

From Us To You

A Response To Our Readers

During any given week we receive phone calls or notes from our readers who have something to say about specific articles we publish, or about articles they would like to see in the paper. Sometimes their comments are complimentary; at other times they are critical of our treatment of a news event.

Mrs. Spencer Allison stopped by our office recently and took us to task for printing a photograph of her husband on the front page of the Oct. 22 edition. (Mr. Allison was sentenced to 50 years after pleading guilty to armed robbery of the Wachovia Bank in Hot Springs). Mrs. Allison wanted to know "who gave us permission to publish the photo."

Reporter/photographer Scott Dedman needed no one's permission to photograph Mr. Allison as he crossed Main Street to enter the courthouse for the judge's sentencing. Neither did The News Record need anyone's permission to publish the photograph in the newspaper.

Mr. Allison had become "news" by virtue of the fact that he, by his own admission, was involved in a bank robbery. Secondly, he was photographed in a public place, on a street in this in-

stance. The North Carolina Supreme Court has stated, "When a person goes upon the street or highway or into any other public place he exhibits his features to public inspection."

Courts of other jurisdictions have held that "a person does not have a right to privacy that would preclude the dissemination of news and news events in which that person is involved."

We regret that Mrs. Allison, and some of Mr. Allison's relatives, may have been disturbed by publication of the photo, but we felt it was our duty to inform the public about an event which was clearly news and about an individual who, for a period, became a public character.

Mr. Ronnie Wallin called to thank us and advertisers for the photo spread featuring the 1981 Madison High School homecoming court. Mr. Wallin also asked us why we had omitted a photo of homecoming queen Sandy Deitz with her escort Alex Filiss. We regret to say that in the haste of putting those pages together on press day the omission was an oversight on our part. Alex Filiss certainly deserves recognition as an athlete and scholar at Madison High School. He is an outstanding split-end

on the Patriots football team, and has been designated as a Morehead Scholarship nominee for this year. Alex also attended the Governor's School this past summer where he did concentrated study in social sciences.

Dr. Larry Frost, a Mars Hill veterinarian, sent word that we should write a story about poor telephone service in Madison County. He said it has been seven weeks since he placed an order for installation of a new telephone and he still hasn't received his phone.

If we could call Dr. Frost, we would tell him that, in our opinion, a story on poor telephone service would hardly rate as news to a large number of our readers in Madison County.

We can only suggest that Dr. Frost contact, by some means, Mr. Jack Gouge, customer service superintendent for Westco Telephone Co. in Weaverville, and discuss the matter with him.

Nicholas Hancock

Nicholas Hancock
Editor

Heard and Seen

By POP STORY

Halloween has come and gone and as far as I can learn most everything went off pretty well. Most of the enjoyment was seeing the youngsters in varied attire having a great time. "Bill" and I enjoyed a quiet evening at home Saturday when Charlie and Faye Sawyer came down from Asheville for a visit. We only had one youngster visit us during the evening and that was Kristen Payne, cute 4-year-old daughter of Ronnie and Linda Payne, of Rollins. Kristen was all "dolled-up" in costume and makeup and was darling as she came for "trick or treat." Sunday morning following church service, one of Marshall's policemen showed me several dozen eggs in crates and dozens of water balloons he had confiscated at the shopping center Saturday night. Thank goodness he got hold of them before they were splattered on people in what some teenagers term as "fun."

The Hendersonville Bearcats rolled over the Patriots Friday night, 28-7, in Madison High's final home game of the season. I was surprised and disappointed at the sparse crowd present for the Bearcats-Patriots game. The night wasn't that cold. In fact, it was a perfect football night,

weatherwise but there were only a hundred or so local fans present and less than 25 fans from Hendersonville.

The public address system went on the blink for much of the game, causing Bruce Phillips, announcer, to have conniptions. However, he did the best he could. Stuart Jolley, president of the student body, has been the "handyman" all season and aided Bruce by getting a different microphone. Sandy Dietz, senior twirler, was again featured at halftime along with the band. Also recognized were the flag and rifle corps who have been fine throughout the season.

Band Director Harry Overby played a trombone solo at halftime which was enjoyed. Overby and the members of the band are to be congratulated for the great job they have done this season. One of the other features of the evening was the recognition of the parents of senior graders who accompanied their sons to the 50-yard line where they were introduced to the spectators before the game.

I wish to thank the "pressbox gang" for allowing me to sit with them during the season.

