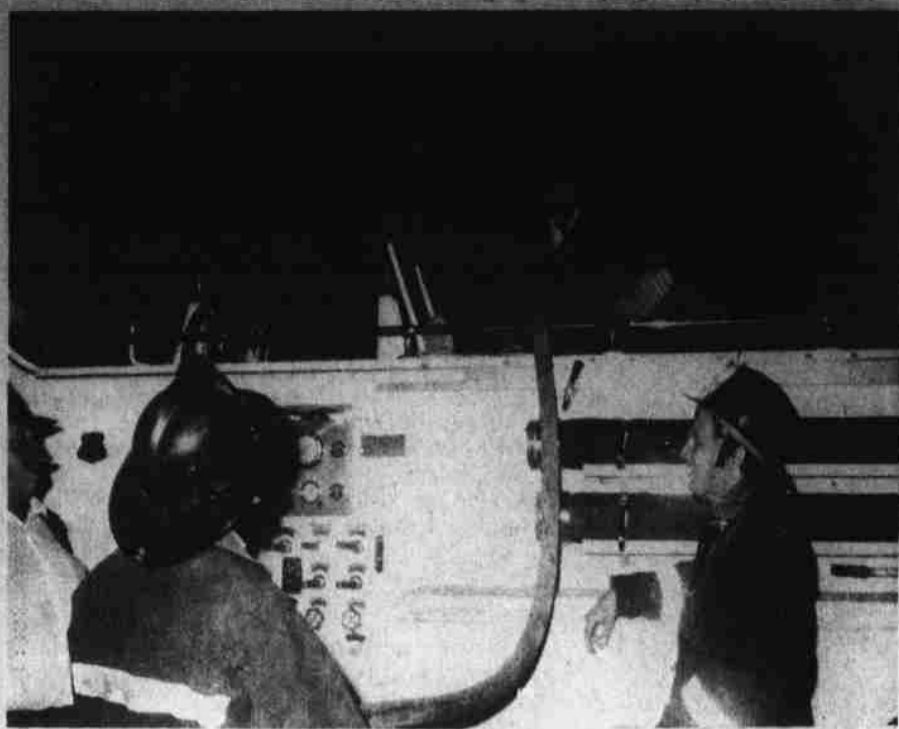


Life In The Golden Age

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FILL 'ER UP — From left, Bill Fowler, Keith Haskett and Sidney Eley assist Ronald Wilder as he refills the Hertford Fire Department truck with water. Department members attended a school on pump operation which was held four hours per night last Monday - Thursday. Under the instruction of Phil Riley, each member attending the 12-hour course will receive a certificate. (Staff photo by Kathy Newbern).

What is the Golden Age? This term has been applied to that period in history when the Greeks and Romans were at their height in civilization.

Might not we today also be living in a Golden Age? Think of all the appliances and conveniences you and I enjoy the kings in their palaces didn't have. (Some of you may have heard Mr. David Weaver, Former director of N. C. Agricultural Extension Service, speak to this point.)

Another way of looking at the Golden Age is to apply it to our later years of life. We talk of golden anniversaries. Are the golden ones only those after you've been married 50 years? I'd like to have you consider another point in time. Are not the golden years those which come after you have launched your last child into the working world? As a mother and father you have fulfilled the active roles of parenthood and now you and your children become partners in living.

If you are fortunate, you still have your husband (or wife) with you, and together you can share the blessings of these golden years as a couple again.

Take a look at the family life cycle. The golden years cover half of your married life! You still have half a life to live. What are you going to do with it?

Goals for Living
When you were first married, you and your mate probably had ideas about the future. Building a house, sending the children to college, and saving for old age probably were some of your goals. There were some less tangible ones like teaching the children to become honest people and good citizens, making the best of your lot in life, or being a good wife.

With the coming of the golden age some of the goals have been realized. You built the house, got the children through school and they turned out all right. What's left? Making the best of your lot in life? That never really ends, does it? What are some new goals we need to set to make the best of the rest of life? Let me suggest a few:

1. Being a good wife (or husband).

During all those years with children to take care of some of us have let this other role take second place. Now is the time to get reacquainted with the man you married and discover some of the new dimensions of the personality he has now become.

