

The Watauga Democrat

The RIVERS PRINTING COMPANY

Established in 1888 and Published for 45 years by the late Robert C. Rivers

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
 One Year \$1.50
 Six Months75
 Four Months50
 (Payable in Advance)

R. C. RIVERS, Jr., - Publisher

Cards of Thanks, Resolutions of Respect, Obituaries, etc., are charged for at the regular advertising rates.

Entered at the Postoffice at Boone, N. C., as Second Class Mail Matter.

"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first object should be to keep that right, and were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive those papers, and be capable of reading them."
 Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 1939

Speculation would indicate that for one time at least, President Roosevelt is going to have his way, in the matter of instituting the cash and carry plan covering the sale of munitions of war to belligerent nations. When such anti-New Dealers as Glass of Virginia and Smith of New York take sides with the White House, it is a pretty sure sign that enough of the recalcitrants will line up with the President to lift the arms embargo.

The city tax rate has been "upped" 20 cents to take care of the situation arising from the continued drainage of the debt service fund to take care of street improvements. According to the city officials this is the only course which could be followed to keep the town's fiscal affairs in current condition, and the action was taken after a thorough audit of the books of the municipality. The wisdom of this course is not to be taken into question, however, it is to be hoped that future improvements will be circumscribed by the returns from this levy, especially since the streets of the city are being put in good shape under the present program of improvements. A dollar-eighty plus the county tax of \$1.25 is not so bad, but let's "strike a line" at that point.

In a recent survey of industry in the United States, the University News Letter gives out the information that North Carolina ranks thirteenth in the number of manufacturing establishments and wage-earners employed. In this state there are 2,896 establishments, employing 258,771 people at a wage of \$189,265,474. It is interesting to note that in the "border-state" of Missouri, which ranks next above (Tennessee 186,531 people earn \$202,585,847, and in Wisconsin 234,067 workers receive \$266,365,346, and so on. The low wages paid in the south as compared with other sections and the correspondingly lower standards of living, may have had something to do with the President's dubbing of the south as the nation's economic problem No. 1. Living costs are lower among the masses of the southern people, this true, for the simple reason they have less on which to subsist.

A MAN GROWS OLD
 (Winston-Salem Journal)

Look at President Roosevelt's state picture. The famous grin is almost gone and lost is much of that boyish freshness. The presidency is taking its toll. The man is growing old.

Always the presidency makes its mark on those who hold this exalted position. Seldom do we have two ex-presidents living at the same time. Where are Coolidge, Harding, Wilson? Of the ex-presidents who served since the World War only Herbert Hoover remains and Hoover had only one term. Yet of other public men who were mature leaders during the World War we have many remaining.

The aging face of President Roosevelt tells its own story. He is giving his life to his country in a period when history is being made with a rapidity unprecedented in the annals of time.

Whether he always sees clearly in an era when so many men the world over are groping in the dark, is a point for the debating. But it is certain that he is giving his whole thought and energy to the problem of preserving peace and democracy in the Americas.

In this nerve-racking task he deserves the support of all honest and patriotic Americans.

TWO PRAYERS
 (Gastonia Gazette)

The head of the German Evangelical church recently offered a prayer for the success of the Nazi cause, calling for Divine aid for the Fuehrer in his Polish campaign. It reads as follows:

"Lord, it is Your desire that the nations live in justice and freedom

according to Your eternal laws. Bless, therefore, our battle for our honor and our liberty and the freedom of living space for the German people and its bread.

"Bless our armed forces on land, sea and air. Bless our actions and labors on the German land and bless and protect our Fuehrer as You have hitherto blessed and preserved him and permit him to gain for us a true and just peace for the blessing of our people in Europe for Your honor. In Your hands we lay our body and our soul, our nation and our people."

And here is reprinted a satirical war prayer by Mark Twain:

"O Lord, Our God, help us to tear their bodies to bloody shreds with our shells; help us to cover their smiling fields with the pale forms of their patriot dead; help us to drown the thunder of the guns with the wounded, writhing in pain; help us to lay waste their homes with a hurricane of fire; help us wring the hearts of their unoffending widows with unavailing grief; help us to turn them out homeless with their little children; to wander unfriended through wastes of their desolated land in rags and hunger and thirst, sport of the sun flames of summer and the icy winds of winter, broken in spirit, worn with travail, imploring Thee for the refuge of the grave and denied it—for our sakes, who adore Thee, Lord, blast their hopes, blight their lives, protract their bitter pilgrimage, make heavy their steps, water their way with their tears, stain the white snow with the blood of their wounded feet! We ask of One who is the spirit of love and who is the ever faithful refuge and friend of all that are sore pest, and seek His aid with humble and contrite hearts. Grant our prayer, O Lord, and Thine shall be the praise and honor and glory now and forever. Amen."

