

# THE SYLVA HERALD

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### Needed — A Little Recreation!

It has been brought to the attention of The Herald that in the town of Sylva, there is a dire shortage of suitable recreation for our youth. The person who mentioned it to us, was concerned about the situation — and it is probably true that many other citizens with or without children of their own, have noted the lack of recreational facilities — yet very little has been done about it.

Besides our local movie theatre, and the occasional high school basketball games, is it possible to name one other source of entertainment in the town?

We hear more and more of the rising degree of juvenile delinquency and the short comings of the "younger generation", and we criticize their "restlessness" — we just have a lot to say about it all the way around. Yet when it comes to offering any constructive remedy — or taking time to find the "whys", there always seems to be a certain lack of interest.

In cities all over the nation, large and small, progressive adults have thrown away the outmoded attitude that "the kids are just meaner than in the old days" — and have gone about giving the youngsters a chance to develop their higher qualities. "Teen-age Canteens" have sprung up everywhere. On weekends, dances are held — week-day nights all sorts of games, clubs, workshops and the like are there for the enjoyment of the youngsters of all ages. And have they proven to be successful? Well, statistics, (which usually present a fairly reliable story) show that delinquency dropped sharply in those towns and cities where sympathetic, supervised recreational programs were begun.

There are those in Sylva who ask "why?", and wish that we did have some suitable supervised recreation for our youngsters. Maybe it's time that the "whys?" changed to "because!", and something was done. We looked around town last week and couldn't even find one ping-pong table!

### Happiness And Reading —

The librarian tells us, and it is an encouraging thing to hear, that more and more children are taking an interest in the books which line the shelves of the Jackson county library. She says that a great number of youngsters regularly visit the library and select books.

It is a habit that once learned by a human being, will bring him more hours of happiness and contentment than perhaps any other single force in life. In books we learn that for thousands of years, others have gone through the same little world that we inhabit. We learn that the little problems which seem so important to us, have been faced and beaten a million times, before we ever took our first breaths. In reading, a person is able to "get away" from the everyday routine of living—to lose himself in the adventure of the past, or the experience of others who live—to center his attentions upon other characters and events, instead of spending his time in self-concentration.

It is pitiful indeed to think of the thousands and thousands of persons who possess intelligence and yet who have never seriously read a book—seriously giving little time in complete concentration upon its pages. Perhaps it is true that a person cannot be taught to enjoy the better things in life—and on the other hand maybe parents and teachers are

### Perhaps He Was Right!

One thousand, nine hundred and forty-nine years ago a human being died upon this earth. He was a human being — and yet something more. No man has ever affected the world so greatly as he.

He was slightly over 30 years of age when he died — nailed to a wooden cross between two thieves, in a form of death which was reserved for the lowest. Of his death, countless millions of words have been written, spoken and sung. Words about a man, whom at the time of his death, was hated by all save a pitiful few.

1,949 years later, and the entire world (or those who believe the strange story of this man who was called Jesus) will stop and celebrate his birth. Born in a manger — from a virgin — spending his life teaching that men were brothers, and that there is a better world hereafter — the simple story of Christmas.

Perhaps then there is hope in this year 1949 for the human beings who inhabit this planet. Those many years ago, a man named Christ told man that there was — perhaps there was a truth in what he said. Perhaps if men hushed their cruel tongues, put down their guns of war, slowed their mad search for worldly goods a little bit — perhaps by thinking a bit of what that man Jesus said — this mass of humanity could find the way after all!

### A Blue Ribbon For Sylva!

It's a common habit around Sylva for folks to find fault with their community. Probably a lot of their criticisms are valid, but for once we can report a "First Prize" for Jackson county's headquarters!

A local citizen, one who incidently wasn't "born and bred" here and therefore wouldn't be termed ultra-biased, made a trip last week-end to Rome, Ga. During his journey he kept mental notes as to the Christmas decorations he witnessed in each town along the way. The results should bring pride to Sylvanians!

Passing through Bryson City there were no lights, Murphy the same, Blue Ridge, Andrews, Ellijay, Jasper, Fairmount, and Calhoun all had practically nothing in the way of decorations save those which were visible in store windows or private homes. In Rome, the decorations were "beautiful" — our reporter says — "but between Sylva and Rome, Georgia — Sylva is by far the outstanding!"

