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THURSDAY, MAY 15, 1958

Reminder

This Saturday (May 17) is the last day to register to vote in the primary election.

The good citizen does his share. And the smallest share a citizen can have in his government is to inform himself about the issues and the candidates, to make sure his or her name is on the registration book, and then to go to the polls and vote.

Stigwards All

Everybody grows a little tired of so many "weeks". There are too many of them. But the week being observed May 11-18 is not one of the too many.

For though it may be a commonplace, it is still a crucial fact, that all life on this earth is dependent on the soil. And the key word in Soil Stewardship Week is "stewardship".

How great is the responsibility and obligation of every man to save the soil is suggested by the background of the ancient word, "steward". It comes from an Anglo-Saxon term, "stigward", meaning warden or guardian.

In feudal England, the stigward of an estate never owned it; instead, he was entrusted with its management for others. Nor was it a mean position; on the contrary, the man who held it in the royal household was always a lord of the realm.

In the original sense of the word—the trustee of something that belongs to others—each one of us is a stigward of the soil, a high and noble office.

Whispers

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This editorial, reprinted from time to time, first appeared in The Press ten years ago. It is from the issue of May 6, 1948.)

This primary campaign, unless it is different from most, will be marked by a certain amount of whispering — whispering aimed at discrediting one or more candidates.

A citizen who wishes intelligently to vote his own convictions, rather than being misled by someone who has a selfish motive, would be wise, when he hears these whispers, to ask a few questions.

Before he believes what he hears, he might well ask himself:

Who started this report? how reliable is he? and what is his motive in spreading it?

Is it reasonable to believe that the charge is true? is it in line with the known character and past actions of the person accused? and has the accused had a chance to disprove it?

Then the voter should ask the whisperer a question or two:

How do you know this is true?

If it is true, why whisper it?—the truth should be said publicly.

Are you willing, right now, to go with me to see the person you are accusing, and say this to his face?

Usually, the whisperer will have disappeared before you get around to the last question.

Bouquet

Two fact-finding groups from the Macon County Citizens Committee for Better Schools came up with reports last week.

One group of four men—C. S. Brown and Woodrow Reeves, co-chairmen, Wiley Clark, and Dorsey Elmore—reported on the condition of the county's school buildings. The second four persons—Victor H. Perry, chairman, J. Paul Vinson, W. T. Jenkins, and Mrs. Lawrence Patton—told what they found in the schools in the way of furnishings and equipment.

These citizens spent a lot of time, going over every school, almost inch by inch, and discussing each school's problems and needs with local per-

sons. The reports do not make pleasant reading, but the recommendations give evidence of great thought and conservatism in stating the needs.

These citizens deserve the thanks of the community. Beyond that, they deserve to have their recommendations carefully and sympathetically considered.

Learn Them Good English

(Richmond, Va., Times-Dispatch)

Has the large amount of free publicity recently given the cigarette that "tastes good like a cigarette should" provided our Madison avenue boys with a pulsating new slogan: "Bad Grammar Sells"?

The idea seems to be to think up something ungrammatical enough to get the purists and editorial writers into action. So we're told that a soft drink "goes good with food." And our peanut butter set know that the latest virtue of their favorite brand is that "it spreads so easy." We don't have an up-to-date sales report on the '58 model car that reportedly "obsoletes" all other '58 models, but we bet the figures are way up there.

For the beer copywriters, who seem to be stuck in a deep adjectival mire and have been weakly plying us with "real beer" slogans for months, we offer the following triumph by James Thurber, and dare the most enterprising to run it up the flagpole:

We Still Brew Good—
Like We Used to Could!

We bet the public—and the editorial writers—will salute it like crazy.

Summer And Roads

(Columbia, S. C., Record)

Summer brings the urge to hit the open road—which you usually find closed for repairs.

YOU Set Insurance Rates

(Wilson Daily Times)

Now that North Carolina has a compulsory automobile responsibility law practically everyone carries liability insurance. In fact you must or post bond before you can get your license.

Thoughtful people have been wondering what this is going to do to insurance rates. For you set the insurance rates. You say no, this is done by the insurance commissioner. But the accident records govern the decisions and in the long run you, the driver, set the rate.

If this fact were fully realized there would be a change in the attitude of people towards accident claims. For when the insurance companies pay out money it must come from the policy holders. That is why it is against the law and a mistrial will be declared if a witness refers during his testimony to that fact that the defendant is covered by insurance.

