

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1934

WHY HAVE A COUNTY AGENT?

Exactly one year ago the board of county commissioners saw fit to discontinue the office of County Agent because of the expense. During 1933 the farmers of this county have gone along the best they could without the aid of an agent. They have marketed their products to the best of their ability and have grown crops according to their experience and advice received from fellow farmers. Without the assistance or advice from a county agent they have pulled through.

One year later we find the same board of county commissioners filling the office which they declared vacant one year ago. The expenses of the office are about the same as they were in January 1933, BUT the necessity of having a county agent for 1934 is by far greater than it was at the time the work was suspended. Today it is almost compulsory.

In January 1933 who was there among us who ever dreamed of such a thing as "crop reduction under government supervision." Who realized that practically every business would be more or less under the direct supervision of government experts helping to pull the lagging business through the mud of hard times?

We have a different set up today in our business life and the life of the farmers than we had in January 1933. The program has been arranged, and if it is to succeed it must be carried out, and every farmer cannot go to Washington or Raleigh and learn for himself just what he must do to join in and obtain the benefits from this program. THEREFORE, it is absolutely necessary that he be represented and have some one who can get the "New Deal Program for the Farmers" and bring it back and assist the farmer in working it out for the mutual benefit of all concerned. That is the part the county agent will fill under this new set up.

There is besides that particular phase of the work, the regular work that all county agents are required by state standards to perform.

The appointment of W. D. Smith as County Agent will be well received by Haywood County farmers. He knows the county; he knows the farmers, knows their problems and they know that he knows them and their problems which will ultimately result in the best of cooperation and the carrying out of the "New Deal" program which promises to be the means of saving the farmer.

We are glad that the Board of Commissioners is composed of men who have the ability to grasp the situation and need of a county agent and that no time was lost in appointing one with ability to fill the office.

A PRESSING NEED

We have said so a number of times, and repeat it again, that one of the greatest and most pressing needs of this community at this time is a place where young boys can spend their spare time under the supervision of proper instructors, instead at places of questionable character.

We can't say authoritatively, but we feel that there are several civic organizations in this community that would be glad to cooperate with the city in furnishing and equipping such a place. A few swinging bars, dumb bells, shuffle boards, checker boards and other pieces of equipment would be a drawing card and a means of keeping the young boys off the streets and out of places where they have no business.

If any effort is to be made to curb crime, it seems that it should begin with keeping young boys under the proper guidance of those who are interested in seeing them become men of influence instead of criminals with court records.

If this isn't done, and right away, this community will pay and pay heavily within a few years for not providing such a place.

A REAL PIECE OF WORK

It would be entirely out of order to go to press another week without some editorial comment on the splendid work done by Oscar L. Briggs and his assistants during the past holiday season. As many of you already know, Mr. Briggs gathered for months, old broken toys that had been discarded and thrown into attics and basements. He took these toys and in his spare time when on duty at the fire station repaired and painted them until they were almost as good as new. On Saturday before Christmas he gave these away, and because of his far sight, and his willingness to do this splendid piece of work, many a child was made happy Christmas that otherwise would have gone without a toy.

Mr. Briggs didn't get a penny for his work, yet he received more for it than the United States treasury could have paid—he got real joy in seeing the children happy.

LIVE AND HELP LIVE

Every year it is a custom and habit to make and break New Years Resolutions—this year, as in years past, many people have made resolutions, and no doubt many have already broken most of them, but there is one, that can be made now if it has not already been made, that would no doubt go farther than almost anything else—"Live and Help Live."

That takes in many things, and calls for many sacrifices, both personal and in business, but there are few things that will pay a larger dividend and go farther towards spreading joy to the world than this.

For generations the idea has been "Live and let live" but that is one of the old order of things and now that the new has come into existence we might as well begin from the first to act accordingly.

SCHOOL FRILLS, BAH!

Somebody is forever shouting that the frills ought to be cut out of the public schools. Away with the fads! Back to the three R's. What do you mean by that?

How simple it may sound, but how stupidly it would work out! Elderly folk who still see the little red school house through a sort of emotional haze are especially good at giving this advice.

They got their education when life was as simple as the logs they sat on while at books and the three R's were counted all-sufficient for social and educational attainment in that day.

But since then civilization has slipped up two or three notches.

Life is confusingly complex and what is flippantly called the frills and fads and furbelows are, as a matter of cold fact, social necessities, good investments and emergency enterprises that can neither be wisely dispensed with nor postponed until times get better.—Charlotte Observer.

\$50,000 PER CRASH

When you read of a fatal motor accident, make a note in your mental bookkeeping for a community debt of \$50,000. And that figure, according to Sidney J. Williams, director of the Public Safety Division of the National Safety Council, is a "conservative estimate."

His opinion is based on the accepted assumption that the economical value of a life averages \$30,000. He takes account of the fact that for every automobile fatality there are some thirty-five non-fatal injuries, and for every injury there are at least four accidents involving property damage. With the total bill for accidents of all kinds in the United States running to a billion and a half dollars, simple arithmetic reveals that \$50,000 may be properly used as the community cost per fatal traffic accident.

