

# The Journal-Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

Published Mondays and Thursdays at North Wilkesboro, N. C.

D. J. CARTER and JULIUS C. HUBBARD, Publishers.

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

\$1.00 Year in the State; \$1.50 Out of the State.

Entered at the post office at North Wilkesboro, N. C., as second class matter under Act of March 4, 1879.

MONDAY, APRIL 24, 1933

## A Disgraceful Practice

Soon, if it hasn't already happened, we shall be treated to the spectacle of cars laden with the flowers of our mountain shrubbery. Beautiful flowers, capable of enhancing the attractiveness of our mountain highways, will fall prey to the ruthless hands of unthinking motorists. Instead of beautifying the mountainsides, they will die a useless death in the hot sun, or perhaps in somebody's home.

It is a disgraceful practice. It is vandalism. Seldom do these flowers grace the homes for which they are stolen. That is the only way it can be expressed. It is thievery pure and simple.

Perhaps, if a few of those who destroy the beauty of our mountain roads in such a manner were hailed into court for violation of the law, as they should be, there would be less of this type of vandalism. Our mountain scenery—and this flowering shrubbery is a part of it—should be protected.

## A Life Insurance Week

National Life Insurance Week was observed last week, the observance ending Saturday. If the public obtained a better understanding of the meaning of insurance, the designation of a special week was really worthwhile.

Insurance has served a very useful purpose in our national life. It has not only meant protection for the individual and his dependents, but it has contributed much to man's well-being.

Efforts of insurance companies to improve their risks have resulted in campaigns of advertising calling attention to the danger of diseases. A campaign of education has had its effect, the statistics show. The health of the people has been improved.

Indirectly—or directly, if you prefer to view it that way—insurance has had a material effect on health. A sense of security coming from the knowledge that we and our children are protected by life insurance has liberated us from a certain amount of worry which was not conducive to good health. Health is endangered by worry.

Insurance has come to be accepted as a safe investment, a protection at low cost and as an asset that does not dwindle with the coming of hard times. The manner in which insurance companies have carried on during the past three years has been a bright spot in our business life.

## Why Not?

The government's entrance into competition with private business is generally viewed as un-American and undemocratic. At any rate, it is considered undesirable by a majority of the people.

In touching upon the disposition of the power which will be developed at Muscle Shoals, the Greensboro Daily News suggests the potentialities of electrifying the railroads. The question arises, why not? There is already a surplus of power for normal purposes. Power companies are adequately equipped to serve the people and the Muscle Shoals development would hardly be justified for that purpose. But with the railroads, it would be different.

Railroads are piling up deficits, particularly during the past two years. On top of that, they are using a fuel that is irreplaceable. The coal supply will soon be exhausted, but water will continue to run over the mill, returning always to serve again in the capacity of a producer of power.

Most towns would be glad to be rid of coal smoke. Most railroads would be glad to have government assistance. Why couldn't railroads be electrified and thus use the enormous power which the Muscle Shoals development is capable of producing?

A gigantic development which has been permitted to lie idle for these many years could be made to serve a useful purpose without competing with any regularly established enterprise.

## "The Thaw Is On"

Recently, we quoted some parts of an editorial, "Nothing Can Hold Back the Dawn," from the Chicago Daily News. Many people commented upon the inspiring thought which that editorial presented. However, the Daily News follows that up with a photograph of a winter scene with the sun shining brightly upon it. A tiny trickle of water—the evidence of thaw—is shown.

The Daily News then comments: "Even the squirrel knows that winter can't last. And if our economists had been equally smart they would have known that this depression couldn't hang on forever.

"Why can't we remember that nothing stands still?"

"The above photograph was taken about a month ago not 15 miles from Chicago. Thirty days from now we'll 'shoot' it again—just to show you what a difference a little sunshine makes. The assets of the bank were completely frozen; but watch—pretty soon it will be a bank of violets.

"Just because a little snow flurry hits us now and then, is that any reason why we should all turn Eskimo?"

"We are living in a world of fast moving pictures. Tomorrow will be a new show and we mustn't forget that what we're looking at now will be just so much old film.

"Business, we all admit, has been pretty sick; but was that any reason for concluding that business was dead? Have you noticed how jammed the stores are? And the crowds aren't just 'looking—they're buying!' They're de-hoarding! and the same at the banks—deposits have been pouring in. Do you realize that Chicago hasn't needed a single dollar of that emergency money? So in the light of all this, wouldn't you say that business is a pretty lively corpse?"

"By and large, the people are made of rubber. They'll bend but they won't break, and the harder you squeeze the higher they bounce.

"When it looks like the end of the road and you start wondering which you'll need first, the sheriff or the undertaker, then's a good time to fall back on your old native sense of humor and treat yourself and the world to a good laugh. The worst mistake any man can make is to lose faith in fundamentals and in his own ability to twist out of any headlock.

