

MY TYPEWRITER TALKS

En route to gymanfa ganu

by the Rev. Charles H. Gilbert

At bedtime Saturday we set our psychological alarm clocks for early rising, and Cathy set the clock-radio for 7. We wanted to drive over to Throop, on the other side of Scranton, for the Sunday morning service.

A phone call Saturday afternoon told us church would begin at 9:30 a.m. so we naturally had to wake up early. I'm always a little annoyed that the proper pronunciation of that town is "Troop" even though it begins with a perfectly good Greek theta! In years past, when the bishop used to read off the appointments at annual conference, a new one was sure to say Throop and have a terrible time with Nanticoke.

The new pastor of the church in Throop is the Rev. Charles Johns, whom we have known for a long time, since he was a teen-ager called "Chuckie" down in the Pittston church where I was pastor 20-some years ago.

Later on he attended Wilkes College and was Rev. Bill Reid's student assistant here on the Carverton charge for a couple of summers. Then he went to theological seminary and graduate school and we didn't see him for several years, so we were delighted this spring to find that he was moving back into the area, and have been waiting for a good chance to go hear him preach.

I was awake a lot during Saturday night and when that happens it makes a good time to pray for matters that really count, and you get to know God who hears prayer is never any further away than your next blink of your eye. So I prayed for "Rev. Chuck" and also

for yours truly, so I would be open to get God's word as it would be spoken. We made it to the church on time, and were greeted heartily by men at the door. It is a beautiful church, and the service was beautiful. The sermon was on Christian Education, this being the special Sunday for that subject in our Methodist churches.

That could be a dry subject, but not so. And my hearing aid was properly adjusted to hear every word, which was well worth hearing.

After the service there were many friendly hands and words passed out to us as we went toward the back of the church. We had a good visit with Chuck and his lovely wife, Gail, who had been one of Catherine's little girls at Sky Lake years ago. And her uncle was one of my Boy Scouts way back at Kirkwood!

And we were delighted to meet their two small sons, who look as if they are as full of pep as their father always was. Naturally, Cathy and Chuck were talking about music; she wanted to know if he still played the flute and the organ, and he wanted to know what the Oratorio Society was doing this fall.

We had planned a leisurely afternoon, with plenty of time to find just the right place for dinner and then find our way to Welsh Hill for a gymanfa ganu, one of those special Welsh gatherings for singing lustily. We did a lot more wandering than we had planned, partly because the restaurant we were looking for hadn't opened yet, and partly because the mountain we were looking for was invisible!

We finally found a place to eat in East Benton which is certainly a long way from the Benton we know. But they served us delicious cheese omelets and pie and we'll know it's there next time we go up 81 and see that exit sign.

We knew that the Welsh Hill Congregational Church was somewhere near Elk Mountain, but we couldn't find those familiar twin peaks. We have been on top of that 2690 foot hill when it held a fire tower instead of a ski lift. We have seen it from many angles through the years, and Cathy took its picture once from an airplane.

But on Sunday it was invisible. We drove here and there throughout the area where it should have been, and finally found a road sign pointing to Elkdale. When we got there, a friendly girl at a tiny gas station told us how to reach Welsh Hill and we got to that church about 20 minutes before the singing began.

The last stretch of road took us right along the shoulder of Elk Mountain, but we never saw it! Some days it stands out like blue cardboard cut out with scissors, but Sunday the clouds were completely covering it.

We enjoyed the afternoon, but I left most of the singing to the others so I wouldn't start coughing. And over tea and cookies I met a woman whose baby I had baptized in the Vandling church 45 years ago; the baby stole the rosebud from my lapel and took it home with her!

We didn't have any trouble finding our way home and some clear day we're going back to make sure Elk Mountain is still really there.

Huntsville church notes 134th year

The Huntsville Christian Church will celebrate its 134th anniversary, Oct. 15, with a weekend of activities planned for Oct. 14 through 16.

On Friday evening, Oct. 14, The Rev. Mercer Shaw, well-known soloist throughout the Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) will present a concert at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to join the Huntsville congregation for the Mercer Shaw Concert which will feature contemporary and gospel music.

Rev. Shaw uses a background of recorded music through the use of sophisticated sound equipment.

