

THE Perquimans Weekly

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FRIDAY, JUNE 27, 1947.

National Highway Safety Campaign

Through the combined efforts of thousands of daily and weekly newspapers throughout the United States, a National Highway Safety Program was launched this week throughout the nation. Because of its purpose alone, the campaign is one of the most praiseworthy and beneficial public services in recent years.

Any effort to reduce or eliminate the tragic toll of traffic accidents which annually account for thousands of needless deaths is worthy of wholehearted support.

Last year 33,500 persons were accidentally killed on our streets and highways. The staggering total of 1,150,000 were injured and an economic loss of over two billion dollars resulted.

What makes those lost lives, the pain and suffering, and the economic loss more tragic is the realization that, with proper care and precaution, they could have been avoided.

Now, as a result of the President's Highway Safety Conference last year and the second meeting of the Conference last week, an intensive effort is being made to prevent traffic accidents in the future. Much has already been accomplished in the way of traffic enforcement and engineering. The National Highway Safety Program is the newspapers' contribution to the educational phase of accident prevention.

But it has been significantly pointed out by Maj. Gen. Philip B. Fleming, general chairman of the President's Highway Safety Conference, that brief, spasmodic campaigns will not bring lasting results. There is need for intensive effort on the part of every man, woman and child.

"Each one of us, as driver or pedestrian," says General Fleming, "must accept in good faith our own individual responsibility. Each man, woman and child must accept in his own conscience, as before the law, the responsibility for the consequences of his own acts."

That can mean only one thing. We must all, by our own individual efforts, strive constantly for the improvement of the public attitude toward safety. The result will be the sparing of our own lives or those of the ones near and dear to us.

July 4th Glorious Anniversary

Independence Day means much to the United States and other struggling nations as well. In 1947, with power politics the way of most of the world, it is important that the significance of the day be impressed throughout our country and the world.

On July 4th, 1776, twelve colonies, all the original thirteen except New York, through their representatives in the Continental Congress, approved the Declaration. Two committees had been appointed by the Congress on June 10 to draw up a Declaration and articles of confederation.

These committees were appointed after a motion by Richard Henry Lee, which was seconded by John Adams on June 7th. Action on the motion was deferred until July 1st and it was passed July 2nd. The committees were then appointed and the Declaration was approved but was signed on that day only by John Hancock as President of the Congress. It was not until August 2nd that 53 members of the Congress signed the Declaration.

This Declaration led to the first war of the young country which finally gained its freedom from Great Britain. That Declaration was not long ago, as time is measured in history, only 171 years. But in that brief time, this free nation has become the leader for most nations of the world. We have fought half a dozen wars in the effort to maintain freedom and the security of our country. Thus far, we have never lost a war with a foreign country, and today we are striving to keep ourselves prepared for any new threat to our security.

The Fourth of July reminds the people of Perquimans that they have much of which to be proud. In a world of imperfect men and imper-

fect governmental systems, we have begun and successfully continued a government that is a people's government. We do not hold that it is a perfect government. It can and will be improved. But we are jealous of its great blessings. We must constantly recall the glories of our system and the democracy that is our heritage.

The Fourth of July—it is a day of celebration, a remembrance of a great day and a great time. Among the other nations of the world, too few have such a day to celebrate.

Vacations Essential

With the advent of hot weather, the people of Perquimans are beginning to make their plans for the vacation season of the year.

We do not hesitate to urge every person to take a vacation if possible. The extent of the occasion can be adjusted to fit the pocketbook of the individual family.

Our readers should not overlook the facilities offered to vacationists by Federal and State parks. In many areas of the United States, there are accommodations for those who wish to use them. As a rule, these Government-sponsored parks and their facilities are taxed to the utmost and, in many cases, advance reservations are necessary.

The usefulness of a vacation has been thoroughly established by those who study the human body and its needs. Every worker should have a resting time and, insofar as modern employers are concerned, it is usually with full pay. The result is beneficial to the worker and to the employer.

