

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

Published Mondays and Thursdays at North Wilkesboro, North Carolina

JULIUS C. HUBBARD—MRS. D. J. CARTER
Publishers

1932—DANIEL J. CARTER—1945

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, 1897.

Monday, May 8, 1950



Current Affairs in Schools

A nationwide study of the teaching of current affairs in the elementary and secondary schools of the nation concludes that the schools do not give sufficient classroom time to an adequate program for teaching current affairs.

It is pointed out that, in most schools, there are one or two sessions a week, designated as "Current Events" periods, but that contemporary happenings are not made a sufficient part of the total curriculum. Controversial issues are often barred in the classroom, both on account of community pressures and because teachers fear that they might be denounced as "red" or "radical."

While there is, no doubt, some place for current affairs in the curricula of the elementary and secondary schools; it may be questioned whether great emphasis should be placed upon contemporary events. After all, the business of the schools is to train pupils in certain fundamentals which we might call the tools of thought and thus leave them in a position to read, understand and evaluate controversial issues for themselves.

-THE- EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Rev. Herbert Spough, D. D.



What do you do with complaints? Do you make them to others, receive them from others, or do both?

I once read the story of a clergyman who kept on his desk a special note book, which he had labeled, "Complaints of Members." But the book contained nothing but blank pages. When one of his parishoners called to tell him of the faults of another he would say, "I have a complaint book here. I shall write down the things you say. And when I take the matter up with the official board, I shall tell them of your complaint."

The sight of the complaint book and the ready pen had its effect. "Oh, no, I don't care to have you write it down, not that I made the complaint." And no entry was made.

The clergyman kept the book for forty years, opened it thousands of times before complaints and never had occasion to write a line in it.

We would all be more careful of what we say, if we knew it was being made a matter of record with our names attached. Yet the Bible records the words of Jesus, "But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Interpret that as you will. It reads to me like some kind of record is being made of things which we say. We record and reproduce the human voice now on mechanical devices. Who will say that everything we utter may not possibly be recorded somewhere.

If you must complain, then get a complaint book and write down your complaints there, or use the method of the complaining prophet Jeremiah — he went in his prayer closet and did his complaining to the Lord.

If you can't receive complaints with a smile, pass them off, then get a complaint book. If that doesn't appeal to you, then try a pin cushion and fasten each complaint into it with a pin. If the complaint makes you especially angry, then jab the pin into the pin cushion a half a dozen times for good measure.

I try never to forget these lines of an old poem by Will Carlton, which I have often quoted before in this column:

"Boys flying kites haul in their white winged birds.

You can't do that when you are flying words.

Thoughts unsaid often fall back dead. But God Himself cannot unsay them when once they're said."

Each one of us should include in our morning prayer the petition of the Psalmist, "Set a watch, O Lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips." Then try to remember that you learn far more in life by listening than you do by talking.

The trouble with many people, in this day and time, is that they are perfectly willing to be neighbors to the people of Africa, India and Asia but unwilling to be neighbors at home.

Let's see, wasn't it about ten thousand years ago that the wise boys predicted the end of civilization was at hand?

PMA Farm Tour Will Be Held On Monday, May 22

The Wilkes county P.M.A. committee has set Monday, May 22 as the date to hold the farm tour and field day for the Wilkes county P.M.A. farmers. The committee announces the following plans: The tour will start at the county courthouse at 9:00 a. m., or to those who live on the north side of the county, at Baptist Home Church, where the first farm visited will be that of Hobart Lockhart, and continue on to other farms from there. At 12:00 noon the tour will end at the VFW hall, south of North Wilkesboro, where demonstrations will

be held on spreading lime and phosphate. This will be followed by a luncheon furnished by the seed dealers, limestone and phosphate dealers, dairy companies and drink companies, and served by the VFW Auxiliary, the luncheon will be free to all. After the luncheon a very entertaining program will be presented, consisting of music and songs by "Little Dock Wheeler and His Oklahoma Funmakers," talks by the farmers, recognition of the associated agencies and businessmen, a speech by G. T. Scott, state director of the P.M.A. program, and ending with an address by the Representative C. B. Deane. All farmers and businessmen, associated agencies and civic clubs are invited to attend. Further details will be furnished at a later date.