But the idea is prevalent that most damage suits are backed up by insurance. Then today with the chrome-laden cars, the wrap-around windshields and the other gadgets, the smallest accidents cost large sums to repair. Here again the public has a hand. For, although the public does not design the cars, they give their approval by buying them and the more elaborate they are, the better they sell.

But now in North Carolina, motorists should begin to think in terms of insurance rates. With everyone covered by insurance and if the accident rate continues to climb, there is nowhere the rates can go but up. This is something that concerns every motorist.

To show you how conscious people are of insurance, a motorist in Connecticut drove into a garage to have some repairs made. The garageman asked him, "Is this an insurance job or are you going to pay for it yourself?" The man replied, "What difference does it make?" He happened to be the insurance commissioner from that state and he remarked, "Now I know why insurance rates are so high."

In Massachusetts the compulsory insurance law is in force. It is claimed that far more insurance suits and larger judgments are given in that state than in other states. Everyone knows that everybody carries insurance.

The law is a good one, but like all laws it can be abused. If it is, you will be the one to pay. You should think about this when you are driving. For the lower the accident rate, the lower the insurance rate.

MOISTURE ACTIVATES EARTH

Soil Saving And Water Conservation Go Hand In Hand

F. L. Hannah

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article by Mr. Hannah, Assistant Soil Conservationist, ties in with the observance, May 11-18, of Soil Stewardship Week.)

Science has taught us a lot about the wise conservation of soil. No longer do we have to push back the forests and clear new ground as our fields grow weary from too much work. If we systematically fertilize and replenish the vital components of the soil we use, its period of usefulness is almost unlimited.

Much of the land we farm in North Carolina today has been in use for about 200 years. Our major crops take a heavy toll from the soil, so we, of necessity, have to use extreme care in our farming practices. More and more we are learning to make wiser use of the soil in order to assure its availability to future generations.

Here in North Carolina we are blessed with fertile soils that have well-rounded cross-sections of the most desirable soil elements. Just as important, we have an ideal rate of rainfall and reasonably long growing seasons that assure a full return from the soil. With such conditions, it is up to us to make sure we take full advantage of what we have at hand.

In order to carry out a successful soil conservation program, it is necessary to have a good water conservation program, also. For this reason, I would like to confine my remarks largely to water. I would like to discuss what the situation is today, the way it has changed in recent years, and what we must expect and what we must do in the future.

Water puts to work the life-giving organisms of soil. It sets

into motion the elements of the soil that would otherwise be dead or inactive. Without water, soil cannot function. By the same token, when there is too much water, the soil becomes helpless and useless. A field of drowned tobacco is just as tragic as a field of dried up tobacco.

In this state, we have been plagued through the years with alternate periods of droughts and floods, although we have ideal overall weather conditions. In many ways we have an erratic weather pattern that leaves us at the mercy of chance, so it is up to us to put to full use what we have.

We not only have a variety of weather conditions, but our problems vary from place to place. In the Coastal Plain, Piedmont, or the mountains, it is a matter of having the right amount of water available at the proper time during the year. In some areas we need more water. In other areas we have too much.

There are several compelling facts and situations that must be considered in deciding what we want to do about the future of these two most important natural resources. First of all, we must remember that more and more demands are being put on the entire nation's surface and ground water supplies. During the past year, at one time or another, one out of every four Americans had to get along without water. In many areas, municipal and industrial water supplies were short or exhausted.

The per capita consumption of water is three times more today than it was in 1900. And, more important, it will double again by 1975. Today the average per capita use of water for domestic purposes is 137 gallons. In less than 20 years it will be 300 gallons.

Modern industry is taking more and more water. A large paper mill uses more water each day than does a city of 50,000 people. It takes more than 80,000 gallons of water to make the steel for one new car.

Agriculture also is taking more and more water. In North Carolina, sprinkler irrigation has tripled in the past five years. It is not unusual to find farms where irrigation increases the yield of tobacco by 25 per cent. It takes about 326,000 gallons of water per acre for one cutting of alfalfa. In all segments of our modern way of life, there is more and more demand for more and more water.

Since there is no replacement for water, no substitute, it is imperative that we make the fullest use of what we have. From the moment raindrops fall from the heavens, we must get into the habit of making maximum use of them until they are returned through evaporation, or flow back into the ocean. We have to do this by starting the chain of utilization at the headwaters of our small streams. It is at the heads of these tributaries that water begins its work, either for mankind or against him. It is here that we must begin to control the water if we expect it to work for us.

