

Editorial

Commission's Report Is A Value Asset For The Future

In both last week's and today's editions of The News Record, we have been taking a close look, through the eyes of the Ad Hoc Planning Committee and its three task forces, at where Madison County is today and where it could go tomorrow.

Madison County is especially fortunate to have the many fine people who gave of their time and talents to produce a professional and sensible look at our county's problems and their possible solutions. We doubt that any of North Carolina's other 99 counties could assemble such an impressive group.

The report is the result of months of work, study and discussion among a panel of men and women from every corner of our far-flung county, representing all aspects of Madison County life.

The completed report is the work of farmers and bankers, school teachers and factory workers, high school students and senior citizens.

We sincerely hope that everyone with a stake in the future of Madison County will pay close heed to the citizen's committee's suggestions. As we have reported, the county planning board will review the recommendations at its June meeting and then pass them along to the county commissioners for possible action.

We do not wish to suggest that all of the

board's recommendations will fall on receptive ears. There are some aspects of the committee's suggestions with which we are not in complete agreement. For one, we do not believe that the transition from an agricultural economy based on burley tobacco to one where tomatoes, ornamentals and ginseng are predominant will be as painless as the report suggests. We are also skeptical of increased forestry within the county.

On the other hand, we applaud the committee's call for a school bond referendum. For many months now, this newspaper has called for just such a vote. We are glad to see that other members of the community share our concern for the condition of our many older school buildings. We hope that this latest endorsement, coming as it does from a non-partisan committee of residents from all corners of the county, will serve as the encouragement the school board and county commissioners need to set a bond issue in motion.

The Ad Hoc Planning Committee's report should be only a first step in improving the quality of life for everyone who calls Madison County home. It should lead to a lively discussion among neighbors by offering insight into where we are headed and how we might best get there.

"Almost Paradise"

Country newspaper editors don't take many holidays off because people don't stop making news on holidays. Editors with Monday deadlines to meet don't take weekend trips to Myrtle Beach.

This past Monday was no exception. The post office, banks and court house were all closed, but there were pictures to be taken and editorials and obituaries to write.

This country editor managed to get things wrapped up as the afternoon bells started ringing at the First Baptist Church. With everyone else gone home, he switched off the lights and headed home to Grapevine.

He drove up to the house and his dog met him, wagging his tail. He then slipped in the house and found his wife and daughter napping together. A quick check of the nursery found young William Thomas sleeping the sleep of the

innocent.

Outside, a light Spring rain had fallen. Raindrops clung to blades of grass and shimmered like diamonds in the late afternoon sun. The country editor set himself down in the damp grass and surveyed his little corner of the world. Down the cove, to the east, the storm clouds were gathered, dark and threatening against the gentle green mountains. To the west, the sun shone brightly, with all the promise of the first day.

Birds sang, the creek flowed by and the world, or at least a small corner of it, was at peace.

The dog intrudes himself upon the reverie. The country editor scratches a favorite spot between the hound ears and says, 'Buzz, this may not be Paradise, but we may never get any closer.'

Letters to the Editor

Victim's Son Sends Thanks

Dear Editor,

To the people of Marshall:

I would like to thank all the people of Marshall and the surrounding area who helped me through the toughest day of my life. My father drowned on May 21, 1984, and if not for the comforting, consolation and help I received from you wonderful people, I don't know what I would have done. I would especially like to thank George Penland and his wife who treated me like a son; Gladys Roberts and her mother, who gave me hugs when I needed them; Lonnie

Metcalfe, who helped get my father to shore; Sheriff E.Y. Ponder, who treated the whole thing as something a great deal more than "just some kid who lost a father;" Marvin Ball, Frank Ogle, and the men in the red truck who gathered my gear; and Maggie.

To all of you, and anyone else whom I might have forgotten—thank you from the bottom of my heart.

God bless you all.

Sincerely,

KEVIN GARTHE

Former CCC'ers Sought

To the Editor:

During 1983, the National Assn. of Civilian Conservation Corps Alumni (NACCCA) celebrated the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC).

The NACCCA is trying to locate about 2-million former members and persons who were connected or affiliated with the CCC during the 1930s and 1940s. It is known that many of these persons reside in North Carolina in areas served by The News Record.

I am sure that many of your readers have often wondered what became of the CCC. You can tell them the CCC lives again in the NACCCA. It is a young and growing organization with 104 chapters throughout the nation, and more are in the planning and development stages. One of its major objectives is to have the CCC reactivated.

Anyone interested in the organization can write to NACCCA, Lochmann's Plaza, 7345 Arlington Blvd., Suite 313, Falls Church, Va. 22042, for more information and literature.

VICTOR VENGORSKIE
Silver Spring, Md.

Heard And Seen

By POP STORY



Pop Story Is On Vacation. 'Heard And Seen' Will Return Next Week



Know Comment

By JOSEPH GODWIN



Because she is a scholarly lecturer of international fame, I was delighted when my wife and I were invited to hear Sister Rose speak.

