

The Alleghany News

AND STAR-TIMES

The NEWS established February 16, 1940—
The TIMES, 1925 and The STAR, 1889.
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
At Sparta, N. C.

THURSDAY, OCT. 30, 1947

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR
In County, \$2.00 — Outside County, \$2.50

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.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Sparta, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

"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.

Now Is The Time

It has aptly been said that every time is a good time if we know what to do with it. And we firmly believe that NOW is the time to do something about a hospital or health center in Alleghany county.

The need is great and with the assistance now offered counties by the State and Federal governments, we believe this is the appointed time. Alleghany citizens are awake to the needs, let's fill these needs. The problem has been discussed time and time again and now is the time for action.

We must raise our proportion of the funds; but with the aid of the State and Federal governments, the amount we raise will be so greatly increased that, without too much expenditure or effort on our part, we can establish an institution that will mean much to suffering humanity. Through it lives may be saved and all of the people of this county may have the medical care they need.

Fire, A Killer Of Children

Nothing can seem more horrible to us than death by fire. And while we are conquering or at least curbing many of the children's diseases, we are doing little to stop one of the greatest of killers, fire.

Some 6,000 children under the age of five die in home accidents each year. More than a third die from burns and scalds—a larger toll than is exacted by the dread disease of polio. On top of that, for every child who is fatally burned, many more are crippled or disfigured for life.

No child is burned through his own fault. The blame comes straight home to parents who, through carelessness or ignorance or downright inertia, permit the child to be exposed to hazards. The Star cites some suggestions, made by the National Board of Fire Underwriters, which should be memorized by every parent:

1. Never leave children unattended in the home, and be sure the sitter is responsible.
 2. Keep matches, hot liquids, lamps, etc., out of reach of children.
 3. Don't permit children to play with bonfires or fireworks. Such amusements as popcorn roasts should be held under close adult supervision.
 4. Avoid dressing children in highly inflammable clothing, such as net dresses.
 5. In case of fire, get children out of the house, then call the fire department.
- If all parents will follow these easy rules, the horrible toll fire now takes in the coin of children's lives and health will be sharply reduced.

Conservation In Industry

Ordinarily the term "conservation" is coupled with the activities of public agencies when referring to the natural resources of the country. As a matter of fact, the normal functioning of business and industry in this country has resulted in the most effective form of conservation.

In a search for efficiency, industry after industry has learned to make the fullest use of our natural blessings. The industries which are most intimately concerned with the development and use of the nation's rivers, forests, and mines, work tirelessly to wrest the maximum benefits out of the resources at their disposal. Those having to do with our forest

products have evolved a thousand ingenious schemes for the utilization of every stick of wood and scrap of sawdust. They work constantly to expand and protect the forests.

One of the latest instances can be seen in the activities of American Forest Products, Incorporated, an organization of the timber industry. It is experimenting with an intensive program to educate woodland owners to the advantages of guarding their trees and marketing them wisely to the end that woodland production will remain abundant. It shows that the right kind of conservation is good business.

The combined efforts of the industries interested in the nation's natural resources adds up to a tremendous conservation movement, a dynamic movement, because while promoting conservation, they make available for use countless products for the benefit of mankind.

Criticizing A Free Press

The enormous difference between the Russian and the American ideas of government is perfectly illustrated by the recent denunciations of our press by high Soviet officials, and their demand that restrictive measures be taken to stop "unfair" criticism of Russia.

The Soviet spokesmen seem to be all in favor of a "free press"—so long as its comment agrees with their curious ideas of right and wrong. In Russia, the press is "free" to print government-inspired editorials and official handouts from the Politburo, the Foreign Office and the Kremlin. If the slightest deviation from the party line is found in a Russian newspaper, the usual practice is to send the editor in charge on a long voyage from which there is no returning.

The Russians may be perfectly sincere when they say they cannot understand American newspapers. This is one of very few nations left on the face of the earth where any editor, so long as he stays within the laws covering libel and other crimes, can say what he pleases. The Russians seem to think the growing criticism of Soviet actions in our press is the result of orders from the government. Nothing, as every American knows, could be further from the truth. It is, to the contrary, the simple consequence of the fact that the majority of editors believe that the principals underlying U. S. foreign policy are correct and inevitable.

The free press is the basis of all other freedoms. Destruction of the right to criticize, to speak one's mind, must be followed by the destruction of free government, free enterprise, freedom of religion. The Soviet press is used as a weapon to turn the Russian people into mental robots—and to make every man and woman slavishly think alike and repeat the same phrases. The Russians don't realize it, but their recent violent denunciations of the American press are a fine tribute to it—and to the system of government which makes its existence possible.

Taxes And Roads

Nine times out of ten, if you should ask the average farmer today what tax absorbs the greater part of his attention he would say: "Why, the property tax, of course." This is true because the property tax comes directly out of his pocket and is paid across the counter to the tax collector.

There is another tax group, however, that should have the farmers' attention: We refer to special automotive taxes. Just before the war a highly authoritative survey conducted in all sections of the country found that gasoline taxes and registration fees paid by farmers averaged 85 per cent of their property taxes. In four States—Louisiana, Ohio, South Carolina and Tennessee.

The States now have funds available to undertake the most stupendous program of rural road construction ever seriously contemplated in our history. The program will be paced by the Federal-aid grants for secondary roads plus State matching funds for this purpose, which will total \$900,000,000 under the terms of the Federal-Aid Highway Act of 1944.

However, the Federal aid projects are only a part of this vast program. They can be supplemented by the bountiful revenue already available to the States and counties for construction and maintenance of rural roads not on the Federal aid systems.

SPARTA

SPECTACLES
By NANCY KENNICKELL

Tomorrow night goblins and spooks will roam all over Alleghany county as well as in Sparta, when Hallowe'en will once again be celebrated by the younger set. Not only will your door bells be ringing, (without the usual visitors) but probably some will be visited by some of the gremlins in person.

High School Carnival
Not only will the king and queen of Hallowe'en be crowned at the carnival at the Sparta high school tomorrow night but a baby contest is being held. In the upper brackets are little Shirley Mitchell and Diana Strauss in the youngster's contest and in the royalty set are Rebecca Moxley and Carl Gentry. Probably voting will reach an all-time high at the carnival when the crowd can be easily persuaded to vote for a favorite. Don't be afraid to join in the fun. You might enjoy it, you know.

Early Sadie Hawkins' Day
We know about spring "when a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love," but what happens to the male of the species in October? It may not be typical of men in general, but certain Virginia girls in hopes of rushing Sadie Hawkins day tried in vain to capture two of Sparta's most eligible young men. If you're ever in a hurry to evade a pretty lass, the back door of the bus station is always a good exit, even if you can't catch a west bound bus.

News and The Law
The sheriff and the News reporter visited several business establishments on the road to Roaring Gap recently and although all were places of "good reputation," some raised eyebrows questioningly. It would have been an opportunity for "news at the scene of the crime," however, both visitors were friendly. Some Sparta business proprietors who could not be found at the respective businesses were seen on the road to Roaring Gap.

From Sparta To Hollywood
If you can wait fifteen or twenty years maybe some of Sparta's fair lassies will be in the movies. Already some of the city's proud fathers are boasting such. If you don't believe us, stop at one of the uptown service stations and ask the proprietor. From all reports, he's telling the truth.

Dance to Keep Warm
Square dancing is a pretty strenuous sport but it also can prove beneficial. The girls who work at the community building sponsored a dance, Saturday night in order to raise funds to employ a janitor for the winter. Coming to work in a cold building is not one of the things "working girls" enjoy.

Conservation Farming News

H. E. Singletary and T. R. Greene

Page Evans, of the Vox community, was assisted last week by the Soil Conservation Service in getting two of his crop fields sampled for soil analysis. Page also plans to use a strip cropping system on one of his larger fields.

Reid Fender, also of Vox community, is realizing some very good grazing for his dairy cows from his field of ladino clover, seeded in his corn last summer. Reid finds that this clover also, becomes thicker as it remains on the land and becomes a real soil saver too.

Lee Joiner and his son are planning to get all of the crop land under a strip cropping system as soon as possible. The Soil Conservation Service will assist in laying off the lines for plowing. Earl Lee, who operates Mr. Joiner's farm and who is a veteran has done a very good job of farming this summer. He seeded ladino clover in his corn at the last cultivation and has a good growth now.

P. H. Thompson, of the Sparta community, is planning to start a program of improvement on his farm, with the addition of a few



The Everyday Counselor

Rev. Herbert Spaugh, D. D.



Hallowe'en is almost here, and with it comes the time for gay festivities, pumpkins and skeletons, donuts and cider and—sad to say, vandalism!

Hallowe'en originated with the Druids, an ancient Celtic religious order. The Druids believed that on the night of October 31, Samhain, the Lord of Death, called together the souls of all those who died during the past year. The sinful souls were confined in the bodies of goblins, spirits and other spooks, the Druids believed. The goblins and spooks were supposed to practice all sorts of devilish pranks, unless they were controlled. So, as a means of protection the Druids lit huge bonfires to frighten away the evil spirits.

Each Druid community had an altar that was kept burning for the protection of the inhabitant's. On Hallowe'en these fires were extinguished and re-lighted. The villagers carried home glowing embers from the altar to kindle fires on their own hearthstones.

Although the Druids abandoned the religious ceremony when they were indoctrinated with Christianity, traces of the old rituals remained for many years. Thus we have the evil witches, the fortunes and spookiness on Hallowe'en.

The Romans added the harvest festival idea to our observance of Hallowe'en. During the Middle Ages other ideas were added, and the custom arose on All Hallow's Eve, the night before All Saints' Day, November 1, that the witches and goblins were supposed to be abroad at their work, because they would not have opportunity on the holy festival of All Saints' Day.