Methodists to Meet In Greensboro Oct. 18

Charlotte, Sept. 25—Plans for the 50th session of the Western North Carolina annual conference to be held in West Market Street Methodist church in Greensboro from October 18 to 23 with Bishop Care Purcell of this city presiding, were announced here yesterday.

The conference opens Wednesday evening, October 18, at 7:30 o'clock with a meeting of the Conference Historical Society, with W. A. Demaris presiding. Dr. W. A. Parsons, pastor of the Boulevard church of Statesville, will give a sketch of the history of the Blue Ridge-Atlantic conference and Rev. J. E. Carroll, pastor of Grace Methodist church in Greensboro, will talk on the history of the North Carolina conference of the Methodist Protestant church. The Western North Carolina conference from 1890 to 1939 will be discussed by Dr. S. B. Turrentine, president emeritus of Greensboro college.

Bethel School News

Bethel school ended the first month of the 1939-40 school term Tuesday. The indications are that the school is beginning what promises to be a very successful term. The student body is manifesting a splendid attitude, and there seems to be a spirit of co-operation prevailing, both inside the school and on the part of the people of the district.

The high school has enrolled 95 students. Indications are that this number will soon be increased to 100 or more. The attendance in the high school is very satisfactory. The first month ended with a percent of attendance slightly above 98.

The elementary school has about 270 on roll. The first grade, with 53 is the largest class. The grades are also having very good attendance during the pleasant autumn weather.

The school organization is fairly complete. The high school division is functioning on the home room basis. The student activities are as varied as possible, some of which are just now taking form.

Mr. Brady, history and English teacher, is sponsoring a book club which is closely connected with the English department. This club is formed for the purpose of giving enjoyment, acquainting the members with new books, and aiding in the improvement of reading deficiency in some cases.

The glee club is also to be under the direction of Mr. Brady. An attempt will be made to build up a fuller, more complete music program at Bethel.

The athletics and physical education classes are being handled by Mr. Dale and Miss Radisill. A conservative program in physical education is being formulated. This program is greatly enhanced by the completion of Bethel's new gymnasium.

The dramatic organization will soon begin operations in preparation for the Harvest Festival, which is to be held at A. S. T. C. on November 20. Plans are also being made to give a number of public performances in the school auditorium during the year. All efforts to make this school year an enjoyable and profitable period are being put forth.

A total of 172,000 young men tried to join the navy in the year ended in July, 1938, but only 15,570 were accepted.



HOUSING merciful

The reports I get of the newest plan for housing the very poor comfortably and at low cost point to a solution of that vexing problem which I have long advocated. In Fort Wayne, Indiana, the community, with the aid of the FHA and the WPA, is building three-room houses at a cost for materials of \$900 a house, plus WPA labor.

These are substantial homes, far better than average slum dwelling, equipped with all necessary conveniences, but no luxuries, and rent for \$2.50 a month, which brings them within the reach of the very poorest.

They are built on vacant property for which the owner is paid one dollar, with a provision that the house will be moved if he finds a better use for the land. The houses are built in sections so they can be taken down and set up again in a day or two.

For a large part of the very poor in every part of the country, this scheme seems to me the most practical way of extending the merciful help to which the American people are committed.

DRINKING decline

Five years ago the constitutional amendment forbidding the sale of alcoholic liquor in the United States was repealed. It didn't work. Whether it could have been enforced is a question to which there isn't any answer. Anyway, the sale of liquor is legal now everywhere except in Kansas, Oklahoma, Mississippi and Tennessee.

Both the liquor industry and the temperance organizations agree that there has been a great decline in drinking in the past year. Now that it is not illegal to drink, a lot of people who didn't care for the stuff anyway but drank the prohibition bootleg liquor just to defy the law, have gone back to their old habits of moderate drinking or no drinking at all.

As liquor sales decline, gasoline consumption has gone up. The number of motor accidents attributed to drunken driving steadily grows less. People are learning that alcohol and gasoline make a dangerous mixture. Perhaps the automobile will prove more effective in promoting temperance than prohibition ever could have.

COINS comment

I've just seen the first of the new Jefferson nickels. It looks odd, but we will soon get used to it, as we did to the buffalo nickel which was new in 1913. That caused a lot of comment. In that peaceful, prosperous, pre-war time people didn't have anything much more serious to talk about than whether they liked the looks of the new coins.

Before the buffalo nickel, the five-cent piece with a big V on it was coined for 25 years. Before that the nickel had a big figure 5 almost covering one side. I don't remember any nickels of the present size before that one came in, in my boyhood. We had nickel coins the size of the silver dime, but labeled "half-dimes" in my childhood, and there were still in circulation the tiny silver half-dimes, so small and thin they were easy to lose.

