

NORTH CAROLINA MAY GET NEW MARRIAGE LAW

Efforts Will Be Made To Have One Enacted At the Next Session Of The General Assembly.

Highsmith Says State Needs To Safeguard Marriage And Home

Raleigh, Nov. 10—North Carolina's lack of an adequate marriage law, the importance of such a law, and the declaration that an effort will be made to have one enacted by the next general assembly, as a vital part of the state's war on venereal diseases, are emphasized in a statement by Mrs. J. Henry Highsmith, assistant director of the health education, State Board of Health.

Mrs. Highsmith says: "North Carolina has practically no laws safeguarding marriage and the beginning of the home. On the statute books are two laws, neither of which as it operates today is worth the effort to enforce it. This is the opinion of one register of deeds who says that the present marriage law which requires the male applicant for a marriage license to sign an affidavit saying that he has no active tuberculosis or a venereal disease, and has not had for two years prior thereto, is totally ineffectual. This law is an alternative to a prior law which required a health certificate from the groom in order to obtain a marriage license. Neither law requires anything of the prospective bride—not even a written statement to the effect that she has no tuberculosis or a venereal disease in the active stage.

20,000 Syphilitic Children

"But has not the time come when North Carolina can and will take steps to protect its children from the ravages of venereal disease? It is estimated that there are 20,000 children under fifteen years of age in North Carolina today who have syphilis inherited from infected and neglectful parents. And yet this large number is not the whole story. Only about 43 percent of syphilitic babies live to reach ten years of age. Therefore, it is safe to say that at least 70,000 other babies were



JOURNEY'S END

This 40-pounder, with his neck already in a halter, awaits the Thanksgiving axe, knowing well that he won't be hung!

born syphilitic but died in infancy or early childhood.

"When it is known that children inherit blindness, feeble-mindedness, insanity, susceptibility to disease and premature death from syphilitic parents, and when it is further known that 90 percent of these tragedies could be prevented through an enforced law requiring a Wasserman test of both man and woman before marriage and another law requiring the proper treatment of expectant mothers showing a positive blood test, does it not seem that public opinion would demand this protection for innocent, helpless childhood?

"Fortunately, there is a growing sentiment today in behalf of these measures. A poll conducted recently by the American Institute of Public Opinion found that 92 percent of those voting on the question, whether or not there should be premarital Wasserman tests, were in favor. Of all the votes cast in the Southern states, 94 percent were favorable.

Some Pertinent Facts

"In connection with the campaign being waged against syphilis, a number of states have enacted laws requiring, as a prerequisite for the issuance of marriage license, evidence of negative Wassermann or similar blood tests, Connecticut en-

acted such a law in 1935 and, contrary to many predictions, it works well. As evidence it has popular support, about 10% more laboratory examinations were made for prospective brides and bridegrooms during the first five months of 1937 than for the same period in 1936. Illinois passed a bill in the spring requiring compulsory health examinations for all couples applying for marriage licenses, which went into effect July 1, 1937. Michigan has a similar law that goes into effect Oct. 20, 1937, and New Hampshire's law becomes effective Oct. 1, 1938. New Jersey is preparing a bill patterned after the Connecticut law to be introduced in the 1938 New Jersey legislature.

Will Sponsor Law

"North Carolina also will sponsor a marriage license law at the next session of the General Assembly, according to Dr. Carl V. Reynolds, Secretary of the State Board of Health and State Health Officer. Says a marriage law is a part of the State's program to control venereal disease, and that he will press the passage of the bill when the Legislature meets in 1939.

"As evidence that such a law is needed, witness the number of cases of syphilis that are being reported daily to the State Board of Health—an average of 33 a day, 1,000 a month, on 12,000 a year. A fair estimate places the number of syphilitics in North Carolina at 300,000. Without restrictions for preventing the spread of the disease and proper means of treatment of those infected, this will mean that we will continue to have 100 new cases of infection every day, and the birth of ten newborn syphilitic babies every day."

IN MEMORY

On Nov. 5th, 1937 the death angel visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Zimmerman and took from them their loving daughter, Thelma Dale. She died in Memorial Hospital, Danville, Va. with spinal meningitis. Her stay on earth was two years and four months. She leaves to mourn her loss, mother, father, two brothers, Graham and Thomas, sister, Irene, grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. John Zimmerman, Mrs. B. J. Coates, many uncles and aunts. The funeral was held at Oak Grove Methodist Church by Rev. Townsend, Sunday, Nov. 7, 1937 at four o'clock and interment was in the church cemetery. Music was rendered by the church choir. Pall bearers were her uncles: Messrs. W. B., J. D., R. W. Coates and Willie Zimmerman. Mrs. Mabel Riggsbee was in charge of the flowers which were carried by cousins of the deceased: Marjory, Eunice, and Alice Coates, Pattie Sue, Evelyn, and Margaret Clayton and Hilda Grey Barnett.

All was done that loving hands could do, but none could stay the cold hands of death. God knew best, so we should say, "Thy will be done."

Written by her aunt,
Pattie Coates

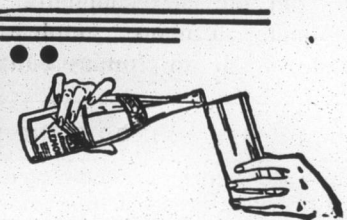
THE WEEK IN BUSINESS

Two corporations that originally refused executive salary data to the Federal Trade Commission finally filed their figures on court order. The National Biscuit Company paid its executive personnel an average of \$35,525 per year, "highest in any related group" covered by the study. The International Shoe Company reported the lowest of any manufacturing and process-

ing groups," with an executive average of \$13,607. Steel ingot production declined to 48 per cent of capacity, 36 points from the week before Labor Day. Standard Oil Company of New Jersey will hereafter give its executive personnel an annual check-up in search of hardened arteries and other ills of "Number One Men" of industry. In one week six ships passed through the Panamar Canal carrying 40,000 tons of scrap metal designed for munition-making.

Lincoln County farmers sold 5,431 pounds of live poultry cooperatively for \$917.50 cash last week. Turkeys comprised the bulk of the sales.

Has your "ouch" left your "grouch?"



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