

LOOKING OVER YOUR SHOULDER

Remarks to the Graduating Class of Florida Southern College at the Commencement Service on Monday, May 4, 1970

by
President Charles T. Thrift, Jr.

This commencement ceremony marks the completion of an important phase of your life. It is an occasion in which all who know you can share in your sense of pride and accomplishment.

You have had the unusual privilege this morning of hearing Lord Caradon, the Permanent United Kingdom Representative at the United Nations, remind you that the hope of the world lies not in nations, not in great movements, but in individuals like you. He has pointed out how individuals may still make their voices heard even at the international level. Yesterday you heard Mr. George Hartzog, Director of the National Park Service, speak about our environment and our responsibility for improving it.

This is an occasion in which all who know you can share in your sense of pride and accomplishment. No one has more pride in your accomplishment than the older generation. However, I am not going to tell that older generation how bright you are. Nor am I going to say we have made a mess of things and you — the younger ones — are the hope of man kind. I would like to reverse the process.

I want to ask you of the graduating class to look over your shoulders, first to the left and then to the right, and I will reintroduce you to representatives of some of the most remarkable people ever to walk the earth. People you might want to thank on this, your graduation day. They are the people you already know — your parents and your grandparents. I think you will agree that a remarkable people they are indeed. Let me tell you a little about them.

Not long ago an educator from Northwestern University by the name of Bergen Evans, a radio performer known to your parents, got together some facts about these two generations — your parents and grandparents. I would like to share some of these facts with you.

These — your parents and grandparents — are the people who within just five decades — 1920 - 1970 — have by their work increased your life expectancy by approximately 50 per cent — who while cutting the working day by a third, have more than doubled per capita output.

These are people who have given you a healthier world than they found. Because of this, you no longer have to fear epidemics of flu, typhus, diphtheria, smallpox, scarlet fever, measles or mumps that they knew in their youth. The dreaded polio is no longer a medical factor, while TB is almost unheard of.

Let me remind you that these remarkable people lived through history's greatest depression. Most of you know of want and hunger only through the experience of others. You have learned that there are some people in some areas of America in dire need, but few if any of you have ever experienced such need personally. Many of the people of whom I speak today — your parents and grandparents — know what it is to be poor; what it is to be hungry and cold; to be unemployed and on public assistance. They know what it is to have their spirits crushed in a manner equaling any mood produced by the so-called ghetto of the seventies.

Because they gave you the best, you are the tallest, healthiest, brightest, and probably best looking generation to inhabit the land.

Because they were materialistic, you will work fewer hours, learn more, have more leisure time, travel to more distant places, and have more of a chance to follow your life's ambition.

These are also the people who fought man's grisliest war. They are the people who defeated the tyranny of Hitler, and who when it was all over, had the compassion to spend billions of dollars to help their former enemies rebuild their homelands. These are the people who had the sense to begin the United Nations.

It was representatives of these two generations, who through the highest court of the land, fought racial discrimination at every turn to begin a new era in civil rights.

They built thousands of high schools, trained and hired tens of thousands of better teachers, and at the same time made higher education a very real possibility for millions of youngsters — where once it was only the dream of a wealthy few.

They made a start — although a late one — in healing the scars of the earth and in fighting pollution and the destruction of our natural environment. They set into motion new laws giving conservation new meaning, and setting aside land for you and your children to enjoy for generations to come.

They also hold the dubious record for paying taxes — although you will probably exceed them in this.

While they have done all these things, they have had some

Veterans Corner

Q — Does the VA provide any educational program for veterans disabled in military service?

A — Yes. There is a rehabilitation program for veterans who suffer serious service-connected disabilities. For information on this program, contact the nearest VA office, or your local service organization representative.

Q — I am a World War II veteran and the VA has advised me that I can carry only \$10,000 worth of Government Life Insurance. Is this true?

A — Yes. The maximum of \$10,000 in VA insurance coverage is established by law.

Q — Is a veteran penalized if he pays off a GI home mortgage loan before it is due?

A — No. A GI loan may be prepaid without penalty at any time. Prepayments may be made in the amount of the regular monthly installment or \$100, whichever is lesser, or in any larger amount.

Q — I am 62 years old, and desire to convert my National Service Life Insurance term policy to the modified life plan. What premium must I pay?

A — Sorry, you cannot convert to the modified life plan after age 60. However, Ordinary Life has the lowest premium of the other plans available at your age.

Q — I understand veterans have deadlines which they must meet to be eligible for certain benefits. Is there a deadline for applying for VA hospital care?

A — No. There is no time limit for a veteran to receive hospital care if he is eligible, needs, it, and a bed is available. Beds are always available at VA hospitals for veterans with a service-connected disability.

