

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:

One Year\$1.50
Six Months75
Four Months50
Out of the State \$2.00 per Year

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

MONDAY, JULY 7, 1941

Independence

One hundred and sixty-five years ago on Friday, July 4, a group of men representing the American colonies met in Philadelphia and proclaimed their independence and the right to govern themselves.

In the declaration, which was written by a committee headed by Thomas Jefferson and adopted unanimously, it was admitted that peoples should not be hasty in breaking away from established governments at slight provocation and went on to enumerate a long and imposing list of grievances against the King of England.

It took men of great stamina and courage, who pledged their lives, fortunes and sacred honor together, to make that momentous step 165 years ago.

On Friday the American people celebrated the fourth of July.

And because of the loss of liberty to about half the people in the world, the holiday for us took on added significance.

It will prove beneficial to the American citizenship in that they were sufficiently awakened to learn something about why July fourth is a holiday.

We hesitate to make this assertion, but we believe that half the inhabitants of America today cannot tell in any intelligent manner why we celebrate July fourth as a holiday.

That half thinks about July fourth as a day to shoot firecrackers, get drunk and otherwise create a disturbance.

For the benefit of those who did not listen in, we wish to publish in this column the following news account of the nationwide observance of the Fourth Friday as led by President Roosevelt:

Hyde Park, N. Y.—In an unprecedented Independence Day ceremony, President Roosevelt told his fellow Americans yesterday that they must pledge lives as well as allegiance to country and flag because the fundamental principles for which their forefathers fought in 1776 were "being struck down abroad and definitely they are threatened here."

Millions of Americans, commemorating the holiday as they pleased—at beaches, ball parks, picnic groves and homes—paused solemnly at 4 p. m. (e. s. t.) and heard the admonition of their Chief Executive.

Then, led by Chief Justice Harlan Fisk Stone, people and President spoke as one—

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

But the liberty of that nation indivisible, Mr. Roosevelt warned, cannot survive here alone if freedom is lost in all other nations.

"This is why," he said, speaking by radio from the Franklin D. Roosevelt Library, "we are engaged in a serious, in a mighty, in a unified action in the cause of the defense of the hemisphere and the freedom of the seas. We need not the loyalty and unity alone, but we need speed and efficiency and toil—and an end to back biting and an end to the sabotage which runs far deeper than the blowing up of munitions plants."

"I tell the American people solemnly that the United States will never survive as a happy and fertile oasis of liberty surrounded by a cruel desert of dictatorship."

"And so it is that when we repeat the great pledge to our country and to our flag it must be our deep conviction that we pledge as well our work, our will, and if it be necessary our very lives."

Labor's Chance

According to Attorney General Jackson, certain labor leaders responsible for recent strikes in defense industries have definitely communist sympathies. They are following long-established Soviet "wrecking" tactics.

It now remains to be seen whether the rank and file of labor will continue to accept this kind of alien-inspired leadership. If it does, the government will have no

choice but to use the sternest measures—and the public will back the government up. Labor can clean house now, adjust its grievances through meditation, and buckle down to the vital defense job. To continue to strike against the nation's safety will prove the most suicidal thing labor can do.

Borrowed Comment

TAXPAYERS PAYING
(Skyland Post)

One of the favorite arguments of those who see any justification in defense strikes is this: "If a company is increasing its profits because of defense orders there is no reason why labor shouldn't share in that increased profit."

That is certainly the best reason offered for rapid wage increases, but it doesn't hold much water under the present defense contract set-up. For when wages are increased above what they were when a defense contract was made, the government, not the employer, is billed.

The contracts aren't as simple as that, but that is what they amount to. Take the North American Aviation company, for instance: in its contract with the government that company has a clause which provides that the government will reimburse it for wage increases which are not above average wage increase for the airplane industry as a whole. If the wages for the airplane industry go up to 20 per cent and North America's increases go up 25 per cent, the company loses 5 per cent. If their wages go up 15 per cent, the company gains 5 per cent and if their wages go up the average amount of 20 per cent the government takes care of that increase.

The reason for such clauses in contracts is based on the fact that such contracts are made to cover cost plus what the government considers a fair profit. If the company had to stand the loss due to wage increases, it would not, in the government's opinion, make a fair profit and would probably suffer losses.

When wages are raised in defense industries, it is the taxpayer and not the employer who has to foot the bill.

