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MARTIN'S MEDICINE

By MARTIN HARMON

Terry Sanford wrote a book entitled "But What About The People?"

This is about people, Hebronites, past and present.

While somewhat over-ripe students, these folk recall days of yore and it is inevitable that nicknames are often appended by their fellows, the nicknames being more or less indicative of observed traits, or backgrounds.

A suave, urbane ex-railroad conductor is known as the "Florence Flash," an Augustan, who worked for several years at a funeral home was promptly labeled "Cold Storage," a Wilmingtonian who arrived with beet-red countenance (high blood pressure, too) was "Chief Red Cloud." "Wormy" is the eatingest little fellow I've ever known, practically starved Sunday. On his own testimony, he didn't want to embarrass his visitors by claiming a third helping.

"Tiger" has departed our midst, first to close his summer place at Cashiers, subsequently to his home in Waco, Texas. I don't recall that "Tiger" ever confessed his age, but he was in his sixties and three times a grandfather. Driving himself to this part of the Western North Carolina mountains—cold sober—he smashed his yellow Camaro into the side of a tunnel. It was the first accident in his driving career. While he moaned the loss of "Yellow", he had one gain on the trade here for a new Oldsmobile, which had a unique horn. This I would not have believed had I not seen with my two eyes. The horn ring, properly manipulated, sounded like the mating call of a bull. Under the tiger's sure touch the bossies came running. The bulls came too, heads lowered, saliva dripping, and eyes glowering because of the threatened competition.

"Tiger" was proud of teaching his son the pitfalls of speeding in autos. He kept telling the lad to "open it up". Finally, the boy chickened out at 90 miles per hour. "Thought I was crazy?" he has asked his son. Then he explained what could have been: wheels have been known to come off, in spite of improved tires some blow out, and brakes fail. "That boy never gave me one speck of trouble in any direction," the Tiger relates.

A new enrollee named Humphrey collected "Horatio" as a nickname but doesn't seem too loyal to his candidate kinfolk.

I initially bunked in with a Grandpa from the Raleigh area who was plagued with a heavy cold. "You won't sleep much in here," he warned, "for I'm the world's worst snorer." Snoring by my roommates has never bothered me but a time or two. An 80-man barracks of navy shavetails produced all kinds of lumbering and steam engine noises, which proved no deterrent to sleep. But my new found friend wasn't teasing. He is the world champion. After three sleepless nights, I gave up the ghost and moved out.

The graduate list over the 21 years Hebron has been in operation includes many distinguished graduates, business and professional people, all-American football players, etc., etc., not the least among them a member of one of the 1951 classes, who during Depression days, worked for the Al Capone organization, hauling illicit booze ashore through the tricky sandbars. Mac figures he missed Atlanta's federal detention establishment by three days. He had motor trouble and his boat was in drydock when the feds closed in on the whole operation. Capone was paying the Coast Guard commander to keep his ship's fan-tails turned during the unloading process and the slowdown came from the outside.

The revernor in charge commanded the Captain's cabin and summoned him. He looked at the officer, well-laden with rank in the form of scrambled eggs on his hat and the three gold stripes of commander rank on the arms of his coat, and fainted dead away.

The crooked Captain had good reason. The revernor had been an undercover man, most recently the Captain's cook.

Interesting people, these Hebronites.

...And The Veto!



Viewpoints of Other Editors

THE FALL

With all the talk about guaranteed annual incomes and cradle-to-grave security it might be well to take a look at what the historian and scholar Edward Gibbon wrote many years ago about the ancient Athenians. Once the center of civilized world, Athens went on the skids and never again rose to its previous position of relative importance to other nations. Wrote Gibbon, "In the end, more than they wanted freedom, they wanted security. They wanted a comfortable life and they lost it all—security, comfort and freedom. When the Athenians finally wanted not to give to society, but for society to give to them, when the freedom they wished for most was freedom from responsibility, then Athens ceased to be free and never was free again." It happened to Athens. It happened to Rome. It happened to other city-states and nations that turned soft. It can happen here. —Indianapolis Star

IT'S AN ILL WIND

Since the November elections could mean a change of the party in power, the Government has just officially announced that it won't take part in the talks aimed at achieving a new world pact to "stabilize" the price of sugar. "Stabilize" is of course a euphemism that usually means to push prices up. With the sugar pact thus in doubt, it's interesting to note that the price-fixing International Coffee Agreement also is in some trouble. Member nations are fighting for permission to sell more coffee, and some of them are even fearful that the ICA's high prices may be curbing demand. While almost anyone can sympathize with the problems of the coffee- and sugar-producing countries, these cartel-like arrangements at best have been rickety substitutes for the economic reforms that are often needed. In the meantime U.S. consumers, hard pressed by inflation's rising prices, may welcome the blowing of this particular wind. —The Wall Street Journal

