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Accent On Attitudes: The Problem Of Traffic Safety In North Carolina

There was of course no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment... It was even conceivable that they watched everybody all the time.

—NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR

WHAT was conceivable in George Orwell's chilling novel about the future is fortunately inconceivable today in North Carolina. No Thought Police lurk in the shadows to pick the brains of unwary "wrong thinkers."

The Scheidt system: Watch as many of the state's motorists as much of the time as possible. He does it with electric "whammies," saturation patrolling and the simple device of planting a trooper by the side of the road where he can see and be seen.

But speeding and reckless driving still make Tar Heel highways among the most dangerous in the nation. Motorists in 35 other states have a better chance of avoiding a fatal accident than do the motorists of North Carolina.

Watching everybody—all of the time—would not prevent this slaughter. Something more is needed. Something has to be done about the attitude of Tar Heel drivers.

THE framework for just such a program was laid Friday in Raleigh when the Governor's Traffic Safety Council held its first meeting.

Beginning soon, safety will be promoted with the same force and effectiveness that North Carolina's health, highway and school needs have been treated in the past.

Is It Wrong To Hurry Christmas?

THE SMOKE you smell is from a burning log and that sound is the tinkle of sleigh bells. Christmas is already here. It came when the tinsel and colored lights appeared above midtown streets and stores filled their display windows with holiday wares.

This eagerness to enter the private world of Christmas is not as evil as it sometimes sounds. It is neither irreverent nor materialistically profane.

Like an army awaiting H-hour, shoppers have held their fire for months.

What he will see and hear may save his life and the lives of his loved ones. It is as simple as that.

Hollywood stars, radio and television personalities, circus performers and even the man in the street will help bring the ABC's of traffic safety to North Carolinians.

Among those who will talk safety to Tar Heels are Charlotte's Billy Graham, Randolph Scott, Hoyt Wilhelm and John Scott Trotter, as well as James Stewart, Dick Powell, Debbie Reynolds, Jackie Robinson, Mickey Rooney, Jack Webb, Ann and Andy Ringling clown Emmett Kelly, Durban golfer Mike Souchak and UNC quarterback Albert Long. A number of films and transcriptions have already been made in Hollywood.

While the campaign is under way, the state safety battle will be fought on three other fronts: Enforcement, engineering and education in the public schools.

But, most important of all, the people must be fully informed and aroused before they can make their highways safer. It will take mass participation as well as individual effort and high moral courage.

We believe the governor, Mr. Scheidt and the traffic safety council have hit upon the formula for success in the difficult field of public safety.

The important thing about this program is that participation need not be delayed. Charlotteans can begin today—and then re dedicate themselves Dec. 15 on Safe-Driving Day.

Ike's Score

THIS being a golfing neighborhood, I dufer of varying political persuasion may appreciate Democratic Sen. Bob Kerr's latest quip.

But they are tramping the streets now with undisguised elation and arms loaded with all the red-bowed bundles they can afford.

The whole town rocks with adolescent merriment and yet beneath all the tinsel and glitter the true spirit of Christmas burns with everlasting brilliance.

THE preventive war group in the Pentagon and on Capitol Hill has now been given a chance to show its possible opportunities for a showdown with Red China.

THE PERSIMMON ISSUE

Pete's mother, Mrs. C. W. Ivey of Rocky Mount, challenged me over the telephone to come over to her house and taste some of her persimmons, which, she maintains, are as good as anybody could want and have experienced rarely a nip of frost.

The state of Kentucky is planning to give not only physical but mental tests to persons applying for drivers' licenses. We would—if it came to this—rather see poorly visioned but intelligent persons behind steering wheels than eagle-eyed idiots.

A kick from a mule restored a Tennessee man's speech who would be interesting to know what he said.

Evangelist Billy Graham has found that the city is full of sin, but that couldn't possibly be the reason New Orleans is standing by Pete Ivey. Winston-Salem editor, who maintains that persimmons may be eaten at any time frost or no frost.



A New Third Party? The Eruption On The Right

By STEWART ALSOP

WASHINGTON Democrats have already decided on the strategy they will adopt in the matter of Joseph R. McCarthy, now that he has been censured. It is to leave him lie where they find him.

But there is nothing easy about the problem that now confronts the Republicans. The censure vote revealed, as nothing else could, how deep is the split in the Republican ranks.

