

## Golden Rule Is The Key To Safety

THE PLACE to attack the traffic safety problem in North Carolina is in the community and the responsibility rests upon each individual citizen. These facts will be demonstrated Wednesday when Charlotte participates in a nationwide observance of Safe Driving Day.

Careful plans have already been laid. Mayor Phil Van Every has named a seven-man committee to publicize the event. Police authorities, public information media, insurance companies, automobile clubs and safety groups have conducted a 30-day campaign of intensive public education. It has probably been the greatest cooperative job ever undertaken in behalf of accident prevention.

The challenge to make Safe Driving Day a success has shifted now to individual motorists and pedestrians. The test confronting Charlotte will be to remain completely free of traffic accidents for the entire 24-hour period.

The sponsor of S-D Day, the President's Action Committee for Traffic Safety, hopes to show that motorists and pedestrians can eliminate traffic accidents by their own actions. By asking everyone in every state and community to join in a 24-hour demonstration, the committee hopes to achieve dramatic and convincing results.

S-D Day will also serve as a prelude to North Carolina's own traffic safety campaign to be launched soon. Plans for the program were laid in Raleigh Dec. 3 at the first meeting of the Governor's Traffic Safety Council. A successful S-D Day will give great stimulus to this Tar Heel appeal and help foster year-round attention to the necessity for safe driving and walking.

The desperate need for effective action on traffic safety is illustrated by a bundle of grisly statistics:

Last year, Americans killed one person on the average every 14 minutes around the clock—a total of 38,300 people on the nation's streets and highways.

There was an injury in traffic approximately every 23 seconds. A total of 1,350,000 persons were injured enough to be disabled beyond the day of the accident. For every fatality, one or more persons were totally and permanently disabled.

The economic loss from traffic accidents in 1953 was estimated at four billion dollars—five times as much as the U. S. fire loss during the same year.

In all, there were nearly 20 million traffic accidents last year. In addition to approximately one million fatal and personal injury accidents there were about 3.2 million property damage accidents involving \$25 or more and about 5.2 million in which the property damage was less than \$25.

The job ahead is huge—especially with more and more vehicles crowding onto the streets of Charlotte and the rest of the nation. But accidents can be reduced, as some communities already have proved. It can be done if every individual helps by taking personal responsibility for complete adherence to these basic safety principles on S-D Day and every day:

1—Observe the letter and spirit of all traffic regulations.

2—Be courteous to every driver and pedestrian—practice sportsmanship.

3—Give full attention to driving and walking.

In short, it is a matter of driving and walking as you would have everyone else drive and walk.

It's simply the Golden Rule all over again.

## People's Platform

# Give Me Lonesome Places'

Editors' Note: Almost every year, and usually when North Carolina weather is at its worst and Arizona's is at its best, The Heel Williamson writes us of the sunny, rugged, spacious car-free West.

Phoenix, Ariz.

Editors, The News:

AFTER four years with a Republican governor, Arizona voters have succeeded in electing a Democrat, along with a majority of the House and the state senate. Hon. Ernest W. McFarland, former U. S. senator, is to be our governor this coming January. He won by a majority of 12,000 votes. This state has a registration of about two to one Democrats over the Republicans.

Evidently the voters are tired of the Democrats' former chance and it seems they are on trial. Let's hope they do not make any bad moves, or the Republicans will give us a licking two years hence.

I do not know how it is back in my old home state, North Carolina. (Editors' Note: Times have changed. Bill) but believe there are many Democrats here who are guarding the fort. But, out here in the baby state of Arizona, you can never tell what the voters will do.

Now that the winter climate, coming here from every state in the union and so many Republicans among them, an election is likely to go any way.

Arizona now has close to a million population. When I came here first 40 years ago, it had a population of about 300,000. Phoenix, the state capital where I have made my home for 25 years, had 20,000 persons 25 years ago.

Now it has a population in the city limits of more than 100,000 and another 25,000 in the metropolitan area of 25 miles square. This does not include the winter visitors and tourists who come here for the winter climate.

Today, Dec. 4, our low temperature was about 50 and high about 60. I have not seen a frost here for years and would not have one as a gift. I returned to this state after World War I on a doctor's advice, as I was suffering from a disability incurred in World War I. I weighed less than 150 lbs. and had been six months in bed. I was then working as a police officer.

Today at almost 65 years of age, I weigh over 200 pounds and work 15 hours every day at my business of operating a collection agency, and sometimes at prospecting for gold, silver, uranium, and big game hunting.

I am going to retire from business pursuits next year and am looking down to real hard work and prospecting for gold and uranium.

