The Journal-Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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MONDAY, JANUARY 29, 1934

A Parisian neurologist thinks laughter the finest tonic for the human body. Just thinking about the American war debt should keep France in the old pink—Detroit News.

The government has discovered 28 gold hoarders in California. They should be punished by turning their names and addresses over to a high-power sales organization.—San Diego Union.

The desert bus lines of the near east remarks a lecturing globe trotter, are subject to pretty frequent breakdowns. We give you three guesses as to what the sheiks and other passengers then walk a mile for.—Boston Herald.

The Community House

The Wilkesboro Woman's Club is to be commended for its efforts to provide a Community House for their town. While there are other projects, which the CWA might rightly favor in preference to this, the progressive little club has done what has not been done in the case of other proposed projects. The club has put itself before the CWA as offering to supplement funds for purchase of materials and while we believe Wilkesboro school needs additions in order to relieve its crowded condition much worse than Wilkesboro needs a Club House, there has been no funds provided for this needed project.

Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Holman are to be commended for their donation of lots for the Community House and Wilkesboro is fortunate in possessing such public-spirited citizens.

Needed—A Writer

The announcement by the United Daughters of the Confederacy that prizes are being offered for certain essays on historical facts brings to mind again the fact that Wilkes county children do not have an adequate written work on the history of Wilkes county.

While some data has been compiled and published, there is no complete written history of the "State of Wilkes." Which leads us to remark that Wilkes county needs a writer who has the time, is capable and will find access to the material for compiling an adequate history of Wilkes.

Our county has a glorious history. From the day when the Moravians came to Wilkes and Daniel Boone settled along the Yadkin until the present time, our "state" has been rich in historical developments and somebody who can tell the story of the picturesque characters that have trodden the red clay of our hillsides should reap a rich reward. When such a history is written, we shall be the first to advocate helping the author by insisting that our school system add a study of Wilkes history as a compulsory course and make it mandatory that this history be purchased just as other school books are now purchased.

A Foolish Idea

As much as the views of Dr. Nicholas Murray Butler, distinguished president of Columbia University, are to be respected, his idea that the nation is going to the dogs unless some device can be discovered by which the profit motive is eliminated from business is about the most foolish thing to which he ever gave utterance.

To eliminate the profit motive is to destroy initiative. That "necessity is the mother of invention" is an eternal truth. In like manner, the hope of getting ahead, of rising above the average is a powerful inspiration which, as Julian S. Miller says in his column, "Event and Comment," in the Charlotte Observer, "makes you go out and bring home the bacon."

The American people are not ready, and we trust never will be, to accept the socialistic form of government. Our recent developments, which have come about through the NRA, are not indications that we want the government to destroy business and adopt a government-controlled form of society. Rather, the NRA has and is serving only as a protection for business and labor alike. Set a minimum standard for the price of labor, yes, but never say to a man, "You cannot get ahead merely by working harder than the other fellow."

Dangerous Weapons

The most dangerous weapons which can be placed in the hands of children are guns and matches. Handling of these weapons by the youngsters endangers not only the safety of the children, but menaces the lives of adults and property.

The Associated Press graphically tells another story of an "unloaded" gun:

Washington, Jan. 25.—This is an old, sad and familiar story:

Wilbur Best, 9, found his father's "unloaded" pistol.

He was playing with his brother, Victor, 11. Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Best, the parents, were not around.

Today Victor was dead. He died last night an hour after he had been shot in the head with the "unloaded" pistol in the hands of Wilbur.

"I didn't know it was loaded," said Wilbur. "It just happened to go off."

And if this does not impress the danger upon the mind sufficiently, read this:

Lexington, Jan. 25—Shot through the head while playing with a pistol kept in a truck, which he found while at play, the five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Gallimore, of Denton, has a chance for recovery, according to latest information here. The accident occurred last Sunday afternoon, according to information secured here. A truck belonging to Fred Gallimore, uncle of the child, who engages in long distance hauling, was parked near the boy's home. The weapon was kept for protection on trips and had been left in its accustomed place on the truck. The bullet penetrated the lad's upper lip and lodged in the back of the head. The missile had not been extracted at last reports.

And finally, matches in the hands of three-year-olds write tragedy to this Burke county family:

Morganton, Jan. 25.—Clothing on three-year-old Owen Conley Owens, caught fire while he played near his home yesterday afternoon, and last night the burns proved fatal. Mrs. Robert Owens, mother of the child, was painfully burned in a futile attempt to extinguish the blaze which originated from burning leaves set afire by the child and his playmate of equal age.

A neighbor, Mrs. Glenn Whisnant, also was burned about the hands while trying to beat out the fire.