Her lecture would be given at the Jewish Temple, and her subject was the Holocaust. We were both excited about the lecture, the topic to be discussed, and the location. It was the first time I had visited a Jewish temple in more than 30 years.

Naturally, we wanted to arrive early enough to get a good seat fairly close to the front. This we did; but we were surprised to be ushered to the very front seat, directly in front of the speaker's microphone, where cards with our names on them claimed our places for us! How nice!

Noting that we still had time before the lecture was to begin, I picked up a book from a rack near me. In a Protestant church, it would have been a hymnal. This book, however, was different; part of the text was written in English, and part of it was in Hebrew.

Given such a free choice as this, I decided to read in English. I assume the following passage which I read was from Talmud:

"Four types of minds sit before the wise—the sponge, the funnel, the strainer, and the sieve. The sponge takes in all things. The funnel receives at one end and lets out at the other. The strainer lets out the wine and retains the dregs. The sieve lets out the coarse meal and retains the fine flour."

Quickly I made note of these "minds" on my seat reservation card, but I did not have time to contemplate them at that time, this was because a very friendly, handsome man came and conversed with us until the appointed time for the lecture.

How can anyone forget those four kinds of minds? I would never profess to be wise, but thousands of college students have sat before me in classes for many years. Other thousands have sat before me in church.

How gullible is that sponge!

If it is on TV, he knows "it must be true." "It must be true, or the pastor would not have said it!" "The professor told the entire class, so it must be true."

It is terribly pitiful and awfully sad for anybody to be so spongy—regardless of who the professor or pastor may be.

You and I have met the funnel. Tell him or her what you please as many times as you must—however important it may be—and it all goes in one ear and out the other. One could wonder if this is because there is nothing between the ears to hold the information.

The sponge and funnel seem to stand dreadfully in need of our sympathy and patience even if their ability to profit from our help is limited.

The strainer and sieve are much more effective learners. The strainer is used here for liquid substances; the sieve is used for dry measure. These two are closely related.

On the one hand, one can strain out the dregs, and in his

ignorance let the wine go. He would eat the peeling and throw the banana away. Otherwise, another might be so discerning as to throw out the dregs or "coarse meal" and retain the wine and fine flour for their proper use.

This selective listening can cause great trouble at times. We find people hearing what they want to hear and leaving the rest outside of awareness. Sadly, it may be the main point of the speaker that is left out or ignored by the selective listener.

It would be the essence of folly to wish that all of those who have "sat before me" had listened with objective minds—really listen—then compare, weigh, examine, analyze, and test what was said. Such has not been the case.

There are two ways by which you can gain membership in the Fools' Hall of Infamy....

One way is to believe everything you hear without examining it. The other way is to deny everything you hear without examining it.

History Day Parents Thank Supporters

Dear Editor:

We wish to thank our community for supporting the six Madison County students who will compete in the National History Day finals in Washington, D.C. next month.

Our thanks to the many talented people who gave us an evening of music and magic; to expert co-ordinator Sheila Barnhill; to principals Fred Haynie and David Wyatt; social studies teacher Don Banks; amcee Jerry Flemmons and the Marshall Lions Club; and to the many

folks who gave their time and shared their knowledge with the students; to Richard Dillingham of the Mars Hill College Library and to the people at Pepsi, McDonald's, Belk and Ivey's in Asheville; to our local merchants for their very generous donations and to the many folks who supported our fund-raising efforts with their contributions.

Thanks! We couldn't have done it without you. The parents of the History Day finalists.

THE NEWS RECORD is available in WEAVERVILLE at JOHN AND POP'S RESTAURANT in the Tri-City Shopping Center.

Sheriffs Endorse Knox

Dear Editor:

We the undersigned law enforcement officers endorse the election of Eddie Knox for governor because we believe he can do the best job of promoting a safe atmosphere in our state.

Respect for the law is a quality which is essential in a governor. The governor must set a lifelong example of high ethical standards, not only by carrying out the law, but by obeying the law. Eddie Knox has done this.

The governor must set an example by his leadership in dealing with crime and not just seeking publicity. Eddie Knox has demonstrated responsible leadership.

The increase in crime in North Carolina during the tenure of the attorney general is unacceptable. We believe that for North Carolina to be ranked fifth in drug trafficking is unacceptable. The attorney

general has not done a good job with law enforcement. We need better leadership from the state level.

There is a big difference between the two candidates for governor. Through his performance as a state senator, chairman of the Knox Commission on prison reform, chairman of the Advisory Budget Commission and mayor of Charlotte, Eddie Knox has clearly shown that he is the most capable of doing the job we need in a governor.

Sincerely,
 Robert M. Casaday, Sheriff, Cabarrus County
 Norman Newbern, Jr., Sheriff, Currituck County
 C.W. Edd, Jr., Sheriff, Mecklenburg County
 Frank Brown, Sheriff, Nash County
 Hubert Stone, Sheriff, Robeson County
 Will J. Ryan, President, N.C. Fraternal Order of Police

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