

Editorials

Of Roads, Education

As summer begins to wind down and election day looms around the corner of autumn, editors throughout the state become swamped with news releases from various campaign headquarters announcing candidate So-In-So "will be in your area this coming" whenever, and "we hope someone from your staff will cover the event."

Of course, we are invited to come out to personally meet the candidate, exchange pleasantries and shake his hand. We call it "grip and grin" in the trade.

Part of the process of meeting the candidate is listening to an itemized listing of all the wrong things the opponent has done during his administration or term of office. And usually, there is precious little said by the candidate about what he will do to right those wrongs once, if, or when he is elected.

Here in North Carolina, gubernatorial candidates in both major political parties have two favorite issues that, in our opinion, have been worn almost threadbare on the campaign stumps throughout the state over the years. One issue is roads and the other is education.

Candidates for the office of governor know these issues strike a chord in the hearts of the populace because most people travel on and live beside roads, and the majority have children who have to attend public schools.

To say that we need more and better roads in North Carolina is to imply that our state lags behind others in the quality of roads for motor transportation. We submit that this

is not the case, and consider the roads issue somewhat misleading to a public which may not know better. To drive on Interstate 40 west of Memphis, Interstate 70 through Kansas and Missouri, and most of the state highways in other areas is enough to convince us that North Carolina is way ahead of other states in the quality of our roads.

The decades of promises for better education in our public schools have proved to be without substance as indicated by the alarmingly increasing numbers of high school graduates who did not learn to read and write very well during 12 years of public schooling.

State Senator Beverly Lake Jr., Republican candidate for governor, and incumbent Democratic candidate, Gov. Jim Hunt, have both used roads and education as part of their campaign rhetoric. The time has come to let these time-worn issues - "dead horses" if you will - rest in peace.

Both candidates have good slogans which have been associated with their campaigns. Senator Lake touts "principle above politics" and Gov. Hunt speaks often of a better "quality of life" for North Carolina citizens. These slogans have merit and would be better expounded in the months remaining before the election.

If both gentlemen would fully explore and interpret their own slogans, the "grip and grin" sessions along the campaign trail to November 11 might be more interesting to editors and other voters as well.

Support The Flea Market

The turnout last Saturday at the Merchants Association Flea Market was small compared to some previous weekends. So was the attendance at the last Merchants Association meeting. We certainly hope this was caused by prior commitments or some last minute changes in plans on the part of association members and the public which usually browses through the market. We would not like to think that the association members or the vendors at previous markets are losing interest in this important effort.

The opportunity is here for all the

merchants on Main Street in Marshall to join together in an endeavor that will benefit them as individual businesses and the town as a whole.

The flea market itself is an opportunity for those of you who grew produce, on a large scale or small, to show off some items your gardens have yielded and pick up a few bucks to boot.

We look forward to seeing more members, and new members, at Thursday's Association meeting, and numerous vendors in the parking lot behind the Post Office this Saturday.

THE MOUNTAINERS



Heard And Seen

By POP STORY

Every once in awhile a fellow does his best on a problem only to find out it wasn't a practical solution to the problem. Such was the case with this writer last week. Every summer kudzu covers more than an acre of my property up at my house, rapidly growing up the mountain, covering the trees, fences, telephone and electric wires and anything else in its wake. In past summers Joe Eads has let his cows graze on the stuff and they did a pretty good job of keeping it from "taking the place." However, Joe sold his cows and this summer the kudzu has run wild and has also caused this writer to run wild. As fast as I would attempt to cut down the kudzu, it would grow right back quicker than I could possibly make a dent in it. I've had to fight the stuff to keep it from getting to my home. Being a senior citizen, it's been impossible for me to do much to the "jungle" near my home. I consulted many people and they didn't have a workable solution. Many suggested that goats would take care of it and they loved to eat it as well as the roots. Since there were no cows around, I finally decided to purchase a Billy goat on Tuesday of last week. Knowing very little or nothing about a goat, I got suggestions from the person I bought it from and decided to give it a try. It was a very young goat which had been dehorned and I was told the goat would get rid of the kudzu. I was assured it would not be objectionable with its bleating and it had no odor. As far as odor was concerned it didn't bother me but the bleating (similar to crying) did cause me concern at night and early morning. I petted the goat as best I know how, and even named it "Kudzey" (for kudzu). However, I discovered in a few days that the young goat either didn't like kudzu or didn't like his new home. I talked with Joe Eads and he advised me to give it some grains of corn. He even gave me some corn in the husks but Kudzey wouldn't eat the grains. I kept plenty of water where he was staked on a 20-foot chain but he just

wouldn't eat kudzu. "Bill" and I discussed the situation from every angle and decided that the goat wasn't the best idea. I had grown somewhat fond of the animal and so had "Bill" but we decided it best for the goat and us to return it to its owner and try spraying the growth although there's too much kudzu to think about killing all of it. I contacted the owner and he then informed me that the goat had never been on a chain, and had never been away from its mother. He took back the goat and I was glad to see it returned to his mother goat. The decision to return it made "Bill," me, the mother goat, and Kudzey very happy. It was a three-day experience I'll never forget. I then conferred with Wiley DuVall, Mike Allen, and others about spraying the kudzu and I'm now in the process of seeing what that will do. If anyone has any cows they would like to graze on my kudzu, please get in touch with me and I'm sure we can reach an agreement. If some solution isn't soon reached I'm afraid I'll die of Kudzuitis, sun stroke, or a heart attack. All this stuff has "got my goat" so I still have plenty (and more) of the aggravating stuff.

The new editor of The News-Record is G. Nicholas Hancock, but his "easy to meet" personality and his immediate interest in this area has resulted in everyone calling him "Nick" although this is the second week that he has been associated with this newspaper. He is the type of person who knows what an editor's work is all about. He comes to this newspaper from Asheboro where he worked with The Courier Tribune, a daily newspaper, in the technical area of newspaper production as well as feature writer and photographer.

Having worked with Nick since he started his duties here a week ago, I feel that the people and subscribers of The News-Record will cooperate with him in his desire to maintain and improve this newspaper. So far, he has made a fine impression on this writer and I look forward to working with him in every way I can.

5 Receive Master's Degrees At Western

Five master's degrees were conferred on Madison area graduates at Western Carolina University in Cullowhee Friday night during commencement exercises led by Chancellor H.F. Robinson, head of the institution. Margaret Lloyd Anderson of Hot Springs received a master's degree in reading; Jesse C. Moss, Rt. 1, Marshall, a master's degree in physical education; Claudel Brooks

McKenzie, Mars Hill, master's degree in business administration; Barbara W. Peek, Rt. 1, Mars Hill, a master's degree in public school educational media; and Caroleen Buckner Hodge, formerly of Marshall and now residing in Asheville, master of arts degree in education.

Thomas Edison patented an electrical voice recorder in 1868.



REPUBLICAN supporters gathered in Mars Hill to eat lunch and listen to State Sen. Beverly Lake Jr.

The average size of a U.S. farm increased from 427 acres in 1975 to 450 acres in 1979. The Agriculture Department expects another three acres will be added to the average in 1980.

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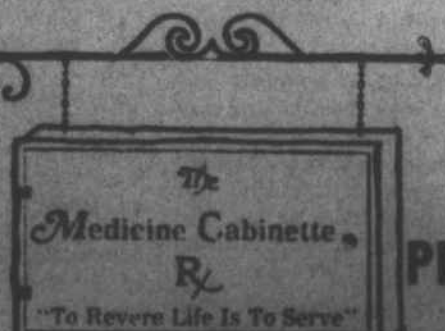
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