

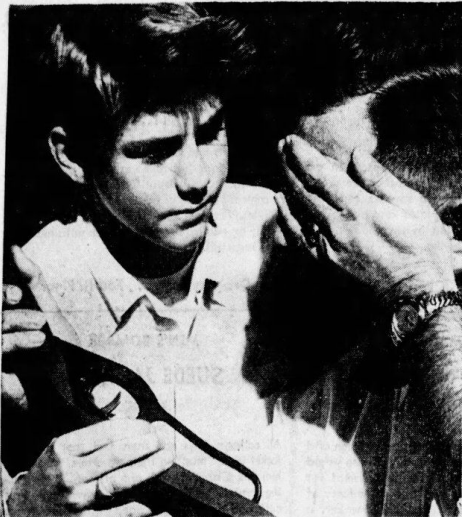


THE CHARLOTTE NEWS

THOMAS L. ROBINSON.....Publisher
J. E. DOWD.....General Manager
B. S. GRIFFITH.....Executive Editor
C. A. MCKNIGHT (On Leave).....Editor

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 23, 1954

Make 'Safety First' A Yuletide Motto



BECAUSE danger lurks in the shadows when carefree merriment is at its height, Christmas can be the most perilous day of the year. A physician we know says he cannot remember a Yuletide morning when he has not been called to the scene of some holiday tragedy. "Why is it," he sighs, "that on the happiest day of the year people have to be so confounded careless?"

This carelessness is not confined to the streets and highways—choked with holiday traffic. It spills over into the living rooms of America. It rears its ugly head when a nice, shiny air rifle is unwrapped beneath the Christmas tree and suddenly becomes an instrument of destruction... when the inclination to "show off" on a new pair of skates gets the better of Junior... when youngsters are given potentially dangerous toys before they are old enough to handle them safely... when someone decides to break the law and explode some fireworks.

The responsibility for guarding against these holiday hazards rests on children and older people alike.

Lighting The Way At Christmas Time

WHEN does the Yuletide season begin? It comes in different ways and times.

For a man it may be when, at the square, ears pleased and heart lightened by the music and the bells and the parade of hurried shoppers, he stops to pick up a dropped package and return it with a cheerful greeting.

The season may descend upon his wife while in the kitchen as she decides to help stop the lamentable trend against homemade fruitcakes, and chops the fruit into fine pieces, shells the nuts and beats the batter.

Children may suddenly discover it is the Christmas season (and not just the being-good season, for that begins earlier and lasts only until they know that the family presents for them have been purchased) when they tiptoe around the house looking for remote and dark corners in which to hide the presents they will give.

If a family or an individual is fortunate, the season begins at night, from a vantage point on the street which offers full view of lighted Christmas trees in neighborhood windows. They

shed a radiance beyond their candlepower to the passing motorist. But he who walks unburied along the street can breathe in the atmosphere they create. And lucky is the man who views this spectacle with snowflakes gently falling all about him.

The lighted Christmas tree, pagan though its derivation may be, illuminates the way for man who seeks an understanding with his God.

It is true that organization of the United States Senate is in the hands of God and Wayne Morse, but this should not be construed as a partnership.—DALLAS MORNING NEWS.

Where you started isn't as important as where you are, which isn't as important as where you're going.—GREENVILLE (TENN.) SUN.

It is easier to run the country if you're not present.—MEMPHIS PRESS-SCIMITAR.

By always doing your best, you'll never have to worry about the worst.—LAUREL (MISS.) LEADER-CALL.

Industry On A Spree

Now It's 'Bankers' Hotrods'

FROM CONSUMER REPORTS

Dear C.U.: I bought a Moremore Super Deluxe Five-Star Extra Special the other day, which I understand is the standard, or stripped, model put out by the Moremore Motor Corp. of Motor Co. Anyway, it's the one which has the American flag in chrome on the two front fenders, and I don't think it has more than a couple of hundred horsepower, or didn't last week when I got mine.

I used to be able to see out of cars. I never minded pushing the horn. I can even remember cars that were short enough to park (of course, I haven't seen a parking space for several years). I can remember a whole lot of nice things about cars. Do you know what's going on in Detroit? Who's crazy, the Moremore Motor Corp. or me?

—PUZZLED READER.

IN ANSWER to Puzzled Reader, how things have changed in Detroit over the years should be clear enough to anyone who reads the ads. The emphasis now is on beauty, size, power and luxury.

These are the things which Detroit believes will sell the most cars. It is true that if the ideas of the designing engineers happen to conflict with those of the sales department in the job of outbeautifying out-horsepowering

and out-numbering the competition in buttons to be pushed, the engineers step back. Glamour is the order of the day.

It is also true that car buyers seem to like what they see, by and large, and to ask for more. ENGINEERING WONDERS Consumers Union is not suggesting that present-day car engineering. On the contrary, due to the new limitations imposed on them, the engineers have to sweat out mechanical features that 10 years ago would have seemed impossible even to Rube Goldberg.

The basic durability of cars is better than it ever was, thanks to the engineers. The cars, mechanically speaking, serve well. But C.U.'s point is that, for the sake of saleable attributes, features are built into cars which the engineers can only be unhappy about.

Cars must look low and not boxy. Down go the seats, especially the rear seat, which in some models is so low as to be unfit for long habitation.

Often the hood and the cowl are not lowered when the seats are lowered, and if the short driver can see over the steering wheel and the cowl he (or she) is lucky. At a time of greater traffic complexity and scarcer parking spots, cars are being designed which are somewhat wider. As any student of evolution can tell you, some

such negative progress extinguished the dinosaur.

Largely negative also is the industry's approach to the question of providing safer cars. Nothing has been done to keep the feet from flying open in a crash; little—and that done unscientifically—to neutralize the head-smashing characteristics of dashboards; the catapulting-forward of seats, the crushing of unsupported roofs in "hardtop convertible" models (the fastest increasing body type).

ICY PERILS

Any 20-year-old car would walk by the new models on a snowy or icy road. It would also require less arduous steering on curves or down a winding road than do many—not all—modern cars.

This is true because, beginning with the 1947 Studebaker, engines have moved forward and seats moved forward, too. Now, close to 60 per cent of the weight of some cars rests on the front wheels. Rear seats were made wider as cars rode better. The industry adopted the feature, and hoped it would not snow or freeze.

A WARNING

Presumably, the engineers at



Put it this way... Where could you possibly get more envy for your money...?

this point sounded a warning. Experimental engineers at least were in a position to know what was coming.

Probably V-8 engines were coming, fast. Since more power usually calls for heavier construction throughout, the trend toward larger, heavier, more powerful, less accessible cars, costing more to buy, more to run and more to repair, got under way.

One of the features of a V-8 engine is its compactness. The V-8 concentrates a lot of weight in a small space—to wit, in the car's nose; it makes the problem of handling the car, especially parking, still more acute. The engineers exerted themselves, and some cars were evolved which handled well. More didn't.

Chrysler was the first to cut the vicious circle of more weight, harder steering and parking, and increased steering wheel winding by putting in power steering.

HORSEPOWER RACE

A major iniquity—from the engineers' point of view, for one—is the horsepower race. Like many other trends, this one started with the high-priced cars, which have been turned into "bankers' hot rods," and is rapidly spreading downward.

Here it is plain that the engineers had their orders from above: they brought out, with due deliberation, new Lincoln and Cadillac engines of 160 horsepower—just in one year were forced to jump them up to 205 and 210, with

Packard, Oldsmobile, and Buick stop on their heels. Chrysler, which started it all by getting, with ease, 180 horsepower from an engine size that gave 160 in a Cadillac has run far beyond its original choice.

SACRIFICIES? Nothing has been said, of course, as to what was sacrificed, for the ordinary user, in "hotting up" these engines—such things as docility, quick warming up, moderate-speed economy, longer engine life, greater smoothness, and the possibility of much better moderate speed performance.

Furthermore, in running top speeds up well above 100 miles per hour (even the Dodge has been timed at 100 and in building up the "power to pass" between 70 and 90 miles an hour, the manufacturers have, many of them, been guilty of a dangerous practice—driving all this power into vehicles that do not handle, steer, stop or hold the road as high-powered cars should go.

To C. U., it seems that the automobile industry has somewhere got off on the wrong track. Whatever the short-term advantages to the industry from building treacherous bankers' hot rods and plastic-bodied dreamboats, in the long run it will gain most—and so will consumers, in C. U.'s opinion—to the extent that it mass produces reasonably priced cars which give fairly comfortable and speedy transportation without having to be fixed all the time.

Capricious Courts Are Much Too Powerful

Editors, The News:

I AM A FARMER from Milan, Minnesota, stopping briefly in Charlotte, to visit Charlotte, the home of the Mecklenburg District Court. The Mecklenburg District Court, it is to be inspired anew by the fighting courage of our forefathers to a re-dedication to the principle and idea of individual liberty for and to which they unreservedly committed their fortunes, their lives, and their sacred honor.