I used to lead a burro into the hills with my bedroll and provisions, but this time I'm going with a jeep and Geiger counter, and all modern facilities and equipment. Many valuable uranium deposits have already been found.

Most inexcusable trip of the current rash of junkets is being taken by the Joint Atomic Energy Committee's pilgrimage—11 in all. Some of these junkets are definitely helpful in getting congressional oriented regarding the fast-track problems they have to legislate on these days; some are a pure waste of the taxpayers' money.

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found in the state, and I'm very lucky this time. So far, I've never discovered any more than small gold deposits, sometimes I would make as much as 50 cents in one day, sometimes more, but that did not matter as much as the satisfaction of knowing that I was gaining more than gold would buy—that was my health and I kicked myself home in a jiffy and gave him a couple of 45's and went back to sleep.

The worst nuisance of all is when you run into a bunch of friendly percupities. They will surround your camp and when you try to kick 'em out they will lose a bunch of their quills and you are in a bad fix. Therefore, I simply try and avoid this type of camp visitor. Sometimes a brown bear will wreck your camp if you leave anything there that he likes to eat. And the coyotes will steal things from your camp and howl at you all night long.

But, when you go to a good place for them and when you shoot a couple, they will let you alone. In all, in no one need fear wild animals. They usually are clear of human beings and the worst menace are human thieves, who sometimes will rob your camp, steal your jeep and what have you.

Most prospectors go in pairs and one always leads the camp with a rifle handy. I usually prospect alone, but am always armed when I hear and motor vehicle approach my camp. I'll be ready for any emergency.

A person can take a good jeep, 10 gallons of gas, a good tent, change of oil, a good bedroll, salt and pepper, bacon, lard, flour, macaroni, canned milk, dried fruit, etc., and live for weeks without going to a store. Water and wood are plentiful for miles around and look for it and it is free. There are always cottontail rabbits handy and you can shoot and eat them if you are near a mountain stream, you can have trout for breakfast, if you know how to catch them. And if emergency comes, you can usually bag a nice juicy fat snake back deer.

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hombre. At night I can sit by my camp fire and listen to the howl of the coyotes or the bark of a fox who objects to my presence and when I get sleepy I can wrap up in my blankets and dream a big strike somewhere over the hill. In the city I always have pains and aches every time I turn in the radio and listen to some commercial trying to sell pills or breath freshers, perfume or some new fangled appliance. But, out in the hills I never feel any pains and aches unless I eat too many beans for supper, or else overeat my digestive apparatus with an overload of wild trout, trout or venison.

Out in the desert and hill you have no boss to tell you what to do, no woman cautioning you about tracking dirt on the carpet, and the gas and electric bill has no one to pay but you. You do not have to have your suit cleaned and pressed every other day and if you don't feel like changing your socks, you just don't change 'em, that's all. When you need a bath, you fill a tub of water and set it on the fire and when it gets hot enough you lift it off and take off your clothes and take a bath and wash out your dirty underwear in the same water and hang it on a bush to dry.

Life is very simple in the hills and desert. Two meals per day is all you need and every bite of food tastes good to you. You are free, you are healthy and happy. You feel good all the time. While in the city you are struggling all the time for existence, getting off before your time and a target for the doctors, lawyers, insurance salesmen and others with some kind of authority.

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## Adlai's Taking Care Of His Financial, Political Future

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON

ADLAI E. STEVENSON, according to those who have seen him at close quarters recently, is a thoroughly relaxed politician—surprisingly relaxed, for a man so given to agonizing over difficult decisions.

His friends have a simple explanation for Stevenson's untense attitude. Stevenson, they say, has concluded that the difficult decision which faces him—whether to try again in 1956—largely out of his hands. Moreover, he quite genuinely does not greatly care which way the decision goes. This attitude springs, in turn, from Stevenson's analysis of the political situation.

In the first place, the Democratic leader has told friends that he is assuming that President Eisenhower will run again—and perhaps wisely—so that Eisenhower will bow out. They point to the bad trouble which Eisenhower surely have in the next two years, and to the evidence that both the President and especially Mrs. Eisenhower have a few years of untroubled rest.

**PRESSURE ON IKE**

But it is obvious that the pressure on Eisenhower to run will be extraordinarily heavy in 1956, if only because the Republican Party looks more and more as though it would come apart if the seams if he withdrew. Stevenson accepts the majority view—that this pressure will be so heavy that Eisenhower cannot possibly resist it.