LESS, PLEASE

It appears that football on TV may be about to get its comeuppance. Not that we're outrightly against the sport. If one can bear the inane half-time pageants, football—with its sudden crushings of bones followed by long moments of huddled dullness—is uniquely American entertainment. Seen in moderation. But with each succeeding season over the past decade the sport has been more and more of a bully in taking over the TV screen on weekends. This year 96 professional football "dates" have been set. And when it's remembered that these are long, three-hour dates, and that in addition are all the college games, warm-up and rerun shows, many a viewer who vainly flecks the dial for relief can feel antipathetic sentiments stirring within him. So the news that CBS was caught with only 65 percent of its football game adtime sold early this month, and that NBC had similarly sold only 80 percent and ABC 75 percent, it may just be that the law of diminishing returns has put a shoulder block to the time-hogging giant.

WASHINGTON REPORT

NEGLECT OF RESPONSIBILITY

In still another overdue action, the House of Representatives approved legislation that we hope will insure the integrity of the Federal employees retirement fund. Since most Federal employees are not covered by the Social Security system, they must look to their own Federal system for retirement benefits. Although the Federal workers have made their contributions to the fund as required by law, the government has not contributed its share and it is time that the facts be faced. The present condition of the fund shows that it has a current unfunded liability of more than \$35 billion. At the present rates of payments, it will have exhausted its balance by 1987. Certainly, this is an example of Federal neglect of responsibility since it has failed to make provisions to pay a just obligation. Under the system we are adopting now, we are taking some difficult first steps that should have been taken many years ago.

MISSION OF OUR SCHOOLS

The most confusing skirmish of the week occurred in the final discussion of the huge Appropriations bill providing money to operate the Department of Health, Education and Welfare and the Department of Labor. Although there were many areas of disagreement, the biggest was about the Federal government's desire to dictate to the States and local communities on questions of primary and elementary education. Many of us have predicted "his process as the price of Federal aid to local schools and we can regret that the predictions are all too true. The issues of bussing students, the denial of reasonable freedom of choice in schools to attend, and the whole

The Veterans Corner

EDITOR'S NOTE: Below are authoritative answers by the Veterans Administration to some of the many current questions from former servicemen and their families. Further information on veterans benefits may be obtained at any VA office.

Q—I received a Veterans Administration Certificate of Eligibility for education in the fall of 1967 but I never used it. I now plan to go to school this fall and will be entering the same school and taking the same program for which I originally applied. Do I need an undated Certificate of Eligibility?

A—No. Since you are going to the same school and taking the same program as stated in your original Certificate, you need not apply for an updated certificate.

Q—I am a World War I veteran and not in receipt of Veterans Administration benefits. However, I am a patient in a private nursing home. Am I entitled to aid and attendance benefits?

A—You are not entitled to aid and attendance benefits unless you are entitled to basic pension or compensation benefits. However, disabled veterans with limited incomes are entitled to pensions, and veterans 65 years of age or older are presumed to be disabled for pension purposes. If you think you might be eligible, check with your nearest VA office.

Q—I would like to know if a widow of a World War I veteran could sell her home and buy more property without the profit from the sale of the home being considered as income. Would this "profit" cause her to lose her pension?

A—Most widows receiving VA pensions are under the "new law" in effect since July 1, 1960, which does not consider such profit as income. Other widows are receiving pensions under a still operative "old law" which does define profit from the sale of property as income. Therefore net profit payments extending for a period of years beyond the year of sale are counted as income.

Q—My husband was killed while on active duty during WW II. Is it too late for me to buy a home with a loan guaranteed by the VA?

A—it is not. You still have nearly two years, until July 25, 1970, to obtain a G.I. loan.

Q—My husband, who served in the Army just before World War II, is now very ill. If he dies, is he eligible for the VA burial allowance and the flag for his casket?

A—Since he is not a wartime veteran, he would not qualify for the \$250 burial allowance unless he receives compensation for a service-connected injury or was discharged for disabilities received in line of duty. However, if he served at least one enlistment and was honorably discharged during peacetime he is eligible for a burial flag to drape his casket. issue of whether education ought to be controlled by a bureaucratic Czar in Washington needs analysis and sober study so we see clearly where our schools are going and what mission we are assigning them. Some safeguards were finally provided by the Congress in this bill and I favored them. Nevertheless, I feel sure that the Federal Office of Education already knows how to get around the safeguards so that it can continue its efforts to play an even greater role in the management of our schools.

TODAY'S BIBLE VERSE
 Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he. Proverbs 29:18

Why Not Gardner

Some six years ago, when Democrats were conjecturing about their political future in North Carolina and crystal-balling the twin spectres of Lake-wing Democrats and U. S. Representative Charles Raper Jonas as possible Republican Governor candidate, then-Governor Terry Sanford was asked, "How do you regard the chances of the Republicans to win the governorship in 1964."

The Governor replied, "I hope not." He explained he did not speak from the position of partisan politics but for "the good of North Carolina".

He pointed out that whoever the GOP governor might be, and with no derogation of Mr. Jonas or any other, that it was most likely the General Assembly would be dominated by Democrats, a portent of stagnation for four long years.

Should the Republican win, he added, he would hope that his party could also elect more of its own to the General Assembly.

"We the People of North Carolina", monthly publication of the North Carolina Citizens Association, devotes much of its October issue to a summary of the North Carolina 1968 election contests. Perusal of the candidate lists show:

1) Fifteen Democrats have no opposition for election to the state senate. One Republican is similarly home free. Election of eleven Democrats will provide a majority for this party.

2) For the 120-member House of Representatives, 25 Democrats have no opposition while two Republicans have none. While there is more opportunity, on percentage, for Republican improvement in the House toward the magic majority figure of 61, the odds against the GOP gaining control of the lower body are considerable.

That's the logical approach to opposing Gardner.

The emotional approach is that this brash young man from Rocky Mount, in his public statements, has been reckless and sometimes careless with the facts, nor has his performance as a United States Senator been sointillating.

"Necessary" Expense

The special legislative commission on financial problems of local governments, of which Senator Jack White and Representative Bob Falls are members, will recommend several constitutional amendments designed to give local governments more freedom in managing local affairs.

One will be further clarification and delineation of just what is a necessary function of government, such as: hospitals, recreational facilities, and others.

Cleveland County, most specifically Kings Mountain, has recently had a painful experience in this direction. Voted hospital construction funds — minus federal supplementation — were insufficient. The alternatives were: (1) let the \$500,000 borrowing authority lapse and forget the project; (2) ask the voters for more funds via an expensive county-wide election; (3) raise the money by public subscription.

Course No. 3 was followed successfully.

The North Carolina Supreme Court has ruled that, under present legal authority, hospitals are not "necessary" functions of county government.

Occupancy rates of Kings Mountain hospital and others throughout the state and nation indicate otherwise and the federal medicare program has added much more demand for hospital bed space.

North Carolina remains conservative in its approach to government and to taxes. Balanced budgets are required at all levels of government, and the people must approve long-term borrowing, quite basically sound. But in the instance of the Kings Mountain hospital problem, had hospitals been a necessary function of county government, the comparatively small amount of construction cash required could have been obtained without an election under the three-steps forward, two-backward law. A Tar Heel governmental unit may issue bonds, without a vote, totaling up to two-thirds the amount of the previous year's net debt requirement.

The city was in a similar swivet a few years ago when it came time to supply its small share of funds for the National Guard Armory.

No Tipping, Please

Time was when some few establishments providing board, bed and entertainment followed a "no tipping" policy.

Today there are many, except for a joker in the deal whereby a tipping surcharge (usually 15 percent) is built into the total tab.

Neither policy is right.

The gratuity for service should be in the province of he who is served.

Good service nominally would be rewarded with liberal tips, and poor service vice versa.

What about the pinchpenny who never tips?

That would right itself, for his service would suffer.

The built-in service surcharge is a simple means of requiring the customer to pay the owner's maids, waitresses and bellboys. It over rewards the careless and slovenly and under-rewards those who worry about service first and size of tip second.

Does a customer owe the service surcharge? Some citizen association would do well to bring a test case in the courts.

Time To Register

Registration scrolls open Saturday for the November 5 general election.

A new registration was conducted in Cleveland County in 1964 and any citizen who has voted in the primaries of that year and since or in the general elections of 1964 and 1966 are eligible to vote.

Otherwise, a citizen should visit his registrar and append his name to the voting lists.

This is our regular election reminder: having voted in city elections does not qualify a person to vote at the county, district, state and national. There are two election processes and separate voter scrolls are maintained. Many will not note the reminder and will "know I'm registered", only to be turned away from the polling booths. It happens every election.

The safe course is to check with the registrar.

Those citizens who expect to be elsewhere on election day should write the county elections board immediately for absentee ballots. There are several days of time lag between processing of application and return of the voted ballot to the elections board.

Wallace Veep Choice

General Curtis LeMay gains plaudits as an excellent Air Force boss... period.

Typical of his background and training, he is opinionated and dictatorial, hardly traits designed to succeed in democratic government where leading the mule to water and getting him

to drink is the particular art. Life in the professional military ranks has not proved to be good training for governmental leadership in this nation. Presidents Washington and Jackson were civilian generals.

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 Kings Mountain, N. C.
 News & Weather every hour on the hour. Weather every hour on the half hour.
 Fine entertainment in between

Christian Science Monitor