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COMPARISON SHOWS —

What Progress Is County Making In School Crisis?

From every part of the United States come reports of a school building crisis — there just isn't enough room for the increasing number of children in the public schools.

What progress has Macon County made in that respect? and how does it compare?

One basis of comparison was provided by a recent news story in the Asheville Citizen-Times. The story reported that today Asheville has only two more classrooms in its city school system than it had 20 years ago.

Macon County, though it has only about a third the population of Asheville, has added 14 classrooms in half that time, 10 years, figures on file in the office of the county superintendent of schools show.

During those periods both Asheville and Macon County have spent a lot of money on new school construction; Asheville about 2½ million dollars, Macon County about

1 million. But most of the new classrooms to replace old ones abandoned as unfit for use.

The figures — 2 for Asheville and 14 for Macon County—represent the net gain in total number of classrooms.

Back in 1947, this county had 114 classrooms. The total today is 128. (Cafeterias, libraries, shops, etc., are not included.)

Meanwhile, the number of teachers here has increased. In 1947, the total was 113. The figure today is 127 classroom teachers. (The 1957 total does not include the elementary school supervisor, two special education teachers, and two vocational education teachers.)

During the 10-year period, school enrollment in this county has increased by approximately 7 per cent. The total 10 years ago was 3,638; this year it is 3,880.

Meanwhile, consolidation was shrinking the number of schools. Back in 1947, Macon county had 25 schools; today there are only 11.

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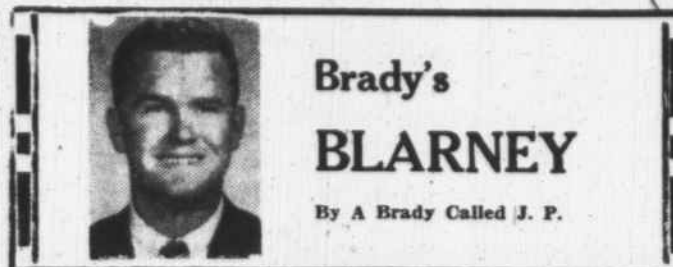
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By A Brady Called J. P.

Our generation is witnessing the rather sad death of a lost art. That's Tobacco Chewing, an unfiltered, non-cancer producing pastime that took the place of TV and drive-ins back in granddad's day. There has been a lot of American history committed to memory by The Old Man sitting in front of a log fire with a chew in his jaw and an eager audience of young gathered around him. Because we're now living in an era of sudden and very dramatic change, the recording of history has become dull and stereotyped. Machines, non-tobacco chewing, and prim secretaries, also non-chewers, go about the business of jotting down historical events with a detachment born of time and a half and high horsepower jalopies. The Old Man with his chew of tobacco is about a thing of the past. The fireplace is purely decorative (perish the thought of spitting into it) and the youngsters who once crowded around for a session of story telling are much too busy alternately developing and losing frustrations so psychiatrists can get rich writing magazine articles on the customs and mores of the non-chewing generations.

Not too many years back baseball players probably did more than any other single group to further the art of chewing.

Even back when I was a kid, a boy who batted 450 still wasn't considered much of a ball player until he had mastered a chew of Beechnut tobacco and could stay on his feet a minimum of four innings after sliding into second and swallowing chew, juice, and all. But today, the trend in baseball is toward bubble gum. With television cameras following each play, it's considered quite indelicate for a shortstop to loft a spray of tobacco juice TV audience-wise after missing an easy catch. About the best he can hope for with bubble gum is a six-inch orb and I guess they figure not too many people would be offended by that.

So it is that we're all seeing the demise of an art which, in my way of thinking, contributed more than its share to the American Way of Life.

Tobacco chewers are definitely on the way out. Save for post offices, few buildings, public or otherwise, maintain spittoons anymore.

And those grand old tobacco chewers that remain—in Macon County at least—are bowing to age and failing eyesight.