In the second place, unlike Stevenson, the Democrats acknowledge that Eisenhower is still remarkably popular. He has told friends that Eisenhower could beat any Democratic candidate as of today—and he made no exceptions. Moreover, he has a depression, terrible but not a disaster, or the total, visible disintegration of the Republican Party. Eisenhower is likely to remain a most formidable candidate two years from now—perhaps still an unbeatable candidate.

In this situation—or so his friends purport to believe—Stevenson would not be unhappy to sit this one out. He has not said so in so many words. But his attitude suggests that he will not object strongly if some one else takes on the job of being Eisenhower's sacrificial lamb. Stevenson is only 54, his friends point out.

But Stevenson really does have strong doubts about the wisdom of taking on Eisenhower in the partnership with the brilliant younger lawyer, William Wirtz, Stevenson hopes to recoup this loss. He already has several lucrative clients—namely the giant (and political controversial) Radio Corporation of America.

The two pictures emerge—Stevenson scheming for the nomination, and of Stevenson the private citizen intent on recouping the loss of his political career to underdog underdog. Curiously enough, both pictures are probably fairly accurate.

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## Uncle Wasn't Alone In Cotton Error

WE THOUGHT for a while that we'd found, right under Sen. Harry Byrd's and the Hoover Commission's nose, a government agency that ought to be abolished. But investigation suggests that the agency has not outlived its usefulness.

The agency in question is the Department of Agriculture's Crop Reporting Board. Its experts forecast crop yields. Lately the board has been under fire from the cotton trade. COTTON DUST editorialized last month that:

There seems little doubt that the cotton industry as a whole, and the vast majority of the members of the industry, have lost faith in the Crop Reporting Board and its crop forecasts. Insofar as cotton is concerned, the board's performance of the board can be appreciably improved, it is open to question whether the cotton crop reports are not doing more harm than good.

The cotton men were angry because the board's monthly estimates fluctuated so much. On Aug. 1 the board forecast a harvest of 12,680,000 bales. A month later the estimate went down 848,000 bales. Oct. 1 it went up 679,000 bales. Nov. 1 it went up 695,000 bales. And Dec. 1 it went up another 363,000 to 13,560,000.

Some of the persons who acted on the basis of these reports got hurt. When the sharply decreased estimate came out in September raw cotton purchases and prices picked up considerably in anticipation of the winter crop. Then when the forecast was revised upward business fell off sharply. Mill management didn't know what to expect next.

The board, obviously, erred in its early estimates. But it wasn't alone.

Private organizations also make crop forecasts. One of the most reputable in

the business is the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE, which bases its conclusions on reports from several thousand crop correspondents. Here's how its forecasts compare with those of the CRB.

MONTH	CRB	JOC
Aug.	12,680,000	12,224,000
Sept.	11,822,000	11,685,000
Oct.	12,511,000	12,752,000
Nov.	13,206,000	13,177,000
Dec.	13,560,000	13,503,000

That is seen the JOURNAL OF COMMERCE estimates fluctuated even as the CRB's did. The JOURNAL's September estimate didn't drop as sharply as the CRB's did, but descended to an even lower figure. From September on the two groups were within 141,000 bales of each other. The last two months they were only 29,000 and 66,000 bales apart. And if the approximate figure that they both now accept, about 13.5 million, is correct, then the JOURNAL made a greater error—by almost half a million bales—in its August forecast.

Crop forecasting is a difficult business, particularly during the growing season. Crop forecasters have to consider unknowns like weather and its effect, possible pest damage, extent of overplanting and amount of increased yield due to technological progress.

It seems to us that the cotton men may be overanxious to get the government out of the cotton crop forecasting business. Maybe the government men are sharper than, or as sharp as, private prognosticators. But with Uncle Sam in the business, private manipulation of estimates for commercial advantage is discouraged. And with the cotton trade keeping a sharp and critical eye on Uncle, political manipulation of the figures by the government will be difficult.

## Technology: Blessing Or Curse?

SINCE the industrial revolution began, applied science has engineered one social change after another. And there is no end to the transition. Technology has its frightening aspect, however. For instance, delegates to the CIO convention in Los Angeles wondered last week about the impact of push-button factory production on American labor. They asked Congress to investigate.

Similar fears have been expressed for over half a century. What really is the long-range economic effect of these power age advances? Is the day coming when a handful of switch-throws will turn out the goods America needs?

Inventions naturally cause a phenomenon called technological unemployment.

From The Tar Heel Banner

## 'MAY WE NOT SPEND CHRISTMAS'

DR. PETER MARSHALL probably was one of the most popular and effective chaplains in the United States Senate ever had His prayers made a profound impression on all who heard them.

He had a