On Saturday, Oct. 15 at 6 an anniversary banquet will be served at the church at which time 50-year members of the congregation will be honored. The Rev. Ralph Eugene Bennett, pastor of the Huntsville Christian Church will bring special recognition to 14 members of the congregation who have been members 50 years or more. These include Miss Elma Major, Miss Mildred Major, Mrs. Elva Warmouth, Stanley Culp, Mrs. Ella Schmol, Mrs. Arline M. Wertman, Mrs. J. Milton Culp, Mrs. Estella Roberts, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Elston, Mrs. Lewis Culp, Mrs. Marcus Ide, Mrs. Daisey Moore and Mrs. Bert Sutton.

Immediately following the banquet, Mercer Shaw will present a brief program. The evening anniversary address will be delivered by the Rev. Paul C. Duncan, former pastor of the church. Friends of the church are invited to attend the evening program which will begin at approximately 7:30.

Immediately following the program there will be an informal reception for guests in the social rooms. Sunday morning worship will be at 9:30 with the sermon "Victory Through Faith," delivered by the Rev. Dwight L. French, general minister of the Christian Church in Pennsylvania. Rev. Benett

Railfans

Lackawanna & Wyoming Chapter, National Railway Historical Society, will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, Oct. 6 at the studios of WVIA-TV, Channel 44, in Pittston, at 7:30 p.m.

will lead the congregation in the mortgage burning ceremony, culminating a seven-year financial endeavor on the part of the congregation for the renovation of the sanctuary in 1970 and the ad-

dition of a baptistry and youth center.

A luncheon for the congregation and guests will be held at noon on Sunday, followed by open house until 3. The committee planning the weekend celebration in-

cludes Robert Bullock, Fred Marshall, John Jopling, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Yanalunas, Mrs. Arline Wertman, Mrs. Gordon James, Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Schmol and Rev. Ralph E. Bennett, pastor.

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BY PHILLIPS

"Love conquers tall"

WARNING: The ZOO-rgeon General's report claims long necking may be harmful to your health.

Victor, the giraffe who aroused the concern of people all over the world, died last week.

His struggle to get up after doing the split during an amorous encounter with one of his harem had precipitated a wave of sympathy from animal, and people type, lovers everywhere.

Victor, 18-feet tall, succumbed to Del amore at the tender age of 15.

All of which just goes to prove the old adage—"Love Conquers Tall."

There's a lesson to be learned from this sad tale: If you're going to keep more than one gal on the string, you can't afford to fall down on the job.

Speaking of love: That's a state bordering on insanity. The flame that's ignited in the heart, consuming the brain, leads a man to make an ash of himself.

Remember now, I'm just kidding. After all I've been in love with the same woman for over 30 years.

And if my wife every finds out about it, she'll kill me. Shades of Henry Youngman.

And how about those Hollywood and TV star marriages?

They tell me Cher is a good housekeeper. Everytime she gets divorced, she keeps the house.

The last time Cher got married I understand she and her new husband were deliriously happy at the beginning—but on the way out of the church...

The next time she gets married she should demand a double ring ceremony—one for her finger, the other for his nose.

And how about the aging movie star who marries the young, young chick. He doesn't know whether to take her on a honeymoon, or send her to camp. He always claims she loves him for himself, while she admits it was love at second sight. The first time she saw him she didn't know he was rich.

I'm really curious as to what one of the new crop of woman's lib might say when the pastor asks, "Will you?" etc. Maybe—Perhaps—it all depends? And it must be confusing when the groom answers "I will" and she growls "You'd better."

Then she figures her woman's work

is done when she sweeps down the aisle.

It occurs to me that given today's morality the only thrill a couple would have spending their honeymoon at Niagara Falls would be in going over them in a barrel.

Let's wind this up with a little poem authored by an unknown lover.

The wonderful love of a beautiful maid,

The love of a staunch, true man, The love of a baby unafraid Have existed since life began.

But the greatest love—the love of loves,

Even greater than that of a mother, is the passionate, tender, and infinite love

Of one drunken bum for another.

I guess it's true that love, like life, is just a game. But it's the only game that two can play and both can win.

Unfortunately by the time you learn to play the game—you're too old to make the team.

And now if you will excuse me, it's time for my Vitamin E.

Til next week—Keep Happy.

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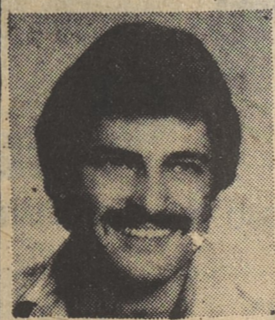
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