Legal Notices

IN THE GENERAL COURT OF JUSTICE

SUPERIOR COURT DIVISION
STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA
JONES COUNTY

ADMINISTRATOR'S — EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as Executrix of the estate of Roxie Mumford Gooding of Jones County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said Roxie Mumford Gooding to present them to the undersigned within 6 months from date of the publication of this notice or same will be pleaded in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate please make immediate payment.

This the 2nd day of April, 1971.

Louise Gooding Gentry
Pollocksville, N. C.
Brock and Gerrans
Attorneys at Law
Trenton, N. C.
J-48,15,22J

failures. They have not yet found an alternative for war, nor for racial hatred. Perhaps you, the members of this graduating class, will perfect the social mechanisms by which men may follow their ambitions without the threat of force — so that the earth will no longer need police to enforce the laws, nor armies to prevent some men from trespassing against others. But they — those generations — made more progress by the sweat of their brows than in any previous era and don't you forget it. If your generation can make as much progress in as many areas as these two generations have, you should be able to solve a good many of the world's remaining ills.

It is my hope, and I know the hope of these two generations, that you find the answers to many of these problems that plague mankind.

But it won't be easy. And you won't do it by negative thoughts, nor by tearing down or belittling. You may and can do it by hard work, humility, hope and faith in mankind. Try it!

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS

1. Went space
5. Information
9. Boundary
11. Righteous
12. Mennonite
13. Playing marble
14. Old campaigner
16. Gandhi's title
20. Chinese boat
24. Genuine
25. Musical groups
26. Actress — Berger
27. Frosting device
28. Infuriate
29. Feathered
31. Animated cartoon character (2 wds.)
36. Pace
38. Be of use
40. In addition
41. Carpentry piece
42. Percussion instrument
43. Camping need

DOWN

1. Imperfection
2. Peruvian city
3. Moslem ruler
4. Desire

5. Like a well-thumbed book

6. Constellation
7. Make lace
8. Drink
10. Aquinas
11. Reduce to pulp
15. Operated
17. Apply oneself
18. Companion
19. Arkin
20. Bustle

21. Reliquary chest

22. Bearing
23. See 31 across
26. Cruel person
28. Margaret, to pals
30. Diving bird
32. Sugar source
33. Bird of prey
34. English river

ANSWER TO PUZZLE ON PAGE SEVEN

35. Apartment cost
36. Identify
37. Conceit
38. Homo sapiens

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ANGLER'S DREAM SPOT NEEDS HELP

by Jim Dean

For some 20 years now, I have carefully nurtured a sporadic but rewarding love affair with a wild beauty in eastern North Carolina.

I regret to report that she is in trouble, but more on that later.

This wild beauty is Tyrrell County (you expect Raquel Welch, maybe?) I have enjoyed too many of her favors; seen too many of her charms to write about her without a certain amount of affection.

You see, it was in Tyrrell County at Fort Landing down on the mouth of the Little Alligator River that I first did any serious fishing. During the summer, my grandfather would lead the rest of the family to a small run-down cabin built out over the coffee-colored water on the edge of a marsh. A nearly two-mile boat ride was necessary to reach the cabin.

When you got there you came in shooting. Snakes were always lying around on the narrow boardwalks which surrounded the cabin. Though we never found too many inside the cabin, my mother would just as soon we'd rolled in a grenade before entering.

This was the height of adventure to a 10-year old boy, and I

played it for all it was worth. I spent many summer days floating in an old juniper skiff with three or four cane poles hanging over the end waiting for white perch. I never had to wait long.

At other times, I fished the stumpy banks under the spanish-moss draped cypress for largemouth bass. I watched the osprey and occasional bald eagle soar high over the primitive land.

In the fall, the rockfish would come, followed closely by the ducks and geese. The small bedrooms in the cabin were so jammed with decoys that you had to crawl over them to reach the beds.

The cabin — with its pot-bellied stove, calendars on the wall and cane poles stacked in the corner — is in ruins now. A good storm will take what's left.

But that is the only real change at Fort Landing. It is still pretty much the same as it was 20 years ago.

So is the rest of Tyrrell County, and this is both reason for rejoicing and reason for sadness — depending upon how you look at it.

Tyrrell County is the state's least populous county. Only 3,800 people live in this vast region of marshes, savannas and coastal forest shrouded with moss and guarded by fish hawks. The population drops yearly.

On the eastern edge of the county lies the untamed Alligator River, while Albemarle Sound borders the north and Phelps Lake touches the western boundary. Columbia — with a population of 1,000 — is the largest town.

Tyrrell County is in trouble because its young people are leaving. In a time when most of the country is prospering, Tyrrell County is slowly dying.

But times are changing. More and more people are beginning to discover this vast, unspoiled reach of land and water. Tyrrell County is a natural playground for the outdoorsman, and the county fathers are currently en-

Continued on page 5