"They don't hit 'em like they used to," declared Lon Dalton one day last week, as he swabbed down the wall behind the post office spittoons where history and

The Old Man have been missing the mark.

jpb

The Rev. Bill Jollay, who built his home at Cullasaja around his house trailer, believes in uncluttered beauty.

He has a glassed-in porch overlooking a beautiful view of Cullasaja at the rear of his house. When he decided recently to put a fireplace in his basement study, he thought occurred that a chimney jutting up beside the porch would detract from the view.

So, when you go by Mr. Jollay's place and see a chimney sticking out of the ground some 20 feet away from the house don't be too surprised. He had his reasons.

jpb

Have you seen the new pencils used by some of the town's secretaries?

They're inscribed, "Sincerely Yours, Elvis Presley".

Which also paves the way for the sage comment of a TV viewer who dismissed the fence (paper covered) hiding construction of Belk's new store by observing:

"Must be an Elvis Presley store . . . they only let you see the top half!"

jpb

How's this for the name of a new TV giveaway show: I'M DUMBER THAN YOU ARE.

They could give away thousands of dollars for each wrong answer. The line for contestants forms immediately in back of me.

jpb

With all of the talent here, Macon County could make a fine showing at the annual Mountain Youth Jamboree in Asheville March 27-30.

Don't know if any of our entertainers are planning to compete, but I do know they should.

How about you singers, dancers, dance teams, and musicians among the young people start looking to the above dates and let's take a large delegation from here to the jamboree.

Let's hear from you!

jpb

Unintentionally, this column slighted someone last week in calling attention to the excellent work going on here with boys through Scouting.

My apologies to Ernest Hyde for omitting his name from the list of tireless and devoted workers. Anyone familiar with the remarkable strides that have been made here in Cub Scouting recognizes the influence of Mr. Hyde.

Safety And Founder's Program To Feature Otto P.-T. A. Meeting

The Otto P.-T. A. will meet tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 o'clock at the school.

Joe Sherriel, state safety representative, will be the speaker, and will show a film featuring Billy Graham.

"Founders' Day" will be observed and the past presidents of the Otto P.-T. A. will be honored.

Runway Lights For Airport Have Arrived

To Be Installed Immediately; Are Waterproof Units

Installation of night landing lights at the Macon County Airport is scheduled to begin almost immediately, according to the association.

The lighting system, the latest addition in a long-range improvement program at the field, arrived Wednesday of last week. They were to be installed Saturday, but rain the night before postponed the operation.

Wiring for the permanent lighting units is to be buried underground. Each unit is sealed and waterproof so high water from the nearby Little Tennessee River can do no harm. The lights, which cost about \$700, do not illuminate the field, but will be spaced as to mark the runway boundaries.

A resident attendant at the airport is to supervise the operation of the lights.

Neals Celebrate 54th Anniversary At Home Sunday

Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Neal, of Aquone, observed their 54th wedding anniversary Sunday at their home.

Present for the celebration were their children, Vaughn Neal, of Andrews, Rege Neal, of Detroit, Mich., Kenneth Neal, of Franklin, Bert Neal, of Brevard, and Mrs. Webb Ellis, of Asheville, their 10 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Neal, who will observe their birthdays next month, will be 74 and 72, respectively. They both are lifelong residents of Macon County.

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Choice? Ford gives you your choice of not one, but two big-car sizes. There's the Custom and Custom 300 Series, over sixteen luscious feet of car. Or you can choose from nine even longer Fairlane and Fairlane 500 models, over seventeen feet of pure dreamboat. There are 20 new Ford models . . . all styled with the Mark of Tomorrow.

And look at the choice of power. Beginning with the new Mileage Maker Six and going right through the series of V-8 engines you can get your own brand of sizzle, including a Thunderbird 312 Supercharged V-8 that delivers 300 hp and a 270-hp Thunderbird 312 Super V-8.

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