"The Chicago Daily News has listened to its share of false prophecies. From time to time we, too, with rising hopes, have heeded the stray robin that we know now has merely lost its way. And perhaps in the battle against depression we, too, may have been inclined, now and then, to celebrate a fake armistice.

"But this time there can be no doubt about it—spring is here—officially!"

## BRUCE BARTON WRITES

### THE GREAT IDEA

When Gideon called for volunteers to fight the Midianites, thirty-two thousand responded. Gideon looked them over critically. He knew the conflicting motives that had brought them there—some from mere love of adventure; some because they were afraid to be taunted with cowardice; some for plunder; some to get away from their wives. He determined to weed them out at once!

"Whosoever is fearful and afraid, let him go home tonight," he proclaimed.

The next morning twenty-two thousand had vanished. Only ten thousand remained.

Still Gideon was unsatisfied. He hit upon a stratagem. Down the hillside and across a little brook he led the whole band. It was a hot morning; the men were thirsty and tired; and Gideon, standing on the bank and watching, had a shrewd idea that character would show itself under the strain. Sure enough, of the ten thousand, a vast majority knelt down and pushed their faces into the cool, clear water, taking long refreshing draughts. But a few were too eager. They caught up the water in their hands, dashed it into their faces, and hurried across to the other bank, restless to be on!

Only a handful, only three hundred. But Gideon kept them and sent the rest home. Better three hundred who could not be held back from the battle than ten thousand who were merely half-heartedly ready to go.

With the three hundred he won.

That higher type of leadership which calls fourth men's greatest energies by the promise of obstacles rather than the picture of rewards—that was the leadership of Jesus. By it he tempered the soft metal of his disciples' nature into keen hard steel. The final conference with which he prepared them for their work is thrilling in its majestic appeal to courage. Listen to the calm recital of the deprivations and dangers:

Get you no gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses.

No wallet for your journey; neither two coats, nor shoes nor staff.

Beware of men: for they will deliver you up to councils and in their synagogues they will scourge you; yea and before governors and kings shall ye be brought for my sake.

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that doth not take his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.

He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

Watch the faces and the figures. See the shoulders straighten, the muscles of the lips grow hard. There is power in those faces that will not be withstood.

The great Idea prevailed.

## Curbing Juvenile Delinquency

By W. D. HALFACRE (Chairman, Department of Juvenile Protection, State Congress P.-T.A.)

Within the past decade, juvenile delinquency has become the subject of widespread public interest. Much recognition has come to the fact that crime often has its beginnings in the delinquencies of boys and girls. Recent studies by experts of criminology have conclusively shown that the majority of adult criminals form tendencies in early life that develop in criminal acts for which society must exact penalties. It would seem from a study of present scientific data that too little is being paid for prevention of crime; the emphasis is now being placed on spending for the care of criminals. Assuming that the old adage, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is applicable to this problem of crime, it would seem that more emphasis should be placed on the prevention of delinquencies of youth which develop into criminal actions in the adult.

A juvenile delinquency preventive program to be complete would certainly include references to all movements and organizations for the improvement of conditions affecting the family and child life. Many factors are directly related to the prevention of delinquency, such as inadequate family income to insure minimum standards of living, problem of unemployment, and better housing conditions in the congested areas of our cities.

One of the most important requisites in any successful measure for the prevention of juvenile delinquency is an enlightened public opinion. All too often the public is content to condemn the misdeeds of the younger generation without any consideration of its own responsibility in the matter. This attitude is by no means constructive. The attitude of the public toward all problem children should be characterized not by irritation, fear or censure, but by an understanding of the child's need for protection, education and guidance in the community, if possible, in a well directed institution, if necessary. It is important that the public recognize the existence of behavior problems in the home, school and community.

There can be no substitute for home life and intelligent parenthood in the rearing of children. It is in the home that the child's needs for affection, security and opportunities for growth or development which play so important a part in shaping his personality, are met or thwarted. Even the most affectionate and intelligent parents may not always fully understand the child's needs for security and growth. Security is founded upon the emotional maturity of parents, upon justice, truthfulness, regularity, order and serenity in the home.

Almost one-third of the divorce cases involve children. When it is considered that there is one divorce for every six marriages, it is obvious that many children are being deprived of their right to normal home life. Unhappy home conditions, as well as broken homes, must be considered as a cause for many delinquent children. To promote stability and happiness of family life is, therefore, to aid in the prevention of juvenile delinquency.

The fact that practically all juvenile delinquents are children of school age does not mean that the school itself is responsible for their delinquency. Their revolt against school authority and discipline may be an indication of some deep-seated difficulty which has its roots in their past or in their home environments. Whatever the cause may be, it is usually during school days that children's most serious delinquencies develop, and the school is therefore most intimately involved in the whole problem of delinquency.

It is a matter of common agreement that truancy is often a symptom of a child's maladjustment in school and at home. When this symptom appears it is certainly the responsibility of the school to make every effort to affect a satisfactory adjustment.

The school must realize increasingly that the child it teaches has a life outside of that which is passed in the classroom and that he must be taught and treated and guided in the light of this fact, that the school must sincerely and vitally interest itself in the environment of the child it tries to teach. In realizing this objective it is highly desirable to have a corps of trained workers, whose training especially fits them for the task of maintaining co-operative relationships between the school and the homes of its patrons. Such a trained staff is beyond the financial means of practically all of the schools in North Carolina at the present time. However,

practically the same desirable results of adjustments between home and school are attainable by each teacher's becoming a visiting teacher to the homes represented by the children in his room. Basing opinion on fine results that have been realized in some North Carolina schools, the classroom teacher is an excellent case worker and should consider as a part of his duty this important task of securing and maintaining between the school and home the kind of relationship that will reduce to a minimum juvenile delinquency.

Beyond the walls of home and school lies another world in which the child will spend more and more of his time as he grows older and which, therefore, helps to shape his personality and to influence his conduct and his attitude toward life. This outside world, or community, will have an ever-increasing attraction for him. The street on which he lives, the neighbors whom he sees from day to day, the children with whom he plays are but a few of the influences, tangible and intangible, that affect the child's daily life and that help to create what might be called the spirit of the neighborhood or community.

The community, through its various agencies, may help to strengthen the child, fit him to meet life squarely, or it may help to make him dissatisfied with his environment, to rebel against it, and thus may become one of the causes of juvenile delinquency. Various studies have been made showing that delinquency is most likely to occur where proper community environment is lacking. Normal children must have recreational facilities for the constructive use of leisure time, have direct relationship to the numbers and kinds of juvenile court cases.

A socialized police force will be one of the greatest helps in community protection of children. Not only will a policeman of the right sort be a neighborhood friend, who can talk to children in their own language and inspire respect for law and authority, but by working in cooperation with social agencies he can do much to safeguard the interests of children. This as well as all factors bearing on the environment of children should not work with the possible juvenile delinquency in view so much as to create a net-work of community influences that will help to make community life as a whole richer, fuller, and more satisfying for adults and children alike, and thus with the home and the school contribute to community stability and progress.

## The Family DOCTOR

By John Joseph Gains, M. D.

### PRECAUTIONS NEEDED

In winter weather I see many people, old and young, making hurried little trips without sufficient protection against cold. A housewife will drop her kitchen things, and rush down to the bakery for something needed for dinner; she hasn't time to put on a wrap—and, it's only a short space—three blocks. So she whizzes out bareheaded, and with short sleeves used for warm housewear. She may have been perspiring just the least bit—but that's nothing; she has done the same thing a thousand times.

But—she encounters a keen north-east wind—just a little damp as she turns the corner coming back; it produces a shiver up and down the spine. She hurries in with her purchase—does not perspire any more that day. The deed has been done.

At bedtime she notices a slight sore throat, with a tickling short, dry cough. Unless she sets in to work to break it up, she may have it hang on for a week! All because of that hasty trip to the bakery, without proper protection.

This letter is to tell you some little things worth while. You must throw on a wrap when going out into sharp cold, no matter how short the trip contemplated. This applies to men as well as to women or children. Keep the surface of the body warm—that's the law of safety.

I know we used to "tear around" with impunity, but we can't do it now. We have hotter houses and thinner clothing than we once provided. We are not pioneer settlers any more, and hardened to the climate. Careful attention to the simple advice here may prevent a serious illness; I hope so.

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## 34 New Plans Built On Lines of Southern Road

New York, April 21—Last year was the first in the history of the Southern Railway company that did not record the construction of a single cotton manufacturing establishment on its lines. Fairfax Harrison, president, stated in the annual report issued yesterday.

Despite a continued slowing down in industry in the company's territory, 34 new manufacturing plants were located at points served by the system, he said.

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## County Taxes

Additional penalty goes on after May 1st. Pay now and save.

W. B. SOMERS, Sheriff

## For Sale

### AT PUBLIC AUCTION

One third of an acre of the Shepherd Schoolhouse property, Union Township, District No. 3, on

MONDAY, MAY 1st, 2 P. M.

at the office of the Board of Education at the Courthouse in Wilkesboro, N. C. The board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

This 15th day of April, 1933.

**BOARD OF EDUCATION** Wilkes County

By C. C. WRIGHT, Sec'y.