

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor:

Following is a letter which we have just written to the Yancey County Board of Education:

We wish to say a few words in support of Mrs. Elly's recent letter concerning the holding of revivals in the schools.

Freedom of religion in America is based on the separation of church and state. This means keeping our public schools out of the churches, and keeping the churches out of the public schools.

Consider what happens in countries that don't do this. The school authorities have to decide what theology will be taught or encouraged in the schools. Then each church develops its own political party, to promote its own particular theology. This has happened in a lot of countries and it makes for poor schools and for very bad government.

Then there are countries where most of the people do agree on their religion and use the schools to propagate it. These tend to become horribly narrow and intolerant of any differences of religion.

In one country we know there are no public schools at all. Each church has its own schools and all of them are poor. In another country, there is an official state church, supported by taxes, where almost no one goes to church.

If we really want freedom of religion, with healthy, active churches, we will pay attention to the American Constitution and keep our schools completely separate from sectarian religion.

Ethics and morals, sound personal habits, social responsibility--these should be the active concern of every school, home, church and business -- but the teaching of any sectarian theology (either ours or yours) belongs only in the home and the church.

Elizabeth and Ernest Morgan

Dear Editor:

We are writing this Open Letter to the citizens and concerned parents of Yancey County: As Parents in this county we would like to call your attention to the fact that we have hundreds of "lost" children in Yancey County. What we mean by lost is that they have no place to go and no place to play safely. These kids are well mannered and church-going kids.

As we read our paper every day our hearts cry out for the kids out in the streets all over the United States. As we pray at night, we pray for them.

Our kids are something to be proud of. They aren't in the streets looking for trouble to get into, or looking for the guy in the streets. They are looking for jobs. in Grocery Stores, mowing lawns, baby sitting, washing cars, cleaning house, or just anything to make a few dollars to make their parents proud of them.

Our kids are suffering from lack of jobs and recreation. Let's show them we are proud of them by helping them get a Recreation Park here.

Sincerely,
R. Smith and G. Shade

Dear Editor:

I wonder if the good Christians in Yancey County realize that the practice of keeping religious meetings out of school assemblies could be a service to them. It would be a fine thing for everyone if the religious teachings they agree with were taught to impressionable youngsters through the schools. Folks might not be so approving, however, if a Catholic Priest, a Jewish Rabbi, a Christian Science minister or a Mormon leader, to name only a handful of the many religious faiths in America today, were to exercise their "equal" right to influence the children in the matter of religion.

The issue here is not whether

children should accept religion--but rather, what manner of religion they should accept. Surely this is a matter that most parents would like to have a voice in deciding.

And for this reason, we have parents and churches for religion and schools for the non-sectarian subjects.

Sincerely,
(name withheld on request)

Dear Editor:

I was very happy to hear about the revival services in your schools.

I have lived in Miami, Fla. for nearly 14 years and have seen hundreds of young people whose lives are almost totally destroyed by sin. It's a common thing here to pick up the paper and see where another one has died from an overdose of drugs.

My husband was robbed in the middle of the day in a business district, right out in the open by three young (maybe high school age) fellows. One of them held a gun to his head while the other two went through his pockets.

So, if you don't reach your young people before they leave home, the devil is waiting as a wolf to devour a lamb.

If these young people let Jesus into their hearts and lives, He will see them safely thru the devil's territory.

I read the letter from Mrs. Elly, and upon inquiring I found she is a Presbyterian minister's wife. Don't Presbyterians believe in winning the lost to Christ? Or only in their church? Well, what happens to the thousands who never go to church?

I have talked to grown young men who knew nothing about the Creation or any of the Bible, yet they were high school graduates. One young man (about 17) asked me questions just as fast as I could answer them about the Scrip-

ture until 2 o'clock in the morning. Starved for knowledge of God.

I'm sorry church folks but we have far more heathen in good old religious U.S. than you would ever dream.

Let's win them if we can, and to Mrs. Elly, if you don't have the joy and security of knowing the Lord, open your heart and life to Him and then you will be glad with us when you hear of a lost one saved, no matter where it happens, or who wins them.

Sincerely,
Mary Frances Lewis
Opa Locka, Florida

Dear Editor:

First, I would like to say I am and have been a Christian for thirty-three years and a member of the Micaville Presbyterian Church.

I, too, am concerned about the schools in Yancey County being a teacher at East Yancey High School. Being an eye witness to the Assembly at East Yancey May 13, I would like to say it was a very inspirational service. I rejoice and thank God for young people who have the courage in our day to stand up and tell over four hundred other students how their lives have been changed. Never in all my years of teaching have I observed students as quiet and attentive as they were at this assembly. No student was forced to go to assembly and no pressure was put on them to come forward and make a decision for Christ. This was the choice of the individual student and around two hundred stepped forward. These students are to be commended, not criticized.

It seems our schools are always being condemned or criticized, but we have a good school at East Yancey and a fine group of boys and girls to work with. We are interested in providing more than book knowledge for the students. Character development is a

very important goal of our school.

I believe assembly programs are a constructive way of helping teenagers learn to live more useful lives. In the future I would like to see all the ministers in our county plan and present more assembly programs for our students.

I have great faith in the abilities of our young people and the choices they will make in the future.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Max Hughes

Scene From South Toe

By Grace Miller
675-4581

Everyone would like to send get well wishes to Mrs. Eula Ray, Mrs. Doris Gurley and Mrs. Ellen Hudgins who are in the Spruce Pine Community Hospital. Also Mrs. Clyde Huskins who is in the Asheville Hospital.

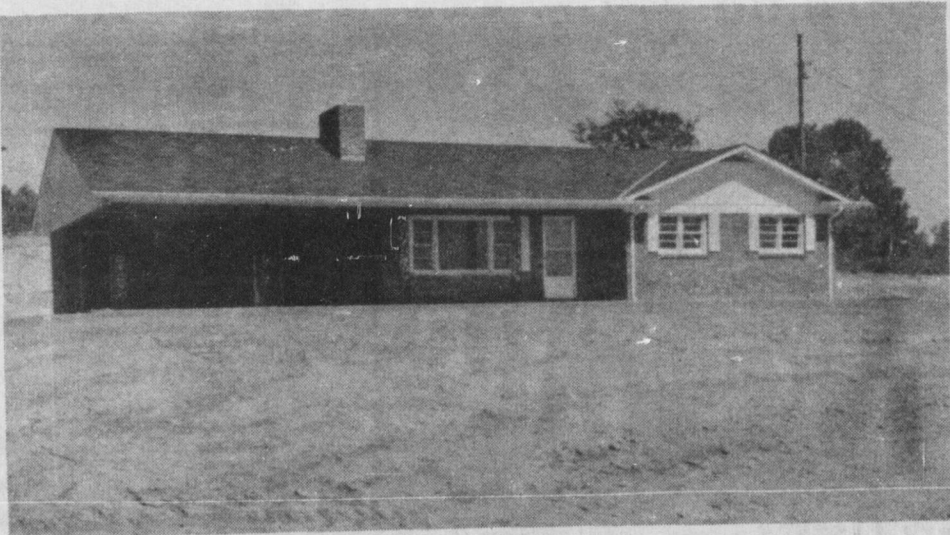
A baby girl was born to Mr. and Mrs. Calvin Wilson Wednesday, June 9th at the Spruce Pine Hospital. They named her Kimberly Gwen.

Billy Huskins and Lillian Shuford were married Saturday at the Fairview Church at Seven Mile Ridge.

Mr. and Mrs. James McDougale have had as their guest this past week their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Hughes of Charlotte.

We the PTA would like to thank everyone who attended the Chicken Supper. We especially want to thank the cooks who we think prepared such a delicious meal.

Chris Chrisawn and Marcus Vess are back from their trip to Gardner-Webb College where Chris won a Trophy for making the most points in playing basketball.



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