But if money does not talk convincingly on the subject, consider the cost in human life. We think of wars as being major national catastrophes, yet as destroyers of life they are hardly to be bracketed with traffic accidents.

For example, in all the wars engaged in by the United States—the Revolutionary War, the War of 1812, the Mexican War, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, the World War—fewer than 300,000 men were killed in action or died from wounds. Alongside those figures should be laid these, cited by D. C. Duncan, safety engineer for the Appalachian Electric Power Company, to wit: In the past fifteen years, a period approximating the duration of those six wars, Americans killed by or dying from injuries received in motor accidents total 325,000!

Surely, here is a field of community service that merits intelligent consideration from all citizens. Almost every nation has an organized accident-prevention movement. Facts have been gathered. Methods have been formulated to reduce the accident toll. The need of the moment is for campaigns of education and for improvement of traffic regulations and conditions.—Rotarian Magazine.

ODD THINGS AND NEW—By Lane Bode



Random SIDE GLANCES

By W. CURTIS RUSS

Cody Platt, member of the staff at the employment office, told me one about a woman registering in that office for work. One of the questions on the blank is "How far did you go in school." When Mr. Platt asked the applicant this question she replied:

"About a mile and a half."

Mr. Platt didn't say "I imagine that called for a college degree. That's a 'fer' ways."

Cyrus Wagnick, state director of National Reemployment service for this state, is telling me about a mountaineer who registered for the service in the hopes of securing CWA employment.

Whether this man in question registered in Waynesville or not is not known, but here's the yarn:

The would-be registrant was asked, along with a lot of other questions, if he had any physical handicaps. "I sure have," he replied with emphasis.

The next question was for a detailed statement of his handicaps. "Three of 'em," he replied, "a wife and two children."

News comes from Hollywood that a scene in a picture which Will Rogers is making called for the humorist to smoke a pipe. After a few minutes of puffing Will turned a greenish color and called out "I'm sick." The production of the picture was held up ten minutes.

When anyone gets sick from smoking they are really sick. Few things can cause a more "deadly" sick than smoking—how well I know.

Spending about smoking, brings to mind that out of the eighteen members of the Rotary Club, eight do not use tobacco in any form.

Several weeks ago a story of a marriage was printed in this column, and comment made on it, but there is still another side to marriage—the cost.

Last October, in New York the marriage of Miss Margaret Perry cost exactly \$18,841—but even by spending that much money the couple was not any more married than the couple that called Dr. R. P. Walker to the court house in the cold last winter to marry them for 50 cents.

Another preacher who does not want his name published, said he told the groom he did not have a flat rate for performing wedding ceremonies, but left that part to the groom to pay just what he thought it was worth. The young man stammered a minute and then said, "I'll drop around next week and leave it with you." According to the preacher, next week has not gotten here yet.

I am yet to find someone to explain to me why certain members of the Waynesville football team had their hair shaved several weeks ago.

One of the most interesting places in town is the fire department. There is just something about a fire truck that gives me a thrill even if it is just parked—nothing, however, takes the place of the old fire houses that were once used in cities.

This is the fourth day of the new year and I have one resolution that remains unbroken—almost a record.

Do Englishmen understand American slang? "Some of them do. Why?" "My daughter is to be married in London, and the earl has cabled me to come across."

"What is your favorite book?" "It has always been my bank book—but even that is lacking in interest now."

24 Years Ago in HAYWOOD

(From the file of January 2, 1910)

One of the loveliest affairs of the holiday was the dinner last night at the Parish House given by Mr. Albrecht in honor of their nephew, Miss Florence Berry, and Mr. Henry Berry, of Fallon, Nev. The completion of the first leg of the automobile road destined to connect Spartanburg with Asheville, was celebrated today at Tryon by good-will advocates representing North and South Carolina.

Asheville is to have a new \$2,000,000 tourist hotel, Dr. E. W. Gross, who has invested much money in the metropolis, will finance the enterprise. Mr. and Mrs. John N. Shedd entertained a few of their friends Sunday evening with a watch party.

Miss Virginia Jones and her guest, Miss Spinks, will leave tomorrow for Charlotte where they will resume their studies at Elizabeth College. Miss Jennie Ray entertained Sunday evening with a beautiful party complimentary to Miss Florence Berry.

We sincerely trust that the year 1912 will be pardoned for our failure in our last issue to call attention to the fact that the year 1912 is leap year.

NOTICE TO STOCKHOLDERS OF FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF WAYNESVILLE

Notice is hereby given that the annual meeting of the stockholders of the First National Bank will be held in the banking rooms of the bank in Waynesville, North Carolina, on Tuesday, January 9, 1934, at 10 o'clock A. M. All stockholders are urged to be present.

This the 3rd day of January, 1934

tion of publishing the entire NRA payroll. Johnson said he had not and that "I think people will be surprised when they see it."

He added that only Donald Rich, chief general counsel, Alvin Brown, administrative assistant and Boaz Long, newly designated deputy administrator for Porto Rico were drawing more than \$6,000. That is Johnson's own salary.—(Associated Press.)

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