

OPEN FORUM
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DISCUSSES BEER AND WINE BAN

To the Editor of The Journal-Patriot:

On Friday, the 27th, the Kiwanis club passed a resolution urging our county officials to pass a law banning the sale of beer and wine on Sunday. I did not support this resolution, and I am offering my opinion on the question to the public in open forum. I did not state my reasons in the Kiwanis club because there was not time, and also I did not want to raise any conflict within the club on a public question, but at the same time I did not want to be misunderstood by anyone on my stand on the question. I realize full well that when one opposes a question of this nature that many people on the other side immediately infer that the opposing party wishes to encourage the drinking of intoxicating beverages. That I do not, and have never in my life encouraged any one of any age to drink harmful drinks. In fact, I never saw anyone encourage another person to drink to their harm. I do not question the motive of the citizens who are urging this ban and feel that they are sincere in their efforts to do something that is helpful, but this question covers a wide territory and I feel that if the ban is placed that it will not get the results desired. And that is why I am opposed to it. If the ban would stop anyone from drinking I would be for it, but I feel that it will not and on top of that will bring a lot of other undesirable consequenc

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In the following paragraphs I will present the situation as I feel honestly is in:
In the first place, it is not the right time to bring this question up as a great multitude of our citizens are now out of our towns and county, either in the armed services or on defense jobs and will return to live when the war is over. They should certainly be here before a question like this is passed upon. In the last war while our boys were away at war we passed our national prohibition laws and we are all familiar with the great era of bootlegging that followed and the many evils that accompanied it, until the law was repealed.

In the second place, as to the drinking of beer and wine on Sunday, there is at present the least of this on Sunday due to the fact that most dealers are sold out on Saturday and do not have any beer to sell on Sunday. All dealers will tell you that they cannot get enough beer to sell what the trade demands, so the majority do not sell it on Sunday. Strikes me that if we are trying to ban beer and cut down on the drinking of it that we should make the ban effective on Saturday instead of Sunday, as Saturday is now the big day for drinking beer and wine. I am informed that one reason for the shortage in beer is that 15 per cent of all output by the brewers is reserved for our armed forces.

In the third place, many of the supporters of this ban feel that it should be placed in effect due to the increase of drinking by the young people. There has been for a long time a State law which prohibits any person to sell beer or wine to a minor. This is a very strict law, and if anyone is reported doing this then the license of the operator can be revoked at once and it is up to the operator to prove that the law was not violated before he can get back his or her license to sell beer and wine. This covers people up to 18 years of age. It seems to me that if this law is being violated we should first enforce it before passing more laws on the subject. It is also the law that no person may sell beer and wine after the hours of 11:30 p. m., and the beer dealers' association will see that the license of any dealer is suspended who violates these laws. I do not want the Sabbath disregarded in any respect by anyone, but it seems to me that the way the question is put that we are saying to any young people who drink beer or wine that we do not want you to drink it on Sunday, leaving the inference that it is alright the remainder of the days during the week. I do not believe the supporters of this ban want it that way, but it strikes me that is the way it is being put.

In the fourth place, if we pass this ban I firmly believe that as soon as beer is available there will spring up around us a large number of places that will bootleg it to those who want it on Sunday and this is one of the strongest reasons I am against the ban. The result will be that there will be beer for all who want it, but the price will be double and the party who drinks it will have to go through a secret door to get it. This all brings on more law enforcement problems and other general disregard of the law and at the same time penalizes the legitimate dealers. And it is to be remembered that if we have any bootleggers of beer and wine they will not care whether the customer is a minor or an adult. He will especially cater to the young people because he knows they will not tell on him. Our neighboring county, Watauga, has had this ban for some years, yet you could always get it, if you wanted to pay the price. It is down right mockery to me to see laws passed to get certain result when it works the opposite way. As stated above, I am not against the motive which moves the citizens who are urging this ban, but it is the result which I am against. This county has been a dry county, legally, for all these many years, but when has the time been that liquor was not in abundance in the county? At the present time we have a number of federal officers whose duty it is to prevent the manufacture of liquor in the county, and they capture great numbers of the men who do the business. This all costs our government many thousands of dollars, but the liquor is still here and you can get all you want. I know this does not have anything to do with this ban, but it illustrates my point about results.

In the fifth place, if we do place the ban and get some measure of enforcement, then many of the adults who drink beer and wine will take to the party who will sell bootleg liquor. This will bring probably worse results than if they drank beer or wine, and will take more gas and use of tires to get to the places. It is a significant fact that on the petitions of those all over the county who have signed for the ban that there are included known bootleggers. They are and have always been for all prohibitions legally possible. Now, finally, I might say that I speak candidly and frankly and I feel that the only way we will ever solve this question which has

always been upon us. To my personal knowledge there are many citizens who, when pressed on the question, do not oppose it even though they do not care for the ban. The reason for this is that they do not want to oppose anything that it put in such a manner that it looks like that if they oppose it they are causing someone else some harm. It seems to me that we are going at the proposition from the wrong angle. If our people are doing great harm from drinking it is not due to the dealers who sell it, but from ourselves. If we can stop our citizens from wanting beer and wine then the problem is very simply solved. The only reason why any dealer is selling beer or wine is because of the demand. Personally, it doesn't matter if the ban is put into effect. If I wanted beer or wine on Sunday I would do like many are already doing on account of the scarcity. I would get enough on Saturday to last me through Sunday and put it in my Frigidaire so I could have it when wanted. It seems to me that if we pass the ban we are missing the whole point entirely. It is easy enough to pass a law and then sit back and think we have got the problem solved. It is the results that count. My idea of the problem is this: If there is widespread increase of the evils of strong drink by any persons of any age, then we should put on temperance campaigns. Let us show the damage that is being done. We have our doctors, preachers, teachers and business men who can show our people the evils that can come of intemperance. It can be shown from a moral, physical and financial standpoint. It should be shown from all standpoints. Since I have been in Wilkes county there has been no publicity along that line. Here we are dividing ourselves up on the question of whether we should solve it by law or not, and we bring all kinds of publicity to the question, but when has any publicity been given to a temperance campaign? True enough, the word is passed around that no drinking should be done, but when has it been impressed on our people from a public standpoint? We have countless citizens who drink lightly and cause themselves and their fellow citizens no harm, but it is the fellow who mixes up and over-indulges who causes all the damage.

We should not be mixed up on the proposition. A wave of this is sweeping over many other countries. Let us not get on the band wagon just because they are, and cause ourselves more harm in the long run than the good we get out of it. Let's wait until all our boys get back and all other of our citizens who are away on defense jobs and face the problem face to face and not overlook results. I have always supported every move in our communities that I thought would be for the benefit of all of us, but I do not think we are doing the best thing if the ban is passed and I am for the ones who oppose it. I have all respect for those who see differently from me, and I want them to feel the same way towards me, because I am sincere. The easiest way for one to do would be to sign petitions when asked, or vote for resolutions when called for, but I do not feel like it is best and cannot do so. If I did opposite I would be a hypocrite, and that I cannot be. I find no fault with those who do not feel the same way that I do. I deal with most every kind of citizen we have in the course of business I am in, and what I have said has not been said lightly. I cannot help but feel that the view I have set forth is the only way we will ever make any progress in our towns and county on the question of strong drink.

Yours very truly,
PAUL OSBORNE.
Wilkesboro, N. C., Aug. 30, 1943.

R. C. Goodwin Now With Local a Firm

Returns To Wilkes and Accepts Position With Better Homes Furniture Company

Mr. R. C. Goodwin, Jr., who, until recently, has been engaged in war work at Wilmington, has returned to his home near the city with his family, and has accepted a position with the Better Homes Furniture Company, of this city.

Mr. Goodwin is well known in the city and county, having been connected with the Mark-Down Furniture company for several years. He was manager of the store prior to going to Wilmington to engage in war work.

Mr. Goodwin invites his many friends to call on him at the Better Homes Furniture company for their furniture needs.

A. P. Coffey, 63, Is Claimed By Death

Funeral service was held Saturday at Shady Grove church for A. P. Coffey, age 63, who died Thursday at his home in Somers township.

Surviving Mr. Coffey are his wife, Mrs. Hattie Coffey and the following children: Mrs. S. M. Lane, Cycle; Mrs. Hattie Sparks, Moravian Falls; Mrs. Lonnie Houck, Elkin; Wardie, Granville and Chester Coffey.

WOMAN'S SOCIETY

Gary Vannoy Given Birthday Party

Mrs. Wren Vannoy entertained at a children's party at Smoot Park on Monday afternoon, honoring her small son, Gary, on his third birthday.

Around 15 boys and girls celebrated the occasion with Gary. After a series of games, ice-cream and cake were served. A small white cake with three pink candles centered the table. Individual cakes were served also. Gary received lots of nice gifts. Mrs. H. F. Bauknight assisted Mrs. Vannoy.

Mrs. Chadwick Entertains Her Club

The members of the Young Matron's Contract club and a number of additional guests were delightfully entertained by Mrs. Dexter Chadwick at her home on E Street Monday evening. Four tables were arranged for play in an attractive setting of summer blossoms, the tallies were hand-painted, and throughout in the appointments a number of unique ideas were carried out. High and second high score prizes for the club members were won by Mrs. O. E. Triplett and Mrs. J. Q. Adams, while among the visitors the top score prize went to Miss Anne Duncan. A dessert course was served at the beginning of the game.

Mrs. Graydon Watts Bridge Club Hostess

Mrs. Graydon Watts entertained the members of the 8th Column Bridge club and three visitors at her home in Wilkesboro Monday evening. The high and low score prizes in the game, which was played at two tables, went to Mrs. Hadley Hayes and Miss Edith Carter, who is a member of the Wilkesboro school faculty. A salad course was served at the close of play. The visitors of the club were Mrs. Bill Ingram, Mrs. Charles Hulcher, and Miss Carter.

