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Good—If It's Really True!

Our understanding is that the Pennsylvania State Police will shortly begin coveting over the highways in a new dress. The chap who drives like the dickens when all seems safe and clear, and is like a respectable, law-abiding citizen—and motorist—when he spots one of the gray police cars in the distance, may be headed for a fall. We hear that the State Patrolmen shortly are to go forth in cars painted in all manner and dress—in conservative black and blue fashioning, and in a wide variety of pastel shades. In other words, their cars will be no different than the run-of-mine assortment that is seen on the highways everywhere.

We hear, too, that the lettering on the cars stating that they are "State Police" will be small, and not discernible at any great distance. We also have heard it rumored that the patrolmen will not have to wear their conspicuous hats while driving. Now if all this is so, won't there be a lot of surprised motorists, and won't there be a lot of tickets passed out to them for infringement they've been getting away with for years?

The State Police do a good job. But they can't be everywhere all of the time. The greatest factor to thwart their efforts is the way in which their patrol cars are spotted by most every one. Most every motorist has seen the reckless daredevil of the highways suddenly become gentle and law-abiding instantly when he sights one of those gray cars. The fact of the matter is that the State Motor Patrolmen have to hide themselves in order to crack down on the offender. A variety of different appearing cars will put the offender on the spot. He just won't know whether he's running afoul of the law in front of some officer or not, particularly when traffic is heavy.

Were They Really So "Good"?

Every once in a while one hears some of the older folks speak of the "Good Old Days." But how good were they? A lot of the folks who lived in some of those days didn't live long enough to see much better days than that were in the offing, and yet, by present-day standards some of them should have enjoyed many years of the advantages of the Twentieth Century. Take a look at the headstones in some of the older cemeteries in this section. You'll see names that were prominent in social, civic and business circles during their time, but successors to their achievements followed them much sooner than was necessary.

Names that were once prominent in Carrolltown, for example, will be found on the headstones of the cemetery there. Their ages—44 years, 48 years, maybe 53 years, certainly scores of them under 60 years of age. Of course, some of the harder men and women of yesterday lived to ripe old ages, but they were the lucky ones. What was the chief reason for the shortness of their lives? Mainly it was the fact that they just happened to live before medical science found out what was ailing people so much, and have since found out ways to prevent it, or to cure it.

Likely if the causes of these early deaths were disclosed it would be found that they passed away from inflammation of the bowels (appendicitis), from diphtheria, or consumption (tuberculosis), or it could have been smallpox, or pneumonia—and pneumonia certainly did take a lot of people of all ages even within the memory of a lot of people living today who are not yet in middle age. People who fell ill were in a bad way. Doctors had almost no weapons to use against disease, and some of the ones they were using were entirely wrong. Operations had to be performed without anesthetics, and having any kind of an operation prior to the turn of the century was dangerous. Why, even aspirin wasn't available.

The "Good Old Days"—how good? Folks had about a 50-50 chance of recovering from pneumonia then, but now we're given pills and shots to cure it. Few people die of the disease today, if properly treated, and the infection is treated in the earlier stages. Why just since World War II, for example, we've also gone a long way—the lifting of pneumonia, the control of most infectious diseases, and a greater degree of tuberculosis control. DDT and other chemicals have brought insects under greater control. Television has brought the world into our living rooms. Ordinary citizens are flying across the oceans and around the world.

We're wearing more and more clothes made of chemicals, spend more of our time in air conditioning, drive cars that are increasingly automatic. Of course, we've seen atomic power come up from the status of an impossibility to a reality. Now we're getting ready to create artificial heavenly bodies to revolve around the earth. Our greatest fear is the fear that we have ourselves created, that we've learned so much about atomic and super weapons, that we might just wipe ourselves off the face of the earth if we get too smart.

One hundred and fifty years is a small bit of time in the annals of the world. But the strides that have been made in the past period of that length have been something that would make the hair stand on end for citizens living a century and a half ago if by some miracle they were to become a part of the present era. At that time no one could travel faster than a horse could take him. Now man can travel faster than the speed of sound. In 1905, news and messages could travel no faster than the horse. Now anything that happens on one side of the world is known almost instantly on the other.

Earlier in this period people had no illumination at night but flickering flames. There were no movies, no radio, no telephones, no phonographs, no cameras. Anyone who didn't have horsepower or a boat had to walk. Practically all farm and even factory work was done by horse and hand. Communications had to be written by hand as the typewriter was unknown. Why we didn't even have friction matches or safety pins 150 years ago. And it is within the memory of a lot of our older people of today when few houses indeed had the modern sanitary bathroom and all that goes with it—indors.

