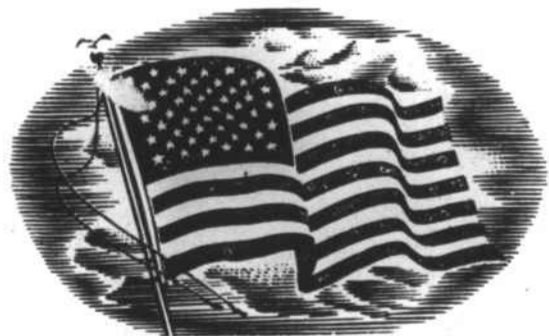


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Area Men In Service



Joseph R. Craig

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.--Joseph R. Craig, son of Mr. and Mrs. George M. Fleming of Rt. 1, Murphy, has been commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Air Force upon graduation from Officer Training School (OTS) at Lackland AFB, Tex.

Lieutenant Craig, selected for OTS through competitive examination, is being assigned to Laughlin AFB, Tex., for pilot training.

The lieutenant, a graduate of Hayesville, N. C. High School, received his B. S. degree from Western Carolina College, Cullowhee, N. C.

Clemon H. Elliott

FORT HOOD, Tex.--Clemon H. Elliott, 20, whose stepfather, Manuel H. Elliott, lives on Route 2, Murphy, was promoted to specialist four, Dec. 16, at Fort Hood, Tex., where he is serving with the 1st Armored Division.

Specialist Elliott, a repairman in Company D of the 1st Armored Division's 123rd

Maintenance Battalion at Fort Hood, entered the Army in July 1964. He was last assigned at Fort Gordon, Ga.

Elliott, who attended West Fannin High School, was employed by the National Rubber Co., Atlanta, Ga., before entering the Army.

Specialist four is an enlisted rank equivalent to the rank of corporal.

Thruston W. Wilde

BILOXI, Miss.--Airman Second Class Thruston W. Wilde, nephew of Mrs. Agnes W. Price, Andrews, has been graduated at Keesler AFB, Miss., from the training course for U. S. Air Force radar repairmen.

Airman Wilde, a graduate of Marshall N. C. High School is being reassigned to North Charleston Air Force Station, S. C., for duty with the Air Defense Command.

Deed Transfers

Eula Mae Allen to Herman Edwards, property in Cherokee County.

Eula Mae Allen to Hobart McKeever, property in Cherokee County.

C. W. Appar to Lake Hiwassee Devel. Co. property in Cherokee County.

B. M. and Ida Abernathy to J. L. Abernathy, property in Cherokee County.

David and Emmer Bryson to Luther and Violet Decker, property in Cherokee County.

Chester and Olline M. Colston to John H. Christian, Eugene Clary and John L. Morrison, property in Shoal Creek Township.

Cherokee Scout & Clay County Progress, Thurs. Jan. 13, 1966