

**The Journal - Patriot**  
 INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

Published Mondays and Thursdays at  
 North Wilkesboro, North Carolina

D. J. CARTER and JULIUS C. HUBBARD  
 Publishers

**SUBSCRIPTION RATES:**

One Year ..... \$2.00  
 (In Wilkes and Adjoining Counties)

One Year ..... \$3.00  
 (Outside Wilkes and Adjoining Counties)

Rates To Those In Service:  
 One Year (anywhere) ..... \$2.00

Entered at the postoffice at North Wilkesboro, North Carolina, as Second-class matter under Act of March 4, 1879.

THURSDAY, DEC. 21, 1944

team and devotion of loyalty that are given in spirits develop spiritual qualities of the highest religious teaching".

8. It is dangerous to neglect or turn over opportunities in developing young people to commercial agencies. A Y. M. C. A. fosters a knowledge and skill in integrating recreation and other wholesome activities of life.

Training children is becoming a community problem. The citizenship of North Wilkesboro tomorrow will be as strong, honest, progressive, and wholesome as the present generation of young people is now preparing itself. To neglect this group is to promise ourselves community problems tomorrow.

As a nation we can boast of wealth and national progress. We own 88 per cent of all automobiles, 78 per cent of all insurance, 74 per cent of all telephones, 58 1-2 per cent of all the wealth in the world; and we are only 5 1-2 per cent of the population in the world. But somebody is murdered in the United States every 45 minutes—300,000 murderers in the United States. The largest group of criminals is 23 years of age. Divorces are increasing five times faster than marriages. Wealth and prosperity selfishly held go hand in hand with neglect and ruin. North Wilkesboro can boast of a significant wealth per capita person. If it is not invested in community character training now, the post-war years will yield statistics that will add up to shame and blighted lives. Let the citizenship of North Wilkesboro pledge its support to the development of fine Christian citizenship.

American war casualties have been reported at 509,195 and in that total, there are 108,000 dead—men who have given their lives on land, on the sea, in the air and under the sea, in defense of their country. In the remaining 401,195 casualties, there are hundreds of men who are crippled, blind or otherwise handicapped for life. The cost of war in material values is negligible when compared with the cost in human values: life, limb and suffering.

**● LIFE'S BETTER WAY ●**  
 WALTER E. ISENHOUR  
 Hiddenite, N. C.

**CHRISTMAS GREETINGS**

At this blessed season of the year we wish to extend our hearty Christmas greetings to all our readers throughout the land. May the blessed Savior draw near to each and every one of you, and may this be a time of sweetness, peace, love and joy in your hearts, even though there is much sorrow, suffering, anxiety and disappointment abounding throughout the earth. However, it is possible to love God and all mankind to the extent that we can have deep and sweet peace in our souls, though the billows of world strife roll about us.

We know that many of our dear readers have given up loved ones, either in death or to the service of our country, and this has cast a shadow over your lives and homes. We sympathize with you. Our prayers go up in your behalf, and in behalf of your dear ones. Let's place them in the care and keeping of God, so far as our part goes. And let's advise them to read often the 91st Psalm and live in it. God promises marvelous, wonderful, glorious protection to His saints and followers in this beautiful sublime Psalm. Praise His holy name forever. How good He is to His children! We should worship, reverence and adore Him at all times and under all circumstances of life. Hallelujah!

And I wish to take this opportunity to thank my readers for all their kindness, love, prayers and helpfulness to us. The readers of some of the publications, and one especially, have sent us offerings all through the year to help us meet our expenses; and within the last few months they have sent around \$400.00 to enable us to publish a book which we have written entitled "Lost Gems of The American People". We greatly, GREATLY appreciate this. The book will be ready for sale in the near future. Quite a number of our readers have stood by us faithfully through the years with their tithes and offerings, for which we thank God and thank them. This has enabled us to continue our work of spreading the Gospel through the printed page and column, reaching tens of thousands of people with the blessed truth of the Gospel. To God be the glory.

Again, Merry Christmas to you, dear readers, Merry Christmas. And as Christmas goes by and you enter into the New Year, may this same sweetness attend your pathway all along life's journey to Heaven, if you are a child of God. I shall appreciate hearing from you personally if you care to write me, but enclose a stamp for reply.

**ABNORMAL ABSURDITIES**

By  
**DWIGHT NICHOLS**  
 et al

**IDLE CHATTER—**  
 "What do you want, a whole wig?" asked the waiter of a man who complained that he found three hairs in his soup. . . . Some are classed as brilliant when they are only reflectors, reflecting brilliancy from someone else. . . . Charity may begin at home but more often it ends there. . . . A good politician is one who says nothing in the greatest possible number of words. . . . Old timers say they can remember when a flat tire was a nuisance instead of a catastrophe. . . . Won't somebody please whoop it up for our anti noise campaign?

**IN TODAY'S MAIL—**  
 North Wilkesboro  
 December 8, 1944.

To The Editor of Fool Column:  
 Dear Mr. Nichols:  
 Since I became your 14th reader, I have seen and heard many strange things. As I journeyed afoot between the two towns last Monday, I paused on the bridge to look at the beautiful water, when at some distance down the river I saw an object floating up the stream. As it floated near where I was standing on the bridge, I saw that the object was a large mill stone and that there were three men riding on it, as it floated up the river. On looking closely at the men I saw that one was a blind man, one had no arms, and the other one was naked. As they were about to pass where I was standing the blind man looked down in the water and saw a pocket knife in the bottom of the river, the man that had no arms reached down and picked it up and handed it to the naked man and he put it in his pocket. I don't know whether you will believe this or not. I wouldn't believe it myself if I hadn't seen it with my own eyes.

Yours sincerely,  
 READER NO. 14.  
 (Editor's note: Writer of the above letter is assuming too much in claiming to be the 14th reader. He or she evidently does not know that a number of the original readers have succumbed to acute diskustitis. And don't blame your delerium tremens on this column. More than likely it was some of the local kickapoy joy juice).

**THIS COULD BE—**  
 Don't go grouching on your way, letting your anger smolder; Never travel through the world with a chip on your shoulder. Should someone make a swipe at it and miss, I tell you that The blow might knock your head off—then where would you be at?  
 —W. R. Shaw

**CONSOLATION?—**  
 A minister was trying to console a man who had lost his wife:  
 Minister (continuing kindly)—My brother, I know that this is a

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**WE LIGHTEN YOUR TASK**

great sorrow that has overtaken you, and though you are compelled to mourn the loss of this one who has been your partner and companion in life, I will console you with the assurance that there is Another who sympathizes and seeks to embrace you in the arms of unending love.

Bereaved Husband (brightening)—What's her name.

**CREATES DEMAND—**  
 A youth idling in a local department store saw a sales girl take a package from under the counter and sell it to a young lady who had just walked into the store.

The youth immediately walked up and said: "I'll take one of them, too".  
 With the wrapped package under his arm he said as he walked out: "I'll buy anything that they keep under the counter".

**HINTS IN SONGS—**  
 One lad says members of his family let their wishes be known as to what they want for Christmas by the songs they sing. He said he has been singing "A Bicycle Built For Two" because he wanted a bicycle and he thinks his dad in going to get it. And he said that his sister has been singing "Dancing With a Dolly With a Hole in Her Stocking" and is going to get a pair of hose and a doll. But she says his mother may not do so well with her hinted request. He said she has been

going about the house singing "Is You or Is You Ain't My Baby?"

Prices for rayon staple fibers have declined from 60 cents a

pound in 1933 to 35 cents a pound at the present on a net weight basis, say reports. There is really no waste in using rayon.

**BUY MORE WAR BONDS**

**WAS LOVE OR MADNESS TO BE HER FATE?**

See

**NOW ... Liberty Theatre**

**Merry Christmas!**

For centuries writers have tried substitutes for "Merry Christmas" as a greeting at this season of the year but there is no holiday greeting that says or implies so much.

At this Christmas time we should never lose faith in the eternity of Christmas and we should never lose sight of the light which falls from the star of Bethlehem.

"Peace On Earth, Goodwill Toward Men", was the heavenly message when the Prince of Peace was born, and despite all the strife and turmoil in the world today, that remains the heavenly message to all men everywhere.

Perhaps there is not a home in Wilkes county that does not at this holiday season keenly miss the presence of some loved one who is away and engaged in war. But there is consolation in the fact that they are fighting for the cause of right, to free people from oppression and to prevent the forces of evil from ruling the earth.

The many readers of this newspaper in foreign lands will not read this until well after the Christmas season is passed, but to them we extend the greetings and well wishes of the people of Wilkes county, and each and every one of them can be assured that they were remembered in the thoughts and prayers of the people back home on this anniversary of the world's greatest event.

**Y. M. C. A. Would Lessen Juvenile Delinquency**

(Guest editorial by Dr. David E. Browning, pastor of the First Baptist Church)

Life takes on a new meaning in every generation, and the sad thing about this sociological change is that youth gets caught in its cross-currents and becomes bewildered and confused. They are plunged into new situations without adequate preparation. Their parents never passed through such fervid thrill-mad adolescence. Most of these adults spent their childhood in the country, where work kept them properly occupied.

Young people are faced with much to intrigue them. The lash of thrills and temptations is hurled in tremendous stimulation. And all the while the total time available for leisure is growing. The five day week will probably have extension in the next decade. What will we do with the young people's time? A community can ignore its young people and their needs and reap a burdensome problem in delinquency. Healy and Bronner, in a study of 4000 juvenile delinquents, found at least three-fourths were made so by failures in the socializing process. They were not surrounded with environmental conditions and directed and controlled recreational life, which would help insure a growth of well adjusted individuals.

The citizens of North Wilkesboro would respond to any disaster by immediate help and reconstruction. The need for organized recreational life in North Wilkesboro is an immediate necessity. I believe the citizens of this town should, without hesitation, raise the funds for a Y. M. C. A. for the following reasons:

- 1.—The adolescent years are a period of social development and adjustment. These needs can, in many ways, be met by a properly functioning Y. M. C. A.
- 2.—Recreation is like religion, one of the universal expressions of the human race. Play is the expression of inner desires and impulses. "Qualities of Christian character like courage, dependability, good will, honesty, obedience, humility, may be built up through directed recreation". "Good clean sport is as much a spiritual development as religion. It develops the same qualities that religion seeks to develop. Human contact and fellowship are the soul of religion, and the spirit of sacrifice for the

**CORDIAL GREETINGS**

AND A NOTE TO SANTA—

We know you are busy—so's everybody else. We just want to remind you that here in this community are the finest folks in the world, and we are hoping that you will remember them well in your Christmas Eve travels. Our friends here are deserving of all good things. Please don't forget them!

**The Little Grill**  
 Pete Antonakos, Prop.

**"PEACE ON EARTH"**

In these troubled times of world unrest and strife, Christmas brings home to us the realization that "Peace on earth, goodwill toward men" is more than just an empty phrase.

It is the foundation of all the teachings of Him whose birthday we celebrate. May that spirit go with you throughout the days of the coming year.

**Wilkes Furniture Exchange**

**ATTENTION—FARMERS!**

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We Have Just Received Our Allotment of Tobacco Muslin. If You Can Anticipate Your Next Season's Needs Our Advice Is to Buy Now! We Have the Following Size Covers In Stock:

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