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INDEPENDENT IN POLITICS

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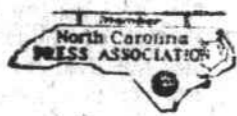
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Thursday, September 23, 1948



Need For Hospital Overshadows Cost

People of North Wilkesboro registered to vote in the special election September 28 will have the opportunity to make a great forward step for this community by voting to issue bonds in the sum of \$275,000 to provide a \$1,200,000 hospital.

While it is readily admitted that the sum required locally is large, it is small in comparison with the total cost and represents only 22.6 per cent of the total cost. It must also be admitted that the present hospital is far too small and inadequate for the present needs of this community and county, population of which has grown by many thousands in the past ten years.

It is entirely possible and highly probable that if we fail to take advantage of state and federal funds for 77.4 per cent of the cost that we shall be faced with the burden of supplying 100 per cent of the cost in the next few years. Hospital facilities are a must for any well populated section.

The question of deficit financing has been widely discussed, since under the provisions of the state and federal laws municipalities must pay any deficit in operations for two years.

In this connection we wish to cite figures on operation of the Ashe county hospital at Jefferson, which has been operated successfully since 1941.

The Ashe county hospital has operated with an INCREASING CASH BALANCE EVERY YEAR SINCE IT OPENED.

Last year the Ashe county hospital had 1998 patients, from whom the hospital received \$82,043.03. Last year the hospital spent \$74,465.37. That is typical of financing of that hospital, according to figures obtained from W. B. Austin, chairman of the board in charge of operation of the hospital.

As of December 31, 1947, the Ashe county hospital had a cash balance of \$48,515.15, which had accumulated since the hospital opened in 1941. On September 1 this year the net surplus was approximately \$55,000.

In addition to the \$55,000 cash balance this month, the hospital has added to its equipment from time to time, as the need arose, and the cost of the added equipment has been paid for from receipts of the hospital.

We use these figures to show what can be done in a neighboring county and to indicate what can be done here. A municipal hospital is not expected to make money or show a profit, but it can be self-sustaining.

One of the first questions anybody wants to know about a community is "What kind of a hospital do you have?"

Economists have figured that each hospital bed has an economic value of \$1,700 per year to the community in which it is located.

But the need for a hospital overshadows figures on costs and economic benefits. To save lives, to prolong life, to prevent or relieve suffering cannot be valued in the heartless terms of dollars and cents.

Better Be Safe Than Sorry

The subject I want to discuss briefly in this issue is one which should warrant the attention of all people, and that is the prevention of accidents.

No normal person wants to have an accident; self preservation and the urge

for security are inherent in every individual. But accidents do happen, and the totals of fatalities and disabling injuries run into enormous figures. In the past 10 years there have been more than 900,000 persons killed in this country as the result of accidents, and home accidents alone account for approximately one-third of these, the pity is that this loss of life, the crippling injuries, the unnecessary suffering should occur so frequently, for accidents are for the most part preventable, usually they can be traced to causes that could have been corrected.

Facts are stubborn things. Here are a few that may shock you: In 1947 one out of every seven accidental deaths in the United States was that of a child! Of 10,000 pedestrians who were killed in this same year, 2,000 were children under 15 years of age.

How do these accidents occur? Mostly they are the result of ignorance, indifference and criminal carelessness on the part of adults.

September is back-to-school month. It is a month when many youngsters are leaving the watchful eyes of their parents for the first time. Children are too young to look out for themselves. That responsibility rests with every adult motorist, and even careful motorists must be reminded that low speed and sharp eyes are needed near school zones and wherever children play.

Mothers should be extra careful in their homes. Suffocation killed about 1,700 in 1947. 90 per cent of these deaths were children less than a year old. If you have a baby at home, consult your doctor on ways to prevent suffocation.

Scalds, burns, and poisoning add to the slaughter of the innocents. So keep matches and all poisons on a high shelf or under lock and key where small hands can't reach them. Use the inner burner of your stove for boiling.

Let's work together to make our streets and homes safer places for our children to live and play.—By Frank Walker, Chairman Safety Services, Wilkes County Chapter American Red Cross.

- THE - EVERYDAY COUNSELOR

By Rev. Herbert
Spaugh, D. D.



The power of united action is tremendous. In the days of wooden bridges when a column of soldiers crossed, it was always necessary for them to "break step," lest the united foot-treads break the bridge. In his column "Religion Day by Day," Earl Douglass tells the story of a woman rushing from a New York subway train who fell and her leg became wedged between the edge of the platform and the car. A man who was able to think quickly, held open the car door which prevented the train from starting, told half of the people to stay in the car and stand on the far side. Their combined weight tipped the car over enough for her to be extracted.

The united prayers of a group of sincere Christians is tremendous. If we could get enough people praying, we could have peace in this war-torn world. Jesus said that if two earnest believers, who lived in communion with God, united their prayers with Him in His will, their prayer would be granted. What would happen if two hundred, two thousand believers united!

In the Myers Park residential area of Charlotte are three churches which have bells. Each day at twelve o'clock these bells ring as a call for prayer to peace—peace in the heart and peace among the nations. No one knows how many heed that call. The time of prayer is not as important as the unity of the prayer. Some churches ring their bells at six o'clock in the evening as a prayer call.

Would that all of the church bells in our land might ring out a daily call to prayer for peace! Would that the Christian believers throughout our land would each-day unite in prayer for peace!

If believers in prayer everywhere throughout the world would unite their prayers daily for peace, peace would come.

We could use other occasions to remind us daily to pray for peace. I read of one minister who appealed to his people who drove automobiles, to pray for peace everytime they were stopped by a red traffic light. That's a good suggestion. Why not try it?

Club At Mountain View Has Election Officers For Year

The Mountain View Home Demonstration club met at the home of Mrs. Roscoe Wood on Wednesday, Sept. 8, with 18 members present.

The meeting was called to order by the president, Mrs. Claude Johnson, and after singing "The Star Spangled Banner," the Lord's prayer was repeated in unison.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved and the club's treasurer's report was given. The report on the sale of cards and the report of the committee on buying the Mountain View school lunchroom linoleum, were given.

A committee was appointed to arrange the fair booths for our club, said committee being: Mrs. Claude Johnson, Mrs. Ralph Taylor, Mrs. Tam Hutchison, Mrs. F. C. Johnson, Mrs. Gene Sebastian, Mrs. Larry Emerson, Mrs. Ted Yale and Mrs. Roscoe Wood.

Miss Margaret Morrison announced the Family Life Leaders Training School on the 15th of October at Elkin and the National Home Demonstration Council meeting at Tulsa, Okla., for which our club gave a free will offering of \$2.85.

The report of the nominating committee on our officers for the club for the following year was as follows: Mrs. Glenn Dancy, Jr., president; Mrs. Ted Yale, vice president; Mrs. Roscoe Wood, secretary; Mrs. Gene Sebastian, treasurer.

These officers were elected unanimously and the club gave Mrs. Claude Johnson, our ex-president, a rising vote of thanks for being such a splendid leader.

Miss Morrison gave a fine demonstration on Furniture Arrangement in the Home, color schemes and how to choose well made furniture.

At the close of the demonstration the club enjoyed a lively contest with Miss Morrison and Mrs. Marie Blevins tying for the prize.

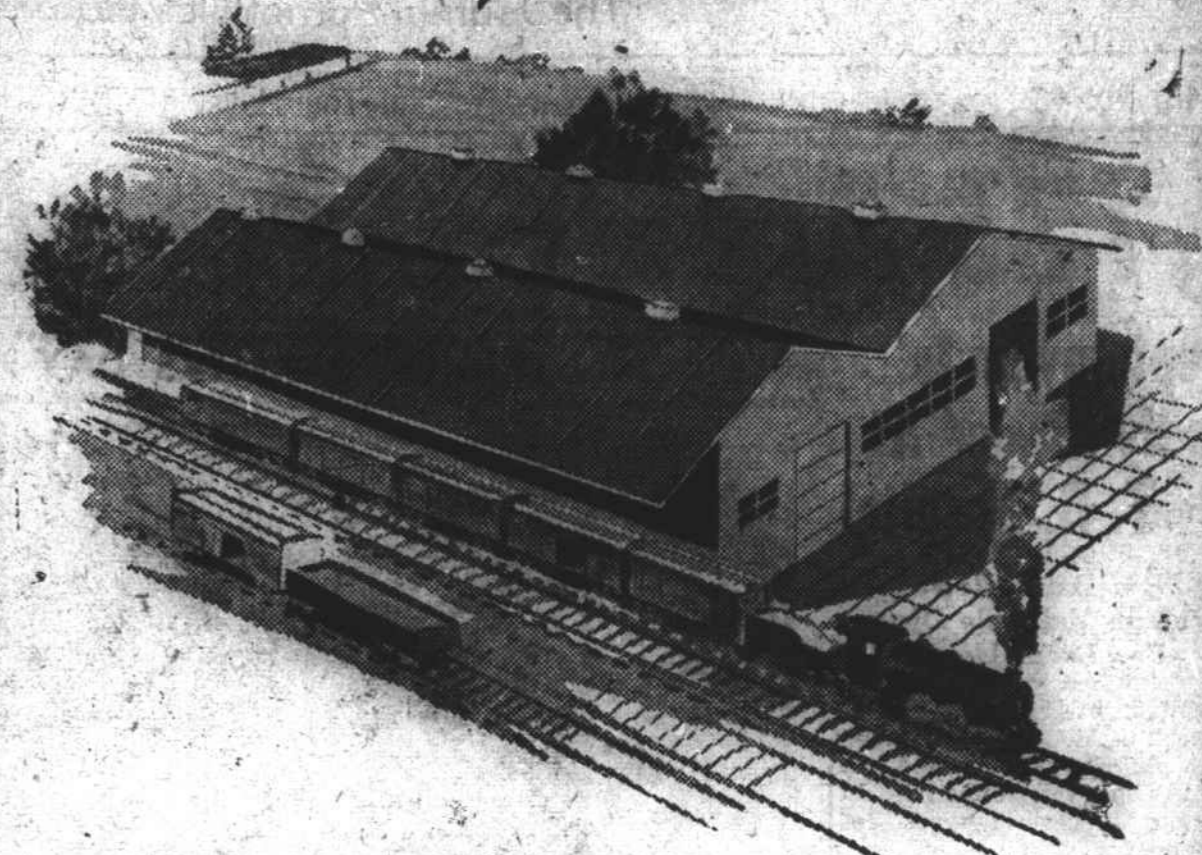
Our hostess served pimiento sandwiches, potato chips, cake, ice cream, and punch.—Reported.

Meat supplies will hit their low point for the year late this summer or early fall.

Haywood County farmers are now conducting a contest to improve their 95,000 acres of pastureland.

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