

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.

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 1961

Devoted Public Servant

George Farthing, native Wataugan, who had been in the county agent's office here, before going to Wilkes county ten years ago, passed away the other day, and in his going the region and the State lose one of their best and most devoted public servants.

The Journal-Patriot, commenting on Mr. Farthing, states that "largely because of his continuous efforts, Wilkes county rural areas made more progress in the past ten years than in the previous half-century."

A test of a man's record, continues the Journal-Patriot, is a look at the record, and we reprint some of the record as compiled by the Wilkes paper:

23 communities were organized to promote growth, progress and better conditions in their respective areas.

A rural telephone cooperative was organized and is serving 1100 patrons.

An agricultural center for livestock shows, sales, exhibitions and fairs was established, and facilities constructed.

The Grange has been strengthened by additional units.

New Tax Passes

Effective the first of the month it's going to cost more to fetch home the bread and meat under the new three per cent sales tax enacted last Wednesday by the State Legislature.

The food tax, which is the major item in the Sanford administration's \$65.5 million revenue bill to finance school improvements, goes into effect July 1, which marks the start of a new biennium.

And again the sales tax becomes a bone of political contention, even though we don't expect it to be a hard-fought issue like the one which emerged when the sales tax came into being back in the days of the depression. Fact is, since those early day hassles about the taxing at the retail level, a lot of folks got to liking the sales tax, and others quit resisting it, since it became the chief prop to the educational system of the State.

And when it came to implementing the Sanford educational plan, on which he had campaigned in two primaries and in one election, the sales tax needed

Development of a county-wide adult 4-H leader program.

Long range program of rural development was adopted.

The Journal-Patriot adds:

"No man ever worked more faithfully than George Farthing in the interest of progress, better living standards and better communities."

"It is no exaggeration to say that he gave his life in the interest of progress in Wilkes county."

"When most people were calling it a day, George Farthing was in the midst of a day's activities. When the regular day had ended he often had night after night of attending meetings and giving of his talents and leadership to efforts for greater progress in Wilkes county."

"The people of Wilkes county should be grateful for the ten fruitful years of George Farthing," the newspaper concludes. "His work here will live on in better and more progressive communities."

A well-deserved tribute to a man who did his job well.

to be expanded to get the cash. Levies on tobacco, soda pop and the like couldn't raise the funds, they said, so once again retail sales, or those which had previously been excluded, had to be incorporated under the three per cent levy.

We should have preferred some other sort of revenue bill if one had to come up with the necessary fiscal potential. The enactment fingers into newspaper circulation which doesn't suit us, but there must be a way to up the level of the school system.

And we are presuming that the new educational program won't be geared to the fallacy that a bigger building means a better school, or that a poor teacher will be a jin dandy with more money in his paycheck. In other words, we still believe the folks are ready to pay for a better, more effective school system. They've been willing for the funds to be legislated for such a program. It is now the duty of the administration to see that they get their money's worth.

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Safety, Sanity And The Fourth

It wasn't too many years ago when fireworks were a real problem in this country. Kids were losing fingers, hands and eyes during the supposedly happy days of their summer vacations.

Rallying under the battle cry, "Have a safe and sane Fourth of July," parents, educators, civic leaders and elective officials finally curbed the fireworks problem.

But the need for safe and sane Fourth has not diminished. Motorists are literally driving themselves to death over the long Fourth of July week ends, and drownings have surpassed traffic deaths in some states as the leading cause of death over the holiday period.

The National Safety Council, pin-

pointing these two holiday accident problems, makes two suggestions which we think make a lot of sense.

One is pretty simple. Learn to swim. That means everybody learn to swim. Can you think of a better way to avoid drowning?

The second suggestion is to install and use seat belts. Seat belts may not prevent an auto accident, but they can be worth your life if you should have a collision.

Seat belts and swimming lessons—two very sane keys to Fourth of July safety.

Howard Pyle, NSC president, says these are ways we can "Free ourselves from the tyranny of accidents." A good thought for Independence Day.

A Word At A Time, It's Diverting

(The Asheville Citizen)

There is no other job that offers the compensations that writing editorials does unless, possibly, it is that of a bus driver.

On Monday you write a piece opposing sin, and that pleases the preachers. The sinners fuss a little, but not for publication. Tuesday you need, because of peculiar conscience, to take a preacher to task for advocating bigotry. The clergy condemn you, citing chapter and verse.

Do you encourage the Republicans? Your Democratic friends accuse you of heresy. Or predict in advance an election outcome? Your Republican friends desert you in droves. You rant at Jimmy

'Waltz Me Around Again, Willy'



SOME LOCAL HISTORICAL SKETCHES

From Early Democrat Files

Sixty Years Ago

June 27, 1901.

It seems that the question of a railroad for Watauga is taking a rest at this time, as we are unable to get any news of late.

On Thursday night of last week Mr. John McGinnis was killed by a Negro, Arthur Furgeson, at Cook's saw mill on the Yadkin River in Caldwell county. We have been unable to get any particulars, more than that the killing was done with an axe, and that the Negro has been arrested and is now in Lenoir jail. John is a Watauga boy, the youngest son of Rev. Geo. McGinnis, and he has a large connection and many friends in the county to mourn his untimely departure. He also leaves a wife and some small children.

Are you coming to town Monday? If so, remember the printer.

The cabbage crop that is being set in Watauga this season, is, we are told, the largest ever known.

Mr. Murry Critcher goes to Linville next week with a nice lot of stock vehicles, etc., and will run a general livery business there during the summer.

It has been said that a beech tree was never struck by lightning, but on last Saturday a large one near Mable, this county, was

Deputy Collector Hayes, who has splintered by lightning almost from top to root.

Just returned from an official trip through Surry and other counties reports that in some sections through which he passed the earth is fairly teeming with locusts, and that much damage is being done to the timber by them. They are also in Caldwell in abundance, but the top of the Blue Ridge, near Cook's Gap, is as far west as they have been seen.

Mr. L. S. Rambo and family returned to their home at Mountain City, Tenn., on Monday.

Attorney Lumey seems to be quite a good farmer, but he says he cannot afford to hoe his corn "crap" (about a half an acre) until the ground squirrels quit bothering it. At least accounts the squirrels were still scratching and he was still waiting for them to get through.

The lightning struck a large stump in the garden of Uncle Milton Brown at Sands on last Saturday and tore it almost into splinters. Uncle Milton says he has long wanted to get rid of the old stump. That stroke from the clouds rid him of it nicely.

It must be fine to have the prestige in a community which The Robesonian, published at Lumberton, enjoys.

Mr. W. R. Gragg transacted business in Johnson City yesterday.

Miss Blanche Dellinger, of Cherryville, is visiting her cousin, Miss Annie Blair Anders and Ruth Rankin.

The people of the town and community are requested to keep all lights, and other electrical appliances, not absolutely needed, turned off on the 4th, so as to

keep the power as strong as possible for the war pictures that are to be shown at the court house all day and until 11 at night, under the auspices of the American Legion.

Last Friday was the day set for the preliminary hearing of Clarence Potter, who has been in jail here for several weeks under var-

iouse and sundry charges (?) The day and the hour for the hearing arrived, the court of justice was ready to hear the evidence and pass judgment accordingly, but, behold! not one of his accusers was present to cast the first stone, and there was nothing left for the court to do but give him his freedom which was done. It is really too bad for a man to be thus punished when there is no evidence against him.

Mrs. James F. Dotson who for the past two years has taught at the Stonewall Jackson Training School for Boys, Concord, N. C. has returned to her home in Boone.

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