

The Alleghany News

AND STAR-TIMES

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The News is glad to publish letters, not too long, on matters of general interest. But such communications must be accompanied by the real name of the writer, even when they are to be published under a nom de plume.

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"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government, I would choose a free press."—Thomas Jefferson.

School Lunchrooms

Most of the school lunchrooms opened this week, which means that hundreds of county children will have an opportunity to be served hot lunch at little expense. The lunchrooms will mean better health and more successful students.

The fact that, through necessity, the lunches are slightly higher than last year should not discourage a single student from patronizing them. Food costs are up and lunchrooms are receiving less assistance from the government. But even with the slight increase in prices, children will receive a nutritious lunch at much less than a comparable meal could possibly be purchased elsewhere.

Let's support the lunchroom program and keep it going. This program is one of the school's greatest health building assets.

Keeping Europe Warm

American coal is a vital instrument of world recovery. The figures tell the story. Before the war, Europe was able to produce all the coal it needed, and none was bought from this country. Now European production is in the doldrums. Great Britain's mines used to produce close to 4,500,000 tons of coal a week—now they produce slightly more than 3,600,000. The German Ruhr once mined more than 10,000,000 tons a month—now it is down to less than 6,000,000. Only the United States can make up the loss.

As a result, our soft coal industry exported 30,000,000 tons, not including Canadian purchases of 20,000,000 tons, during the year which ended June 30. During the current fiscal year, which will end June 30, 1948, the total is expected to reach 50,000,000 tons. That is about 8 percent of our total output, and the unusual export demand will probably last several years.

Coal is second only to food as an aid to, ravaged Europe. Without an adequate supply, it will be impossible to revitalize European industry, maintain employment, and achieve social stability. A modern civilization cannot exist without coal—and coal, consequently, is at the heart of Europe's economic problem.

Eliminate Fire Hazards

Summer and early fall are the times for preparing homes for winter—with especial attention paid to the elimination of fire hazards.

One of the major causes of home fires is defective heating units, ranging all the way from oil stoves to central heating systems. Even the best of appliances become worn. Flues and chimneys become filled with soot. During the war, it was often impossible to adequately maintain heating plants due to shortages of parts and labor. There are still shortages, but not as severe as in the immediate past. The money spent will pay tremendous dividends in safety and security.

Faulty electric wiring is still a major destroyer of homes. Important repairs should be made by a qualified electrician. Frayed cords should be replaced. Then, when your electrical equipment is subjected to the heaviest use, it will safely carry the load.

Lastly, during the pleasant weather,

homeowners should carry on a rigorous campaign to rid their property of junk. Thousands of fires have originated in attics and cellars and closets filled with old clothes, furniture, magazines, etc. Many fires have resulted from improper storage of paint, gasoline and other inflammables. A clean and orderly house offers fire few opportunities.

Schools And Health

Now that our schools are underway, we must become more conscious of health problems as related to the children of school age. It has long been recognized that children must be healthy and happy if they are to make the most of their opportunities offered by the schools.

In considering the health problems, it is well to remember that the N. C. School Health Coordinating Service is an administrative unit of the State Department of Public Instruction and the State Board of Health and is designed to promote the development and execution of a program of health education and health service in the State's public schools.

The health service phase of the program has been organized to achieve three objectives: (1) To find school children with health problems and arrange for their correction. (2) To establish as healthful an environment as possible to protect the health of the school population. (3) To promote the use of health services as teaching aids in health education.

The health education activities are directed toward the establishment of adequate health and physical education instruction of school children so that they will develop the habits, attitudes and understanding necessary to avoid the more important lifetime health hazards and to maintain themselves at a high level of general physical and mental health.

The use in every way possible of modern methods in teaching health is stressed. It is felt that the most effective health teaching is done by means of educational experiences such as are provided by adequate health service. For this latter reason teacher participation in as many health services as possible is urged as an integral part of health instruction.

The School-Health Coordinating Service carries out the above program by consultation with school and health department personnel, and by service training courses and summer schools for teachers.

Local health units and teachers should avail themselves of the help offered by this coordinating service. Let's do all possible to keep children healthy. A stitch in time often saves nine in the health of a child.

Taxing Motorists

The amount of gasoline consumed by private and commercial vehicles runs around 20 billion gallons a year. Sales taxes and class taxation is costing motor vehicle owners more than \$1,600,000,000 annually, as well as all the general taxes for the purpose of raising revenue to build roads. The sales taxes were not so high in the first twenty-five years, but they have kept on growing and growing until today every state has a tax per gallon ranging from 3 cents in seven states up to as high as 6 and 7 cents a gallon in 41 states. Now is that fair?

The roads are built for public use. Ample provision has been made by the U. S. government and the States to share in the expense of constructing highways. The owners of automobiles and motor vehicles are being subjected to special class taxation. A recent petition presented to Congress and backed by more than four hundred organizations of highway workers of the United States asked for various laws imposing special Federal excise taxes upon motor vehicles and trailers, gasoline and lubricating oil—and other special "breeds" of taxation on different parts of automobiles, including tires.

The American Petroleum Institute made a long and forceful fight against this unjust tax upon automobile owners. The Institute has 5000 members, and represents hundreds of different organizations that have petitioned Congress to repeal the unjust laws which exist at the present time. Taxation imposed in the good old days when horses and buggies traveled over dirt roads were mere small change.

At Home On The Farm With The City Cousin

Talkin' to an Onslow County farmer who spent the past week on the State College campus as one of the 5,000 visitors to the 40th Annual Farm and Home Week, I said:

"George, looks to me like this farmer's and homemakers' own week is just agricultural extension in reverse!"

"What do you mean by that, Cousin?" he asks.

"Well," I says, "for a year now all the specialists of the Extension Service here at the college have been hitting the road, carrying the message of Extension's various phases with them right up to your door..."

George admitted this was so. "And this week, you farmers and your wives are travelling the same roads to the college, to get that information for yourselves. That's why I call Farm and Home Week agricultural extension in reverse."

There was evidence on all sides that North Carolina farm folks are seeking the latest developments in poultry, livestock production, agronomy, beekeeping, forestry, agricultural engineering, and all the many enterprises that center around a typical Tar Heel farm. The women wanted to know about canning, about new fabrics, and even got a few pointers on how to raise their children just a little bit better.

Officials anticipated the liveliest, most interesting, and biggest event of forty years, and their anticipations were certainly fulfilled!

If you've never seen fifteen hundred farm boys and girls in one crowd at one place, and at the same time, then you missed a lot by not observing the Fifteenth Annual State 4-H Club Week on the State college campus, recently.

They're a happy, fun-loving bunch—these Club kids, and while city youngsters may feel they have things just a little bit nicer than their country cousins, you couldn't have found a curly-headed girl or a shirt-sleeved boy with an inferiority complex!

You wouldn't have seen them here except for the graciousness of the State College Staff, who made available the entire facilities of the sprawling acres that constitutes North Carolina's only Land-Grant college.

The College Cafeteria served three meals a day to the youthful guests who find that sleeping in college dormitories and attending lectures and demonstrations in college halls gives them a pretty good first-hand look at what college life must be like.

From the smallest of the state's 1,955 4-H clubs to the largest, these boys and girls came with a common interest in the soil of North Carolina, the things it produces, and the farm homesteads. Through this common footing, they were, as one big community club as they sang their own songs and participated in the week's varied program of activities.

Coming as sort of an "earned vacation" for the youth who attended, State 4-H Club Week was little work and plenty of play. You can be sure they kept their dorm rooms neat as a tack—but aside from this, they spent most of their busy day taking part in demonstrations, watching their fellow club members in action as officers, as demonstrators, and learning about such things as room improvement, family relationships, plant diseases, home beautification, and virtually all phases of farming and homemaking.

Extension Service specialists like the beekeeper, the horticulturist, the forester, the agronomist, the clothing specialist—all members of the staff of "oldsters" who know their respective fields like a well-read book—were on hand to coach the club kids.

And when it comes to recreation they know just as much about how to have a good time as any group of kids you'll find anywhere. The college swimming pool cooled them off after sweltering day, and to give boys and girls just the right amount of exercise there were plenty of chances to take part in a friendly game of softball or volleyball.

Who ran the biggest rural show of the year? Well, you wouldn't say that anyone RAN it, exactly. L. R. Harrill, State 4-H Club leader for the Extension Service, and his staff of assistants just kinda kept it moving along. Eleanor Barber, Jesse James, and Ned Wood worked for a year with the officers elected by the club members themselves to make this year's event a most memorable one.

You may rest assured that each

Uneasy Relaxation



This Week in WASHINGTON

Secretary Anderson is a close second to Attorney General Clark when he comes to making summer tours and talks. Whether or not he wants to become head of the Democratic national committee, he does not hesitate to inform one and all of the work that his agricultural department has done.

His latest, in California was: "The challenge before us is to develop policies and programs that will give us the continuing opportunity to meet problems as they arise. The house committee of agriculture is to be commended for beginning the appraisal of alternatives so that long range policies and programs can be developed in the near future. I have expressed to the committee my opinion that we have no alternative but to set the goal of organized, sustained and realistic abundance."

The percentage increase in prices received by farmers and prices paid by farmers for commodities and wages, from 1939 to 1947, are based on the price index of the U. S. bureau of agri-

cultural economics.

A significant feature also is the advance in farm wages since 1939. Another, is the increase in prices received, as well as prices paid by farmers for various commodities.

Farm wage rates increased more than eight times as fast as the increase in the price of farm machinery, for example, which is one of the reasons why farmers are seeking to obtain more time and labor saving equipment.

While prices of commodities purchased by farmers have more than doubled since prewar days, and prices received by farmers for certain products, have also sharply increased, the advance in machinery prices, according to the bureau's index, is only 26 per cent, notwithstanding the sharp advance in labor and material costs incurred by the manufacturers of farm equipment, since prewar days.

The index does not attempt to evaluate the improvements in the quality and efficiency value of present day equipment compared with prewar machines.

The Everyday Counselor

Rev. Herbert Spough, D. D.

Pride is one of the greatest stumbling blocks to happiness and inward peace. We are accustomed to think of the proud man as one who boastfully displays himself and his possessions. He exists, and we all see him, but he has a brother whom very few of us notice. He is a quite soul, self-effacing to such an extent that he does not want anyone to do a thing for him. He is inwardly proud of the fact he is dependent on no one. He thinks this sense of independence gives him satisfaction, but the opposite is true; down deep in his heart he is miserable.

Those who outwardly or inwardly boast of their independence of others, condemn themselves to a life of unhappiness and march towards the grave increasingly friendless and alone. "No man liveth to himself; and no man dieth to himself." These words of St. Paul are indisputable, unless you can take up a position like that of Robinson Crusoe, before Friday joined him. Your life, no matter how unimportant you may think it is, affects someone; so will your death, if it only be the funeral director and the one who has to pay burial expenses. So stop "thumping the

tub" about your independence. You would have a terrible time in this world if everybody left you completely alone. Just stop and think about that for a moment.

The quotation from St. Paul quoted above was incomplete; there is another sentence. "For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; or whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." The Apostle addresses these lines particularly to those who have accepted Christ as their Lord and Saviour, but they apply as well in another way to unbelievers.

We live in a world ordered by Almighty God. We can accept His rule, walk with Him here and hereafter. Likewise, we may reject Him here, and so determine the verdict we receive when we stand before Him on Judgment Day. Don't start talking about a God of love being too good to condemn anyone to punishment either here or hereafter. He simply pronounces sentence. Every man is a one-man jury, who will bring in the verdict on his own life.

The worst form of pride is that which causes a man to defend his own sinful conduct. He should remember that, "everyone that is proud in heart is an abomination to the Lord; though hand join in hand he shall not go unpunished."

So I plead with you in the

Timely Hints

Patching will prove only a temporary remedy for many cracks in plastered walls, architectural engineers of the U. S. Department of Agriculture advise.

Sooner or later cracks may appear again if the underlying cause has not been remedied. Cracks are often a sign that foundations are settling, supporting posts are rotting, or timbers are shrinking. Much future trouble can be avoided if repairs are made to framework or foundation as soon as definite cracks show up.

To discover where repairs are needed, go over the house and notice where floors are no longer level, or doors sag, or windows do not fit tightly. It may be that some part of the house needs jacking up for repairs in the foundation underneath.

If ceilings are badly cracked, the joists that support them may be too light to prevent sagging. New plaster will not help unless the joists are strengthened first.

Cracks often appear in plaster around chimneys that pass through the house. They occur at the joining between masonry and wood framing, because wood shrinks and swells with weather but masonry does not. Once the cause of cracks has been cured, cracks may be filled in permanently and successfully. When doing this job, first remove all loose material and dirt and open the crack wide enough so that plastering material can be forced into the full depth of the crack. Spackling compound, which comes as a powder to mix with water, is easy to use and satisfactory for small cracks. For wide cracks and larger broken places, fibred plaster or patching plaster is recommended.

words of the venerable Apostle, St. Peter, "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

Uncle Sam Says



Want to know one of the best gifts a Mother can give her child? It's the kind of gift which makes every day Mother's Day—mother's days free from financial worry, and filled with confidence in the ability to meet sudden emergencies or achieve family ambitions. Where do you buy this gift? That's as simple as ABC. United States Savings Bonds are on sale at any bank or postoffice. For \$25.00 you can buy \$25.00 worth of security 15 years hence. What better way is there for you to express your love for mother, than to do something to assure her future happiness. U. S. Treasury Department