All of the man-made objects you can think of, excepting some of the simplest things, have been developed in the past 150 years. And the inventions have been steadily growing more numerous and complicated. Why 50 years ago an automobile was a rarity, and the first few that came into the north of the county were novelties. Indeed, they attracted attention, drew crowds, and acted terribly at times just when they shouldn't have. And the horses shied at them, and ran off. Sometimes, even frequently, they were hitched to the "gas-buggy" to get it out of the mud or haul it home.

Man's conquest of the air wasn't anything more than rising from the earth in the basket of a balloon just 50 years ago. A balloon ascension was usually one of the billed attractions at the Carrolltown fair, and the gas bag was filled by a wood fire, with much fanfare and attraction from the crowds. When the balloonist rose a few hundred feet in the air, he released the gas-bag and at the same time parachuted to earth. We remember how "thrilling" that was to us smaller fry.

Naturally all of us wonder what the next century will bring. Maybe trips to the moon. Likely conquest of all disease. Maybe elimination of all physical labor. But somehow our posterity likely will find the same solace they now have in a Supreme Being, and in worshipping Him, as solemn has revealed more and more of the wonders of the universe.

"As I See It"

By . . . STATE SENATOR JOHN J. HALUSKA

Well, the GOP finally put the finishing touch to Gov. Leader's classified income tax program and now we find ourselves in the same position as we were when the session convened last January.

The Republican Senate held the steadfast in opposing the entire tax program that would have raised \$5 million which is badly needed to fulfill the commitments made by the Republicans and Gov. Fine throughout the last four years, and more such as paying the soldiers' bonus, and meeting the increment mandate to the school teachers, etc.

The question is—where do we go from here?—because a tax program of some nature definitely must be placed on the statute before the Senate adjourns sine die. It is quite apparent that the Republican party definitely is in favor of a sales tax and will without any doubt talk along these lines for the next several months.

The House and Senate will stand recessed until Aug. 29, and in the meantime seven Senators, of whom we happen to be one, have been designated to make a thorough study of the Governor's budget and the possibilities of proposing a new tax program.

This week we are calling in all cabinet members individually to determine from them the exact amount of monies that their departments will require for the coming biennium. In addition thereto, we shall call in the heads of the various universities and men of industry to get their viewpoints concerning this most important matter, along, of course, with labor leaders who will be consulted as to their views.

Whether or not all of this can be accomplished during the short recess is a matter of speculation.

Sadly last week as the Senate was preparing to convene for its Friday session, sword was delivered to a Harrisburg hotel that Sen. Patrick Toole, Democrat, of Luzerne County, report, and that he leaves the Democrats in the Senate with only 23 members, and one of those, Sen. Derk of Lycoming County, is now in the hospital with a heart ailment.

So it is quite apparent that the strain of the session now is taking its toll, and little do the people here realize just how great this strain is.

In the event that the GOP insists upon a sales tax, we predict it will be 2% on everything without any exception, or 2 1/2% on all other food and clothing. In other words, if you buy a \$3,000 automobile it will cost you \$115.00 for tax on the car, along with the same percentage based on every other item.

It might be determined in days to come that those people who opposed Gov. Leader's classified income tax program will wish that it might have been enacted into law because without any doubt it would strike at those who are receiving huge dividends from stocks and bonds. They would have been called upon to carry the greatest part of the tax burden.

We shall try to keep our readers abreast as to the progress that might be made along these lines within the next several weeks. It certainly is not a happy condition and someone definitely must carry the burden, and as usual, it will turn out that the working man will be the goat.

Labor leaders throughout the Commonwealth will stage a terrific fight against the enactment of a sales tax because they know full well the rank and file will be hit the hardest.

The only hope is a compromise between Democrats and Republicans to enact some kind of program which will be fairly distributed.

But rest assured that big business, who in reality controls the GOP, will make certain that they are left off as easily as possible.

SEN. JOHN J. HALUSKA

Six Solid Weeks Touring Europe

By MRS. THOMAS A. OWENS SR.

This is one of a series of articles covering a recent trip to Europe by Mrs. Tom Owens Sr., Mrs. E. H. and Mrs. J. H. Owens, and Mrs. Haluska, covering ten countries, sponsored by the National Editorial Association.

NO. 11.

ROME (Continued)

Our second full day in Rome was Thursday, April 14th. Early in the morning we returned to Vatican City from our hotel, and the Vatican Museum was the first visit on the agenda of the day's itinerary. There's been so much written of this museum that it would be in ill grace for me to attempt to detail upon it. In a previous article the visit to St. Peter's Basilica was commented upon, but the Vatican City includes many other buildings, such as the Vatican Palace, where the Pope resides; the Governor's residence; a railway station, the Palace of Justice, a postoffice, a mosaic factory, a powerful radio station and the Vatican Gardens, which we viewed, and where the Pope seeks relaxation. However, due to his illness, he was not to be seen outdoors by our group.