All these ideas are wrapped up in the American celebration of Hallowe'en. Pumpkins, corn stalks, apples, donuts and cider—these are all traditionally American and traditionally Hallowe'en. The spookiness has likewise remained. Along with it has come a relatively modern idea of carrying off gates, hiding rakes, breaking lights, ringing doorbells, and damaging property. This has brought Hallowe'en into disrepute and has prompted civic-minded men and women to put into practice the saying of Saint Paul, "Be not overcome mors acres and using lime and fertilizer. He will increase his grazing. He plans to have the Soil Conservation Service take soil samples and have them analyzed to find out the needs of his soil.

Farmers who have a good stand of grass and clover, rye or rye grass on their corn land, or land which would be bare during the winter, will conserve many tons of soil during the winter and early spring season. It takes good planning to keep ahead of soil erosion.

with evil, but overcome evil with good." Thoughtful parents and leaders of young people have realized that party-planning is the simplest solution to Hallowe'en vandalism. Spooks and witches can appear at parties, indulge in games, amid decorations with pumpkins and skeletons, and a good time can be had by all. All of this takes a little time and effort on the part of thoughtful adults, but it's worth the price in character training and also in property protection.

Being forewarned is being fore-armed. Are you going to have a Hallowe'en party, or are you going to let your children and young people go out and indulge in vandalism and property destruction? Hallowe'en naturally calls young people together. Let them have a good time at it with clean sport and respect for other people's property.

A good Hallowe'en party is one antidote to juvenile delinquency. A good game or party book will be helpful.

At Home On The Farm With The City Cousin

Travelin' around over in Columbus county last week, Charley Raper and myself pulled up during a rainy spell to visit with Jack Walters—one of these "all-round farmers" you hear about. Bein' county agent for the State College Agricultural Extension Service, Charley knew Mr. Walters pretty well. I was tellin' the agent before we got there that since it was cold and rainy, we'd most likely find the farmer sittin' around the house.

"No," says Charley, "I believe you're wrong then Cousin. Jack's like a lot of us—he gets mighty fidgety when he's confined too close."

Sure enough, we found the friendly farmer out in his tobacco barn, puttering around with packing up his tobacco sticks and cleaning things up in general.

"Makin' room to put tools and machinery in under the shelter" Jack says, after we'd had a very casual introduction. "I'm one who believes in wearin' 'em out—instead of lettin' 'em rust 'n rot."

When we got around to talkin' about the balanced farming principles at work on Mr. Walters' farm, he said he just couldn't get along without his cow. Agent Raper passed the word along that Jack has one of the few registered Jersey cows in the county. In the spring, Jack seeded a pasture for his cow, using Dallis grass lespedeza and white Dutch clover. By next spring, he expects to have plenty of grazing. From the ensuing conversation,

Library Notes

By CARRIE H. JONES

Do you know that the rears horses can sleep while standing is because their legs are provided with muscular mechanisms that cause them to "lock" and permits them to completely rest?

—That a crow does not fly in a straight line as is commonly believed, but the honey bee does fly in an almost direct line back to its hive.

—That both the Pacific and the Caribbean Sea, which is regarded as part of the North Atlantic, can be seen on a clear day from the summit of Mount Izuru in Costa Rica?

—That the last British King to take active part in battle was George II, King of Great Britain from 1727 to 1760. He led his army against the French and won the battle.

—That William Henry Harrison, ninth President of the U. S., was the first President to die in office? He was in office only one month.

—That Hallowe'en means "Hold Eve," a time set apart to honor the memory of all saints?

—That Richard Halliburton, a famous American author, disappeared aboard a Chinese ship in the Pacific in March 1939?

—That the County Library has several new mystery stories that are very appropriate for this Hallowe'en week end?

Topia News

Mr. and Mrs. Beecher Sword and children, of Cedar Bluff, Va., spent Saturday night with P. C. Edwards.

Miss Sarah Blevins was dinner guest of Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Blevins, Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. O. E. Moxley, Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Sturgill visited in the home of Mr. Lee Black, Sunday. Mr. Black is seriously ill.

Mrs. Mary Vaught, Crumpler, is spending a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Robert V. Blevins.

Those visiting Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Black, Sunday were Mr. Tyre Spicer, Mr. and Mrs. George Baldwin and daughter, of Marion, Va.

Mrs. Belle Blevins visited Mrs. Effie Fields, Sunday.

I learned that Jack also takes a lot of pride in his sow. "Just can't get along without my hogs! Is the way he put it. He admitted he'd made some money on hogs this year, besides providing meat for his table.

The rain was about to stop as we got around to leaving Jack to his work. When we were on the road a bit, the agent told me: "Cousin, now there's a farmer who doesn't believe in depending on tobacco alone. He's a good tobacco grower all right, and his sales on the warehouse floor this year proved it. But you can see that Jack wouldn't be content without his milk cow and his hogs."

"Lot's of farmers are, tough" I says.

The production of flue-cured tobacco in North Carolina is now estimated at 877,460,000 pounds.