

**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, NOV. 14, 1940

**Borrowed Comment**  
**SOLDIERS OF DEMOCRACY**  
 (Mount Airy News)

The registration of nearly 17,000,000 young Americans, under the Selective Service Act, was a triumph for the democratic processes that are alive in this republic.

Dr. Clarence A. Dykstra, National Director of the law, reports that the job was accomplished "happily, even enthusiastically." Back of that report is the confidence of Americans that the law is to be fairly and justly administered.

The people of this nation approve the compulsory service principle because they realize the necessity for preparedness in order to meet any challenge that may come as a result of the uncertainty that exists in the world today. They know that it is not the purpose of this nation to fight unless forced to do so by outside aggression.

Understanding that the Business of fighting is not a holiday affair and that in modern wars soldiers must be trained men, the mothers and fathers of the young men who have registered appreciate the necessity and importance of adequate training. They prefer that their sons if they must fight, be equipped for their ordeal and that they have, at least, an equal chance with an enemy.

In this spirit the people of the United States, including those of Surry County, have accepted compulsory service in time of peace. Without abating their dislike for militarism, true Americans distinguish the call which the republic makes upon her sons from the pressure that ingrained militarism makes upon the young men of aggressive nations.

Here we arm for defense, not to attack small nations that seek only to live. If we think of action abroad, it is only to forestall the enemy and make doubly sure that no foreign soldier will ever set foot upon this land. We arm to be ready, in the future, to resist encroachments, to uphold the rights of a free people and to preserve the living space of a free people and to preserve the living space of democracy in a world threatened by totalitarian freebooters.

**A Healthy Example**

While some in this country continue to talk as though group strife is the necessary order of the day, it is all too easy to forget the real truth: That the American way of cooperation and mutual respect for the other fellow's opinion is in practice daily in thousands of communities in every part of this broad land of ours, and under every conceivable circumstance.

It's just one example among many, but we were interested the other day to read about the manner in which the Package Machinery Company of Springfield, Mass., deals with representatives of its employees. Whenever a joint meeting is held, a record is sent to every employee and his family.

Commenting on this procedure, Vice-President George A. Mohlman has this to say: "Both labor and management have often forgotten that there is a third party vitally interested: the public. Therefore, these minutes are made available to any citizen of the community desiring to see them.

"America has always favored open discussion . . . This is the American way."

It's just one interesting case among thousands, of course. And they all show a healthy realization on the part of different groups that our domestic problems can be solved if we all work frankly together—a result that would in the end make our "world" problems a whole lot simpler!

**Don't Belittle Constitution**

The attacks on our constitutional form of government in recent years have been many and varied. A great many of them have been based on the argument that the constitution, at least as interpreted, tends to work against the interests of the people. The inevitable result of these arguments has been to lead the nation away from a government of laws, and toward a government of men.

But the constitution still stands as a bulwark between the individual and his government—as a protection for the minority against the possible abuses of the majority. A particularly important example of this has just occurred in the state of Oregon.

Some two years ago the voters of Oregon, inflamed by the racketeering tactics of a few union leaders, which resulted in their imprisonment for long terms, passed a law which, among other things, stringently restricted the right of labor to picket. Labor lawyers at once went to the courts. And finally, the Supreme Court of the State, with but one Justice dissenting, held the law null and void, on the ground that it violated the constitutional provision concerning the exercise of free speech.

The Court held that even the people of a sovereign state cannot pass a law which in any way a contravention of the Constitution which governs us all—that the minority has rights which a majority, no matter how great, can never take away. That decision is based on the very spirit of all that our kind of government stands for. It illustrates the oppression that would be the fate of minorities if the Constitution were weakened or destroyed. And finally, it illustrates how the Courts, working under a government of laws, not a government of men, protect the "common man" when his cause is just.

The Constitution stands for liberty for all, justice for all, inviolable rights for all. It guarantees a way of life which has been crushed in most of the world.

Now that the election is over, perhaps there will be newer and better jokes. Some of those used in the campaign must have been carryovers from the campaigns of William Jennings Bryan.

**NOTES ON PLAY**  
 (Oxford Public Ledger)

Don't believe you are too old to play, advises Henry Noble MacCracken, Vassar College President, who admits that he sings, dances and acts and plays with his faculty colleagues and students.

There are so many things contending for one's time that play, which Dr. MacCracken says is as much a part of one's nature as thought, too often is overlooked or completely neglected. He attributed the neglect, however, to the fact that we take ourselves too seriously.

Dr. MacCracken's statement, made before the National Recreation Congress, is an editorial within itself, and deals forcibly with the subject of play and recreation. Here are his words:

"Play is as much a part of our nature as thought. We all take ourselves too seriously.

"The silliest of all the silly notions that we as descendants of the Puritans have inherited about this matter of recreation is that it is somehow undignified to play.

"Of course it is undignified, but dignity is a garment we can safely leave to hang upon a closet hook along with academic robes and hoods.

"There is a hideous notion abroad that it doesn't do to see old people in an undignified attitude. If a grandma indulges in recreation people say: "What does that old thing mean?"

"We practically chloroform our old people when we leave them out of our designs. They go to Florida or California and become practically vegetation—waiting for the reaper to come along and mow them down. I think the next step in public recreation is to do something about the old folks, instead of always leaving them at home.

"I hate all spurious play—the deadly seriousness of the bridge table, the other gamblers at the races, the prize fight, the football massacre. These are all tragedies of play betrayed, seduced, and sold for profit into slavery—pitiful relics of what once was lovely and of good report, which offered recreation only to those minds from which cause and consequence have been washed away in the erosion of successive cocktails.

"Unhappy folks! you can see by their faces how much recreation is theirs."

A person who thought he was supposed to register as an alien said he was born in South Carolina—and for four years he had been hearing that Maine and Vermont were the states which didn't belong to the Union.

**Interesting Items**  
**From Ferguson**

FERGUSON, Nov. 11.—Rev. F. F. Peeler of Taylorville, filed his regular appointment at the Beaver Creek Baptist church Sunday morning. He was accompanied by Mrs. Peeler. The pastor delivered a very inspiring sermon on "The Upper Room" to an appreciative congregation. It is a significant fact to know that Brother Peeler was ordained by the late Rev. Parks Gwaltney of Alexander county who was one of the most noted preachers and evangelists of this section of the state. He sent many young ministers into the service and the Beaver Creek community has benefited by the results of his ministry, indirectly.

The election has come and gone and although it was a rather heated contest the spirit of good sportsmanship was prevalent everywhere and no one seemed to have forgotten that we are all American citizens facing a common foe. A very encouraging fact was the great number of citizens going to the polls. It is reported that considerably over fifty million voted throughout the country.

The war goes on in its unremitting manner and no one knows what the future holds in store for us or for those with whom we sympathize. We can draw this one certain conclusion, however, we believe. While Hitler holds the major part of the continent of Europe under his tyrannical hand it is unreasonable to think that he will ever succeed in breaking Britain's blockade which will for ever be supported by American principles and wealth.

Mr. Chas. L. McGhee, resident of the Kings Creek section, was a pleasant caller among old friends and acquaintances here Sunday. Mr. McGhee is a prominent farmer and lumberman now operating his mills in Burke county.

W. H. Ferguson and daughter, Miss Dorothy, of Richmond, Va., were visitors among relatives here, at North Wilkesboro and at Cranberry last week. Mrs. Ferguson, who had been visiting in Cranberry for several weeks and also her mother, Mrs. Deane, accompanied them back to Richmond. L. C. Ferguson, of Dallas, Texas, has been visiting in the county also. He left on a trip to New York before returning to Texas.

Mr. Ed Allen, eighty-four-year-old citizen of the Gladly Fork section is rather an unusual character for a man of his age. He is hale and hearty and as active as a boy as he goes about his work on his farm. He is particularly tactful and interesting in telling jokes as friends gather about him to get the latest slant on the political situation or the news of the day.

Mr. F. W. McNeil, who was a heavy loser in the recent flood, having lost around four thousand dollars, is about to get his equipment and houses back to normal. Mr. McNeil's son, W. W. Jr., is making quite a record for himself at the University of N. C., this being his third year at that institution.

The Halloween program given at the school building on the night of Oct. 31, was a very enjoyable affair. Many of the students came dressed in costumes fitting for the occasion and a number of interesting stunts were performed, besides quite a sum was realized for the benefit of the school.

Mr. and Mrs. Byron Bradburn and sons, Kenneth and Wendell, and Miss Carleen Erwin, of Troutman, visited relatives here Sunday.

**Cromwell Admits He and Rich Wife Are Living Apart**

Spring Lake, N. J.—James H. R. Cromwell, former U. S. minister to Canada, said yesterday that he and Mrs. Cromwell, the former Doris Duke, were estranged, but added he had no knowledge of any plans of her instituting divorce proceedings.

Cromwell, who was defeated Tuesday as Democratic candidate for the United States Senate, said he had not seen Mrs. Cromwell since June 4—his birthday—at a party in New York.

Cromwell is staying at the Spring Lake home of his mother, Mrs. Edward T. Stotesbury. He said he had been making his home there the past few months, after moving from Mrs. Cromwell's estate at Somerville.

The former minister said he planned to spend the next week in New Jersey after which he would go to Florida for a short vacation.

Mrs. Cromwell is in California, en route to her home in Honolulu.

People are so willing to help that it's no longer necessary to mind one's own business.



**Three Killed in This Wreck**

This soundphoto shows a general view where a northbound Atlantic Coastline passenger train was wrecked when it hit an open switch near Lake Alfred, Fla. The engineer and two firemen were killed.

The Cotton Stamp Plan, designed to remove cotton surpluses from the market, has been extended to Charlotte and Mecklenburg County, announces the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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**1940 COUNTY TAXES NOW DUE**

County Taxes for the year 1940 are now due.

Notices showing the amount of tax due have been mailed to every taxpayer of the county, and if you pay now you will save further penalties and costs.

The county needs the money to meet its obligations, and payment now will be greatly appreciated.

**C. T. DOUGHTON**  
 Sheriff and Tax Collector Of Wilkes County