

For What It's Worth

By Clifford P. Rowe

THE MAN OR WOMAN who drinks and drives is Public Enemy No. 1 in my book.

Just recently I read of a young expectant mother who lost her life as well as that of her unborn child when her husband's car hit by a reckless driver. The last line of the news story casually mentioned, as if unimportant, that the driver of the other car was arrested for drunkenness.

If you or I or anyone else were to get a jag on and walk down the street carrying a shotgun and were to kill the first person we met, would we be arrested for drunkenness? Not by a darned sight! It would be manslaughter and we could look forward to spending the best part of the remainder of our lives behind bars.

But what happens to the drunk driver who is not one whit different from the drunken gun blaster. The worst penalty that



THE HOLLY

THE VIRGINIA world opened sleepy, surprised eyes to find snow sparkling white beneath a cloudless sky. 'Twas then memory found a picture that will never fade. A holly tree with its dense tangle of thick short twigs and stiff foliage had caught innumerable puffs of clinging white. Bright red berries, rich green leaves, pure white snow and deep blue sky; strong colors intermixed with bold strokes. The melting snow wetted leaves and berries making them glisten in the Dixie sunlight. Red, white, green; white, green, red—up and up in a towering mass of resplendent tricolor like a 40-foot bouquet, against a foil of blue.

Man has noted the beauty of the holly since earliest time, says the National Wildlife Federation, as evidenced in songs, poems and folktales. The spirit of old superstitions, of gnomes, and wood sprites hangs among its twisted branches. It brings dream of happy Christmases. Holly hang-

comes to most is having their driver licenses revoked. The general public gets the impression that just because the drunk didn't know what he was doing, he can't be held to blame. This is tantamount to giving the drunken driver a license to kill.

Any man with the sense that God gave geese knows that when he slides behind the wheel after drinking, he is just as much a potential murderer as the man who stalks in the dark of night with intent to kill. If the penalty were made stiff enough, he would think twice before driving.

Some say that the reason the law is not enforced is that those given the responsibility are afraid that they themselves may be caught in a similar predicament and therefore do not wish to set a precedent. Others say that the laws are so worded that they cannot be enforced properly.

If the latter is true, then it is high time that the citizens of the state put the initiative to sensible use for once and see to it that manslaughter is spelled MAN-SLAUGHTER so that even those charged with enforcing the law cannot fail to understand it.



ing came from the old Roman Festival of Saturn or from the Teutonic practice of hanging evergreen as refuge for sylvan spirits. In parts of England it is considered unlucky to bring in holly before Christmas eve. By DaDrbyshire tradition the husband or wife will rule, depending on whether the holly brought in has rough leaves or smooth.

American holly is much like the European species. It grows in moist, sunny places from east Texas to New Jersey, and north along the coast to Cape Cod, Mass. In Louisiana it attains a height of 100 feet, with its stocky, rough gray trunk four feet in diameter. In spring the inconspicuous flowers of some trees are all staminate, of the others, all pistillate. Only the latter, of course, will produce the half-inch berry-like fruits. Lustrous evergreen

leaves, bright berries and pyramidal crown make it a fine shade or ornamental tree, particularly near the coast where it is resistant to salt spray. Europeans make hedges of it.

Holly wood is white, hard, tough, uniform and stains well. It is used for artificial ebony, colored inlays, scientific and musical instruments, wood turning, cabinet work, interior finishing, sporting and athletic goods. The bark was employed in making birdlime.

The holly is the state tree of Delaware. It is protected by law in several states. Before Christmas, unscrupulous people trespass and tear off branches indiscriminately, killing many trees. Holly grows slowly. No berries are borne until it is 10 years old. If

the branches are cut cleanly at their junction and restraint is used, however, no harm is done. Correct holly clipping is a proper and profitable annual harvest. Destructive stealing must be made unprofitable or the American holly will be gone forever.

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