They still coined three-cent and two-cent pieces when I was a boy. The first three-cent pieces were tiny little coins of silver. Then came the nickel pieces, a little smaller than a dime, with the Roman III to indicate their value. The two-cent pieces were made of bronze, like the present cents, but were as large as the present nickels, or larger, but not as large as the old copper coins, which were bigger than a quarter.

CURIOSITIES collectors

All the official coinage of the United States is round, but used to have some six-sided gold coins made in a private mint in San Francisco in the 1850's. Almost everybody has seen the Chinese copper coins, from the name of which we got the word "cash," which have square holes in the middle so they can be strung on a cord or wire.

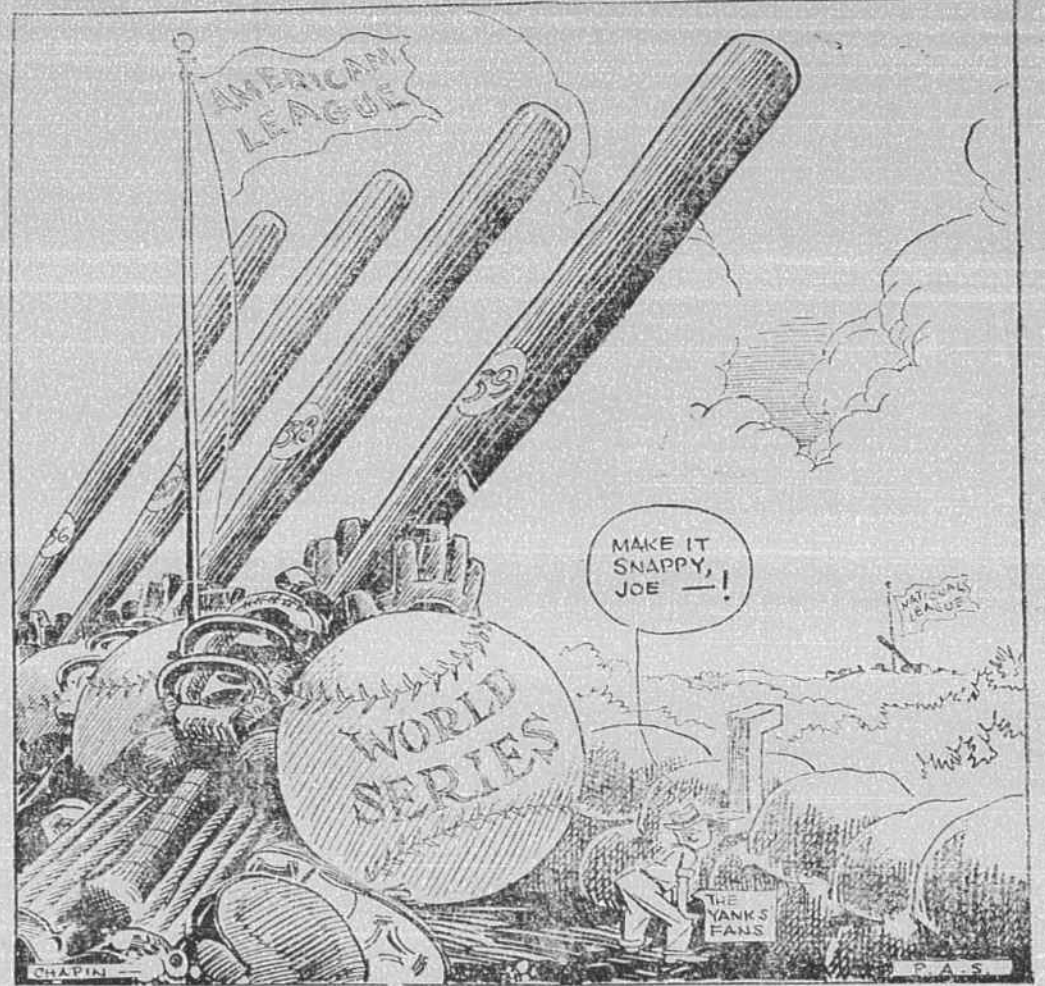
The rarest of all American coins is the silver dollar of 1804. Nineteen thousand of them were coined, but only a dozen are known to exist. They are all owned by collectors, and the last time one was sold it brought \$3,500. Their scarcity is due to the fact that the price of silver went up so high in 1805 that it paid to melt up dollars and sell the silver.

Nobody knows what became of all the "eagle" cents of 1856. If you come across an old cent, whitish in color, because it had nickel mixed with copper, you have one of the first cents ever made of the present size. If it is dated 1856 you can get from \$20 upward for it from a coin collector.

