

The Mountaineer

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A Lost Art Revived

One of the nation's leading newspapers has recently asked the following question "is letter writing truly a 'lost art' or will gasoline rationing and other current events revive it?"

The question comes at an opportune time, for everywhere one goes shops that carry stationery seem to be enlarging stocks and the writing of letters is brought to one's mind. It is said that the men in the service have multiplied our letter-writing at least a hundredfold.

There are other reasons as the paper pointed out: "One no longer drives 150 miles or so of a week-end to visit Cousin Joe—now that such a trip means giving up three gas coupons. Cousin Joe gets a letter instead."

"Long distance social calls are out of the question now for anyone with half a conscience. Even local calls much be curtailed to the minimum to make way for urgent government and military business. So, again one decides to write a letter.

"But friendship one discovers can be kept as green by correspondence as in person. Greener sometimes. There is something leisured about a letter. And in that leisure one has time to put things in the proper phrases, time to mention how glad one is to have heard from a friend, time to say, How are you, and how are the children, and to write and tell me all about the family.

"Maybe the somewhat inarticulate public will make a virtue of necessity and become good letter writers—not perhaps as Madame de Sevigne was good or Lord Chesterfield—but at least better than before."

Harvest Time Again

The harvesting season is upon us again in Haywood County nature seems to have done her best as well as the citizens to meet the emergency this year. She has rallied around to do her part in our efforts for increased production of food as asked by our government.

While it is impossible to obtain exact figures on crops at this time, it was learned from the county farm agents office that in every instance of quotas asked in the great nation-wide program for increased production, Haywood has exceeded her quota.

This has not been easy in many cases, for the labor shortage on our farms has been keenly felt. Right at the peak of the harvesting season, the draft quotas shot up for this area to the highest calls required since the inauguration of the selective service system.

Young men have had to leave farms from all sections of the county to enter the service, yet somehow those who were left have managed to meet the emergency.

Camden Solves Problem

Women are beginning to fill many places left vacant by men, but we were a bit surprised to see during the week that Camden County, facing a shortage of school bus drivers, has solved the problem by women drivers.

Mothers of school children have qualified for the work of driving the buses. This is part-time work and many women are able to do it who would not be able to accept full-time employment of any kind.

Our own county has been faced with the same problem, but they have met it with high school boys over sixteen, who have taken courses authorized by the state school authorities.

If Guilty, Stop Today

Are you one of those persons who are forever saying, "You people around here do not seem to realize there is a war going on?" If you are guilty stop today and consider what you have said, for the facts in the case will at once condemn you as a "careless handler of the truth."

If the people of Haywood County did not know there was a war going on, do you suppose that from every mountain cove in this county, from every walk of life, our boys would have flocked to recruiting stations and offered their services to their country. The record on this can be read with pride. When military authorities state that we have more men in the service in proportion to our population than any county in the United States, there is no argument left. So you can take that off your list. The mountaineer is a natural patriot.

When the quotas for the sale of war bonds and stamps are assigned this county, how do we respond? We go over the top with a bang good margin to spare each time the call comes. We do more than we are asked.

When the appeal comes from the Red Cross how does the community react? They go to bat and see that every last cent asked by headquarters is in "the bag" before they stop that driving.

With the USO they have gone the limit with some to spare. They feel for that boy in service, for there are too many of their own for them not to understand what the USO is doing.

Visit the Haywood county farms, and see at first hand how the call has been answered by the farmer and his wife, and in many cases with their son, their right hand, so to speak of last year, "somewhere overseas." Yet they have carried on.

It is true we are far from the teeming centers of actual war activities. We are not brought in daily contact with the men in the service as they train and as they take off for foreign duty.

At night we are not reminded by a black-out, as those who live on the seacoasts are of what might happen at "anytime." We do not have daily contact with realities of war that give one nerves and "jitters."

But we know here in Haywood County that there is a war on, and we are doing a fine job of cooperation with our government. We also know that we have only touched the surface, and that before peace reigns again we will be called upon to make sacrifices of which we do not know. But we are ready to do our part.

Pistol Law

We were interested in a recent story about a pistol law applying only to Durham and Alamance counties. You know sometimes in Haywood County we have been known to be a little careless about how we use our firearms. We have often been too free with our bullets.

The law was first put on the books in 1935 and it required the registration of all pistols, automatic pistols and revolvers (but not shot guns and rifles) and a permit for the purchase of new weapons of the kind to be signed by two persons of good character.

The officers in the two counties are much pleased over the law. They claim that by means of the registration law enforcement officers have a knowledge of who has a weapon and that it aids them in disarming criminals.

There is at least no harm in calling the matter to the attention of our representatives in the coming State Legislature.

Acquainted By Proxy

Dr. Thomas Stringfield in his various interesting talks on his recent experiences in England, where he served with the Emergency Hospital Service of the English Ministry of Health, has done much to create a friendly interest in our cousins across the sea.

We were particularly impressed with what he had to say of the conservative attitude of the Britishers, and yet their admiration for the initiative capacity of the Americans.

They seem to have forgotten that we Americans are here today because our ancestors were an adventurous type, and upon that spirit established a new country. In that struggling environment against the odds of nature, in building a nation they naturally lost some of their old world culture, that we have perhaps never since attained.

On the other hand we are prone to feel that what we lost is negligent in comparison to the rich heritage of the strength and virility of our founding fathers, who gave us freedom and liberty.



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

The following contribution was made to us by a very charming summer visitor from Fort Lauderdale. It appeared in a Tampa, Fla., paper. We hope you enjoy it as much as we did. This war is such a grim affair that it somehow broke the spell of its horror, at least temporarily for us. The soldier who wrote it had that saving grace that helps tide us over so many tough spots in life... a sense of humor.

MONOLOGUE

I was one of those fellows that made the world safe for democracy. What a crazy thing that was. I fought and fought. I had to go anyway. I was called in Class A. The next time I want to be in Class B. Be here when they go and be here when they come back.

I remember the day I registered. I went up to the desk and the man in charge was my milkman. He said, "What's your name?" he barked so. I told him "August Childs." He said, "Are you an alien?" "No, I said I feel fine." He asked me where I was born. I said Pittsburgh. Then he said, "Where did you first see the light of day?" and I said "when we moved to Philadelphia." He asked me how old I was and I said 25 on the first of September. He said, "The first of September you will be in Australia and that will be the last of August."

The day I went to camp I guess they didn't think I would live long. The first fellow I saw wrote on my card "Flying Corps" (C). I went a little further and then some fellow said "Look what the wind blew in." I said "Wind nothing, the draft is doing it."

On the second morning they put these clothes on me. What an outfit. As soon as you are in you think you can fight anybody. They have two sizes of everything in the army. Too small and too large. The pants are so small I can't sit down and the shoes are so big I turned around three times and they didn't move. What a raincoat. They gave us. It strained the rain. I passed an officer all dressed up with a funny belt and all that stuff. He said calling after me "Didn't you notice my uniform?" I said "Yes, what are you kicking about. Look what they gave me."

Oh, it was nice. Five below one morning when they called us out for underwear inspection. You talk about scenery. Red flannels. B. V. D.'s and all kinds. The union suit I had on would fit Tony Galento. The lieutenant lined us up and told me to stand up. I said "I am up, sir. This underwear makes you think I am sitting down." He got so mad he put me out digging a ditch. A little later he passed and said "Don't throw that dirt up here." I said "Where am I going to put it?" He said "Dig another hole and put it in there."

Three days later we sailed for Australia. Marching down the pier I had some more luck. I had a Sergeant who stuttered and it took him so long to say "Halt" that 27 of us marched overboard. They pulled us out and lined us up on the pier and the Captain came by and said "Fall in." and I said, "I have been in, Sir." I was on the boat 12 days. Seasick 12 days. Nothing going down and everything coming up. Leaned over the rail all the time. In

the middle of my best lean, the Captain rushed up and said "What company are you in?" I said, "I'm all by myself." He said, "Has the Brigadier come up yet?" I said, "If I swallowed it, it's up." Talk about dumb people. I said to one of the fellows "guess we dropped the anchor?" he replied "I knew they would lose it—it's been hanging out ever since we left New York."

Well, we landed in Australia. We were immediately sent to the trenches. After three nights in the trenches. The cannons started to roar. I was shaking with patriotism. I tried to hide behind a tree, but there wasn't room enough for the officers. The captain came around and said "Five o'clock and we go over the top." I said "Captain, I'd like to have a word with you." He said, "Well, what is it?" I said, "I'd like to have a furlough."

He said "Haven't you any red blood in you?" I said, "Yes, but I don't want to see it." Five o'clock we went over the top. Ten thousand Japs came at us. The way they looked at me you'd think it was I who started the war. Our Captain yelled "Fire at will." But I didn't know any of their names. I guess the fellow behind me thought I was Will. He fired his gun and shot me in the excitement.

What Made News Years Ago

TEN YEARS AGO 1932

Soco Gap road is assured by chairman Jefferson and work will be rushed.

The new cutting plant at England-Walton will be completed in two weeks.

J. Z. Cleveland, of Zirconia, wins sweepstakes in dahlia show here.

More than 1,000 persons attended dedication of courthouse here on Monday.

New sanitarium to be opened here in October, with newest treatments and diets yet discovered in Europe will be given.

Forty lawyers from 11th congressional district gather here for organizing.

Waynesville is now destined to become principal Park City. County might get federal funds

Rambling Around

By W. CURTIS RUSS

Bits of this, that and the other picked up here, there and yonder.

Voice OF THE People

Admitting that politics has seriously impeded the proper prosecution of the war, in the hope of avoiding a recurrence of that situation in the future, would you favor a constitutional amendment suspending, in the event of war, all national elections?

Johnny Ferguson—"No, I would not approve. It might be all right for the president, but not for the senators and the congressmen."

Dr. C. N. Sisk—"I would say no, even though our politics might be rotten, I still believe in the principal of the government of the people and by the people."

W. Clark Medford—"I think in a national crisis like this we might do without national elections."

O. H. Shelton—"I think all national elections should be eliminated, and that all politicians should lend all their efforts to ending the war, instead of trying to get elected to office and playing politics."

Miss Winnie Kirkpatrick—"I think in the case of the president it might be eliminated, but I would approve electing the senators and the congressmen."

Mrs. Doyle Almy—"I do not feel that improper prosecution of the war can be charged directly to the politicians, but I think it has been due to the complacency of the people of this country in general."

H. Phelps Brooks—"No, I would not approve. I think it would give too much power."

C. F. Kirkpatrick—"I would approve of the constitutional amendment under question, as I do not feel that we need any elections during the war."

Captain W. F. Swift—"If the right crowd happened to be in it would be fine, but I believe that under most circumstances it would be better to give the people a chance to make a change in the officials, if it is needed."

T. L. Bramlett—"I think we should have national elections even in time of war. I think the government should function as in normal times."

FIVE YEARS AGO 1937

Haywood county has good grade of burley tobacco this year.

Mayor's court collected a total of \$618 in the month of August.

Haywood Boy Scouts will hold rally here on Saturday.

Large neon sign is erected at the Park Theatre this week.

Teachers in state are given a ten per cent raise in salary.

Balsam Weavers get big order from large department store in New York City.

David Stentz is named president of the freshman class at Brevard College.

David Palmer is named junior auditor with the state revenue department.

Twenty-two students from Haywood are at Brevard College.

A cow must be trained to back away from an electric fence; her impulse is to jump through it.

Lemurs, more primitive than other primates, are believed to be relatively unmodified descendants of one of man's early ancestors.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



Sure sign that school has been ed is the writing in chalk on sidewalks—a pastime of students of the elementary grades. First thing a youngster that to write wants most is for world to know all about it, so resort to the sidewalks as blackboards.

Seen in passing—a big fellow fixing his small sister's bra.

After living under the brush of a painter's brush, all last week the office, we found that one thing the war has not changed that reads: "Wet Paint." Have to feel the freshly painted surface and see for themselves.

Noises in the night—the sound of a falling apple. A screeching tire that like the beginning wall of the ren.

A howling dog in the distance that sounds almost human.

A Haywood citizen, who once old-fashioned "hog-eye" rifle use it in any way to fire at the enemy. The offer has been to the chief executive. If for reason he cannot place it in branch of service, why not offer for sale at auction to the bidder for war bonds. In words, give it to the person will agree to buy the most.

Now is the time to begin thinking about what you are going to send the boys "over there" Christmas. The post office is that all packages be mailed October 15th to assure delivery on or before Christmas.

One Haywood mother bought five plugs of tobacco, sent it air mail to her son in Australia. The postage was over. Someone tried to persuade her to send it by straight parcel post. She replied: "My boy wants tobacco above everything else. I want to have it, and to have it in a rye. It's my money, my boy, his tobacco. So a matter of a dollars doesn't matter." The package was airmailed.

A recent issue of Charity Children explained the origin long fingernails in this article. Chinamen no longer wear curling fingernails. It was the custom of the rich Chinese wear long curling fingernails show that they never worked their hands. The long fingernails were the badge of honor. They were supposed to work their hands. They looked down on the poor people who worked with their hands. Working with the hands was sign of inferiority. The Chinese have cut off their fingernails, people of this country are not cutting off theirs. The city to memorize what some else wrote in a book has considered the aristocracy of long fingernails.

A pupil who made high marks school and college was named the highest type and was placed at the head of the class. We are one of the outstanding educators of the state say that in his years in a college class room had not come upon a half dozen pupils who could think. Another person in the group asked him to become of the half dozen. Questioner wanted to know if he had been expelled from college. It was agreed by the school and laymen present that the student and college courses were not revised for thinking but for memorizing. Students are not expected to think. The only place where they actually think are in sessions" and not in class room. But what we started to say that the long fingernails are being trimmed in this country the man who can do things longer looked down upon. schools and colleges are no longer ignoring him. We like that.

NOTICE SERVING SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NORTH CAROLINA, HAYWOOD COUNTY, TOWN OF WAYNESVILLE vs. REAGAN L. WELLS and LUCY WELLS, and HAYWOOD COUNTY.

The defendants Reagan L. Wells and wife, Lucy Wells, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Haywood County, N. C., to foreclose tax and special assessment liens on real estate situate in aforesaid County and State and the said defendants will be required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Waynesville, North Carolina, on the thirty days after the 14th of October, 1942, and answer demurr to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This September 14th, 1942.

C. H. LEATHERWOOD, Clerk Superior Court.

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