It is easier to understand why parents and others sometimes leave matches in reach of children than it is to solve the mystery of "unloaded" guns. Guns were not intended as a substitute for toys. Why can't parents understand that? We'd prefer to live in a house without any gun than to have one in reach of the children. It would be far safer for the adult members of the family, not even considering the welfare of the youngsters.

These news dispatches telling the story of suffering and tragedy are offered as warnings to our readers. Let's prevent them from happening in Wilkes this year.

THE BOOK

. . . the first line of which reads, "The Holy Bible" and which contains Four Great Treasures . . .

By BRUCE BARTON

OUR FIRST LAWS

One of the wicked decrees of Pharoah was that every son who was born to the Hebrews should be cast into the river. The mother of Moses managed to hide her baby for three months, and then, unable to secret him any longer, she made a little cradle and set him afloat in the River Nile near the spot where the daughter of Pharaoh and her maidens came down to bathe.

Pharaoh's daughter took compassion on the pitiful little voyager, carried him with her to the palace and reared him as her own. She gave him his name, Moses, which means "drawn-out": "because," she said, "I drew him out of the water." The boy grew up and with all the educational advantages which the palace could give, but his heart was true to his people. He developed physical strength which was needed when he ran afoul of an Egyptian taskmaster who was abusing a poor Hebrew workman. Moses slew the man and hid his body, and formed then and there the determination to set the Hebrews free.

With his brother Aaron, who was a good talker, which Moses was not, he carried extended negotiations with Pharaoh, enforcing his arguments by a series of ten plagues that descended upon the Egyptians. In the end he was allowed to lead the Hebrews forth into the wilderness, but Pharaoh changed his mind at the last moment and gave pursuit. It was a fatal decision. The Red Sea, which had separated to let the Hebrews pass through, closed up on Pharaoh and his army and drowned them everyone. So Moses was launched on his career as leader of a grumbling, short-sighted and discontented lot of ex-slaves, who continually annoyed him with their complaints that they would rather be back in their slavery than wandering free in the wilderness.

Moses was not only a leader but an executive as well, thanks partly to his father-in-law, Jethro. That wise old gentleman, visiting him in the wilderness on a day when he was holding court, saw the tremendous pressure which was on him in his combined capacity of ruler and judge, and protested:

> Thou wilt surely wear away, both thou, and this people that is with thee; for this thing is too heavy for thee; thou art not able to perform it thyself alone.

Acting on the old man's sound advice, Moses associated certain other upright men with him as judges and thus it came about that the people were provided not only with a law—through the Ten Commandments and the comprehensive Mosaic Code—but with a judiciary as well.

THIS AND THAT

In conversation the other day, Joe McCoy, genial proprietor of Hotel Wilkes, remarked that how a man spends his money and his leisure time goes a long way in determining his character.

A moment later he rummaged around in his pockets and pulled out a clipping from the Greensboro Daily Record, dated January 11, 1926.

The clipping was about a sermon preached by Pat Willaims' brother, Rev. R. Murphy Williams, of Greensboro. The minister's statements are so concise and the sermon so prophetic (it was delivered in the boom days of the Coolidge administration) that we asked Joe for the copy. Now we pass it along to readers of this column:

"Poverty will always rank as one of the primary causes for crime, and poverty is largely due to the failure of saving a part of our earnings," declared Rev. R. Murphy Williams, preaching Sunday morning at the Presbyterian Church of the Covenant. He used as his text the 12th verse of the sixth chapter of John and declared that Jesus was a great economist.

Rev. Mr. Williams opened his sermon by telling a story of a bank "runner," who visited another bank frequently, becoming quite chummy with the cashier. The cashier asked the boy if he knew a good text for a banker, and the lad replied: "Not slothful in business, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord." The banker thought this a good text.

But on second thought the banker suggested a better text would be: "Gather up the fragments that remain—that nothing be lost."

Christ was a great economist. He did not want to see anything wasted, whether food, money, time or talents, siad Mr. Williams, who added that Christ had a great deal to say about money matters and the attitude of man toward material wealth. "So much so, that we are justified in concluding that the way in which an individual organizes his financial program has much to do with his character and development," he stated.

Quoting further from Mr. Williams' sermon:

"Christ gave us 38 parables, 16 of which refer to a man's relation to money, and I have seen the statement that throughout the four gospels, one verse in every eight, bears on this subject. He takes money, the essential factor in life, sordid though it sometimes seems, and plays it up strongly.

"Men and women must have money. For while it is only a medium of exchange and cannot actually sustain life, clothe the body or shelter the head, it is nevertheless indispensable, because it and it alone, under ordinary circumstances enables us to obtain these comforts.

"One of the outstanding problems of the average individual's life is how to obtain money for this and that.

"I do not know anything more dangeroue than money, and a man's attitude towards it. It is easy to argue with Paul and his opinion that 'the love of money,' which is a wrong attitude towards it, 'is the root of all kinds of evil.'

