

THE MARION PROGRESS

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY THE
MCDOWELL PUBLISHING CO.

MARION, N. C.

TELEPHONE 64

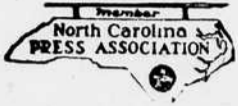
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Entered at the Postoffice at Marion, N. C.,
as second class matter.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE:

One year \$2.00

Strictly in Advance.



MAKING LIFE A SUCCESS

Practically every person in McDowell County, whether man or woman, boy or girl, regardless of age and circumstances, hopes and intends to make life a success.

Stated in general terms, this ambition is common to all of us. It is only when we attempt to define the meaning of "success" that differences of opinion develop. Consequently, it might be a good idea for the individual to stop long enough to ponder the question and then answer it.

The individual, in his or her zeal to be successful, often accepts a popular definition of the term and, thereby, loses sight of the real goal. One's success is not to be measured by the wealth accumulated, the worldly honors received or the fickle acclamation of so-called public opinion.

So, today, when there are so many ideas about success, we suggest that the individual reader analyze his or her conception. It should be obvious, we think, that one can be successful only when life is in harmony with our inner convictions. Yet, if our principles be wrong, life must be imperfect.

To those who read this article and, particularly, to the young people, we suggest the effort to outline definite principles which are considered acceptable guides. As a start, one might try to discover a definite principle upon which one is willing to be loyal under all circumstances. This might sound easy but test it for yourself.

VOTERS MAY BE WRONG AT TIMES

The functioning of a democracy is always an interesting spectacle but during the political season, its antics become somewhat bewildering.

The paternalistic propensities of candidates, the blatant absurdities of demagogues, the deliberate deceit of propagandists and the subtle machinations of selfish individuals make election campaigns a circus of the first magnitude.

Theoretically, the selection of candidates and the election of officials is of the gravest importance to voters. The supposition is that the electorate, conscious of the need of a representative form of government, will carefully weigh the issues and consider the candidates in an effort to secure the services of the man best fitted to serve the interests of the political unit affected.

The decision of the people is not always perfect. They sometimes make ludicrous selections but it should be remembered that they sometimes choose capable, efficient and honest servants. All in all, the candidate elected to office is the individual who best represents the popular mind of his constituents. This, as it often happens, is deplorable.

That freaks, monstrosities and crooks sometimes gain public office does not condemn the democratic process. The same thing happens under other forms of governments. Moreover, the popular vote removes such misfits from power, just as about as rapidly as any other scheme of election.

Paste this in your hat-band, or anywhere else that you find handy: The year 1949 will be what you make it. The thought is a little old but it still applies.

The road to success is travelled by executives who know how to use new plans when old ones fail.

A friend is one upon whom you can count, regardless of your misfortunes. How many have you?

Just to get off to an early start, we suggest that all traffic laws be rigorously enforced in 1949.

Sick people often outlive well people because they have sense enough to take care of themselves.

About half of the ills that afflict the human body originate in a pampered mind.

HOW YOU MAY LIVE LONGER

Figures recently released show that 1,445,370 Americans died in 1937; with 460,580 passing on because of heart diseases and 189,811 dying because of cancer.

We call attention to these figures because, obviously, if the individuals now living take proper precautions to prevent their death from heart diseases or cancer, they will have a much better chance to reach old age.

While no cures have been developed for either of these human killers, everybody knows that one suffering from heart diseases should take precautions against over-exercise, over-eating and other excesses. In some forms of heart trouble, proper diet and rigorous self-control will enable the victim to get along for many years.

In connection with cancer, for which there is no known cure, individuals could greatly reduce the death toll if they exercise prudence and insist upon regular physical examinations. Doctors tell us that early detection of cancer often enables them to save lives but if the cancer is not discovered until it is in its serious stages, the prospect of life is scant.

By comparison with these modern killers of men and women, the death toll from highway accidents, which is entirely too large, seems small. In 1947, 32,297 lives were lost in automobile accidents. Interesting also is the total figure for homicides, which, in 1947, accounted for only 8,555 deaths.

PHILOSOPHY OF DISBELIEF

The forty-fifth anniversary of the first air flight by the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, was observed throughout the nation, with the Smithsonian Institution in Washington formally accepting the famous plane which has been returned to this country after staying in England for twenty years.

At the time of the Wright experiments, nobody expected that the contraption would fly and when the news of the first air flight got into newspaper offices, the spectacular story was disbelieved. One reporter, who almost witnessed the initial flight, was Ora L. Jones, who admits that his assignment was to "poke fun at the thing."

Mr. Jones, who now lives in Florida, recalls that the last story he wrote on the assignment ended this way: "If the Good Lord wanted us to fly, he would have given us wings in the first place."

We call attention to the philosophy expressed by Mr. Jones because it has been the stock argument advanced by millions of people throughout hundreds of years. Practically every new device, form of treatment or bit of revolutionary information has been treated by the skeptics with the same philosophy, which has, no doubt, done the world considerable harm.

Mr. Jones is refreshing in his frank disbelief of forty-five years ago. This is rather unusual. As a rule, men like to recall the times they were right without admitting that they were, upon an equal number of occasions, emphatically wrong.

OIL SUPPLY FOR 250 YEARS

It's hard for the average person to keep up with the predictions concerning the oil supply of the world.

Not long ago, the experts were predicting that the United States would be running out of the precious fluid in two or three decades and there were forecasts of possible shortages in the United States this winter.

With the people of this country using more oil and gasoline than the world consumed before the recent war, it is interesting to know that Dr. E. E. Murphree, president of an oil development company, says that the speed-up in discovery of new oil pools gives us enough underground oil to supply the world for another 250 years.

NOT MANY DISLOYAL

Loyalty investigations by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, which has "processed" 2,201,239 Federal employes, have led to the dismissal of 51 individuals and the resignation of 383 persons, of whom 310 have been "flagged" for careful scrutiny if they should attempt to regain governmental employment.

While the investigations were probably wise, in view of the suspicion and concern throughout the nation, the results are somewhat gratifying to those who believe that most of the people of the United States are thoroughly loyal, patriotic and dependable.

Advertising in The Marion Progress is the best way we know, and by far the cheapest way, to tell the buyers of McDowell county where to get what they need.

So many people talk about what is wrong with the country that careless listeners are apt to overlook so many things that are right.

Few people work for money alone, but the best of individuals appreciate financial rewards.

OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat

What do we want in 1949?



ONE OF THE THINGS CLOSEST TO OUR HEARTS IS THE DESIRE FOR GREATER WELL-BEING AND SECURITY FOR OUR FAMILIES. HERE IN AMERICA, PLANNING AHEAD FOR THE NEW YEAR, WE HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF FREEDOM OF CHOICE AND FREEDOM OF ACTION, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF A FREE SOCIETY... AND WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY THROUGH OUR OWN EFFORTS TO TRANSLATE OUR NEW YEAR'S ASPIRATIONS INTO ACCOMPLISHMENT.

Looking Backward

From The Progress Files

January 5, 1922

"The members of the San Souci Club gave a Dinner Party to their husbands on New Year's eve at the handsome new home of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Cross on North Main street. The spaciousness and beauty of the home, coupled with the gracious hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. Cross added much to the pleasure of the guests. The Messenger Boy place cards held in their hands a New Year's message for each guest. These messages were read, amid much merriment, as the party assembled round the banquet table. After a sumptuous three course dinner Mrs. J. Q. Gilkey, president of the club, called the meeting to order and conducted a burlesque session of the Club which gave conclusive proof that the husbands were being well supervised.

"Mr. D. F. Giles was then called upon to ascertain if the husbands had any defense to make. With the assistance of Dr. Kirby and others he kept the party in an uproar for half an hour.

"A quartette of young men sang a parody on 'Lil' Liza Jane which was dedicated by the men present as to the San Souci members as a club song. Messrs. J. Q. Gilkey and H. F. Little directed an after dinner social hour."

"Old Fort, Jan. 3—The Boy Scouts gave a social at the school building Friday night. Games were played and delicious refreshments were served. Those present were Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Strickland, Millie Kanipe, Mae Allison, Emma Allison, Sallie Epley, Signa Fleming, Bessie Greene and Bonnie Fortune; Messrs. Bernard Tate, Royce McDaniel, Berch Allison, William Treverton, Harry Noblitt, Clifford Nesbitt, Earl Nesbitt, Paul Hughes, Kimball Miller, Robert Hughes, Robert Wilkerson, Jack McElroy, Franz Strickland and Harry Burgin.

"Misses Mae Allison, Bula Kanipe, Millie Kanipe and Gertrude Durham have returned to the North Carolina College at Greensboro after spending Christmas here.

"Rev. and Mrs. Dawson have returned from Greensboro and Spray where they visited relatives during the holidays.

"S. J. Fortune of Asheville spent Sunday here.

"Mrs. Luther Robinson, who died at the Mission Hospital in Asheville last Saturday, as the result of burns sustained when her clothing caught fire a few days ago, was buried at Black Mountain yesterday.

"The Loren-Bates Trio gave a concert at the school auditorium Monday night which was enjoyed by all present.

"Miss Katherine McElroy left Tuesday for Abingdon, Va., where she is attending Stonewall Jackson college.

"Miss Annie Lee Price of Black Mountain spent a few days with friends here last week.

"Misses Bonnie Fortune and Viola Gilliam spent Monday in Marion.

"Misses Clell Branham of Raleigh, Alva Goswick of Winston-Salem, Florence Murray of Saint Paul, Kathern Bailey of Marshville, teachers in the Old Fort Graded school, have returned after spending the holidays at their respective homes with their parents.

"Mr. D. Y. Grant and children spent the holidays with Mrs. Grant's parents at Gastonia.

"Mrs. Mary J. Harmon, who recently made an extended trip to visit her people in Spartanburg, Union and Forest City, returned home last week.

"Miss Frances Artz left Tuesday for Charlottesville to resume her duties as French teacher in the Charlottesville schools.

"Harvey Hester of Florida spent part of the holidays in Old Fort.

"Mr. and Mrs. Nichols, of the road construction force, have returned to Old Fort after spending the holidays with homefolks.

"Geo. E. Marshall, of the Marshall Lumber Co., left Monday for Boston on a business trip.

"Miss May Jordan and Miss Mamie Nichols were at home for the holidays."

"Sheriff J. L. Nichols reports the capture of six stills during Christmas week. The list included a big copper outfit destroyed by Nichols and Finley near the Dysart mill; a big copper still on Toms Creek and one on Buck Creek by Nichols, Finley and Woody; two stills in Brackett township by F. P. Morgan; one in Dysartville township by W. B. Sisk, and a copper still three miles north of Marion by John Banks and G. B. Woody."

FARM INCOME

While the American harvest in 1948 was the biggest in history, the total income of farms dropped somewhat from the all-time peak of the previous year. In 1947, farmers' income reached a record high of \$16,500,000,000. The 1948 income estimate by the Department of Agriculture places the figure at about \$15,450,000,000 a decrease of about eight per cent. The decrease is attributed mainly to increased output of several products and a falling off during the latter part of the year in the overseas demand for American products.

CASH DIVIDENDS

American corporations reported cash dividends disbursements of \$206,600,000 in November, 1948, 17 per cent more than the \$176,900,000 paid out during November 1947, according to the Department of Commerce.

If you are caught in a thunder storm and cannot get into an automobile or safe building, experts say the best thing to do is to sit down and lie down to avoid being hit by lightning.

TALL TALES

By ELIZABETH WHITTEN

Just before Christmas I read that the last minute shopper this Christmas would be "the clerk's dread and the merchant's hope."

I wonder what the same writer would say about inventory. Undoubtedly it is the clerk's dread, but what of the merchant? I guess he just hopes it will soon be over.

One of my high school teachers used to have students who misbehaved to help her correct examination papers. One day she had me correcting spelling papers. When she called inventory, one of the students had written very plainly—Infantry.

Then there is the story—and a true one too—about the firm who wrote another business firm and simply could not get a reply. Repeated letters brought no results.

Then one day the writer received an answer and also an explanation that the business had been closed one month for a "physical inventory."

The recipient read the letter, frowned and sighed. "They must be in bad shape," he muttered softly.

Last year I thought I would take a personal inventory and see if an analysis would bring about some improvement. To help me along I brought home a book on personality development, the way to find your own shortcomings and correct them, etc, etc.

Then I had a brain storm. I decided the best way to accomplish the desired results would be to read the first chapter and put the suggestions into practice. Failing to do so, I would read the chapter again and make a second attempt. After I memorized the first chapter I decided not to read it any more. All year long I've wondered why I couldn't learn the one thing stressed in that first chapter.

Coming back from Christmas vacation in Richmond and Washington last week I drove from 8:45 a. m. until 11:30 p. m. in pouring down rain. The drops were so large they looked like sleet. At times I had to pull off on the side of the road and wait until I could see to go on again. After dark came on sheets of fog enveloped us at intervals until twenty miles an hour seemed like fast driving.

After about 15 hours of tedious, steady driving I fell into bed completely exhausted. The next morning I knew I could go on to the next chapter in my book—I had learned how to relax.

I've always had a theory that the best way to find a thing is to stop looking for it. The pair of heavy gloves you lose in winter will always turn up some hot summer day when you can't find your bathing suit. The best way to always have a match convenient is to heat your home with oil, cook with electricity and stop smoking.

And maybe the best way to keep a New Year's Resolution is to take stock of yourself, outline a few general rules of improvement and try to do the right thing in all situations instead of laying down a set of hard and fast rules nobody could follow. Maybe the way to find happiness would be to stop looking for it and be interested in the other fellow.

I don't remember where or when I read the following definition of happiness, but I think it is worth passing along—

"Happiness is that peculiar feeling which occurs when a person becomes too busy to have time to be miserable."

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