

From The Editor's Notebook

One Man's View

Living in Madison County it's easy to forget there is a big world out there beyond the serenity of the surrounding mountains and the peaceful flowing waters of the French Broad River. But television and international news coverage in newspapers remind us that a populous world does exist beyond these hills, and in a few weeks the American hostages in Iran will mark the 365th day of captivity on their calendars.

The conflict between the United States and Iran over the hostages has caused unfriendly feelings in many Americans toward Iranian students and immigrants in this country. The situation has, for almost a year, promoted disunity and separateness between fellow human beings studying and living together in our colleges and cities.

In the 1950's when I was a kid growing up in a small piedmont North Carolina town, a family from Latvia moved into a house two blocks down the street from where I lived. I remember I thought these people were different; foreigners. They didn't quite look or act like "us." While there was no hatred or even dislike on my part toward them, I felt uneasy about them and their presence. Comments I heard from adults reinforced my feelings that this family was strange and they were "outsiders" to our peaceful little town. I never got to know the children nor the parents in that family.

One year later another Latvian family moved to our town. Since their children were near my age, I came to know them in classes at school. Funny thing, I didn't know they were immigrant Latvians until several years later. I just thought they were very nice folks with an uncommon last name. By then it didn't make any difference to me anyway. They were my friends first and Latvians later.

Today, that not-too-large piedmont North Carolina town has, in addition to its "Americans," inhabitants representing many nationalities and ethnic backgrounds: German, Cambodian, Indian, Pakistani,

Italian, Chinese, Lebanese, Vietnamese, Japanese, Spanish and Puerto-Ricans, and Blacks who represent an Afro-American heritage. I remember that back in the 50's Blacks were also considered "others" and were not permitted to eat in the same restaurants as "whites." I guess I tend to forget my own lineage as most "Americans" do. Taking stock, I find English, German, Irish and American Indian traces in my veins. Yet, most people would just consider me to be an "American."

Reading the latest newspaper accounts of the U.S.-Iranian negotiations concerning the hostages, that abbreviation for the United States began to hold my attention. U.S. It almost jumped off the page at me. Of course! U.S. = "us."

The U.S. is made up of people from virtually every country, nationality, religious faith and ethnic background on the planet. All these diverse peoples have become the U.S., the Us that inhabits this planet called Earth. It says so on the money. "E Pluribus Unum." "Out of many, One." Unity.

This reminds me of the statements made by some of the astronauts after they viewed Earth from the blackness of space. They were overwhelmed with the feeling and awareness that this blue and white "marble" in space is our home. Home for every human being. They sensed that unity.

I am also reminded of that classic philosophical statement made by Walt Kelly in the now defunct "Pogo" comicstrip. Pogo said, "We have met the enemy and he is us."

I find it interesting that this country is not called the Western Territory, as it might have been from the days of Columbus. W.T. = "We and They." Nor is it called the United Territories. U.T. = "Us and Them." It is simply, and probably rightly, call the U.S. Us, symbolizing the unity of all mankind on this planet. I find some hope and comfort in that.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY

The incredible playoff series between the Houston Astros and the Philadelphia Phillies ended late Sunday night with the Phillies winning the best of five, 3-7, in the Astrodome. The series was one of the most exciting ever with both teams battling back and forth in some of the most weird games I've ever seen.

The fans, both in person and those watching over TV and radio, really got their "money's worth." It's now World Series time with the Phillies battling the Kansas City Royals. Actually, the World Series will be anticlimatic following such a "wild" playoff series.

For years I have been watching and listening to the Lawrence Welk show on Saturday nights at 7... now the program has been shifted to Sunday afternoons at 1:30. It's hard to get used to the new time. The show comes on in the middle of a professional football game but since my wife (and I) don't like to miss the Welk show, I usually watch it and also keep up with the game during commercials. It's been working out right well but I do wish Channel 13 would go back to the former schedule.

Imagine my surprise Saturday afternoon while I was watching the playoff game over TV! I heard the barking of dogs, some commotion outside and some talking. I went to the door and there was Nick Hancock and Terry Holland. They were riding two of Joe Eads's beautiful horses. It was the first time Nick, our new editor, had been up to my home. I was glad he and Terry, son of Bernie Holland, came up. Nick seems right at home on horseback.

Frost was evident around here Monday morning and with the frost and cooler weather, I expect the kudzu up home to soon disappear. With frosts and the presence of Joe Eads's horses, I won't have to worry about the kudzu until next spring, glory be!

Congratulations to the Madison Patriots on winning the homecoming game against Mitchell last Friday night. With their second victory of the season, let's hope the Patriots keep up their winning ways.

We also congratulate the members of the local Optimist Club on sponsoring the ham-turkey shoots on the bypass each Saturday. If you didn't participate last Saturday make plans to do so this Saturday.

Meet The News-Record Staff Writer

The News Record is pleased to announce that Kevin D. Morley has joined the staff on a part-time basis as staff writer.

Mr. Morley, 29, is a native of Dennis, Massachusetts, and he attended Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island, where he majored in English and American literature.

Morley, his wife Laurie and three-year-old son, Nathaniel, reside in Mars Hill. Prior to moving to Mars Hill, the Morleys lived in Hot Springs for four years. While in Hot Springs, Morley operated a cafe and recreational center, and later worked as director for the Madison County Recreation Department.

As part-time staff writer for the News Record, Morley will be assigned to cover regular news events, and will write feature articles and profiles occasionally.



Kevin Morley

Precinct Appreciation Night Held

The Madison County Young Democrats sponsored "Precinct Appreciation Night" Monday, Oct. 6 at Madison High School. Some 350 persons enjoyed this event honoring precinct officials. A bar-b-q dinner was served by the Teen Dems.

Senator Larry Leake was emcee for the program and also gave a brief history of the Madison County Democratic Party. Following remarks from Zeno Ponder, Representative Liston B. Ramsey introduced the speaker for the evening, Lt. Governor Jimmy Green. Green stressed the importance of hard work to elect Democrats from the county all the way to the White House.

Congressman and Mrs. Lamar Gudger; Ed Renfrow, candidate for state auditor; and Roy Rabon, Carter campaign official were among the

visiting guests. State YD president, Wayne McDevitt, installed the newly elected YD officers: President — Herbert Ponder, 1st V.P. — Theresa Banks; secretary — Walda McDevitt, and treasurer — Pat Franklin.

Several awards and presentations were made by the Young Democrats. Recipient of the most outstanding senior party male — Joe Justice, the most outstanding senior party female — Jena Lee Buckner, the most outstanding young Democrat — Roger Haynie. An autographed picture of Governor Jim Hunt and Bill Moore was presented to Bill Moore. Also, a gun was presented to Sheriff E.Y. Ponder in honor of his many years of service.

A dance followed the banquet which featured the Big WISE Sound Factory with Sid the Cerf.



Photo by Scott Lunsford

STATE SEN. Larry Leake presents 45-calibre pistol to Sheriff E.Y. Ponder (left) at Young Democrats banquet.



Photo by Scott Lunsford

LT. GOV. Jimmy Greene addresses Young Democrat Club members at installation banquet at Madison High School.

Fire Razes Hot Springs Building

By KEVIN MORLEY Staff Writer

HOT SPRINGS—A handful of Hot Springs volunteer firemen fought a smoky blaze that at one point threatened the downtown area of this remote community.

The alarm was sounded at 12:15 p.m. on Oct. 9 for a fire in an abandoned two story brick building owned by George K. (Red) Ramsey. It

was severe enough to warrant the initial contacting of the Marshall Fire Department for assistance, but the Hot Springs crew quickly brought the blaze under control and signalled the Marshall team to return to their station.

A spokesman for The Marshall Department said that they had not gone too far at all when the recall message was received, and he praised the

newly installed radio system for saving them a long drive.

Fighting the fire from the roof on an adjacent building, the volunteers were plagued by billowing clouds of smoke that issued from the upper floor. The sidewalks of Hot Springs were filled with people watching the efforts of the firefighters as the tenacious flames, time after time, reignited in the attic of the ag-

ing structure. Finally, after chopping holes in the roof the men succeeded in dousing the last of the embers. Around 6:30 p.m. the fire was declared out.

This fire, of undetermined origin, damaged a building that once served as town post office and bank. Three different barbershops and a grocery store have also used the facility. No estimate of damage was available.

Family Often Taken For Granted

By ROBERT STUMP

The pressures of daily life cause us to take many things for granted. We often fail to see and appreciate the importance of the people, events and things we encounter. I believe the family is one example.

We were all born into and live in some kind of family. Our values, beliefs, goals, occupation, friends, etc., have been shaped by our family. At a time when demands and pressures of living cause us to spend less time in family activities, it becomes easy to lose sight of the value of the family.

Every one of us has different ideas and images about the family. No matter how pleasant or hurtful these thoughts are, we cannot divorce ourselves from the impact the family has, is having and will have on our daily living.

Statistics are often used to suggest that the family, as an institution in our society, has failed. Statistics can be used

to prove any point. The family has certainly been under a lot of stress in recent decades. Stress can be positive as it enables us to experience growth; it does not always have to be seen as negative. Occasionally we need to have our attention directed to areas where we need to improve and bring about change. I believe family life is one of these areas needing our creative attention.

I believe if the family fails, then all the other institutions of our society will also fail. The family is that basic ingredient which undergirds everything else.

Kenneth Chafin, in a recent book on family life, raised the question, "Is there a family in the house?" Instead of trying to give an academic definition, he uses word pictures to define the family's critical functions. We need to evaluate our family against these images.

Dr. Chafin suggests that a family is: ...a place to grow people through a

fairly balanced and consistent environment.

...where self-trust and individual creativity is developed.

...a shelter from the storms of life.

...a transmitter of values, with emphasis being given to the belief that people are more important than things.

...a place where problems are to be and can be solved; no family is problem-free.

...where people survive through meaningful relationships.

Each of us could add to Chafin's list. When we take people or things for granted, they lose their meaning and value. In the rush of daily living, it is necessary to stop and to recognize the values we receive from our family experiences. In reality, I do not believe that an individual can continue to cope with daily demands and grow emotionally without experiencing meaningful relationships through family interaction.

Copy Deadline

Deadline for submitting Memorials, Cards of Thanks, Personal Notes, Hospital Notes, Church News and Special Announcements to The News Record will be 12:00 noon on Fridays.

The News-Record

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Elections Office Now Open On Saturdays

The office of the Board of Elections on Main Street in Marshall will be open the next two Saturdays, Oct. 18 and 25 from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the purpose of voters wishing to vote a one-stop absentee ballot. The deadline for one-stop voters will be 5 p.m. on Oct. 30. The deadline for voters wishing to vote absentee ballots by mail will be Oct. 29.

LETTERS WELCOMED

We welcome letters to the editor. All we ask is that they be reasonably brief, in good taste and contain no libelous statements. However, letters will not be published if they are not signed by one or more individuals. "Parents" or "Concerned Citizens" does not constitute a signature. Please include your return address and phone number.

G. Nicholas Hancock
Editor