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LEARNING TO SHOOT

By Charles V. Stanton

A military officer, speaking before the annual state convention of the Izaak Walton League at Portland, urged the League to sponsor gun clubs in the public schools to teach youngsters the proper use of firearms.

His approach was from the military standpoint, touching upon recent revelations that many men in the armed services do not use their hand weapons even in defense.

This fact was recently revealed in articles in popular magazines, where it was stated that fewer than half the men armed with rifles ever pull a trigger. Various psychological arguments for this condition have been advanced, but Col. Philip W. Allison told the Izaak Walton League in his opinion the chief reason is that young men are so unacquainted with firearms they fear they could not hit the target and therefore will not expose their positions to the foe by gunfire.

It is a well known fact that the Army gives so little time to training that many men find themselves in the front lines with virtually no knowledge of the weapons placed in their hands.

No Longer Nation Of Marksmen

We were once known as a people having exceptional ability as marksmen. Even during the First World War our soldiers were celebrated for their accuracy with firearms. In the Revolutionary War we confounded our professional enemy by waiting until charges brought the enemy close enough to our "embattled farmers" that they could "see the whites of their eyes," then volleys were loosed at individual targets.

In the early days of our history, boys were taught to shoot almost as soon as they could walk. A gun was a weapon of defense but was more essential in keeping the family larder stocked with food. Those were days of sparse population, wide open spaces and abundant game.

As our population has grown, concentrating into cities, and as our rural areas have become more thickly settled, comparatively few boys today have the opportunity to become familiar with the safe use of firearms. Many grow into manhood without having had a gun in their hands.

Called into military service and handed a weapon with which they are totally unacquainted, it is not surprising that many of them never fire the gun with which they have been supplied. Particularly is this true when the guns are of the rapid or automatic fire patterns. Men are more afraid of the guns than of the enemy.

So long as we are required to force men into military service, they should have advance training in the fundamentals of firearms. Thus we would not only add to our defense strength, but we would be giving the potential soldier a much better chance for survival when called into battle.

Peacetime Uses Served

The greatest value in junior rifle training, however, is not found in preparation for war. It is even more important that such training be given for peacetime pursuits.

The tragedies of each hunting season indicate the need for such training. Experienced hunters are finding it more hazardous each year to enter the woods. Not only is the number of hunters on the increase, but the random and reckless way in which guns are handled by many hunters creates an extreme hazard for all in the area.

Coupled with instruction in the use of the rifle could be conveyed to future hunters the code of sportsmanship, respect for property rights, conservation of wildlife and the many other lessons so greatly needed.

We have little hope of ever reforming the adult vandals and hoodlums who overrun private property today without regard for the rights of the landowners, but the sons of these persons might be made into real sportsmen if started early on the right path.

Whether the instruction should come from the public school or from some other source is a debatable question. There can be no argument, however, that such training would not be beneficial, both to the individual and to society.

Scraps From the MENDING BASKET
by Vahnett Martin • P.O. Box 874, Drain, Or.

One way we can express the Christmas spirit to a lot of people we don't even know is to put the ZONE number on each card or package. I was just reading Postmaster Goodwin's plea to his patrons (Long Beach, Calif.): it applies to every one everywhere, doesn't it? Says he: "The ZONE number is just as important as the street address." In addition to the printed items about mailing early, and please to mail first class mail during the morning hours etc., the Postmaster urges. The letters, intended for delivery locally, separately from those intended for out-of-town. He further emphasizes this need of a cooperative spirit by furnishing bright red and white labels on which is printed.

The cards in this bundle are ALL FOR LOCAL DELIVERY. The cards in this bundle are ALL FOR OUT OF TOWN DELIVERY.

In case the supply of bright labels runs out, the citizens are asked to use an ordinary paper marked the same way plainly, and tied both ways with twine, all so arranged so that all addresses face the same way. All of us can do that.

That is not asking very much of the individual, is it? Using that method keeps the cards out of the way of regular mail. One

"Hey, Doesn't That Signal Ever Change?"



