

The Journal - Patriot

INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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Defends Guy Scott

The Winston-Salem Journal takes issue with a Journal-Patriot editorial recently relative to the payment by the State of trial expenses for Lt. W. B. Lentz, of the State highway patrol, and Guy Scott, investigator for the State bureau of investigation. The Journal editorial follows:

"The North Wilkesboro Journal-Patriot brands the legislative act reimbursing W. B. Lentz, state patrol officer, and Guy Scott, S. B. I. agent, for expenses incurred in their trial on charges of growing out of a whisky seizure in Wilkes in 1943, as 'one of the wildest miscarriages of justice, apparently, which has ever come to our attention.'

"The Journal-Patriot is careful to use a number of modifying adverbs, subjunctive 'ifs' and so on, in discussing the case, but it leaves no doubt but that a lot of people in the 'State of Wilkes' feel that the State officers made away with some 70 cases of bottled-in-bond liquor out of the 690 cases seized from one Phil Yates, despite the fact that the State officers were cleared of any wrongdoing by the court.

"The principal reason for the lingering doubt, judging from The Journal-Patriot editorial on the subject, is that Phil Yates disappeared shortly before the officers went on trial and did not show up to testify as the principal State's witness. The implication is that the State officers had something to do with his disappearance. The fact that he was not on hand, it is true, led to a directed verdict of not guilty against the officer defendants, since he was the only one who knew how much liquor he had originally and how much was seized.

"But is it logical to assume that the State officers were the only ones who possibly could be interested in seeing that Philip Yates, prominent handler of bottled-in-bond liquors in 'dry' Wilkes, was not present when the gavel fell in the courtroom and the Lentz-Scott case was called? It occurs here that a group of prosecutors who discover that they have no case save what may lie in the testimony of a law violator whose character and reputation cannot vie with that of law-enforcement officers of unblemished record might have a motive in seeing that such a witness was conveniently absent when the unhappily initiated action was started. Or it is possible that there were some folks in Wilkes county, who, for reasons best known to themselves, would prefer not to have Phil Yates undergo grueling cross-examination in open court at the hands of brilliant defense counsel.

"All of which is said in defense largely of Guy Scott, who for many years was one of the ablest and finest law-enforcement officers of this, his native county, in which he still has much 'honor.'

The people of Forsyth who know Guy Scott intimately are confident that the reputation for honest, efficient and fearless enforcement of the law which he established in more than a quarter of a century of service as deputy, chief deputy sheriff and sheriff of this county was not compromised in the Wilkes raid upon the liquor cache of Phil Yates."

Yes, a lot of people in Wilkes do think that State officers made away with over \$1,000 worth of liquor which should have been sold for the school fund, and that not half of the facts concerning the liquor seizure and alleged disappearance of about 70 cases have been brought to light.

This opinion does not necessarily con-

demn Guy Scott, nor does it charge that he stole any part of the liquor.

The known facts in the case are sufficient to warrant an investigation by someone other than those who would cover up any wrong doing if found. The so-called trial of Lentz and Scott was accompanied by altogether too much back-stopping from high officials of the patrol from Raleigh and other points, whose interest was very apparent toward clearing the men indicted and who showed no inclination to learn the full slate of facts in the matter at hand.

The people of Wilkes cannot understand why men of the character and reputation of Lt. Lentz and other patrol officials should have a dinner party with Phil Yates, then known as Western North Carolina's biggest dealer in illicit whisky, on the evening before the trial of Lentz and Scott, in which Yates was to be the principal prosecuting witness, and that Yates disappeared the following morning and was not present in court.

Whitewashing does not stand the wear of time, and amounts to no good for the highway patrol or the State bureau of investigation.

Soil Is Basis

It behooves all of us in town and countryside to use our efforts co-operatively for better and more prosperous agriculture.

From the soil comes our food, our clothing and our livelihood, directly or indirectly.

Erosion is one of the greatest drawbacks to agriculture in the piedmont and mountain areas of North Carolina.

Staton McIver, in an illustrated address before the Lions Club here on Friday evening, stated that it takes nature a thousand years to make one inch of productive soil.

That inch of soil can be washed away and destroyed for all practical purposes for the owner, in just one short hour.

The answer is to prevent erosion of present soils and to help nature rebuild productivity in the subsoils of places already eroded.

Take one look at the soil of a farm and you can tell what kind of residence there is and what kind of people live in that home, Mr. McIver, who is a soil conservationist as head of the local district, said in his address.

Take a look at the farm home first and you can tell what kind of soil the farm has without seeing it.

By properly handling present productive soils they can be retained as fertile.

By planting badly eroded soils to trees, and steep slopes now in cultivation to grass, much productivity can be regained.

Steep slopes should never be used for row crops. Keep the plows out of the hillside, unless they are needed to place the soil in condition for grass.

Nature never intended for men to cultivate land so steep that you have to plant corn with a shotgun fired from the opposite hillside.

Clear up and plow such land and it is washed away before the season has passed. The soil which nature was thousands of years in the making can be destroyed while mere man is trying to grow one crop of corn.

There is plenty of land not subject to bad erosion on which to grow row crops.

Mr. McIver estimated that one-half of the cultivated land in Wilkes county is too steep for plowing and should be in grass for hay and pasture or in forests.

Proper use of land, production of more hay and pastures with resultant increase in livestock farming can revolutionize agriculture in Wilkes county and raise the standard of living of the county's people.

With the people themselves is the answer. They can continue in complacency or they can work toward greater farm incomes with resultant improvement in homes, schools, churches and other community institutions.

Do you have a truck available for local hauling which now sits idle part of the time? You can make good money by using that truck to haul pulpwood or sawlogs from your own or a neighbor's farm. Get in touch with your nearest timber buyer. Find out how much he is paying for sawlogs or pine pulpwood delivered to the mill or shipping point. These forest products are selling at top ceiling prices and you make money when you do your own cutting and hauling. But be sure to make definite arrangements to sell you forest products before you start to get them out. See your local forester or county agent! He will tell you where to find a buyer. He will also advise on selective cutting to protect your stand for future crops

ABNORMAL ABERRITIES

By DWIGHT NICHOLS et al

OUR NATIVE LAND—

"Breathe there a man with soul so dead,
Who to himself hath never said,
This is my own, my native land."
That familiar quotation introduces our subject, which is a departure from the absurd and borders more nearly on the sublime.

Regardless of where it is, there is a certain tendency on the part of mankind to have a pardonable pride in his native land, his native state, his native county and his native community.

If the people of all the other good communities in Wilkes county will grant us their pardon, we'll write something about our native community in Wilkes. Before launching out into that subject, let us hasten to explain that you could point with just as much or more pride to your native community, provided it is in Wilkes. We draw the line there—if you get what we mean.

And when we reminisce into the past, let it be distinctly understood that we cannot delve into ancient history.

That small group of high school boys from our community who labored through high school together in 1928 is now one attorney, one minister, one professor, one Seabee officer, one farmer, and one (blankety-blank).

And to stretch our memory over a greater span of years we can recall that during the brief space of our lifetime, our native community has furnished the judge of our federal court, three present-day practicing attorneys, five ministers (including widely influential preachers), a physician, some very excellent teachers.

North Wilkesboro's mayor, several business men and some top-notch men in their chosen lines of work and some good farmers. And we are also reminded of the many good neighbors whose lives were upright and good and who recall to mind Gray's famous description of obscure, but good, people:

"Full many a gem of purest ray serene
The dark, unfathomed caves of ocean bear;
Full many a flower is born to blush unseen
And waste its sweetness on the desert air."

Yes, our native Purlear community has produced leaders, and it also produced plenty of good, substantial citizens, unheralded and unsung, but of the type which makes America great.

Doubtless other communities have as good a record, perhaps better, and may the time never come that you cannot feel an uplift in your inner self when you say to yourself: "This is my own, my native land!"

And as we conclude this column a smart aleck says over our shoulder: "And why didn't you add: one black sheep who tries to write a column for 12 people who have nothing else to read?"

A serious shortage of stove and furnace smoke pipe is apt to develop this year, industry representatives have warned the WPB.

Eating more eggs at this season will have the double-barreled effect of bolstering the wartime diet and utilizing a plentiful food.

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At the Time of Need

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IF ANY MAN will open the door . . . I will come in.

—Rev. J. B.

The door to every man's heart opens only on the inside. HE MUST OPEN for HIMSELF.

A plea for an understanding of a basic Christian truth

ALL MEN have the right to direct access to God.

Each man must deal with God for himself. He has both the capacity and the competency; he needs no human go-between.

"Every one of us shall give account of himself to God."—Rom. 14:12.

This direct relation of man to God sets true Christianity apart from all other religions.

It also marks as false any so-called branch of

Christianity which erects hindrances to any man's direct dealing with God.

Barriers to This Freedom

• Church membership required as necessary to salvation.

• Any ordinance, such as baptism or the Lord's Supper, when made a means to salvation.

• Man-devised ceremonies standing in the way.

• Formal creeds which block the path to God.

The Bible excludes acceptance of salvation by proxy. No one can repent of believe or obey for another.

"Whoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."—Rom. 10:13.

We Have a Mission

Southern Baptists hold firmly to the New Testament teaching of the direct approach of man to God. We must teach this distinctive doctrine to men everywhere.

The TRUTH Shall Make Men FREE

Home Mission Board — Southern Baptist Convention

(THIS IS ONE OF A SERIES OF MESSAGES, BEING PRINTED IN THE CENTENNIAL YEAR OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION, TO SET FORTH THE DISTINCTIVE BELIEFS, CONTRIBUTION AND MISSION OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTISTS. IT IS PRINTED IN THIS PAPER BY VARIOUS CHURCHES OF THE BRUSHY MOUNTAIN ASSOCIATION IN CO-OPERATION WITH THE HOME MISSION BOARD OF THE SOUTHERN BAPTIST CONVENTION).

Another Drop In TIRE QUOTAS

For the third consecutive month there has been a drop in the number of passenger car tires available to essential motorists. The national total is less for April than were March quotas. There can be no question in your mind that the tire situation is critical. So take care of your tires . . . have them repaired and recapped.

MORE TIRES ARE NOW GOING TO THE ARMED FORCES—THAT MEANS FEWER TIRES FOR CIVILIANS

Never was tire conservation more urgent than now!

PLAY SAFE!

HAVE YOUR TIRES EXPERTLY RECAPPED NOW!

WE STILL HAVE A SUFFICIENT SUPPLY OF GRADE A RUBBER—BUT ACT NOW!

DICK'S Recapping Service

TELEPHONE 241

NINTH STREET