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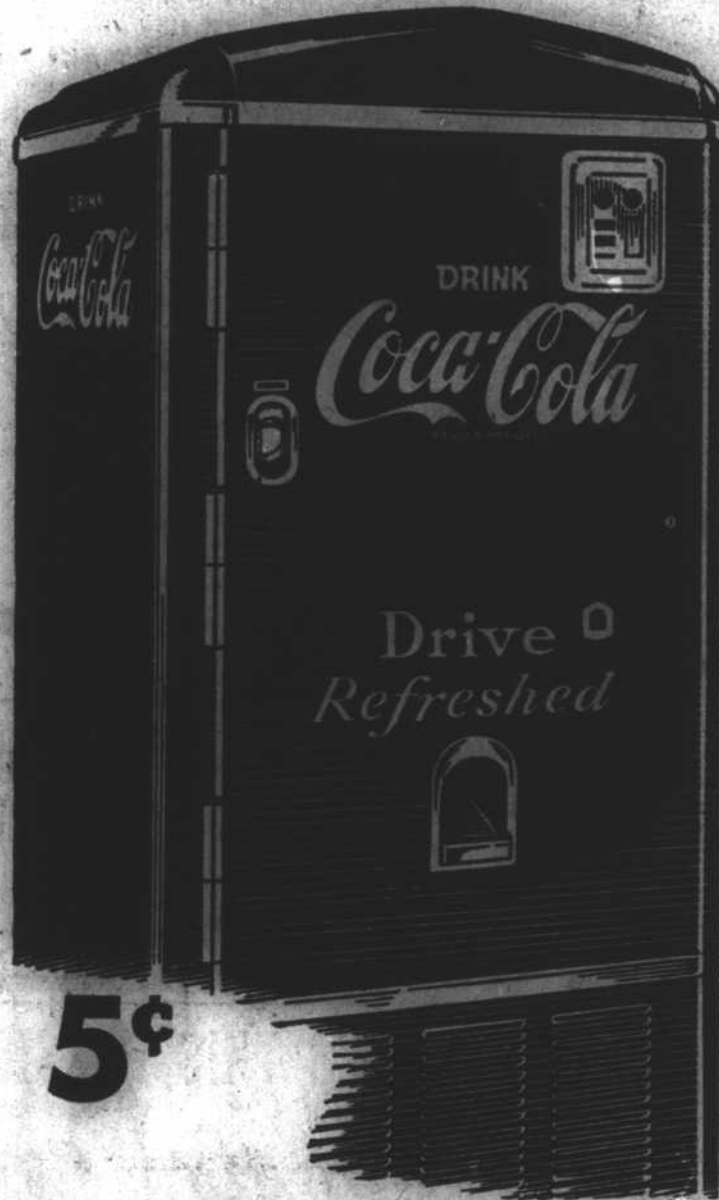
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Baptist To Raise Funds For Hospital

The North Carolina Baptist State convention in meeting recently at Charlotte voted to overrule the Baptist general board and the Baptist hospital board of trustees, who had previously voted to accept near \$700,000 in state and federal funds to help finance construction of a wing to house an additional 150 beds at the Baptist hospital in Winston-Salem.

From this corner it appears that the convention in refusing to accept the funds on the grounds that it violated the principle of separation of church and state was "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

However, the convention voted to set forth immediately and raise the necessary funds from the Baptists of the State.

If this project follows the usual course of human events, those who objected the loudest to acceptance of the government money will give the last and do the least in the hospital fund raising.

The need at the hospital for additional room is acute, and people are suffering because of that need. The hospital with Bowman Gray school of medicine has become a medical center in reach of a heavily populated area. There should be no delay in providing the funds which have been so rudely refused. The Baptists will raise the money, because they have in the medical school and hospital institutions which can render great service to suffering humanity.

Fire Fighting Facilities Essential To City

The disastrous fire here on April 29 destroyed an estimated million dollars worth of property.

Firemen and other observers know that this community is fortunate in that no more of the city's industrial areas were wiped out.

The fire was of such tremendous proportions that fire fighting equipment and men were summonsed from Wilkesboro, Lenoir and Statesville. The job was equal to the ability of all those fire fighting units combined.

When there is no fire little thought is given to what would happen in event of a fire which gets out of control, and which seems to thrive on what water one fire fighting unit can put on it.

There are numerous factors which enter into the question of fire fighting facilities. Size of water mains, location of hydrants, water pressure at different points, distribution of available water supply, water level in storage tanks, pumping capacity and other things too numerous to mention enter into the possibility.

If such information is not readily available, the water system should be completely surveyed by competent engineers, with the resultant data always at hand for use in combating fires. It is gratifying to note that during the past year some additional water mains were laid to give greater water pressure to certain areas. If there are other points where a greater water supply is needed the need should be taken care of as soon as possible.

Local and visiting firemen here on April 29 did a magnificent job in keeping the fire from destroying much other valuable industrial, commercial and residential property.

A thorough study should be made of the available facilities, with much attention being given to any lack of facilities to stop large fires.

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