

THIS IS THE LAW

By Robert E. Lee
(For the N. C. Bar Association)

Annual Legal Check-up

Many persons for years have been going to physicians and dentists for periodic physical and dental check-ups. They have found that it pays to do so.

More recently there has developed the annual legal check-up. When did you last have yours? "Preventive law" has increasingly come to play an important role in the day-to-day work of the practicing lawyer. Business enterprises long ago found that it paid them to consult lawyers before serious legal trouble actually developed.

Individuals are now just beginning to realize, with all of the complexities of modern life, that they may in the future have dire legal troubles which they can presently prevent. A man may enter a lawyer's office and say "I have no legal aches or pains, but tell me am I in reasonable good legal health?" It is a recognition of the fact that, by virtue of a thorough legal check-up, the lawyer can advise his client of some legal trouble, pending or foreseeable, of which the client may not be aware.

The idea of an annual legal check-up is founded on the assumption that lawyers are more familiar with law (legal health) than are non-lawyers. As between a lawyer and a client, the lawyer is more able to determine the client's legal status than the client himself.

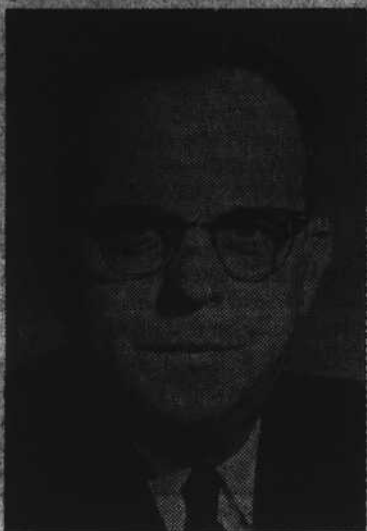
There is an old saying that "a man who is his own lawyer has a fool for a client." He is not competent to make a diagnosis of his own ailments.

Most people don't know whether they are in good legal health or not. For example, they have no clear-cut idea of what would become of their worldly possessions if they should die tonight. They might have consulted a lawyer some years ago about the making of a will or the ownership of property, but both the law and the pertinent facts could have subsequently changed.

Legal trouble can spring from a new fact happening the day after a legal check-up is made. Clients should report to their lawyers changes in factual situations as soon as they occur.

The legal requirements of a family are always changing because the family is not a static unit. Every man needs an annual, or at

Stake Conference Visiting Speaker



ELDER FRANKLIN D. RICHARDS

Elder Franklin D. Richards, an Assistant to the Council of Twelve Apostles of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon) in Salt Lake City, will be the featured speaker Saturday and Sunday, December 2-3, during a quarterly conference of the Church's North Carolina Stake.

Conducting the conference will be Stake President Cecil Everett Reese, 1211 Stockton Rd., Kinston. Sunday's general sessions, to which the public is invited, will be held at 10 a.m. and 1:30 p. m. in Goldsboro.

Elder Richards is a former Salt Lake Lake Attorney and has served as commissioner of the Federal Housing Administration. He has also been prominent in the mortgage banking business. He was serving as president of the Northwestern States Mission when called to his present church appointment.

East Carolina Students Chosen to Represent College in Who's Who

Thirty-seven leaders in student activities at East Carolina College have just been announced as representatives of the college in the 1961-62 edition of the National publication "Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges." This work includes biographical sketches of outstanding students in educational institutions throughout the nation.

Those representing East Carolina are upperclassmen who have excellent records in scholarship, leadership, and participation in at least a periodic, check-up on his legal affairs.

Research on Auto Accidents Aids in Design Improvements

A six month period of special accident investigation will start December 1 in the Duplin, Onslow, Stokes, and Rockingham county areas, the Motor Vehicles Department said today.

Known as the Cornell Automotive Crash Injury Research, the study has state troopers and doctors collaborating in the preparation of special accident forms. Traffic mishaps in the sampling areas will be covered extensively with careful notations made as to the nature and extent of injuries suffered by victims.

Completed case histories include accident and medical reports and photographs which are forwarded to Cornell for analysis and statistical interpretation.

Now being conducted in 20 other states, the pioneering study was tra-curricular activities and who give indication of future usefulness to society. They were nominated for the honor by a committee of students, faculty members, and administrative officers at the college here.

Among East Carolina students included in the national yearbook for the current school year from Lenoir County are Bobbie Jo Sutton, Rt. 3, LaGrange; and Walter T. Worthington, Rt. 1, LaGrange.

first begun in North Carolina in 1954 under the direction of Motor Vehicles Commissioner Edward Scheidt and State Board of Health officials. Other participants include the North Carolina Medical Society and the North Carolina Hospital Association.

The resulting pool of accident data has produced findings that serve as a basis for specific auto design changes aimed at lessening injuries. Cornell authorities report. Design modifications based on these studies include improved door holding mechanisms, recessed steering wheel hubs, padded instrument panels and sun visors, and seat belts. All have been effective in reducing injury, Cornell has reported in preliminary findings.

A statement list the following information:

Door Latching Mechanisms: In the samples studied, the incidence of door opening in post-1955 cars was reduced as much as one-third in cars with improved latches, with the result that the frequency of ejection was reduced about 40 per

cent. The effect has been to reduce the risk of dangerous and fatal injuries about 12 per cent.

"The Ejection Problem: Common popular belief has been that being thrown clear of the car during an accident heightens one's chances of survival. Previous findings by Cornell have demonstrated conclusively that such is contrary to fact, and that risks of death are increased nearly five times when a person is thrown from the car. If the annual level of traffic fatalities remains on the order of approximately 40,000, Cornell reports that a conservatively estimated 5500 lives could be saved each year if ejection were prevented.

"Steering Assemblies: As in the case of padding materials, data are still insufficient for statistical analysis. From available cases clinical comparison indicates a reduction of severe chest injuries.

"Seat Belts: When in use at the time of the accident, seat belts are associated with about a 35 per cent reduction in the risk of major and fatal grade accidents."



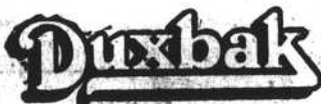
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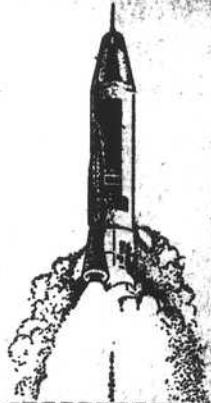
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