

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

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"The basis of our government being the opinion of the people, the very first objective 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 government, I should not hesitate a moment to choose the latter. But I should mean that every man should receive these papers and be capable of reading them."—Thomas Jefferson.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 1952.

Let's Have None, He Says

Colonel Robert McCormick, newspaper and radio tycoon, who has managed to amass untold millions while looking back over his shoulder, finds that both Governor Stevenson and General Eisenhower are too much of this present era—believe too much in progress, to be satisfactory. Therefore, he advises the folks of the nation to withhold support from both Presidential candidates and concentrate on the election of a Congress of satisfactory mental dimensions, and leave the Pennsylvania Avenue mansion vacant.

Meantime, the raucous Chicagoan would form an American party from the reactionaries and impossibles of both to the end that some day he might find a candidate for the top post to his liking. Then it would seem, America would be able to rest on her oars, and lay aside the blueprints for the continued progress of the world's greatest nation. 'Tis the course of no resistance, and the shortest way back, it would seem, that is desired.

Impatience Of Youth

Senator Nixon, G. O. P. vice-Presidential nominee, is "rarin' to go" as they say in these parts, and is almost daily reminding of Governor Stevenson to make known his views on the issues of the campaign, in spite of the fact that Labor Day is set as the official opening of the Stevenson campaign.

The Californian is highly impatient and anxious for the campaign to get going, regardless of the schedules which party organizations are wont to establish, and his unwillingness to wait a bit, and his apparent desire to cop the spotlight from General Eisenhower, doubtless do not suit the latter, who is not "chomping at the bits."

If we don't read the signs wrong, there's going to be plenty to engage the talents of the impetuous crusader, come the first of the month.

Economy Starts At Home

Those who vow the policies of the Federal government are taking us down the road to ruin at a two-forty gait, are quite often the very ones who are loudest in their demands for Federal funds for civic developments. In other words if the folks amongst the grass roots would keep quiet they could within themselves provide the economy which they profess to crave.

William Book, vice-president of the Indianapolis Chamber of Commerce, said recently that local chambers have "inconsistently demanded government economy even when they have asked for more and more tax money for local projects."

Then he added: "From one end of the country to the other they have all too often been waiting, tin cup in hand, on the doorstep of Congress or some Federal bureau for a handout; for a bit of aid to build a dike or a dam, to pave a road, to build an expressway, a school or a hospital."

"Let's admit that economy begins at home. It begins with local chambers of commerce, among others."

No Reflection On The Many

The American Legion is holding forth with its national convention in New York this week, and the gala parades and the high excitement of America's most noisy aggregation provide the tv cameras and the radios and newspapers a field day.

Information is forthcoming that these Legion celebrations in the past have resulted in deaths, injuries and property damage to such an extent that this year the organization is carrying two hundred thousand dollars worth of insurance to protect the citizens of New

York, and their property from injury and destruction.

Death, it is said, has resulted from the casting of bottles from hotel windows, paper laundry bags, filled with water, are dumped on passersby, street cars have been overturned, and a lot of things happened that Legion officials don't like.

These Legion conventions are a fine thing—they furnish an outlet for the energies and enthusiasms of a great segment of our population. The overt acts, which have caused considerable comment, are the work of the few, of course, rather than of the untold thousands of upstanding citizens, who don't let their fun run counter to the rights of others, and constitute no reflection on the many.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Flower Show Sends Thanks

Dear Mr. Rivers,
We wish to thank you for the entry cards for the Boone Flower Show, also for the wonderful publicity which you gave us in the Democrat.
We, too, think, you're always on the side of the people.

Sincerely,
FLOWER SHOW COMMITTEE.

BORROWED COMMENT

The Rural Church

(Winston-Salem Journal)

Probably very few Americans have thought of the rural church as the "nursery" of democracy. But in addressing a group of farmers and farm women at State College this week, Wheeler McMillen, editor of "Farm Journal and Pathfinder," emphasized the idea that the country church "is the natural nursery of the great qualities which make men want to be free."

Mr. McMillen's opinion deserves attention in a national society which steadily grows more urban. The individualism that served as the hallmark of democracy in the earlier history of the United States has flourished and continues to thrive on the farms.

The rural church has always been a community center in America. It has vied with the schoolhouse as a common meeting place for farm families. Inside the small brick or wooden church buildings rural men, women and children through the decades have received inspiration and moral guidance. Outside in the church yard, before and after services, they have swapped news, jokes, light gossip, and discussed their farming practices, community life, or local, state and national government.

American farm people are Christian in outlook and philosophy. Their faith is simple, yet their convictions in spiritual matters and moral issues run deep. They have been brought up to believe in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man as a natural corollary of that fatherhood. But they have also been taught the doctrine of free will and the principle that Providence never does for any person those things which he is capable of doing for himself. They have been led to believe that "every tub must stand on its own bottom"—that one cannot evade personal responsibility for his own acts, or dodge his responsibility in helping maintain good order and free government.

In the development of this sound American rural philosophy, the country church has long played a central role. But hard hit by the migration of farm youth to the cities and by other adverse circumstances, many of our once-flourishing rural churches today are in rundown physical and financial condition, and suffer from the lack of that virile and imaginative leadership which could make them real centers of modern rural spiritual, economic and cultural life. The degree to which they are reinvigorated may have strong bearing upon the social future of the United States.

The Fine Art of Deluding Ourselves

(The News Herald, Morganton, N. C.)

Pick up most any paper or other North Carolina publication and somewhere inside will be information extolling the fair land we have here, the opportunity, the progressive people, the development that matches step with the rest of the nation, and on and on ad infinitum.

The idea of lauding one's own section is certainly sound, for a solid pat on the back will occasionally pick up the most lagging spirit.

But too much praise has a way of stagnating. Too many compliments can lead a section to start believing all the good points.

The fact is that North Carolina, with all its admirable qualities, is 44th in the nation in per capita income with a before taxes figure of \$1,025. Virginia, Tennessee, Louisiana, Florida, and Kentucky outranked us.

Over the 12 months of 1951, the Southeast increased its per capita income by 13 per cent, the nation by 10 per cent, North Carolina by 7.7 per cent. We Tar Heels ranked 47th on that statistic.

Leave us face it. In spite of our great natural resources, our power supply, our untapped labor supply, our good roads, our growing vacation attractions, and our big industries, the average man is getting less than his neighbor across the state line.

It should serve fair warning to us that a pat on the back is another way of delivering a swift kick. Maybe we have our gestures mixed up.

THEY SAY . . .

ARCHIBALD S. ALEXANDER, Democratic nominee for U. S. Senate from New Jersey: "We are far safer today because the free nations of the world, under American leadership, have pooled their strength."

ADLAI E. STEVENSON, Democratic Presidential nominee, posing for photographers: "These are the times one wishes God had endowed one with something better in the way of a face."

CHARLES M. SAWYER, Secretary of Commerce: "It is important to make sure that facts rather than fancy are presented to the American people."

DANIEL H. BATES, police chief, Upton, Mass.: "Too many parents are relying on police to keep their kids straight."

Welfare Payments Here Average \$25.30 Monthly

For the month of August, 307 persons in Watauga County received Old Age Assistance grants in the total amount of \$7767. This is an average grant of \$25.30. These grants are made on the basis of need. Need is determined by a standard budget which is set up by the State Board of Public Welfare. The average needs for one person according to this budget is around \$40.00 per month, and the average need for two persons is about \$75.00 per month. Any income or resources which a person has is deducted from that person's total needs in the budget. Income and resources must be immediately and regularly available for meeting the monthly needs of a person before they can be counted in the budget. Resources are such things as cash income, wages and contributions from relatives. Food raised is also a resource. The net value of this food is de-

termined by standard charts set up by the State Board of Public Welfare.

If a man needs \$40.00 a month to meet his needs according to the standard budget and has income of \$10.00 per month, his net need will be \$30.00. The agency only meets 80% of a person's need. Since this is true, then 80% of \$30 is \$24, and this is the amount of the grant which the person would be entitled to. So it is clear that the Welfare Department does not meet all the needs of recipients through Old Age Assistance grants. That is, persons must have their needs supplemented through their own activities or through relatives.

If according to the agency's standard budget a person is in need, he is entitled to a grant if he meets certain other specific requirements. These are: he must be 65 years of age, must have resided in North Carolina one year immediately preceding the time of his application, must be willing for a lien to attach to any real property which he has or may acquire later and he must not be an inmate of a public institution.

The cost of an Old Age Assistance grant is shared by the county, state and federal government. Beginning October 1, the federal share in a \$25.00 grant will be \$20.00. The county and state share will be \$2.50 each. Any amount of the grant above the first \$25.00 (up to the maximum amount of \$55) will be paid on the basis of one-fourth by each county and state, and one-half by the federal government.

"Horn In West"

Continued from page one

ust 31 the attendance will have reached a maximum expected by the Association for the 1952 season," comments Dr. D. J. Whitener, executive vice president of the sponsoring organization.

Replacement of a leading actor in the drama took place this week when John Miller took over the part of the blacksmith, Toby Miller. Robert Thomas, who has played the role all summer, has been called into service. John Miller's role as Sam Phillips, the frontier leader, is now being played by Art Greene, who appears as John Stuart in the early scenes of the play. When Dr. John VanNoppen was injured in an automobile wreck last week his role was filled by Ed Bierly of New York, an actor who had come to Boone to visit Ned Austin.

Plans for the 1953 season of "Horn in the West" are expected to be announced in the near future by the Southern Appalachian Historical Association. The Association board has already voted unanimously to invite the Carolina Playmakers to again be associated with production of the play.

Miss McCain At Health Meeting

Miss Madeline McCain, public health educator for the District Health Department, was in Raleigh Monday, where she attended a meeting of the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation. Miss McCain has been appointed to the commission by the President, so that the Congress may be informed of the health conditions prevailing in this area.

Landlords in Iran ordered to give one-fifth of their share of crops to peasants under decree of Premier Mossadegh, setting up "rural democracy."

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"Paul Said to Mr. Ed."



Anyone having any clothing or canned foods for the Carroll family, who lost their home and contents Saturday night, may give it directly to the family at the tobacco warehouse No. 2, or see Ira S. Ayers or F. C. Miller.

The town is expected to continue their excellent response to the critical needs of this family. The folks here are always willing to lend a hand when someone gets a bad break. One of the things that makes Boone a good place to live.

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The time to check car brakes, lights, horn, etc. for proper function is BEFORE school opens, to be sure that it will instantly respond to any emergency. Don't depend on the kids—depend on yourself, and on US for car service.

DRIVE IN FOR A CHECKUP

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