Thanks are due many people for giving us our beautiful display of Christmas lights. The Town, the Fire Department for installing them and the Court House people for their lovely star and lights on the hill.

It all goes to show what can happen when everyone works together towards one goal. A little civic pride and team work can go a long way!

### Words Of Wisdom —

"Physical bravery is an animal instinct; moral bravery is a much higher and truer courage." —Wendell Phillips

"There are two times in a man's life when he should not speculate: when he can't afford it, and when he can." —Mark Twain.

"Business is like oil. It won't mix with anything but business." —J. Graham

"Every man has three characters — that which he exhibits, that which he has, and that which he thinks he has." —Bacon.

An honest man's the noblest work of God.—Pope.

Houses are built to live in, and not to look on.—Bacon.

After all there is only one race—humanity.—Moore.

A good husband should be deaf and a good wife blind.—French proverb.

guilty of not teaching appreciation of "fine things".

Whatever the case, it is good to know that some children, more than formerly at any rate, are reading. Reading not the trash upon the newsstands, but books that are worthy of their attentions—books that will make their lives happier.

### WAITING IN THE WINGS



### The Everyday Counsellor

By REV. HERBERT SPAUGH, D. D.

Stop thinking and talking about the things and people you don't like. It will head you for the hospital sooner or later. Too many people are doing that. Many of them are already in the hospital. Others are suffering from a variety of uncomfortable ailments.

The other day I was talking about this with a dear woman of lovely character and happy personality. She said, "Have you ever noticed how frequently, when a group of people get together, someone begins talking about a person or thing they don't like. Sometimes it's the government and the politicians. They start at Washington and come all the way down to their home town. They talk about people they don't like. They talk about their hard luck and adverse circumstances."

Those who take their own lives by suicide are victims of this vicious habit. They feel hopeless because they are obsessed with thoughts of things and people which are against them.

Think for yourself right now about those people who are suffering from a host of chronic ailments. They are forever complaining about the people and circumstances who are against them. They fight their way through life, instead of accepting life as it is, taking the Lord into partnership with them, making Him the Senior Partner.

Try taking the Lord into partnership with you in your life. Make Him the Senior Partner. Let Him do the planning and worrying. Then you execute those plans as they come to you daily. God has promised to His partners to supply all needs. St. Paul wrote to such, "My God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus."

Learn to count your blessings every day. Learn to enjoy those good things which you have — friends and loved ones. What would life be without them? You have more blessings than you realize.

If you are a victim of thinking about things and people in your life that you don't like, reverse the process. Start thinking about your friends, about the good things. When a bad thought comes in, push it out with a good one. Your life is full of good things, if you will look at them, think about them, thank God for them.

Do you remember the old hymn, "Standing On The Promises"? The good book is full of those promises. You have tried some of them out

for yourself and know they are true. Try out some more of them. Take your Bible and search out those promises. Write them down. Start each day with one. Fill up the shelves of your mind with the Divine Promises. Then get them out and stand on them. St. Paul learned to do that so he could say, "I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me."

EDITOR'S NOTE: The third edition of Dr. Spough's little book on successful living, "The Pathway to Contentment" is now available. Orders may be sent to The Everyday Counsellor, Box 6036, Charlotte 7, N. C. The price is \$1.00 postpaid. It also may be secured from your bookstore.

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

5 YEARS AGO (1944)

The Office of War Utilities asked that there be no outside lighting this Christmas.

The Sylva Merchants report that business is unusually good this year, with an up-trend of twenty-five percent over last year.

Officers of the Jackson county Chapter of the Red Cross are: Chairman, Dr. G. C. Wilkes; Vice chairman, Mrs. E. L. McKee; Secretary, A. J. Dills; Treasurer, W. W. Bryson.

Miss Leonora Smith spoke on Christmas customs in Russia before members and guests of the Cullowhee Woman's Club at their annual Christmas party held in Moore Dormitory at W.C.T.C.