"A host of Biblical characters failed because of their wrong attitude towards money. There was the rich young ruler, who came to Jesus to find the way of righteous living. He had obeyed all the commandments from his youth, but he did not have the right conception of money. And when Jesus suggested that this was the 'one thing he lacked', and pointed out the remedy, he went away sorrowful.

"Zaccheus, at one period of his life had a wrong attitude, but when he came in contact with Jesus, and our Lord touched his heart and showed him the thing that stood between him and Christian living, he had a real desire to mend his ways, and Jesus placed His stamp of approval upon his new found purpose.

"What should we do with our money? We all earn a little and the expenditure of it forms character . . . (Dr. Gayler used to say, 'What a man earns in the day goes into his pockets, but what he spends in the evening goes into his character.')

"Should we save a part of our income? Jesus believed in it: "Gather up the fragments that remain that nothing be lost. . . ."

"The individual who practices consistently the saving habit, if he begins at an early age, need not fear poverty. Some one has said: "To be young and poor is a blessing and an asset; but to be old and poor, and dependent, is a calamity.

"Everyone who saves is building a ladder to a better and bigger job; and every dollar saved makes the ladder longer. He is taking precaution against illness, accident and old age, and every dollar makes security more secure. He is sharpening a keen tool with which to conquer opportunity.

"I have seen a statement that more than 50 per cent of the population of our country are living in rented homes or apartments. I do not believe this is a wholesome state of affairs."

Richard Kelly Goes To Boone

Will Succeed J. H. Somers With Reins-Sturdivant After February 1st

Richard Kelly, of Bluefield, W. Va., formerly of this city, will succeed J. H. Somers as manager of the Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home at Boone on February 1, it was learned Friday from W. K. Sturdivant, president of Reins-Sturdivant.

Mr. Somers, who became manager of the Boone establishment when the business was opened on November 1, resigned several days ago to accept a position with the Hafer Chevrolet company, of this city. Mr. Somers will return here the first of February.

Mr. Kelly has had considerable experience in the undertaking business and Mr. Sturdivant feels fortunate in being able to secure his services for the funeral home at Boone.

Victim of Wreck Buried At Center

Last Rites For Walter Elledge Held; Killed At Thomasville

Funeral services for Walter Elledge, 19, of High Point, who was killed when the motorcycle on which he was riding was struck by an automobile at Thomasville Wednesday, were conducted from Center Baptist church Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. The services were in charge of Rev. H. A. Bullis, Rev. D. O. Cleary and Rev. J. E. Hayes.

Following the services, interment was made in the church cemetery.

A native of Wilkes county, Mr. Elledge had been making his home in High Point for more than a year. He was a son of Ed Elledge, of this city.

The motorcycle was driven by Charlie Andrews, a brother-in-law of Mr. Elledge.

16 CONDEMEND MEN AWAIT EXECUTION IN STATE PRISON

Raleigh, Jan. 26.—The 16 small tomb-like cells on death row at state's prison were all filled today with condemned men awaiting the beck of the executioner.

Arrival of three prisoners under sentence to die from Person county filled the row of cells, and a reprieve granted today to Theodore Cooper, of Durham, removed the possibility of an early vacancy.

Cooper, who was to have been electrocuted Friday for the murder of J. N. Lasater, was reprieved until March 2 in order that interested efforts may be made to capture Sylvester Hood, who has been implicated in the killing.

It was the first time in months that the "row" had been filled, and if no vacancies are created by death or executive clemency any other condemned men brought to the prison will have to be placed in the row of cells immediately above.

The three condemned prisoners brought here from Person county were Spice Sittings, Walter Thaxton and Tom Williams, all negroes, who were sentenced to die for murder.

Thaxton and Williams are under sentence to die March 24 and Sittings' date has been fixed for March 30. Appeals to the state supreme court, however, probably will nullify these dates.

Four men had been scheduled to die Friday, but Governor Ehringhaus previously had reprieved the other three. They were John L. Edwards, of Charlotte; Clyde Ferrell, of Durham, and James Johnson, of Hoke county.

In reprieving Cooper, who was convicted of killing for a fee, Governor Ehringhaus announced he would not in the future commute his sentence.

When J. R. Wallace of Hickory, Catawba county, opened his trench silo recently to begin feeding, he found the ensilage in perfect condition. None needed to be discarded, he said.

Niswonger Will Visit Fruit Growers Feb. 8-9

Fruit growers of Wilkes will have the benefit of the advice and assistance of H. R. Niswonger, state horticulturist, Thursday and Friday, February 8-9. Details of the program which will be carried out during Mr. Niswonger's visit will probably be announced the latter part of the week.

Three Die As Home Burns

Greenville, N. C., Jan. 25—Three negro children were burned to death near Stokes last night when fire trapped them in the attic of their home, which was destroyed.