We will not end this article on vacations without suggesting that those who administer the affairs of Government, including local officials, should give some serious consideration to the possibility of establishing a nearby camp, or park, for the use of those living around it. Some effort should be made to provide low-cost facilities so that it will be possible for every family to have an outing this summer.

Teach Youngsters To Swim

Mothers in Perquimans County are somewhat concerned over the dangers that lurk in the waters. They know that their children want to swim and that many of them go boating and fishing.

In many communities of the United States, there are organized classes for the purpose of teaching youngsters to swim. This is a good community undertaking and, no doubt, has saved many lives in the past.

No one doubts the attraction that water offers to growing youngsters. Naturally, boys and girls desire to swim and to play in the water. They should have the opportunity, but, before they swim, they should have proper instruction.

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

OUR HERITAGE FROM ANCIENT ISRAEL

International Sunday School Lesson For June 29th

Golden Text: "He will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths."—Isaiah 2:3.

Lesson Text: Psalm 119; Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 6:1-8.

This is the last lesson in our study of Old Testament history for the time being. Certainly, in this study, we have seen the working of God with his people and how, as long as the people remained faithful to God and his teachings, they prospered and



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when they turned their backs upon him, they stumbled and fell.

We have seen how prophets and good kings struggled to keep their people true to their religion and have realized that, no matter how bad conditions were nor how far the majority of the people wandered from God, there was always a faithful minority who were true to him and tried to use their influence to turn others from their evil ways.

While Israel fell because of idolatry and sin, the lesson of their defeat was well learned, because they repented while in exile in Babylon. They turned back to God and monotheism, or the worship of one God, was established, preserved and passed on by the Jews to the whole world. This blessing came out of the captivity of the people of Judah. Christians and even Mohammedans owe much to the Jews who suffered severe discipline for the sake of the greatest truth—the oneness of God.

Religion today owes much to ancient Israel, whose fundamental conception is its earliest—the spiritual nature of the Deity and His consequent elevation above all human forms, methods and attributes. Though not clearly expressed in

Genesis, this seems to be at the bottom of the lessons taught by the first Hebrew, Abraham, who built altars to the living God, and "called upon His name."

From Moses, we get the idea of a central shrine for the worship of God—in his day of wilderness wandering, only a tabernacle, but later the wonderful temple of Solomon in Jerusalem. Also from Moses, by dictation from God, we have received the Ten Commandments which Jesus confirmed, when he declared, "I came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill it."

From the Hebrews, we have received the Word of God, preserved throughout the centuries and handed down to us. This word has been a "lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path" to countless millions through the ages. The religion which developed among the Hebrew people laid clear and insistent emphasis on the relation of religion to daily life. A religion which is simply a matter of elaborate ceremonial rites and ritual worship is no religion at all and such religion was vigorously denounced by the prophets.

The prophet Micah gives a summary of the religion which the pro-

phets taught.

"The teaching of Micah," says Dr. W. G. Elmale, "possesses remarkable qualities both in style and thought. His language is vigorous, graphic, and varied. At times he is emotional and pathetic, anon terse and trenchant, and again elevated and sublime, as the occasion and the subject demand. He does not quite command the grand style of Isaiah, but he is more sharply telling and direct. In width of survey and weight of movement he differs from his great contemporary, somewhat as a tribute of the people or a preacher of righteousness differs from a statesman of the first order."

In our lesson text he quotes Jehovah as challenging his people to

"justify against me." It is an inspiring thought, followed by a recital of all Jehovah's goodness unto them. Modern folk might accept the same challenge. Even today the inquiring soul can look about and question wherein God has been unkind. The imperfections and wrongs which exist are not of God's choice or manufacture—when His finished creation it was declared "good," but man has had it in his control from that day, and the inquiry should also be made as to what man has done to the world God made and put him into to enjoy and have dominion over.

Professor: Hey, you can't sleep in my class.

Freshman: I know. I've been trying for the last half hour.

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