The Wesleyan Methodist church of Glenville is planning to have a Christmas entertainment. Miss Stamey and Miss Louise Wiggins have charge of the program.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Clements of Whittier announce the birth of a daughter on December 14th.

Pvt. James Paul Swayngim, son of Mrs. J. W. Swayngim of Cowarts, is serving in Belgium according to information received from his parents.

### Vic Vet says

VETERANS, WHEN WRITING TO VA, WRITE TO YOUR NEAREST VA OFFICE... DON'T WRITE WASHINGTON



### MUGGS AND SKEETER



### WHAT OTHER PAPERS SAY

DISILLUSIONED BY SHIRLEY TEMPLE (The Franklin Press)

Another American idol has fallen in the dust.

Some fifteen years ago all America, old and young, thrilled to the simplicity and genuineness of the child actress, Shirley Temple. Here, Americans felt, was a sweet, unspoiled child.

The time came at last, however, when Shirley began to grow up; she became too big for a child actor, and retired from the screen. Movie fans accepted the inevitable with regret.

As Shirley blossomed into young womanhood, Hollywood announced that she was coming back to America's motion picture houses. And Americans waited with bated breath—would she still be the same, simple, delightful personality?

It seemed that she was—and she had the added asset of a woman's beautiful voice. Americans were pleased no end.

Came the time for Shirley to marry, and again young and old thrilled at her romance with Air Force Sergeant John Agar. Just like Shirley, we all thought, to marry an enlisted man; she was sensible enough to pick the man, not the rank.

Then, at 19, Shirley had a baby. Hollywood couldn't spoil her, we all thought; she did the simple, natural thing, and became a mother.

But all that is changed now. For last week Shirley got a divorce.

Maybe she had good grounds. And of course she's still a great actress. But somehow she'll never be quite the same to the public. Americans not only are disappointed, they are disillusioned—again.

### SENTENCE SHOULD FIT THE CRIME

The Mecklenburg Times

There is J. Parnell Thomas, who entered the penitentiary last week, but who is still a Congressman. Mr. Thomas padded the public payrolls, accepted money for helping men keep out of the service and in other ways proved himself to be dishonest. Yet he is allowed to draw pay until January 2, of next year, although he is jailed for a crime against the government. He is stealing another \$1,000 pay check from taxpayers while in jail, or rather it amounts to the same thing. For defrauding the government of untold thousands of dollars Thomas got a sentence of from 6 to 18 months.

Then there is the case of Meyers, former general in the Army, who was convicted of fleecing the government. He even owed nearly a half million dollars in back taxes. His sentence was a minimum of twenty months and could run to five years but you can bet your

bottom dollar it will not.

Other cases come to the public eye in print all along where people steal big money and get off with light sentences. Then some culprit steals a hundred dollars and gets seven years. The principal is the thing we reckon but at the same time the big-time thief is smarter and better knows right from wrong than the poor devil that goes in for petty larceny.

The big courts don't set much of an example with light sentences for stealing big money. What to do about it? You give the answer. It is the same thing that we are thinking of now.

### Some of our People's Opinions What's yours?

QUESTION—What to you is the nicest thing about Christmas?

Mr. M. L. Snipes—"Rest! And association with old friends, plus the making of new friends."

Mr. Grayson Cope—"The family circle being completed again."

Mrs. "Pete" Davis—"There are just too many nice things about Christmas to pick the nicest."

R. D. Cowan—"Rabbit hunting."

Mrs. John Corbin, Jr.—"Getting all the family together is the nicest thing about Christmas I guess."

Miss Francis Bradley—"Seeing everyone happy with Christmas spirit."

Mrs. Herbert Gibson—"Having everybody back at home again is probably the nicest thing about Christmas."

Mrs. Iva Dean Harrison—"The nicest thing about Christmas to me, is seeing the faces of my children when they open their gifts on Christmas morning."

Mrs. Velt Wilson—"Everyone having a holiday for one thing—and celebrating Christ's birthday."

Dr. Roy L. Lovvorn, State College agronomist, has been selected to head the new division for weed investigations in the Bureau of Plant Industry, Soils, and Agricultural Engineering of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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### "JOE BEAVER"

By Ed Nofzige



Forest Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture

