

The Daily Record

DUNN, N. C.
RECORD PUBLISHING COMPANY
NATIONAL ADVERTISING REPRESENTATIVE
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Branch Offices in Every Major City

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The Upper Room

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits. (Psalm 103:2.)
PRAYER: We know, O God, that Thou art exceedingly good to us each day. Help us not to forget that Thy love never fails us even when we spurn Thee. Give us grace to see Thy blessings all about us and have thankful hearts. In the Master's name. Amen.

Shall We Cooperate Or "Let Dog Eat Dog?"

This newspaper has always taken the position that the question of hours and holidays to be observed by local merchants is a matter strictly up to the merchants to decide for themselves.

It will continue to be our position. But the present situation — the lack of cooperation, to be specific — is so deplorable that we think it's time time body spoke up in behalf of the customers — the men, women and children whose dimes and dollars keep our merchants in business.

Let us preface our remarks, however, by pointing out that we are 100 per cent behind our merchants in what ever these projects are taken in a unified manner and in a spirit of cooperation for the betterment of the merchants and the public they serve.

We believe Dunn's merchants are as fine as those to be found anywhere and we want them to prosper. Our desire for their success is no passing fancy, either. We have both a public-spirited and a selfish reason for wanting them to prosper because unless they prosper this newspaper which serves them and the public cannot hope to prosper.

We realize, too, that anytime a newspaper is honest enough and bold enough to criticize a merchant he runs the calculated risk of facing retaliation and loss of revenue. However, we feel that the situation now existing in Dunn is so obviously bad that most merchants will agree with us and will accept our comments in the same friendly-spirit in which they are given. We are sure the fair-minded ones will.

It has gotten to the place in Dunn that when an announcement is made concerning opening and closing hours or holidays that the public doesn't know what to expect. Past experience has shown that he can sometimes expect exactly the opposite.

There have been three recent instances. The Dunn Merchants Association announced that Dunn stores would remain open until 9 p. m. the week before Christmas. The announcement was widely publicized. Not a single merchant let it be known that he wouldn't be open, but many stores ignored the announcement of its merchants' association and closed as usual.

Even on Christmas Eve, the dime stores (those great, popular American institutions) closed at 7 o'clock, or approximately that hour. And, goodness knows, most people make a last-minute trip to the dime store for wrapping paper or other needed item for Christmas.

The point is: What did the customers think, particularly our rural friends who drove miles to get to Dunn, when they got here and found part of the stores open and the others closed? Next year, they might decide not to come at all, that such announcements cannot be relied on.

Then New Year's Day rolled around. One group of merchants advertised in this newspaper that they would be closed New Year's Day. Another group dissented and the following day published an ad to the contrary that they would be open. We do not say which group was right or which was wrong.

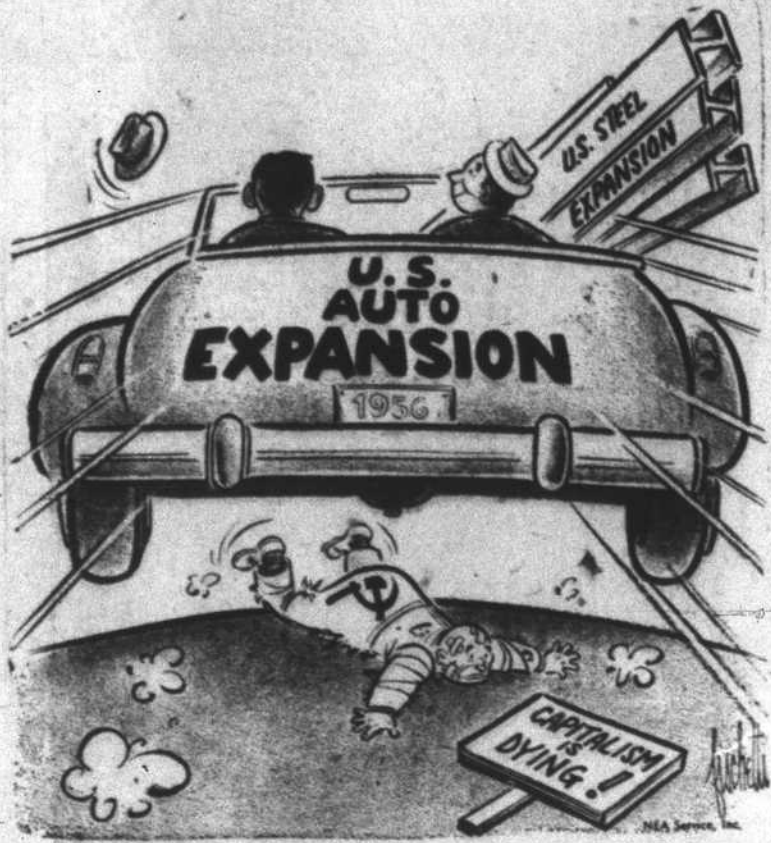
The only firm profiting by that was the newspapers and, frankly, we'd rather have seen cooperation than to have received the revenue from those two advertisements.

Last Friday afternoon, a meeting of the Retail Merchants Association was held. Despite the fact that all merchants were notified in the press and, we assume, by direct mail, only 14 out of more than 200 bothered to attend. That fact alone is deplorable. It is difficult to understand the failure of any merchant to attend these meetings, except in the event of some really extreme emergency. After all, the association is for his benefit.

Anyway, it was decided by a democratic vote of the majority to begin closing this week on Wednesday afternoons. The vote was 10 for and four against.

There was heated discussion, but there was nothing wrong in that. Those issues should properly be fought out on the floor at meetings — not the next day in the drug store or by telephone. We understand one merchant strode out angrily, banging the door behind him, which shows a very poor spirit indeed. We're glad we do not know who that merchant was because we'd lose respect for him.

Early this week, we were told, various merchants who knew of the vote (including some who didn't bother to attend the meeting or even to send a representative) started phoning other merchants to find out what they were go-



ing to do about it, even after the closing decision had been publicized.

This seems strange to us. It appears that if a merchant belong to an organization he will either abide by its decisions or get out and let the public know he's not cooperating. We are at a loss to understand why there was any question about it — unless somebody deliberately started phoning for the specific intention of trying to over-ride the decision of the association.

It just goes to show again that an official announcement from a duly-elected official of the organization apparently means nothing to its members — if the member disrespects with the decision.

Retiring Chairman Charlie Hildreth was plagued by the unfortunate situation all last year and we sympathized with him in his efforts to do a good job. So we start the new year off by giving the new chairman the same disrespectful treatment.

After his election as chairman Friday, Ed Black, Jr. made a wonderful little speech in which he called on merchants to put aside personal and petty differences and to cooperate and work together for the benefit of everybody and the town.

Charlie Hildreth and others said Ed's speech was one of the finest they had ever heard at a merchants' meeting.

Ed Black is a splendid young man and a capable business man who realizes the necessity for cooperating. The merchants are fortunate in having such a man as their leader — but nobody can lead them under present circumstances.

It seems that Dunn ought to be able to profit by the mistakes of other towns where such a condition has set the town backward and proved costly to its business firms.

Frankly, the spirit exemplified by some here is actually frightening. One downtown merchant had the nerve to tell us not many months ago that he was trying to get all his competitors to close on a certain day so he could remain open and profit by their closing. He even advocated it at a merchants meeting.

Just imagine that. Does any merchant with such a spirit really deserve to prosper? Does he deserve the support of his customers? Is he actually worthy to be a member of a merchants group? You know the answer.

And let us say here and now that we respect the rights of the individual. We feel that any merchant has a perfect right not to belong to the merchants association. He has a perfect right to operate as a lone wolf if he so desires. We will help him fight to preserve that right. But, if he decides on such a course, he has no right to belong to the association or to attend its meetings. He should have no voice whatever in its actions.

We recognize, of course, that there must be exceptions made for certain types of businesses whose operations requires a different schedule. We refer to such groups as automobile dealers, farm supply dealers, drug stores, service stations and other service agencies. These groups already have well-established hours known to the public.

It seems to us that only two courses are open: 1. For the merchants to get together and form a unified front behind its association and to abide strictly by its decisions.

2. Go back to the old system of every merchant doing exactly as he pleases, ignoring everybody else, and "let dog eat dog," so to speak.

Possibly the merchants association needs to draw up a strict set of by-laws which would require high percentage of attendance at meetings or ouster from the group; make rules to define what constitutes a quorum at meetings; and also rules concerning what action should be taken against members who do not cooperate.

And the public should be kept informed at all times, through window stickers or otherwise, concerning merchants who do cooperate and those who do not. We are confident that it wouldn't take long to whip most of them into line.

We have confidence that the merchants of Dunn will do the right thing and will pursue the proper course to insure the continued growth and prosperity of our business district.

As we stated in the beginning, the public has a right to know what to expect from its merchants.

We don't care what hours or what holidays are observed. It's immaterial to us. But when an announcement is made, the public has a right to expect the publicized announcement to be lived up to.

If any business firm, or any town, is to prosper, it

+ Molly Mayfield +

Put Your Footloose Pals In Their Place.
DEAR MRS. MAYFIELD:
I am married. I have a wonderful wife. I love her. We are very happy.

Is this a crime?
To hear some of my friends talk you'd think it was. You see, there are two fellows with whom I come in contact every day. One is married, and the other still available to all come-ons.

Every day over a cup of coffee or a sandwich these Casanovas continually converse about conquests of the opposite sex. One boasts bravely about his sneak raids with his wife back when, before they were married. The other raucously rants his successful scavenger scatology. Ahem!

Now and then a member of the opposite sex will pass our way and even though she smiles and extends a greeting these two somcats start howling: "Would she be game (and available) for a week-end junket? Would she be this? Would she be that? Look at those legs, look at those curves . . . ceeaaaagh!"

They call me a dope, a nut . . . tell me I belong in the dark, dark ages for not latching on to their rooster routine? They claim a man's given heritage is to "take all, and play the field." I say:

1. I AM MARRIED! Those wedding vows I took "to have and to hold till death do us part" were not just so many words but a significant pledge to fulfill a lifetime contract.

2. I HAVE A WONDERFUL WIFE! She is the sweetest, loveliest, I'll gal in the world. I found her, and darnab it, I'm keeping her!

3. I LOVE HER! The fulfillment I find in life with her is enough to make me know that any satisfaction I might pick up on the side would be cheap and gaudy.

4. WE ARE VERY HAPPY! Now what more could a man desire? All this I have explained to my two pals, but they don't understand and keep right on trying to make me feel like a mouse. As I so really wrong?

WRONG MAYBE, BUT HAPPY!
P. S. I want them to see your answer.
DEAR BUT HAPPY-!
Let's skip that "WRONG MAYBE" part, shall we, since you're so 100 percent right?

Why, those "pals" of yours are dopes. Not necessarily for crowing like roosters, and howling like tomcats (we might add, bleating like old goats) on their own behalf. It's probably just the nature of the beast as far as they're concerned. But to try and convince you that their tactics should be yours—why, shame, shame on you for even listening.

Their, poor dears, are to be pitied. You are to be envied—and congratulated. That bachelor bird might be excused. After all, what bachelor isn't a bird of prey? But that little playmate of yours, the married one, why, you have to feel downright sorry for him. Well, sorry in a disgusted sort of way.

Cheers to you—and boo to them.
M. M.
Not Yours Till She Says "Yes"
DEAR MRS. MAYFIELD:
I have gone with the same girl

for the past six months, allowing myself to get serious about her. She is an R. N. (registered nurse) working on her B. S.

Now that she is in school, 300 miles separate us—and that makes it rough on dating. When she was here we went out three and four time weekly, got along just fine. Now it's different.

On the eve of her departure for college, I asked her to marry me. This, of course, with the understanding that we would wait the two years for her to finish school. I promised her that I would wait patiently, but that she might go ahead and date so as to assure herself that I was THE ONE for her. All I asked was a letter a week, and her consideration. Not asking very much from a fiancée, do you think?

She is 21, and I am 26, a school-teacher. I felt that I should have an immediate answer in regards to marriage so that I could plan for our future. She said she would have to let me know later on.

