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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Safety Awards Are Presented Industries

During the past year a number of local industries have received awards from the North Carolina Industrial Commission for having operated an entire year without a lost time accident among employes.

The award has been given Wilkes Hosiery Mills company, American Furniture company, Wilkesboro Manufacturing company, Joe Darlington Poultry company and possibly other firms in this area.

It is an excellent record, especially in hazardous occupations where many are employed, to operate an entire year without an accident that would cause an employe to be out of work.

Safety is not only humanitarian, but it is a good investment on the part of employers. When an employe who knows his job is out of work the firm loses his services. Often he cannot be readily replaced.

Great strides have been made in recent years in making jobs safer for employes, to the mutual advantage of all concerned. The accident record in local industries is very low, which reflects credit on management and labor for promotion of safety programs and safety education in the plants.

Property Valuation And Fair Taxation

Recently Rockingham county hired a group of outside experts to make what the chairman of the board of county commissioners termed the fairest and most equitable tax valuation in the history of the county.

Commenting on the subject, Harry Davis, board chairman, stated:

"Every one of the parcels of real estate, together with fixtures, machinery and equipment, in Rockingham County now has an up-to-date conservative valuation, equitable with the valuation of other properties in the county and producing a uniform and fair basis of taxation.

"A fair and solid basis is now provided for this continuing appraisal process, as provided by law by which an equitable taxation policy can be maintained through the years.

"Many new types of construction and much new equipment never before taxed, as well as many parcels of land which have not been listed for taxation at all, are now included in the property valuation and will now carry their share of the local tax burden.

"The Rockingham County taxable property has been increased, but the total will not be ascertained until tax listing has been completed this month.

"The increased valuation will result in a lower tax rate for 1950. This tax rate at present cannot be defined, but conservative estimates place it at 50 per cent of the present mileage rate."

But, according to recent reports from Leaksville, many citizens howled that their property valuations were too high.

In response to the protests, the commissioners of that county made a 30 per cent reduction in all valuations, which probably gave the complainants some degree of satisfaction for no reason at all.

When the valuation was completed and before the cut was made it was estimated that a 50 cent tax rate would finance the county. The reduction in valuation will mean a higher tax rate, and if reports that

the reduction was across the board are true, each taxpayer will pay the same amount of tax as if the reduction had not been made. All of which is puzzling and represents a study in human nature.

A fair and reasonable valuation is much to be desired over ridiculously low figures. A lower tax rate with valuation of some substantial degree of market value is a much better selling point for development that a high tax rate and very low valuation.

Many Are Missing Good Entertainment

On Friday and Saturday nights here the Community Little Theatre put on a play, "The Man Who Came To Dinner."

This comedy was well rendered by people in our own community and those who saw the play were well entertained and received more than their money's worth. But the sad part was that the audiences were not as large as they should have been.

The Community Little Theatre is a non-profit organization of local people, who get much recreation and valuable training in their work in the Little Theatre. This organization represents a starting point for those who have ambitions for the stage and dramatics. It also offers training for those who wish to improve their talents in appearing before the public. It is very definitely a community asset that needs and deserves support, not just from a small group, but from all public spirited citizens who wish to see a valuable addition to our community life thrive among us.

Even a business man can do as he pleases; he can advertise or he can let his competitor get the business.

When you see a man stuffing a child in an auto trunk nowadays it isn't necessarily kidnapping. They might be looking for a rattle in the car or they may merely be on their way to a drive-in movie.—The Greensboro Daily News.

A California jury has acquitted Mickey Cohen, charged with calling the police nasty names. We think California ought to pass a law giving the much-bombed Mickey a right to call a policeman whatever he pleases every time a bomb goes off in his house. —The Greensboro Daily News.

● LIFE'S BETTER WAY ●

WALTER E. ISENHOUR
High Point, N. C., Route 4

WHERE IS OUR COMMON SENSE?

Common sense tells us many things if we would stop and take heed. Every man and woman with common sense knows that the beer, wine and liquor traffic is a curse to any nation. It makes millions of alcoholics, helps fill our courts wrecks homes, destroys lives of thousands of people, fills our prisons with thousands of criminals, destroys the characters and morals of our youth throughout the land, and, saddest and worst of all, sends multitudes to hell and keeps them out of heaven. How can any man or woman vote for, or stand for, or partake of such an evil? Where is the common sense of millions of our people? What has become of their conscience? To say nothing of their Christianity, it seems that common sense, conscience and principle would be enough to keep anybody from upholding the cursed beer, wine and liquor traffic with their vote, their money and their influence.

Surely those who partake of alcohol, and those who deal in it, and those who stand for it, just silently say to their conscience, their principle, their common sense, their manhood and womanhood, their morality and even their souls: Now just step aside. Don't bother me. Let me have my fling. I want my own ungodly way. I want to do as I please and let the consequence be as it may."

How awful, O How Awful, to curse, blight, wreck and damn humanity with alcohol and send multitudes of precious, PRECIOUS souls to hell and cheat them out of heaven and eternal life and glory! Man, woman, how can you do it? How can you treat your own dear children like that, or the dear sweet children and youth of your nation like that? Don't forget that God will hold you responsible. O let common sense, reason, your better judgment and the Spirit of our blessed Savior turn you to God and away from the broad road to hell!

Symphony Enjoys Visit Here 2nd

The North Carolina Little Symphony gave concerts here Thursday before highly appreciative audiences, in the afternoon before the school and in the evening before a large audience of adults who are enthusiastic to have the symphony return next year.

Benjamin J. Swalin, director of the symphony, wrote to North Wilkesboro Mayor R. T. McNeil the following letter after their performance here:

Hon. R. T. McNeil, Mayor
North Wilkesboro, N. C.
Dear Mayor McNeil:
I am prompted to write this letter of appreciation in behalf of the North Carolina Symphony Society and on the occasion of our recent concerts for the children and adults in North Wilkesboro.

The Symphony appeared in a special program for a capacity audience of children last Thursday afternoon, and I wish to tell you that I was proud of that audience. The children were both delighted and most attentive and appreciative. Not only did they demand extra numbers, but they were so interested and delighted with the music that we were inspired.

I should also like to state that it was a privilege to play for such a fine and appreciative audience of adults in the evening. I trust that our concert appearances in North Wilkesboro will be annual events that will increase in significance with the years; for we are living in an era of deteriorating human relations when the great cultural and spiritual values, including finest music, are among the few permanent values in the world.

I trust that you will submit this letter to the newspaper for publication so that the citizenry

of North Wilkesboro will know of our appreciation.
Yours very truly,
BENJAMIN F. SWALIN,
Burnsville, N. C.

John Dudley Howell Is Taken By Death

John Dudley Howell, former colored resident of the Boomer community, died March 5 at Goldsboro. Funeral service was held Tuesday at Thankful church at Boomer with Rev. Q. P. Lowe in charge.

Surviving are his wife and eight children: Frances, Otis, Graham, Conrad, John R., Bertie and Lucille Howell and Pansy Fletcher.

Four-H Club boys, attending a tractor maintenance school in Raleigh recently, met "Jim Careless", a straw-stuffed dummy. "Jim" had left off the safety guard covering the power take-off shaft on his tractor, as many farmers do. As the boys watched, "Jim" got his pantleg caught in the shaft, was quickly pulled down and spun around, scattering straw in all directions. "This could happen to you," the boys were told.



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You've seen it happen with the family down the street, the friends across town, the folks you went to school with.

They started out, as most folks do, with a car of modest size—and still more modest price.

Maybe they moved themselves up a bit, step by step, to the top-bracket models in that particular price range.

Then they discovered something.

It doesn't cost much more—sometimes no more—to really blossom out in a Buick.

It's not such a long stretch to take command of a great-hearted valve-in-head straight-eight—to move into the room and restfulness and steady going of a Buick—to cloak yourself in styling that's today's height of highway fashions.

You can know the good, satisfying feel of a Buick wheel in your hand—you can have the gentleness of soft coil springs on all four wheels—you can revel in the handiness of cars that are big in room and big in repute, yet traffic-sized and easy to park and put away.

Maybe—who knows till you inquire?—you can manage the magic silkiness of Dynaflow Drive* in all its 1950 perfection—of a certainty you'll find the model that's twin to your heart's desire among the many choices Buick gives you for 1950.

So why not make this your year to blossom out in a Buick, as so many have before you? Why not

find out the dollars-and-cents story of Buick—it even includes some very happy figures on gas economy—from your own Buick dealer?

See him now, will you—and help yourself to some real fun this season!

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