

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

Published Mondays and Thursdays at North Wilkesboro, N. C.

D. J. CARTER and JULIUS C. HUBBARD
Publishers

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year	\$1.50
Six Months	.75
Four Months	.50
Out of the State	\$2.00 per Year

Entered at the post office at North Wilkesboro, N. C., as second class matter under Act of March 4, 1879.

THURSDAY, JUNE 13, 1940



Vandals

Persons who would wilfully go through a cemetery and turn over grave markers and monuments represent the lowest type of humanity we have.

Probably these words here are wasted because a person who has no respect for himself, the dead or their relatives is not going to read a newspaper and certainly not an editorial column.

But we cannot refrain from using a few words here to condemn with words which are as strong as are permissible in print the action of the one or more parties who overturned grave markers in Greenwood cemetery Saturday night. Such action deserves the strongest condemnation that public spirited citizens know how to make in order to discourage any other vandals who might think such actions as "smart." Such behavior does not belong to the human race and we would not want to insult the animal kingdom with saying that it belongs there. Only persons with hair-brained and perverted minds could be capable of such dastardly deeds.

Mussolini Contemptible

The people of all the great democracies of the world, including this nation, the greatest of them all, are sincerely hoping that Mussolini caught the wrong bus when he plunged Italy in war against the Allies.

To the remainder of the world, the action on the part of Mussolini looks like the maximum in cowardice instead of courage or valor. President Roosevelt aptly termed the action of Mussolini a "stab in the back."

If Mussolini had declared war on Britain and France on the day they declared war against Germany the opinion held for Italy would not have been what it is today.

Instead, Mussolini sat on the sidelines and watched the war up to the very point where defeat for France appeared imminent and then decided to fight France.

The situation could be compared to two men who hate each other. One decides not to fight until he sees his enemy being beaten up by a third party and decides to get in on the finish. That is cowardly and contemptible.

France may or may not be defeated by Hitler's powerful war machine which a present seems to be almost invincible, but the British Empire is vast and may carry on the war for years and eventually win. Woe unto Italy should the British experience the elixir of victory! Italy would be so completely wiped up that it has been suggested that Mussolini be placed in a concentration camp and Haile Selassie placed over him as boss.

Italy did not have to go to war and there was not the vestige of a reason for the act when it was done. We do not and cannot believe that Mussolini has the unqualified support of a preponderant majority of the Italian people as Hitler has the Germans.

Two Ways Of Life

This is Convention Time in the United States. Once every four years, the various parties get together with considerable fanfare and choose their candidates for the Presidency of this country. It is a notable affair always, and especially this year when so many countries are at war and so many lands are living under a system where one party is all-supreme and unchangeable by the orderly processes of election.

In this country, the Communist party was one of the first to meet. Small in numbers, it has been loud in its insistence upon its rights in our democracy, rights which no citizen enjoys in Russia, land of the party's birth. Respectful of the rights of minorities—even a minority standing for

everything that true Americans despise—the great radio networks of this country agreed to broadcast the convention proceedings.

This gave hundreds of radio stations throughout the country the "opportunity" to schedule the Communist Convention. It was at this point that the true difference between two ways of life was revealed, for almost all of the stations exercised their democratic right to turn down the program and play "canned music" instead. They know that their American listeners would not be interested.

If the same situation had occurred in Russia, or Germany or Italy, the stations wouldn't have had to make a choice. They would have been told what to do. And there wouldn't have been any minority party convention for them to accept or refuse.

Little incidents like these point up the distinction between the two systems—and incidentally, the stations in question exercised their democratic rights well and judged the interests of their audiences very wisely!

Food For Millions

The most thickly populated nations of Europe are in the throes of the most disastrous conflict in all history of the world.

The loss will not only be in lives of soldiers, but in homes, food and clothing.

This means that the nations not at war are going to have to feed and perhaps clothe millions in Europe or let them starve.

We, Americans, are a Christian nation. This means that we shall not let people perish because of the lack of food, clothes, and shelter.

The task is going to be awfully great. It may mean that we must sacrifice in order to carry out our obligation to humanity. But if we are grateful for the security which is ours and if we are a people worthy of the blessings we now enjoy we shall not fail.

The American Red Cross is the best medium for rendering aid to war sufferers and we should respond nobly and liberally to the present call for funds.

There are other things which can be done. America has long been noted for its surplus of farm crops. With farming disrupted in at least a half dozen thickly populated countries in Europe, millions are going to need food from America. It looks like America will have to feed many of them. In instances where the food cannot be purchased it means that the American people will have to give, and perhaps give until it hurts, but we have a duty to humanity greater than monetary interests involved.

Borrowed Comment

A YEARLY TRIBUTE
(The Renfro Herald)

Gone are days when a commencement speaker would stand before an audience of young people and inspire them with the thought that the world was their oyster and all they had to do was open the shell and digest the morsel therein. Education was supposed to show how to open the shell with the least amount of difficulty. That was yesterday.

Today the youth leaving the campus of knowledge for the arena of a larger, more exacting life, knows that what awaits him is no more than he expects to find; achievement through work and opportunity sought through endeavor. The graduate of today is not too proud to accept the blue jeans as a stepping stone to security. The era of the white-collared job is giving away to a realization that manual labor is on a higher level than ever before.

The number of jobs open will not go around and the youth knows this. He is going to try and prove himself to be more valuable than the other fellow. Don't forget that the graduate has been employed these years while attending school, for getting an education and retaining it, is a difficult job in itself. The big factor is in what way has the student handled the job of getting the education? If with intelligence, energy and diligence, surely the fellow will put up a stiff fight and society will take advantage of his talents. There is much to be done and too many hands to do it, but congratulations still go to the new workers who are adding their substantial weight to the wheel.