Fidelis Class Holds Picnic Tuesday

The members of the Fidelis class of the North Wilkesboro First Baptist church enjoyed a delightful picnic supper at the home of Mrs. Frank Tomlinson on Ninth Street, Tuesday evening. The supper was planned to be on the lawn, but due to the rain was held indoors. Around thirty were present for the supper.

Girl Scout Council In Meeting Monday

A meeting of the Girl Scout Council for the two Wilkesboros was held Monday evening at the home of Mrs. T. A. Finley, Girl Scout Commissioner. Plans were made for the fall work, which will begin about September first. Announcements of the work to the Girl Scouts will be made through the schools.

It was announced that the Council will meet each month on the first Monday afternoon from five until six o'clock, the next meeting to be at the home of Mrs. W. K. Sturdivant.

Those meeting with Mrs. Finley Monday evening were Mesdames W. K. Sturdivant, H. B. Smith, W. E. Jones, R. T. McNeil, and Claude Doughton.

Family Reunion Held at Home of Warner Miller, Sr.

The sisters of Mr. Warner Miller, Sr., with their families, held a picnic dinner at the Miller home west of the city Sunday. The names of the families are as follows: Dr. and Mrs. C. H. Pugh, of Gastonia; Mr. and Mrs. Muck Underwood, of Gastonia; Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Parker, of Winston-Salem; Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Davis, of Greenville, S. C.; Mr. and Mrs. P. E. Shields, of Scotland Neck; Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Gallimore, of Greensboro; Mr. and Mrs. K. M. Clement, of Mocksville, and Mrs. Helena Clark, of Chapel Hill. Most of the above named were present for the dinner.

Wednesday Sewing Club Met With Mrs. C. D. Coffey, Jr.

Members of the Wednesday Sewing club were delightfully entertained by Mrs. C. D. Coffey, Jr., at her home on Ninth Street Wednesday afternoon. During an informal hour the hostess served tempting refreshments.

Junior Order Will Meet On Tuesday

Degree work will feature the meeting of the North Wilkesboro council of the Junior Order on Tuesday night, eight o'clock. A large attendance is desired.

Several Courtesies Given For Mrs. Margaret Ellen Sauls

Several courtesies have been extended to Mrs. Margaret Ellen Sauls, of Sumter, S. C., who is here visiting her aunts, Mrs. W. A. Holder and Miss Rhetta Forester, of Goshen. On Friday afternoon Mrs. Warner Miller, Sr., and her daughter, Mrs. Marjorie Miller, had an informal tea at their home west of the city from four until six o'clock. Sharing honors with Miss Sauls were Miss Jean Parker, of Winston-Salem, and Miss Dorothy Underwood, of Gastonia, who were visiting Judge and Mrs. J. A. Rousseau's daughters, Misses Nellie, Frances, and Nancy Rousseau. During the hours of tea the hostesses served tea with sandwiches, cookies, and mints. The home was attractively decorated with mixed garden-flowers.

For Thursday afternoon Mrs. Holder and Miss Forester entertained at two tables of rook honoring their niece, Miss Sauls. The awards for the high and low score prizes went to Mrs. Jimmie Anderson and Miss Margaret Anderson, and the honoree received a gift. The hostesses were assisted by Mrs. Homer Carlton in serving a salad course followed by sweets.

Another interesting courtesy for Miss Sauls was the luncheon given by Mrs. F. C. Forester Saturday at her home on D Street. Lunch was served at one o'clock with covers laid for eight. Miss Sauls was remembered with a gift.

The picnic of the T. E. L. class of the North Wilkesboro Baptist church which was to have been held at Smoot Park Tuesday evening, has been postponed.

Mrs. Hill Carlton Is Bridge Club Hostess

Mrs. Hill Carlton entertained for the Friday Bridge Club at her home on Sixth Street Friday afternoon. Table prizes in the game, which were won by Mrs. Palmer Horton and Mrs. Veola Hestick, of Tampa, Fla., who has been here this summer with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joe F. Johnson. Light refreshments were served.

Mrs. F. C. Tomlinson Gives Delightful Party For Guest

Mrs. Frank Tomlinson entertained at a delightful party at her home on Ninth Street Friday afternoon honoring her sister-in-law, Mrs. F. N. Tomlinson, of Winston-Salem. Several tables were made up for bridge and rook and at the beginning of play the hostess served a dessert course. In rook Mrs. C. D. Coffey, Sr., and Mrs. Ralph Duncan tied for high score and each received awards, while Mrs. R. J. Hineshaw was the winner of the low score prize. In bridge, Mrs. R. T. McNeil and Mrs. Marvin McCulley were the winners of the high and low score awards. The hostess remembered Mrs. Tomlinson and her daughter, Miss Mary Ann Tomlinson, with gifts, also Mrs. McCulley, who is from Salisbury and was here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Eller.

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