KNOWLAND'S POSITION Moreover, Senate Republican Leader William Knowland has virtually ended his usefulness as Senate Republican leader.

THE McCarthy battle has also had a major effect on the party organization, especially in the Middle West. Most Democratic Party workers are professional—their city hall jobs or useful city hall connections.

Thus the cleavage on the McCarthy issue is complete, from top to bottom of the Republican party. And now, on top of everything else, there is more and more talk of a pro-McCarthy party movement.

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Rocketships Exploring Outer Space In 1965? It's Possible

By ROLAND SAWYER In The Christian Science Monitor

EVIDENCE is accumulating that the men in the United States who know the most about space ships... believe that space ships soon can be built. By soon is meant 10 to 15 years.

There's much activity now in the United States but in the Soviet Union. It is increasing. Probably it would be inaccurate as well as flippant to refer to the United States as a race. But it seems to be established that there are scientific projects under way in both the Soviet Union and the United States to achieve what a decade ago would have been regarded as lunatic—to launch a device from the surface of the earth that will become a tiny particle in space, traveling in an orbital station, in more of a German idea than of any other nationality.

There seems to be little doubt that the Russians are attempting this. William P. Lear, a California airplane parts manufacturer whose firm, Lear, Inc., works for the United States Air Force on classified projects said recently that "we know" the Russians are engaged in the space race. It appears that the Russians are attempting to develop a spaceship ahead of the United States, with the aid of German scientists and tons of captured scientific documents.

So space ships seem to have arrived on the scene, the point of probability in the thinking of mankind. While the problems seem fantastic to the laymen, they apparently do not trouble Dr. von Braun. The spaceship will have to be heavy enough to withstand enormous heat and pressures, and sufficiently powerful to climb 60 miles into the sky beyond earth's gravitational pull. This will require the use of more stages of rockets. Once that is achieved and men have arrived in space how would they ever return to earth? Dr. von Braun, "but not an unsurmountable obstacle."

There is the clue to the ultimate success of this venture, either in America or in Russia. The Peenemunde scientists and their United States or Soviet colleagues are not fazed by what would appear to be unsolvable problems. They are, in fact, in their eyes, time, money, and determination. And if the spaceship, or satellite, is achieved, it could be used for a variety of purposes, for the domination of mankind, or, says Dr. von Braun, it could be a starting point for a voyage to Mars or the moon.

People's Platform

Please keep letters brief, and give name and address. Names may be withheld. The News reserves the right to condense.

Santa's Impersonators 'The Happiest Day'

Never Look The Part For All Communists

Editors, The News: I'M NOT QUITE sure whether your editorial, "Toyland Revived Or Santa's Sorrow," was kidding department store Santa Claus or kidding the reader. If it was the former, I'm all for it. If it was the latter, I really don't mind.

I've always suspected that department store Santas really hate kids deep down underneath. But what I really object to is that few of their really look like Santa Claus. They appear to be the most ridiculous, ill-fitting costumes with heavily rouged faces and odd bearings or some cheap mask. They are more likely to frighten youngsters than enchant them.

THE U. S. Senate Communist bloc voted 67 to 19 to uphold communism and censure McCarthy. The voters should be told that if they see to it next election that these senators are defeated at the polls. That is the only way we can get rid of mercurianism against its enemies.

Pressure Mounts For Preventive War

publicans voting for McCarthy were strong China-loving senators and had received campaign contributions from it. Thus the split within the Republican Party widens in somewhat the same proportion as the split within the Democrats over the most important issue facing Eisenhower and the nation.

Understand the full dramatic importance of what is necessary to report the play-by-play story of what happened. Originally the State Department has known about the 15 American pilots for about a year. But it did not know that two American civilians were also being held. Eleven of the pilots, and the two civilians, have now been jailed on a charge of espionage.

But if the State Department was jolted, the Pentagon was incensed. Several officers seriously recommended war with China. And at a National Security Council meeting, following the arrest of the pilots, the joint chiefs of staff, chairman a naval and air blockade against the Chinese mainland.

The chief difference is that it's the Republicans rather than the Democrats who now are the trouble. It may be that when the nation faces a difficult showdown with the Communist forces of China and Russia; and when President Eisenhower's Penton faction, favors exploring a possible end of the cold war.