Fulton Lewis Jr. WASHINGTON REPORT

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WASHINGTON — On June 30, 1950, Senator Pat McCarran, Democrat of Nevada and chairman of the Senate committee on judiciary, submitted to the Central Intelligence Agency a list of 100 names taken at random from the names of several thousand aliens in the U.S. on diplomatic status.

The chief of the CIA reported back to the senator that:

1. "Thirty-two of the alien diplomats had been engaged in active work for the intelligence services of their countries prior to their arrival in the U. S."

2. "Twenty-one were active in Communist organizational work of an underground or subversive nature, outside their homelands."

3. "Twenty-nine are ardent workers in subversive activities in the light of known Communist methods and must be considered to be against the interests of the United States."

Two and one-half years later not a single one of the 82 have been arrested or deported despite the fact that the internal security act of 1950 provides for the deportation from the United States of any alien, irrespective of his status, if he engages in activities in the U. S. endangering the public safety.

Since the passage of the internal security act, 3,816 aliens were issued diplomatic visas to enter the United States from Iron Curtain countries. No visa has been formally refused by the State Department in such a case since the enactment of the internal security act.

The chief of the visa division of the Department of State, Robert C. Alexander, testified that in every case in which the visa division has disapproved a visa application on security grounds involving officials of a foreign government or an affiliate of an international organization, the case has been approved by the higher echelon of the Department of State.

Alexander further stated that the visa section was overruled at the rate of 8 to 10 alien subversive cases per month.

The State Department simply ignores the law. It has good precedent, since Mr. Truman has refused to follow the dictates of Congress and the courts in numerous cases when it was mandatory to apply the Taft-Hartley labor law to industrial disputes.

Congress has been timid in not demanding impeachment proceedings against responsible State Department aides. As always, the final decision to ignore the internal security act comes from the office of Secretary of State Dean Acheson. As always he has a pat answer when asked to explain:

"The admission into the United States would be highly desirable in the national interest from the standpoint of the conduct of our foreign relations."

There is a pertinent case involving Roman Kutykowski, president of the Gdynia-American Shipping Lines. The immigration service detained Kutykowski for exclusion from the U.S. when he arrived here for admission. He was detained as a subversive alien. Acheson sprung him from Ellis Island, giving the standard reason, in an edict issued by the State Department to the Department of Justice.

A federal grand jury recently laid the entire sordid mess on the table in a presentation. It attempted to take up where the Senate Internal Security Sub-Committee left off. But the grand jury's work is not done. A new one should be convened by the new attorney general, Herbert Brownell, as soon as he takes office. Its first witness should be Acheson and all other officials in the Department who have ignored the internal security act, or overruled the immigration

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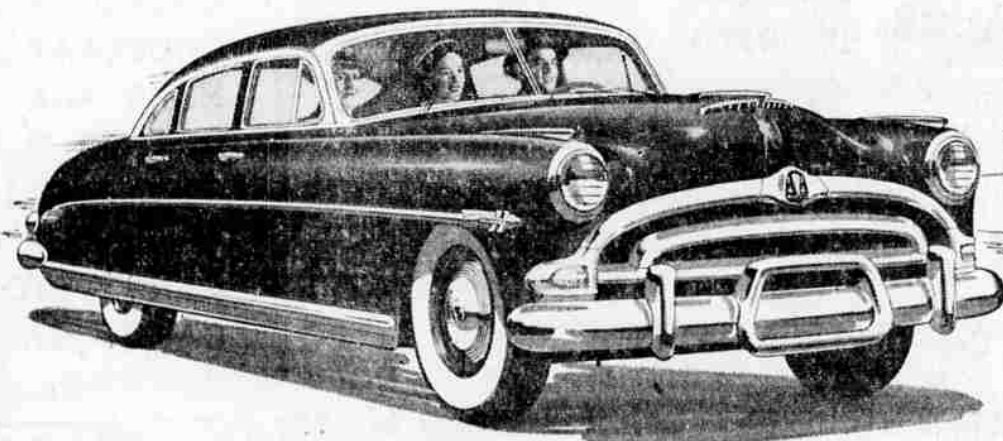
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