We were in several European museums and they all contain priceless collections. Roman art of historical importance, and Christian art particularly, is contained in the Vatican Museum. Vestments of the past Popes, religious articles of all Christian periods, especially priceless accoutrements of churches once under the Roman faith, salvaged before they were taken over by others during the Reformation period; priceless tapestries of all periods, most of them hundreds of years old.

The Vatican Library adjacent to the museum was next visited. This stands in the very first rank among European libraries as regards to antiquity and wealth of manuscripts. It is an accumulation of centuries, and with historical connections throughout of famous librarians, Popes, and laymen in making the collection. The printed books number some 850,000 and the manuscripts about 53,000. Some of the most ancient and valuable works in the world are here.

Sistine Chapel Beautiful

Next we went to the Sistine Chapel. This Chapel is well known at least in Catholic circles, and is beautiful beyond comprehension. The Sistine Chapel is reserved exclusively for Papal ceremonies, that is to say those carried out by the Pope in person, or in his presence. When the Holy See falls vacant, the funeral service of the deceased Pope is held in this Chapel, and the meetings for which the voting for the election of the new Pope also takes place here. Wall paintings, by the Masters, were prevalent in many of the European Churches and the public buildings, and in the Sistine Chapel, the work of Michelangelo predominated, as well as those of Botticelli and others. The Chapel isn't large—in fact it seemed small to us after having been at St. Peter's. Back of the altar, from floor to ceiling, is one of Michelangelo's greatest art works, "The Last Judgement." Another is "The Creation of the World." Ceiling and walls are a veritable picture gallery. The Sistine Chapel is Michelangelo's lasting monument.

Now it was about noon. We went out into the Piazza of the Basilica, and again, as the day previous, received the blessing of Pope Pius XII. A big crowd again was present when His Holiness appeared at the window.

Colosseum Finished in A. D. 80

In the afternoon hours, our itinerary took us to the modern glimmer of the glory of the old Roman Empire. Back and forth in the bus, for two days we passed many of the ruins of once famed buildings. Now our principal destination was the Colosseum, started by the Emperor Vespasian and finished by his son, Titus, in A. D. 80. It was used for gladiatorial combats, then persecution of Christians by lions served amusement for the Pagan public. In the middle ages it was transformed into a fortress, and in the Fourteenth Century Passion Plays were performed there.

But then, this imposing structure was stricken by vandalism, and much of the original architecture found use in salvaging as a quarry. Today, its ruins remain imposing to the tourist, both from within and without. It had seating accommodation for about 45,000 spectators, and its 80 entrances were so arranged that the whole building could be cleared in an incredibly short time. The whole is built of concrete, the exterior being faced with travertine and the interior, we were told by the guide, of precious marbles that have long since disappeared.

Visit Famous Roman Baths

Close by the Colosseum we visited a preserved ruin of what was once one of the famous Roman baths. These once were a recognized feature of Roman life. It is said that once there were 1,000 in Rome alone. They were of the type of the Turkish bath with rooms of different temperatures. They were more than baths. They were immense establishments of great magnificence. They were really recreation centers for wealthy Romans. While all within the baths was resplendent, the water in the pools was kept warm by furnaces beneath them, where slaves toiled in preposterous heat and humidity.

During our travels back and forth through Rome, it seemed to me that we were passing the Arch of Titus, or rather its ruins. It was built in A. D. 81 to commemorate the Emperor's capture of Jerusalem.

The Great Appian Way

From the time of my grade school days I had heard of the Appian Way—the greatest of old Roman roads. Now we were to travel upon it, but not in any martial way as Caesar's soldiers did, but by the bus with its interpreter, and, by this time, too, our friendly drivers. The modern and the ancient all seem to blend together in Rome. This highway was out beyond the old Roman wall, and was built 312 years before Christ's time on earth. On each side of the road, shaded by rows of cypresses, we were told of ruins of early Roman tombs could be seen. We didn't see them, however. The Appian Way was routing our group to another much read about episode in our church history—the Catacombs.

Catacombs Had Several Levels

The entrance to the Catacombs is made through the properties of the Franciscan Order, and a Basilica to St. John's honor, is located nearby. Altogether we were told, there are forty-five, a vast labyrinth of subterranean passages where the early Christians buried their dead, where they concealed themselves during time of Roman persecution, where some of them lived and died underneath the earth.

Rome is built upon a rock, and so, we descended a long flight of very narrow steps, damp from seeping water coming down from the surface. Several levels constitute the catacombs, in various rock strata. The catacomb avenues narrow from three to four feet wide with small chambers at intervals. Of course, in the main avenues, electric lights now give

the illumination. At a couple of points, however, only a taper light guided our journey.