Editor's Notebook

The Great Mustard Rebellion Of '61

As well as I can remember, The Great Mustard Rebellion occurred in 1961 in a relatively quiet piedmont North Carolina town. No, you won't read about it in any accounts of state history, but word of the event spread through the hallowed halls of education throughout much of Tarheelia.

Asheboro High School was a good, average city school with approximately 800 good, average students. Most of them were intent on doing what they were told, making good grades and going on to bigger and better things once they were graduated.

Economically, the times were pretty good. Gasoline for your wheels was 30 cents or less per gallon, and students didn't have drug habits to support. So, not having to worry about where the next buck was coming from left their minds free to tune in on what was being said in the classroom and on many of the events taking place in the "outside world."

Looking back on it now, I suspect The Great Mustard Rebellion was the result of two influences present then that seem to be all but gone in the world of the '80s. One was a social studies teacher who, unknowingly to us at the time, was teaching his students how to think, and the other was the embryonic rise of man's level of consciousness

concerning social, economic and political justice.

The first integration sit-ins were occurring in Greensboro and white and black college students in Chapel Hill were gearing up to walk en masse, locked arm-in-arm, down Franklin Street to protest existing racial attitudes and policies.

The Great Mustard Rebellion began when two or three errant AHS students discovered that squeeze bottles containing mustard and ketchup in the school cafeteria made good weapons and proceeded to squirt each other, and a good part of the lunchroom, with the colloidal condiments.

The school administration threw a fit and ordered the cafeteria staff to impound all squeeze bottles of mustard and ketchup for the duration.

Hotdog meal day arrived and the demonstration and boycott was carried out as planned. Nearly two-thirds of the students participated in the event. The cafeteria lost several hundreds of dollars that day in revenue, and no one knows what the staff did with all those hotdogs. And, the principal was attending a principals' meeting in Boone. (The students didn't know he was out of town. Honest.)

First thing Monday morning the principal's voice blasted over the intercom

ordering "all homerooms report to the auditorium." There he delivered his now famous "Be Not Deceived" speech with the entire city school board sitting on stage behind him. He told of how reports had reached the principals' meeting in Boone of a "riot" breaking out at Asheboro High School. He spoke of his shock and embarrassment at receiving such news from his peers.

"And be not deceived," he said, "we will find out who is responsible for this, and they will be punished!"

I doubt that the social studies teacher or the hundreds of conscientious young people in Chapel Hill and Greensboro, or the thousands of others in other parts of the country, were ever punished by that principal.

I wonder if he ever stopped to think about the principles involved behind the student's little boycott or those behind the larger events which were occurring in the "outside world" right around him.

I wonder also if he understood the power of an idea when its time has come.

Maybe he did. The following week, mustard and ketchup were returned to the cafeteria tables.

Nicholas Hancock
Editor

THE NOVEMBER



Living and Growing

Applying Principles Is The Catch

By CARL MUMPOWER, M.S.W.

Asheville Counseling Center

When you come right down to it, the principals that one must apply in order to have a good life aren't nearly as complicated as we sometimes believe. The difficulty comes in their application, and our willingness to put out the energy necessary to make them happen.

So, this week I thought I would share a few of those principals that might stir up some thought. Try them — for

many folks they work.

On love — if you want to feel love, you've got to give it. Simple as that. Usually love that is translated into action as well as thought and feelings counts for more.

On happiness — you can't pursue it directly. It's got to be a by-product of such things as responsibility, involvement, giving of self, creativity, and constructive work. Seldom, except for a short time, does happiness come from a direct approach.

On growth — never compete

with others, always compete with yourself. Letting their performance determine your goals places limits on your potential for growth and accomplishment.

On religion — we've all got one, in that our values and the things that we invest energy in are our religion. The question is whether our religious focus is one that feeds us spiritually and emotionally or starves us to death.

On success — the key words are effort, commitment, focus, creativity, risk, cooperation, support, and

planning, and not necessarily in that order.

On character — nobody just has it, it must be developed. You do that by finding working values and sticking by them. You do it by being a positive and constructive force in our world rather than just one other selfish and dependent personality. You do it by making it's development a priority over other more selfish desires.

On freedom — Productivity, focus, and commitment are the paths to freedom. Resistance, hostility, and fighting the system give us the illusion of being free, but in reality bond us to our captor.

On marriage — it's probably one of the best and most workable lifestyles around, but only if it's cultivated. