

THE ZEBULON RECORD

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

My Apologies to the Currins

Last week I tried to warn young people that the reputations they make for themselves are vitally important because a person's reputation determines how his actions are viewed by others.

To some extent I succeeded. But at the same time I inflicted great hurt on a family deep in grief at the death of a beloved son.

My concern was for young people who, happy and spirited and filled with the joy of living, might overstep the bounds of reason and common sense and bring disaster upon themselves and those who care for them.

I have offered my deepest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Willie Lee Currin and my sincere regret for the added suffering last week's editorial has caused them and their family and friends.

The Democrats Must Win

In November North Carolina voters have an opportunity to change the party in power in Washington and put men at the head of government who will find a way out of the dilemma in which the Republican administration has placed us.

We must vote for and actively support the full Democratic ticket. We will elect John F. Kennedy president and Lyndon Johnson vice president.

Southerners and all other thinking people are justifiably concerned that Senator Kennedy's Roman Catholic belief could affect his actions as head of our nation. Actions of groups inspired by Roman Catholic clergy in other lands provide a basis for this concern.

Nevertheless we have outstanding leadership represented by Kennedy and Johnson, and we have Senator Kennedy's firm, open pledge that his religion will not warp his judgment as President.

Many of us may abhor voting for a Roman Catholic for this prime position of leadership.

Yet we must, else we face four more years of Republican bungling—the type of blundering which cost us world leadership and placed us in the unhappy position of jumping when the Russian bear growls and cringing when the Communists roar. We have lost prestige all over a world which totters on the edge of war; and the Republican administration (headed by a man who claims to know more about defense than anybody) is incapable of improving our lot.

The Democratic Party must take charge.

Repercussions Arrive From Record Readers

(The Zebulon Record departs from established policy to print the following letters to the editor though they were not signed.)

Dear Editor:

In view of July 21 (last week) editorial "You Have To Live With Them," we believe that you could have at least excluded referring to the boy's reputation who was killed on July 17. Since this young man was dead—in respect for his family and many friends you could have omitted stating any unpleasant implications about him.

We, as readers and subscribers of "The Zebulon Record" don't believe that you would appreciate some newspaper editorial stating those assumptions about a loved-one or friend of yours.

Everyone or almost every normal young person during his period of growing up goes through a "good-time" or as some refer to it as a "wild stage"—some people do mature or go through this stage at an earlier chronological age than others.

Everyone doesn't describe those people who own "screaming red convertibles as preferring the wilder things." All people who drive fast and those who receive speeding tickets are not branded in everyone's book as "ne-er-do-well, too stupid to heed advice and too blind to see where their course is taking them."

Thus we believe that a person's CHARACTER is much more im-

portant than his reputation because you should never judge a book by its cover.

Some Readers and Subscribers of The Zebulon Record

To the Editor

This afternoon I visited the family of Leroy Currin—very dear friends of many years and I read the account of last Sunday's accident in the Zebulon Record. This family, as all families would, would like to keep this article. His mother normally would want to place it in a pretty little box along with the flower cards, the cards and letters of sympathy, the registers of friends who called and the pictures of his grave. These are as much a part of the memories of their son as his bronzed baby shoe, the curl cut when he was three, the chevrons off his uniform. It takes these and Thursday's newspaper to complete his 20 years.

It seems to me dreadfully unfortunate that alongside this account, assuming even more prominence by reader appeal print, you ill-placed an editorial on an age old, universal problem and took your text so boldly on Leroy Currin and his red convertible as if he were an one and only ne'er do well in town. As the days go into weeks and months and as the years go on his mother should find moments when just to open the little box in a quiet place