The dead are buried in the galleries in long horizontal recesses in the walls, tier upon tier, even to 12 ranges. The grooves were closed by slabs of marble or huge tiles cemented together. An epitaph was set up, or it was painted or engraved. Used by the Christians, the wealthy class had rooms of the narrow corridors, and small altars were not secret, even during the days of the early Christians, for this method of burial was practiced in Rome by Jewish settlers before the rise of the Christian Church, in the third and fourth centuries.

And so, we returned to the hotel, tired, and ready to pack to be ready next morning to leave Rome for points in Northern Italy. Perhaps from this time forward, my discourse will be more on the personal side, less on the historical. To see Rome very thoroughly and completely would require months. Our visit was crowded into two days.

HOME

By FERDINAND D. WHARTON
 Chest Springs, Pa.

HOME—what a flood of memories it brings back to us—of our childhood days—our youth—our young manhood and womanhood—our middle years—and finally, the sunset of our lives.

There is no other word in any language that stirs the imagination like the word HOME. We go back over the years and long-forgotten incidents come to life again, some of them sad and some of them gay, some of them bitter and some of them sweet—some of them remorseful and some of them comforting. And although many of us may wipe a tear from our eyes, the old home will always cherish the fond remembrances of our childhood and youth spent in our homes.

Poverty and illness may have caused many hardships and suffering—wayward children and recklessness of youth may have caused worry and trouble—but all of these things seem trivial and unimportant now as we remember our home.

It was a place of refuge and safety in time of danger—a place of comfort and reassurance in time of trouble and grief, and a helping hand extended in time of need. Also we could always find a sympathetic shoulder to cry upon when the tears came.

We learned our first words in the home, were taught all the do's and don'ts, what was good and what was bad, danger and safety, and about our spiritual life and stern lessons in morality. Lessons in obedience and discipline were a daily routine and many of us experienced the result of disobedience with drastic corporal punishment by means of rod and strap.

Of course the homes of today are quite different from those of 50 years ago. There are so many outside diversions now and people are inclined to resort to ready-made pleasure instead of finding it in the home. I have no quarrel with this procedure since I realize that time brings many changes and we have to adjust ourselves accordingly. But I do have a feeling of regret that families of today do not spend more time in their homes for it would bring them closer together and establish a bond between them that would last all through the years.

Why does a soldier on a battlefield—a person traveling in distant lands—a lawbreaker penal-

ized for his crime—in times of great stress and misery—disaster and peril—and when death is very near—always think of home?

Home is our heritage from the beginning of time and surely it is not mere accident of circumstance and evolution for Christ had a home on earth and loved it and bestowed upon mankind the blessings, joy and peace of our homes.

Therefore I would say to all families: love and enjoy and keep your homes as a place of goodness, grace and kindness and respect always, and never let it die out of your hearts.

Colver Marine Sgt. Reenlists for Hitch

Sgt. Peter P. Sauer, Colver reenlisted July 17 in the U. S. Marine Corps for six years while serving with the Marine Detachment at the Charleston, S. C., Naval Base.

Sgt. Sauer, who was promoted to his present rank on July 8, is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sauer of Colver and is married to the former Perry L. Royall of Charleston.

A graduate of Ebensburg-Cambria High School he enlisted in the Corps in 1952. He received recruit training at Parris Island, S. C.

ASK FOR LIQUOR LICENSE

The restaurant liquor license application of George and Gertrude Babayak of Patton, was reported to be considered at a meeting of the liquor control board on Tuesday in Pottsville.

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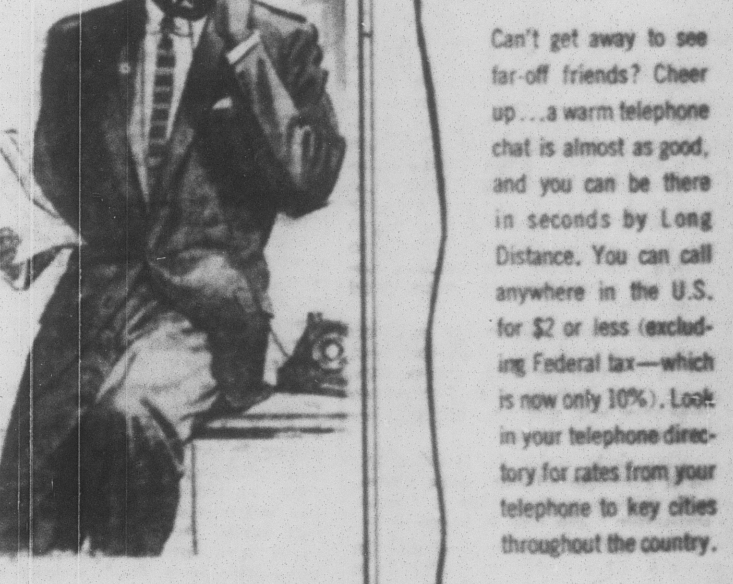
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