



Stewart's Slants

By Gary Stewart

In the little community where I live, we recently laid to rest our oldest citizen.

Wayne Wells was 88. He will be missed as much as anyone who's ever lived among us.

Wayne, like Will Rogers, never met a man he didn't like. And he never met a man he couldn't talk to. He could carry on a conversation with the President just as easily as he could with his neighbors.

I don't know how far along he went in school, but he had a brilliant mind. He was an expert on history, and could tell you every detail of the Battle of Kings Mountain.

Some of my fondest memories of my younger years dealt with Wayne and his family, which included his wife, Leona, and one son, Carveth.

Wayne's closest neighbors, the Joneses, were some of my best friends. When I visited that family, which included young boys Oscar, Bobby, David and Randy, we'd usually wind up at the Wellises.

Wayne was a storyteller. I never knew by grandfather, John Stewart (I was about four when he died), but by visiting Wayne I got to know him quite well.

"You know John Stewart?", Wayne often asked as I'd come into his house. "I know who he was," I'd answer, "but I never knew him personally."

Wayne would then tell me how my grandfather could drink hot coffee right from the spout, and how great a man of faith he was. He'd walk several miles each Sunday from his home in the Dixon Community to attend Shiloh Presbyterian Church in Grover. When First Presbyterian Church of Kings Mountain and its late pastor, Rev. P.D. Patrick, decided to help the people of Dixon organize Dixon Presbyterian, my grandfather became that church's first elder and donated the lumber to build the church. My father, George, and his brothers, Hub and Dan, cut the wood and hauled it to the sawmill.

Wayne was also a great man of faith. Due to a kidney condition during the last several years of his life, he was unable to attend regular Sunday church services. But, at the shorter services during the week, such as Bible studies and family night suppers, you could set you watch by him. He'd always be there.

He could reel off Bible stories one right after the other. I recall once at his home when some of us were discussing our favorite—or what we thought were the most important—Bible verses, and Wayne said his was "Ye must be born again."

Back in those younger days, the Jones boys and I were always making music. Wayne, who was a character—and I say that in the fondest sense of the word—once made up an off-beat song which I'll never forget. It went like this:

When I went down the New Cut Road,
I met a possum in the road.
He backed his ears,
and grinned at me,
And said, look out, 'simmon tree.

As I went down the New Cut Road,
I met a possum and a toad.
The possum said to the toad,
you better get out the middle of the road.

Wayne always got a big thrill out of making music, and I recall once when we fixed up one of his old barns, and Bobby Jones and I put on a music show. Wayne called around the neighborhood and the place was packed. Bobby was always the lead guitarist, and I'd play rhythm and sing.

On several occasions, Wayne would assist Oscar Jones and I in fixing up one of his old buildings to camp out in, and we once even constructed a log cabin. We invited a number of people down there one night and had a chicken stew just like Wayne said the community did in the old days.

I guess my fondest recollection of Wayne will always be the time he grew a 40-foot tomato vine up the backside of his house.

When the tomatoes ripened, he called the Charlotte Observer and they sent a photographer down to take a picture of it.

Oscar Jones and I climbed a ladder and went onto the roof of the house, leaned over the edge and picked tomatoes for the picture.

"I didn't know how to get the tomatoes, so the boys here figured it out," he told the photographer. The photographer asked him our names, and he told him, Gary and Oscar. When the picture came out in the paper, the cutline said "Wells's sons, Gary and Oscar, climbed upon the house and picked the tomatoes."

Wayne came up with several other creations, such as growing cucumbers in coke bottles, and each summer we always looked forward to helping him pick blackberries, which he sold for about a dollar a gallon.

Knowing him was fun.

KM Woman's Club Meets Monday Night

The Kings Mountain Woman's Club will meet on Monday evening, May 24, with a Board of Directors meeting at 7 p.m. and the regular meeting at 7:45.

The installation of officers for the 1982-84 term will be conducted by Mrs. Louise Kiser Seay of Huntersville, a Kings Mountain native. Mrs. Kiser is married to Dr. Hillis C. Seay and is a former president of District V of the North Carolina General Federation of Women's Clubs. Officers to be installed are Mrs. W.D. Werner, President; Mrs. John H. Gamble, First Vice President; Mrs. David Faunce,

GRADUATES

Janet F. Rushing, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James W. Rushing of 503 Waco Road, Kings Mountain, was among 1,983 persons receiving degrees from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro during its 90th annual commencement exercises Sunday.

Second Vice President; and Mrs. Larry Hamrick, Jr., Corresponding Secretary.

The members will vote on the Outstanding Member of the Year, who will be presented with an appropriate award.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Having qualified as Executrix of the Estate of Clyde Ervin Conner, late of Cleveland County, North Carolina, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate of said decedent to present them to the undersigned on or before the 20th day of November, 1982, or this notice will be pleaded in bar of their recovery.

All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate payment to the undersigned.

This the 14th day of May, 1982.

Virle E. Conner
703 West King Street
Kings Mountain, N.C. 28086
5:20, 27 6:3, 10

Letters

More Specific Definition Needed

Dear Editor:

I think that your readers should be made aware of a bill that will be considered by the House when the legislature convenes in June. This bill (S.D. 411) was overwhelmingly approved by the Senate in the 1981 session.

Briefly, S.B. 411 is a more specific definition of chiropractic, to replace the one now on the books, which was passed in 1917. We think it is in the public interest to have an updated, modernized definition of any health discipline.

Strangely, the state Medical Society is opposed to this bill, and some doctors are writing letters against it. One would think that they, of all people, would want a more specific definition of chiropractic.

One point in particular concerns the public. Chiropractors want to include this statement in the law: "The doctor of chiropractic is a primary health provider." This statement guarantees that North Carolinians will continue to have the freedom to select their health provider.

Medical doctors do not want this statement to be included in the definition.

The fact is, the chiropractor is already recognized as a primary health provider by the public, the federal government, federal and state Workers Compensation, Medicare, Medicaid, private accident and health insurance plans, and the North Carolina State Health Plan.

Thousands of North Carolinians prefer treatment by a doctor of chiropractic when it is appropriate. Licensed chiropractors in this state want to guarantee that they will continue to have the right to select their doctor.

Freedom of choice is one of the greatest advantages of living in America, and I hope that fair-minded citizens will let their State Representative know, either directly or through the media, that they want to see Senate Bill 411 passed with the kind of language that will benefit the total health care system.

Sincerely,
Dr. Terry R. Sellers
Chiropractic Physician

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