WHITE HOUSE BOTTLE NECK
(Richmond (Va.) News Leader)

Because the nation may, for these reasons, be enjoying the last full freedom of utterance that will be permissible for a long time, we should make the most of the light. While still we are informed, we must learn. There should be deliberate discussion now and a ruthless expose during the next few weeks of all perceptible weaknesses of the national defense. Everywhere the question should be, how fares that defense? What may we correct now in full understanding of the defects?

Many informed men in Washington will say privately, in answer, the most immediate single need is that of clearing the worst bottleneck—the bottleneck of the White House, the bottleneck of the desk of President Roosevelt. He has resolved that the direction of the national defense shall not be in the hands of any faction, political or economic. Especially in the work of the OPM, he has tried so to divide responsibility between Mr. Hillman and Mr. Knudson that the one will balance the other. Into nearly all spheres of defense work, this policy has been extended.

The motive is to be commended; the administrative wisdom may be questioned. An engineer of experience in world war industry, who recently spent a month trying to straighten out one tangle in Washington, said the other day: "I have felt very blue over the situation for the last 60 days. No one can get up any enthusiasm about a program that is as balled up as this one. The most serious defect is that there is absolutely no subdivision of authority. Everything, even a minor detail, must be approved by the President before it is executed. Even an item of 30 houses for some small towns with a defense factory has to go to the President before it can be authorized. When you consider for a moment that the President of the United States is looking after the Japanese situation, the British situation, the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific, it is inconceivable that he would also have the time to determine whether or not 30 houses are needed at Podunk, but that is what is going on."

A slogan for gasless Sundays: See your own backyard first.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

What the smart recruit does not know, on his first furlough home, he can cover up as a "defense secret."—Los Angeles Times

France used to stand behind the Magi not line. Now it ditto behind Berlin.—Greensboro Daily News.

Abnormal Absurdities

By DWIGHT NICHOLS, et al.

CONVENIENTLY LOCATED

On Friday, July fourth, a young man who had imbued far too much spirits, considering the weather, and everything, staggered along the street until he got to the door of Call Hotel. There he slumped to the sidewalk and lay still. Probably he was feeling so badly that he thought he was going to die and he did not want to inconvenience the coroner—I. M. Myers, who is also manager of the hotel. Police came along and carried the man to a cell cot, which is probably not as hard as the sidewalk.

WE PASS THIS ON

Who is a certain girl who says "for goodness sake", and a certain man who frequently says "ye gods," who are expected to "middle aisle it" next spring? Looks like a happy family. Or does it?

OFFICERS ARE DUMB SOMETIMES

A motorcycle cop pulled up beside of a car parked on a country road in the wee small hours of the morning. He yelled: "Hey, what business have you got to be out here at this time of the night?" A voice from within the car replied: "This ain't business; it's a pleasure."

OPTIMISTIC SONG

Song writers always go the extreme one way or another. The one who wrote the current hillbilly hit entitled "I'll be back in a year" was decidedly optimistic.

FROM WHICH SOURCE?

The Pope would have us believe that God sent this war to punish the world. We'd rather say the devil sent the war through one Adolf Hitler, who seems to be his commander in chief.

LIGHT STUFF FOR HEAVY MINDS

Domestic hint: Help your wife. When she washes the dishes, wash the dishes with her; when she mops the floor, mop up the floor with her.

Just remember the next time a fellow tries to get a dime off of you for a cup of coffee that he may have a date. Don't tell him that you thought coffee was only five cents.

Letter from College Student: "Dear Dad: Guess when I need most of all. That's right. Send it along? Best wishes. Your son Frank." Letter from Dad to Son: "Dear Frank: NOTHING ever happens here. We know you like your school. Write us a note letter a non. Now we have to say goodbye."

NEUTRAL FOR NAZIS

That old crack about being neutral but "neutral which way" finds its counterpart in the behavior of France: giving up Indo China to the Japs without a fight while bravely fighting against the British to hold Syria for the Nazis to use.

First Baptists In Lead Softball Play

First Baptist softball team took a commanding lead in the first half schedule of the softball league here by defeating North Wilkesboro Methodists on Wednesday afternoon.

On Thursday afternoon Presbyterian team, which has shown much improvement, defeated Wilkesboro Methodists. The standing is as follows:

TEAM	W.	L.	Pct.
First Baptist	4	1	800
N. W. Methodist	2	3	400
W. Methodist	2	3	400
Presbyterian	2	3	400

Games Tuesday and Thursday of this week will complete the first half schedule. However, the victory by the Baptist Wednesday clinched the first place in the league for the first half.

Breathes there a man with soul so dead, who never hath turned his head and said, "Hm-mm, not bad!"