Do a little self-evaluation. Are you still the girl he married? Added a little weight? Careless about the way you dress at home? Lost track of the world around you? Forgotten how to do the hobbies you two enjoyed together? Lost the art of conversation with your mate? Start a self-improvement course. We don't want him looking some where else singing, "I want a girl just like the girl I married." Help him to recognize you are now even better than the girl he married.

2. Be a good in-law.

Learn the fine art of what the experts call "passible friendliness". Be willing and ready to be a friend when they ask you. It is difficult to let even married children make obvious mistakes in decisions because "they ought to know better."

But each generation must do its own bit of learning through ex-

perience. Practice makes perfect. That applies to being a good in-law, too.

3. Be in step with the times.

It's easy to keep up with the material things, if you have the money. You can buy the latest model car and color TV. But living in the golden age in more than that. It's keeping up with new ideas, too. What do you think about cybernetics, for instance? Can you talk with your teenage grandson about the "new morality"? Are you aware that this idea does not mean "free love"?

How will you explain the Apollo project to that preschooler? Or will we have to explain it to you? How will you carry out this goal? Read the newspaper. Read library books. Be willing to listen to a different opinion on any subject. Think why you believe the way you do about things. Can you defend your views? Do they still hold true in today's

world? Many of them will. Our younger generation needs to hear these views. Probably a few of your ideas need changing. Youth can help you see it.

4. Be a good citizen.

Margaret Mead says that too many of us go home each night to our own little cave and ignore the problems of the rest of the community. In the golden years you have the best chance of all to make a contribution to your community. You have less home responsibility, more time and years of maturity.

How can you help? Know what's going on - what are the facts? What are the real problems? What are the brightest assets? Decide what you can do to help. Any action program needs volunteers at all levels. You may feel that you lack the administrative ability to "run the show", but just as much needed are the enthusiastic supporters. Like to gossip? Use your talents to spread the good word. Be a public relations volunteer.

Literary Musings Scouts In Order

Enthusiastic admirers of Harry S. Truman will probably leap for a copy of the most recent publication on their deceased idol. The book is Merle Miller's *Plain Speaking: An Oral Biography of Harry S. Truman* (Berkley-Putman; \$8.95). "Both a human document and political history ... its shrewdness would please Plutarch; its wit would delight Mark Twain."

Miller spent hundreds of hours with Mr. Truman in gathering material for this publication. For some reason their personal chats never made television as originally intended, but now they are "told like it happened" as only Plain-Spoken could do.

Plain Speaking is what the title implies. The language has been sugar-coated to protect neither the living nor the dead. Concerning Eisenhower he said: "That counterfeit ... the only man who ever spent eight years in the White House without being president."

And there are others whose names are the better or worse for being mentioned here. Adlai Stevenson, John Kennedy, Douglas MacArthur — all have choice comments made by the Little Senator from Missouri.

Who reads this book touches an honest man, one somewhat elemental to be sure, but one who did his best, who rarely looked back nor had regrets. He reads the words of an honest man, a truly great American, who was sold out to nothing to save decency and integrity.

This observer thinks *Plain Speaking* should be required reading for every American, particularly those interested in great Americans. My own kindred interest led to the purchase of the Truman Daniel. New York, 1974, 660 pages, \$1.95. Right now I am enjoying the delightfully human, as well as historical, document.

The first presidential campaign I ever watched with any interest was the 1948 Truman-Dewey race. Chapter one of Mrs. Daniel's biography gives a revealing, behind-the-scenes account of this Truman victory. Following this important triumph, she takes the reader through a chronological history of her famous father's political life.

Several members of the Boy Scout Troop 155 of Hertford were initiated into the scouting fraternity "Order of the Arrow" at Camp Perry at Durants Neck on May 18th. Scoutmaster Bobby W. Holland said the following Scouts taking part in the Order of the Arrow Ordeal were Jerry Chappell, Norman Cherrix, Mark Pierce, Ted Applegate, Paul Applegate, Jeffery Vaughan, Tony Smith, Shelton Skinner, and Adult Scouters Seymour Chappell, Charlie Skinner, Jr. and Ed Boncek.

Other members of the Order of the Arrow Mike Goodwin and Webb Haskett from Troop 155 assisted with the Ordeal program. The Ordeal program took part during a three day period at which time the scouts were put to certain tests in outdoor camping and existing on meager rations, climaxed by an Indian Ceremony on a point overlooking the Perquimans River.

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