Candidate Dewey says: "It is becoming increasingly clear that the New Deal actually intends to use the unfortunate conditions to which it has brought the country as an argument for keeping itself in office." And if fought out on that issue, Mr. Dewey certainly would continue at his soliciting.—Statesville Landmark.

Lower Limits Are Vital To Cut The Deaths On Roads

The short-cut to greater street and highway safety is enforcement of sane speed limits, according to Julien H. Harvey, nationally prominent safety authority and managing director of the National Conservation Bureau, accident prevention division of the Association of Casualty and Surety Executives.

"If every citizen would study the statistics of America's unfortunate accident record for 1939," Mr. Harvey declares, "they would recognize instantly that the greatest, single cause of traffic fatalities is speed. It requires no expert to see that at the first glance."

The question of what is sane in speed limits, Mr. Harvey says, depends somewhat upon street and road conditions. In congested business districts, he points out, speed usually is held down by lights, traffic officers, and the density of traffic itself; but out in the residential districts the tendency is to "let 'er go" a little, and on the rural highways the sky is the limit.

Sees 25-Mile Limit

"We know beyond a shadow of doubt," Mr. Harvey declares, "that in most cases speed limits are now too high for safety. Tests prove that if we are to save lives the very top speed in any city, town or other place of dense population should be 25 miles an hour. That refers only to residential districts and under most favorable conditions. On the open road, again under most favorable conditions, a little higher limit can be allowed, but nothing like the dizzy speeds that are now permitted."

"Let us quickly analyze the 1939 statistics. The appalling truth is that we killed approximately 32,600 persons in traffic in a single year. Add to this approximately 1,150,000 injured—30,000 of whom were crippled or maimed for life—and an economic loss of \$1,500,000,000. There you have the shameful story of how we used our streets and highways last year. And back of these figures is the real story of the No. 1 cause.

Deaths High In Smaller Towns

"Preliminary statistics, which seldom have more than slight variations when final tabulations are completed, show that while traffic fatalities in cities of more than 10,000 population were reduced an average of 3 per cent during 1939, deaths in rural areas and cities under 10,000 population increased approximately 2 per cent over the previous year. In fact, of the 32,600 persons who lost their lives in traffic in 1939, more than 23,000 were killed in rural districts or cities under 10,000 population.

"The reason is obvious. Speed! Speed out where there are few policemen, few lights, and lots of space. Compared to the greater number of traffic officers on patrol duty in the cities the rural highways and small-town streets are almost without protection. The city streets have lights and other curbing devices; traffic conditions themselves slow down the motorist. Control devices on the open road are few and far between, traffic seemingly is light, and an attitude of dangerous leniency has developed. Consequently, the driver opens the acceleration more and more as he hurtles over the so-called 'open' highways; if he slows down at all for the small towns, it is only slightly.

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Home Building Outlook Bright, McDonald Says

Sixth Annual FHA Report Cites Advances Made During 1939

An optimistic outlook for home building in 1940 was expressed by Federal Housing Administrator Stewart McDonald, who, in submitting the FHA's Sixth Annual Report to Congress pointed to last year's striking achievements and the current home-mortgage insuring activities as the basis for the favorable prediction.

Commenting on the satisfactory results of six years of FHA operations, Mr. McDonald declared that approximately 12,000,000 people have been enabled to improve their housing standards and conditions under the FHA program, including the modernization and repair provisions of the National Housing Act.

Notable Advances Claimed

In his letter to Congress transmitting the FHA's report, Administrator McDonald said that home construction made notable advances in both quality and quantity during 1939.

At the present time, he continued, applications for mortgage insurance covering new homes are running from 30 to better than 50 per cent ahead of the corresponding weeks a year ago, and the number of new homes being started under the FHA program is showing weekly gains of as much as 35 per cent. In the week ended May 11, 4,377 new small homes were started under FHA inspection, he announced, adding that this was the largest weekly number on record.

Developments Summarized

Mr. McDonald in his report summarized developments in the residential building field last year. The year was featured by the largest number of nonfarm dwelling units since 1929, with an estimated 465,000 units built, he said.

The number of new one-family homes privately financed, approximately 325,000, was even larger than in 1929, the report declared, and it was estimated that the 133,000 new one-family homes financed with FHA-insured mortgages represented over 40 per cent of all nonfarm homes in this class built during 1939.

The quality of home construction also was improved because a larger volume of it than ever before was financed with mortgages insured by the FHA, Mr. McDonald said.

Aim at Low Cost Homes

In line with the FHA's constant emphasis on the need for good homes at low cost, the Administrator said, builders and developers are making rapid strides in this direction, and private industry today is producing well-designed and well-constructed dwellings within the financial reach of families with incomes as low as \$1,000.

Continued progress was achieved during 1939 in making the architectural, land planning, and FHA's underwriting, appraisal, technical services valuable to the public, the report stated.

Progress under the FHA has accomplished at little cost to the Government, Mr. McDonald said, with charges against its insurance reserves remaining extremely small at the end of the year and with its income exceeding operating expenses.

"Starting January 1, 1940," the Administrator concluded, "the FHA had in effect, I believe, a completely rounded and highly

flexible system for the insurance of mortgages on the most favorable terms in the history of the country—a system directly designed to assist all of our citizens who possibly can do so to undertake the home ownership to which they long have aspired."

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STICK TO THE FACTS!

On October 22, 1938, C. B. Deane entered into an agreement for determination of the Democratic nominee for Congress in the Eighth District.

Mr. Deane Publicly Accepted the Decision Under That Agreement.

Mr. Deane Openly Supported Mr. Burgin As The Nominee Of The Party.

The agreement, the decision, the action of Mr. Deane in accepting the decision, are all matters of record. The decision was based upon study of the record of every controversial issue involved in the primary of July 2, 1938.

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