Well, after she left, she wrote fairly regularly but her correspondence took on a less personal attitude with each other. After not seeing her for 105 days, we got together for a talk, and she said, "You are the most wonderful guy I have ever known."

However, she feels that we should only be "the best of friends" and, if we date, only double-date so as not to get involved in necking. I say to heck with that!

Her friends believe that in time I would stand a chance once she got this phony college world out of her system. The only thing I'm sure of right now is a set of ulcers! Please advise me what to do.

SOLITUDE

DEAR SOLITUDE:
Actually, I don't see that you have much choice. If this is the girl of your dreams there's not much percentage in breaking off with her because she won't say yes to your proposal. On the other hand, I wouldn't advise you to pin much hope on a future together as long as she doesn't even want to single-date with you.

Why don't you try taking out some other young ladies—just to take your mind off the ulcers?
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+ EARL WILSON + — ON BROADWAY —

GUYS & GALS & GAGS & GOSSIP
NEW YORK — Have a guess. Which one of 55s' much-headlined marriages is about to blow up?

Harry S. Truman told Wash'n friends Ike misses Gen. Omar Bradley now — 'cause Bradley made up his mind for him. "The Man With the Golden Arm" Set wants to retell the Lillian Roth story. "The Girl With the Bent Elbow" . . . Virginia Warren and Conrad Hilton deny the marriage rumors; they're just wonderful friends. "Taffy Tuttle," according to Tony Pettit of Saugus, Mass., "ordered a dry martini because she wasn't really very thirsty."

Though Sammy Davis Jr.'s fiancée, Cordie King, is due here to marry him, pretty dancer Gerry Davis of his "Mr. Wonderful" troupe wears his intialled ring and cuff links proudly — but slyly. Jim Hagerly, Ike's press secretary, is the loyal one. "I haven't talked to a soul about another job and wouldn't," he says. "He's my boy. I won't do a thing until he makes up his mind. But if he does get out of government, I hope to get out with him!" . . . Sheila Graham and her husband, W. S. Wolcovich, whom she called "Bow Wow" or "Bow" for short, have split.

THE MIDNIGHT EARL
Popular Bob Weltman resigned his ABC vice presidency. . . Look like Jackie Gleason won the duke; "Stage Show" will probably stay on, but at 8:30, and "The Honey-mooners" will move up to 8. "Stage Show" will be strengthened with Names . . . Lilli Palmer and Rex Harrison will try to straighten out the separation here.

Eden told Ike that Queen Elizabeth may be here after the inauguration in '57. . . Frank Sinatra wrote cute Jill Corey he'd see her here about March 1. . . Susan Hayward (now in "The Conqueror") will take her twin sons to Europe for the winter sports.

Miss America's first unscouted date since winning the title was with publicist Gino di Grandi. . . Igor Cassini will co-produce "Strip for Action" . . . at the Composer: singer Sylvia Syrus with Martha Raye's estranged husband, Ed Beasley. . . Mrs. Errol Flynn (Pat Wymore) and their child arrive from Europe soon. . . Busty Joan Diener is set for the "Ziegfeld Follies."

Phil Silver's "Top Banana" movie, never a winner, is billed in re-runs as "starring TV's Sgt. Bilko" . . . Comic Bobby Shields, touring Israel, fell off a camel, and writes, "How do you sue a camel?"

Earl's Pearls. . . A man was fined \$50 for cutting off all his wife's hair, and complained, "These hairers sure have a strong union." — H. G. Hutcheson.

WISH I'D SAID THAT: "The triangle that causes most friction in marriage is husband, wife and overdraft bank account." — Martha Scott.

TODAY'S BEST LAUGH: It's Mike Connolly's line: "If you don't see why a girl wears a low-cut gown — she shouldn't."

A local movie owner (says Ted Steele) was anxious to show "I'll Cry Tomorrow" — but he couldn't get a liquor license. That's earl, brother.

Our favorite Hollywood gal, Kim Novak, will be 23 on Feb. 13, and anybody wishing to send her a birthday card may send it to me and I'll deliver it to her personally, huge sacrifice though it be. She'll be in Montreal and Toronto.

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