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RARITY. Two sisters and a brother share the unusual rarity of having celebrated their golden wedding anniversaries. This does not occur often with members of the same family. They are, pictured left to right, the Rev. and Mrs. Oscar Creech of Ahoskie, Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Barham of Route 1, Wendell, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jordan of Smithfield. Creech, Mrs. Barham (Maudie) and Mrs. Jordan (Sophronia) are brother and sisters. Mr. and Mrs. Creech were married August 21, 1907; Mr. and Mrs. Barham were married December 19, 1909; and Mr. and Mrs. Jordan were married December 20, 1908. Mrs. Creech is the former Martha Louise Gulley of Clayton. Mr. and Mrs. Creech are the parents of five children: Orville of Ahoskie; Jessica (Mrs. Gill) Erommett of Evanston, Ill.; Oscar, a doctor in New Orleans; Judson of Raleigh; and Elva (Mrs. Ed) Bond of Windsor. Mr. and Mrs. Barham are the parents of two children: R. E., Jr. of Wendell and Joseph of San Diego. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan are the parents of seven children: Violet (Mrs. P. G.) Lautares of Greenville; Thomas of Smithfield; Evelyn (Mrs. Harold) Martin of Richmond; Jennings of Goldsboro; Wade of Rocky Mount; Sophronia (Mrs. Raymond) Knott of Smithfield; and Russell of Florida. Oscar, Maudie and Sophronia are the children of the late Ransome Right and Henrietta Sullivan Creech, who resided for many years in Zebulon. They were born on Route 1, Middlesex, and will be remembered by many people in and around Zebulon. Oscar is Director of Development of Chowan College. All three couples have enjoyed a very happy and delightful wedded life.

Wes Hales 94 Finds Radio Enjoyable; Cabbage Distasteful

The table radio was going. Coming from the speaker was the sound of gospel music, prayer, and the exhortings of an evangelist. And listening intently was a wiry little man who weighs about 100 pounds.

"The radio is my one means of pleasure," said William Wesley Hales, turning the volume lower. "I enjoy listening to all religious programs. I never listen to anything else if I can find a program that has good preaching and singing."

Hales celebrated his 94th birthday April 22. He doesn't look that old. His hair, kept shortly cropped, still retains its black hue even though there is a scattering of iron gray. His face, pleasantly planed, is almost free of wrinkles.

He said he has gotten used to being lonesome. Since his wife died Oct. 17, 1945, he has spent his time piddling around his home on Route 1, Zebulon. He doesn't want to live anywhere else, even though he has an adopted daughter with whom he could stay. He does take his meals at his daughter's though.

Hales is the son of the late William (Bill) H. and Betsy Ferrell Hales. He is one of four children born to this Confederate veteran and his wife. After the death of his mother when he was nine his father later remarried and he became the brother of three half-sisters. He is the sole survivor.

He grew up on a farm two miles northwest of Middlesex. The youngster never saw the inside of a school room. It is one of the regrets of his life that he cannot read or write. But his parents didn't believe in education the way people do now. Instead he



spent his youth working his father's fields.

When he was 23, he married a pretty young lady whom he met at Lee's Chapel Baptist Church. This young lady was Louisa Helen Creech, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Bunyan Creech. The marriage, performed Oct. 10, 1889, was officiated by the Rev. William Nowell, the pastor of the church at that time.

"The Rev. Mr. Nowell converted, baptized, and married me," Hales laughed.

Until her death, the couple enjoyed and had one of the happiest marriages in the community.

"Of course, we had our differences," Hales said. "What couple doesn't? But I believe that the man should be the head of the house and that was my practice. Besides, that's Bible." He cleared his throat and with

an elfish twinkle in his dark brown eyes said: "We both bossed."

Hales and his wife never had any children. Both were very fond of youngsters and considered themselves unfortunate in not being parents. But after the death of Mrs. Hales' sister, Mrs. Saul Hall, four Hall daughters were left orphaned.

"I told my wife to let's take the girls," Hales said. "We could give them a good home and love them. At first, she wasn't too glad of the idea but I won her over."

Aldonia (now Mrs. Frank Price of Wendell), Alice (Mrs. Clarence Hinton of Zebulon), Beulah (Mrs. Tobe Bunn of Route 3, Zebulon) and Vivian (Mrs. L. L. Corbett of Route 1, Zebulon) came to live with the couple. Vivian was later adopted by Mr. and Mrs. Hales.

All the women said they could not have had a more loving, devoted and Christian set of guardians.

"I was strict with the girls," he said. "But I don't believe I was too strict. I believed in making children mind. I still believe in children being well-behaved and minding their parents."

The farm on which Hales and his wife lived was one his wife inherited. He knows and practiced all phases of farming. But he said he liked cotton farming best.

"No matter how much you raised or made, it took it all to live."

He tried store-keeping for five years—three at Emit and two across the road from his home. Tiring of this confinement, he went into farming and stayed in it until his retirement.

He has been a life long mem-

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