Our greatest danger today is from courts which completely ignore the doctrine of self-limitation, without which the republic cannot possibly survive (except by constitutional amendment); which courts recognize and effectuate the Constitution only when it suits their convenience,

whim, caprice, and pleasure; and when it does not interfere too much with the dominant personality in and about the courts. At the same time, these courts insist upon their own infallibility to the point where they claim that anyone who disagrees with them is subversive, and fit only to be broken and beaten. The courts have, moreover, so far conditioned lawyers to this way of thinking that they, the lawyers, dare enjoy only a second class citizenship, can properly protest neither themselves nor their clients without being penalized, and have earned the contempt and distrust of the nation.

For instance, the people of Wisconsin and the nation lost a good man when Joseph McCarthy became a circuit judge of that state. As such, his thinking was conditioned to a point where he actually held the common touch, he became self-important and arrogant, and

unreasonably sensitive to opposition in any kind or degree. Any human being who disagrees with him is a liar, a thief or a Communist according to the nature and extent of his divergence from the senatorial thinking. He discarded the specious thinking in and about the courts, and by his association with present day judiciary, he may yet become a great statesman of inestimable value to his state and nation.

Be assured that I am of those who stand completely and unflinchingly with the rebels who fight for even handed justice and constitutional balance. Stick to your guns.

—A. M. JOYCE

When Ma Takes Up Serious Poker, Pa Better Watch Out

By ROBERT C. RUARK

THERE is a heartening sign around these days; a friend writes that his wife, who lives in Houston, Texas, has taken up high-stake poker, and that the girls of her set have given up the fancier canasta and gin rummies and have become devotees of stud and draw.

It seems that the girls play in the afternoon, and that they do not drink much while they play, and that they do not play like baseball, spit-in-the-ocean, seven-card-high-low, or operate with a stripped deck.

They play table stakes, and, this being Texas, a girl can drop a grand on any Friday, or may come home with three or four thousand. "What makes it nice," the man says, "is that she gives me her winnings to put in a special account, against which she records her losses. I do not have to go through her pocketbook like old wives used to pilage a gentleman's pants. She does not play for the money; she plays for the sport."

There is actually no reason why a woman would not make a magnificent poker player, since deception, intuition, and sharp appraisal of strength or weakness count heavily in the game. But all the dames that I ever got trapped into playing poker with seemed to regard it as a garden sport rather than a tough business. You could never bluff a woman, because her natural curiosity made her stick in with a pair of deuces when she was looking at three kings, showing.

'INSUFFERABLE'

They always wanted to strip the deck down to the tens, and they invented the most ornate of variations, where you needed an ace full to open and they played off a tie between royal flushes. They talked all the time, and bet out of turn, and forgot whether a straight beat a flush or the other way around, and were generally insufferable.

Poker is a game for great concentration, huge courage of conviction, chilled-steel nerve, and a high sense of adventure. It is also a game for the supernatural, nice intuition and subtle humor. A real poker player can feel aces backed before he peeps, he knows when he fills the flush before he actually gets the card; he can feel that his friend Joe is really sitting on a three looking for a flush, and bets another hundred that he's right and Joe's wrong.

For all of these reasons it should have been a game in which women excelled, but they never seemed to take it very seriously until now. If poker spreads, I think that we can say it will not be very long before we have a female president of the United States. They finally will have earned their right to compete with men.

For all of these reasons it should have been a game in which women excelled, but they never seemed to take it very seriously until now. If poker spreads, I think that we can say it will not be very long before we have a female president of the United States. They finally will have earned their right to compete with men.

For all of these reasons it should have been a game in which women excelled, but they never seemed to take it very seriously until now. If poker spreads, I think that we can say it will not be very long before we have a female president of the United States. They finally will have earned their right to compete with men.

For all of these reasons it should have been a game in which women excelled, but they never seemed to take it very seriously until now. If poker spreads, I think that we can say it will not be very long before we have a female president of the United States. They finally will have earned their right to compete with men.

For all of these reasons it should have been a game in which women excelled, but they never seemed to take it very seriously until now. If poker spreads, I think that we can say it will not be very long before we have a female president of the United States. They finally will have earned their right to compete with men.

HERBLOCK

OFF THE WASHINGTON PARTY

Drew Pearson's Merry-Go-Round

MRS. Jane Morrow Spaulding, recently named the outstanding Negro woman of the Year, has been getting an royal run-around from the Eisenhower Administration and Negro leaders are quite unhappy about it.

Mrs. Spaulding was brought into government originally as a special assistant to Mrs. Oveta Culp Hobby, secretary for health, education and welfare. But Secretary Hobby refused to keep her distinguished Negro assistant after the latter publicly expressed a desire to see Negro doctors admitted to the staff of a Texas hospital.

This got Mrs. Hobby, a Texan, into a hot corner. So it was discreetly arranged for Mrs. Spaulding to transfer to another agency. The agency that inherited her was the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission where she settled down to a \$10,000-a-year job.

After the election, however, when Negro voters were not counted by Chairman Whitney Gilliland went on a firing spree. It turned out that Mrs. Spaulding's chief backer, GOP Sen. John Sherman Cooper of Kentucky, was defeated. So Mrs. Spaulding appeared to be politically expendable and was added to the list of employees getting the ax. After this news got out, however, Gil-

land was reminded that it isn't exactly political wisdom to fire the outstanding Negro woman of the Year. He called in reporters, tried to undo the damage.

"I hope," he said, "that Mrs. Spaulding will be retained in her present government in a job of comparable grade. Her services are of value to the government."

Meanwhile, the White House patronage czar, Charles "Jobs for Republicans" Willis, is doing his frantic best to find Mrs. Spaulding a suitable job.

Note: Gilliland's ax sent out dismissal notices to 65 other employees just before Christmas. This is one-fourth of the tiny, 250-employee agency. Most of those fired are experts in processing prisoner-of-war claims, though the agency will be given the job next year of paying benefits to Americans imprisoned in Korea, for inhuman treatment suffered there.

Rockefeller's Job

When President Eisenhower was first asked to name a successor to the late Nelson Rockefeller as his special assistant he didn't seem to know that the appointment was going to be made. However, he has now gone through with



HERBLOCK OFF THE WASHINGTON PARTY

Negro 'Woman Of The Year' Is Fired

the appointment that his advisers had earlier told the press he was going to make. And it looks like an extremely important one.

Nelson Rockefeller will fill the place left vacant by C. D. Jackson, former chairman of the Crusade for Freedom, had entered the White House with high hopes of starting a barrage of propaganda behind the Iron Curtain. He had every reason for those high hopes, since both Eisenhower and John Foster Dulles had talked repeatedly of their plan to win friends behind the Iron Curtain.

Jackson, however, was frustrated in almost every move. He madly ever when Chancellor Adenauer of Germany wrote Eisenhower a letter asking the American people to collect old clothes for Germans, the letter collected dust for three weeks at the summer White House in Denver, by which time it was late to be published. The State Department was too embarrassed to ask Adenauer to write another one, and the old clothes drive fell flat.

Again, when Congress passed a law permitting the White House to give away surplus food to aid American friendship, it took Eisenhower two months to sign an executive order speci-

fying which government agency should handle the food. The law was passed May 17, but the dust on the executive order until Sept. 9.

Meanwhile, C. D. Jackson had long left the White House. Now, after a nine months vacancy, Nelson Rockefeller will take his place.

Practical Idealist

Rockefeller is a practical idealist who was brought into the Roosevelt administration by Harry Hopkins to improve our relations with Latin America. At first there was a howl of dismay. How could Latin Americans, it was said, work with a man whose old companies were operating in Latin America. However, young Rockefeller proved so sympathetic and conscientious that he ended up the hero of Latin Americans.

One thing Rockefeller learned that C. D. Jackson never entirely learned was how to work with government bureaucrats. It took Rockefeller about a year to learn this. But in the end he got on with all sorts of people, from Henry Wallace to Jesse Jones.

Note — Rockefeller will emphasize American friendship more than inciting unrest behind the Iron Curtain.

fying which government agency should handle the food. The law was passed May 17, but the dust on the executive order until Sept. 9.

Meanwhile, C. D. Jackson had long left the White House. Now, after a nine months vacancy, Nelson Rockefeller will take his place.

Rockefeller is a practical idealist who was brought into the Roosevelt administration by Harry Hopkins to improve our relations with Latin America. At first there was a howl of dismay. How could Latin Americans, it was said, work with a man whose old companies were operating in Latin America. However, young Rockefeller proved so sympathetic and conscientious that he ended up the hero of Latin Americans.

One thing Rockefeller learned that C. D. Jackson never entirely learned was how to work with government bureaucrats. It took Rockefeller about a year to learn this. But in the end he got on with all sorts of people, from Henry Wallace to Jesse Jones.

Note — Rockefeller will emphasize American friendship more than inciting unrest behind the Iron Curtain.