The small watershed program offers us this control. It offers many opportunities for communities not only to overcome flood and drought problems, but also to find badly needed new sources of water for industrial expansion, public water supplies, irrigation, and recreation.



Strictly Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

Are we Americans losing our pride? More to the point, are we in Macon County losing ours?

There are two kinds of pride that, it seems to me, are disappearing.

The first is group pride — pride in family, in home town and home county, in state. Notice how many children today speak of, and often speak to, their parents with contempt in their voices. That's not family pride! Notice how many people, especially young people, put apology into their voices when they say they're from Franklin or Macon County. And how many people today sing "Carolina, Carolina" or "I'm A Tar Heel Born", and sing those state songs with gusto and swelling pride?

It is true that these group prides can be, and sometimes have been, over-emphasized. But they are an important basis of character. For if a youngster is proud of his family, along with the pride there grows one of the supreme virtues, loyalty. Moreover, such pride is a challenge to him; he must so deport himself as to reflect credit, not shame, upon his family, and his community and his state. And the loyalty gives him something to sacrifice for. That word, "sac-

rificed", isn't heard much today, is it? But, whether it's heard or not, it still has its place.

The second kind of pride is personal.

There was a time when it was the rule in America that every self-respecting person was determined to be beholden to no man. Today, in many parts of the country, it's considered smart to get just as much as possible, and give just as little as possible.

There was a time when it was something of a disgrace to accept money in return for a personal favor. How far away that time was, for the country as a whole, is indicated by the surprise visitors express when people here do them a favor, and refuse pay for it.

There was a time when Americans took such pride in their government, and their right and duty to participate in it, that most Americans voted. Today, in spite of all the effort to "get out the vote", about half the qualified voters in this country never go to the polls. And the percentage, here in Macon County, is nothing to be very proud of.

Now let's come down to cases. Right here at home. Let's take two instances.

There was a time here when the voters got to the polls under their own power; they thought nothing of riding horseback, or even walking, miles to the voting places. Compare that with the large number today who don't even bother to register for an election, and the larger number who sit idly at home and wait for somebody to haul 'em to the polls.

Or take Franklin's streets. There's been a lot of talk about how dirty our streets are. But how many people have gone to

the town officials and told these officials they want a clean town, even if it does cost something in tax funds? How many delegations have appeared before the town board recently to urge the importance of a clean town? Has there been a delegation from the Garden Club? or the Chamber of Commerce? or the Jaycees? How many individual citizens have gone before the board to express themselves on this matter of town pride? Have you?

What sort of pride have we in our home town when all we do about a situation we know needs remedying is to mutter to ourselves?

Who's to blame for the fact our American pride, our Macon County pride, seems to be disappearing? I don't pretend to have the whole answer. But you might find part of the answer, at least, by remembering that children reflect exactly what they see in their elders; and now the children have grown up.

I am indebted to Hayes Buchanan for this story — and it's too good a one not to pass on: It seems a man shocked his family and friends by saying he didn't want to go to heaven. They demanded to know why. "Well", he explained, "I'm sure it's a nice place. But I think I'd be lonesome. Because, from what I can hear about the qualifications for admission, there won't be anybody there but babies and granny-women."

So you thought it was cold in town, last Wednesday? Well, you should have been on Nantahala to really cool off. Over there, the ground was white with snow that morning.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

(1893)

A new two-story addition is being built to the St. Agnes school building, which will contain seven or eight rooms to be used for boarding and lodging of pupils.

One of the most popular and paying features of the library dinner was the voting contest to decide who was the prettiest young lady. Miss Nora Deal received 112 votes, Miss Nannie Trotter 93, and Miss Carrie Sloan 77.

C. W. McGee and P. P. Corbin have been commissioned as deputy marshals in the revenue department.

25 YEARS AGO

(1933)

A fine looking bunch of young men, 108 strong, arrived in Franklin Wednesday from Fort Bragg to take charge of the Civilian Conservation Camp situated in a field near the Cozad Roller Mill on the Georgia Road. Clad in army shirts, fishing hats, blue denim and khaki work pants, the boys looked like they were starting out on a vacation camping trip. Jesting and jostling good-naturedly, they were happy over the prospect of working in the Nantahala National Forest, instead of staying home in Piedmont North Carolina, vainly hunting for jobs that don't exist.

A tentative basis has been reached for sale of Franklin's hydro-electric system to the Nantahala Power and Light Company.

10 YEARS AGO

Bo Setser, 18-year old F.F.A. member, of the Cartoogechaye Community, came back home from the regional livestock judging contest in Statesville last week, bringing the top honors with him.