THE SHEPHERD OF THE HILLS is coming...



...to tame this wild mountain...

Liquidate The Drunk Drivers

Liquidate the drinking driver! That was the advice of almost all of the 15,000 motorists who answered a nation-wide survey conducted by "NOT OVER 50" Club, nation-wide highway safety organization, to determine what the average driver thinks should be done to reduce the highways' annual toll of dead and injured.

"This survey gives law enforcement agencies a mandate strong enough to drive the drinking driver off the roads," declared James S. Kemper, president of the Lumbermens Mutual Casualty Company, which sponsors the Club. "Over 98 per cent of the 15,000 who answered the Not Over 50' Club's questionnaire asked for stricter enforcement of laws prohibiting driving while intoxicated."

"For a long time, safety experts have agreed that if drunken driving was ever stopped many of the most serious highway accidents would be prevented and now for the first time we have important proof that the person who does the driving agrees with the experts wholeheartedly. It only remains for the law to renew its efforts and to keep on renewing them until drunken driving is a thing of the past."

The majority of other answers to the questionnaire indicated that responsible motorists also favor stricter enforcement of other regulations aimed at reducing traffic accidents. Reckless driving was ranked as the Number One cause of automobile accidents and 87 per cent were of the opinion that driver's license law should be more strictly enforced.

Excessive speed was ranked as the second most important cause of accidents, and 77 per cent favored stricter enforcement of speed laws. Both of these reactions show the influence of the "Not Over 50" Club creed, which asks all members to limit their top speed to fifty miles an hour at all times. The majority of the motorists contributing to the survey felt that state-wide speed limits should be established, the percentage in favor of such measures being 81 per cent. Of this number, 83 per cent favor a speed limit of fifty miles per hour or the open road, and 90 per cent want a top speed of thirty miles per hour in the city.

The compulsory inspection of all motor vehicles at regular intervals in order to bar from the road those that are unfit, was favored by 94 per cent. Likewise, 93 per cent thought the same thing should happen to drivers—that they should all be examined, and only those who are able to drive well, be allowed to continue.

Not all of the favored safety

measures were aimed at the motorist, however. A high percentage—91 per cent—thought that pedestrian traffic should be regulated more strictly, also.

The "Not Over 50" Club, which made the survey, was organized in 1935 in an effort to reduce accidents, and, in particular, fatalities and serious injuries as the result of a tendency toward higher speeds on the open highway. Today over 300,000 motorists belong to the Club. All of them are pledged to drive carefully and to not exceed fifty miles an hour at any time.

To help remind them, members receive a little red arrow sticker to place on the speedometers of their cars at the fifty-mile-an-hour mark. Membership is free.

Speakers Announced for Farm, Home Week

Featured speakers for the evening programs during Farm and Home Week, to be held at N. C. State College August 4-8, are announced by Dan M. Paul, secretary of the Farmers' Convention.

Major General Jacob L. Devers, commanding officer of Fort Bragg, will report on the welfare of farm youths at training camps in an address on the Tuesday evening program, August 5. Dr. Helen Mitchell, director of nutrition for the Federal Security Agency, Washington, D. C., will discuss the relation of health to National Defense. Governor J. M. Broughton will speak on the Tuesday night program.

John A. Arey, chairman of the Men's Programs, has completed arrangements for social forestry, poultry, agronomy, marketing, livestock and horticulture conferences.

The only speech at the forestry meeting on Tuesday morning will be by E. N. Munns, chief of the Division of Forest Injuries, U. S. Forest Service. Likewise, the poultry conference on Tuesday will include only one address—by H. A. Bittenbender, director of the Nutrition Service for the Borden Company.

Appearing on the Animal Husbandry program will be: R. L. Lush of the National Fertilizer Association, Dr. R. E. McArdle of the U. S. Forest Service, Dr. R. B. Becker of the University of Florida, and Wayne Dinsmore of

the Hires and Mule Association of America.

C. B. Denham of the National Association of Food Chains will be the only out-of-state speaker on the Marketing program. E. A. Norton of the U. S. Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D. C., will speak before the Agronomy section.

All other discussions will be led by North Carolina farmers and agricultural leaders of the State.

HOW TATTOOING MAY SAVE LIVES.

Medical science urges warning code marks on the body, so doctors can quickly diagnose people suffering from diabetic shock or epilepsy, or know what type of blood to give unconscious accident victims in need of immediate transfusions. And for sensitive ladies there's a new type of tattooing that only shows up under x-rays. Read it in The American Weekly with Sunday's Washington Times-Herald, now on sale.

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