MINTS initials

I saw a report a little while ago (Continued on page eight)

BASEBALL'S BIG BERTHAS



LINCOLN'S LEGACY

From the Writings of
DR. FRANK CRANE

A great man leaves the world two legacies.

One is the ideal which inspires young people to become more serviceable and worthy while.

The other compels those speakers of common sense and idealism that we remember and repeat and revere because the great man said them.

In time they become part of the thought of those who repeat them and have an influence upon their lives.

Such are Thomas Jefferson's "Let error be free so long as truth is free to combat it"; Theodore Roosevelt's "The law of worthy life is fundamentally the law of strife"; and Benjamin Franklin's "Diligence is the mother of good luck."

Few men have left a richer legacy of the second form than Abraham Lincoln.

Put this nugget from the mine of his understanding up somewhere in a place where you will see it every day:

"Stand with anybody that stands right. Stand with him while he is right, and part with him when he goes wrong."

Only the rare and the great man is able to do that.

Here are two tests:

When the one you dislike most says something right, can you take his side?

When the one you admire and like best, is on the wrong side, does the fact that you like him blind you to the error?

Everyone has his pet hate. It may be a man in public life, a newspaper, a writer of books, or an attitude of mind.

When he meets it, it acts like a red flag on a bull. The test of that person's character is whether he can recognize the right when it comes from one of his hates.

You can't go very far in life without meeting the problem.

The easy thing to do is to condemn all the ideas of those with whom you disagree in the main.

Most people don't like the ideas of

the ones they don't like. They judge ideas on the basis of who said them.

Everyone is a mixture of truth and error. Even the people we dislike. Only a Siberian-trained individual can get up a pure unadulterated hate.

Others catch the occasional gleam of goodness and truth that is present in the worst.

Emerson says somewhere that a man is cultured "as soon as he sides with his critic against himself, with joy."

Similarly, a man begins to become great, in the Lincoln sense of the word, when he arrives at the place where he can stand with anybody that stands right as long as they are right, without regard to his likes and dislikes.

When Lincoln was assassinated the mortal part of him disappeared, but the better part, his spiritual influence, still lingers.

Around him has grown up, perhaps, a wealth of myths, but most of them serve to give point to his character. He will remain for all time as the inspiration to the youth of the world, who can do no better than to imitate his sterling honesty, his sense of humor and his strong sense of right.

SMITH BACKS PRESIDENT IN NEUTRALITY FIGHT

Washington, Sept. 26—Alfred E. Smith, often a bitter critic of the Roosevelt administration, has come to the President's assistance on the neutrality question, it was announced today, and will present his views in a radio speech next Sunday. The address will be made at 7 p. m. under the auspices of the American Union for Concerted Peace Efforts.

In New York City, more than 8,000 couples take out marriage licenses annually and never use them.

Hubby (absent-mindedly): "What does it say—stay single?"

R. D. SHOEMAKE
 Plumbing and Heating Contractor
 Phone 131-M Boone
 8-34p

STOCK SALES
 Every Wednesday
 starting at 1 o'clock
 Highest market prices paid for all livestock. Bring your stock to our market.

WATAUGA LIVESTOCK COMPANY
 LESTER CARROLL, Sec.

THE WORLD'S GOOD NEWS
 will come to your home every day through

THE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR

An International Daily Newspaper

It records for you the world's clean, constructive doings. The Monitor does not exploit crime or sensation; neither does it ignore them, but deals correctively with them. Features for busy men and all the family, including the Weekly Magazine Section.

The Christian Science Publishing Society
 One, Northway Street, Boston, Massachusetts

Please enter my subscription to The Christian Science Monitor for a period of:

1 year \$12.00 6 months \$6.00 3 months \$3.00 1 month \$1.00

Saturday issue, including Magazine Section: 1 year \$2.00, 6 issues 25c

Name _____

Address _____

Sample Copy on Request

PLAN NOW TO MEET YOUR FRIENDS AT THE
Thirty-First Annual
CATAWBA FAIR
October 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

MONDAY GATES OPEN 5 P. M.
TUESDAY, BOY SCOUT DAY
WEDNESDAY, 4-H DAY

THURSDAY, SPORTS DAY
FRIDAY, FARMERS DAY
SATURDAY, AUTO RACES

Music Every Day by Wafner's Band . . . Fireworks Every Night . . . Farm Exhibits . . . Horse Show . . . Rose Festival . . . Style Review.

ADDED GRANDSTAND ATTRACTIONS DAILY

Rexola Troupe of Acrobats; Torelli's Animal Circus; Broadway Musical Revue; On the Midway, Johnny J. Jones' Exposition Shows.

NOTE: The WLS barn dance artists will not appear before the grandstand Monday, October 2, as advertised, a program of dance and string music, square dance, chorus of 40 negro voices having been substituted.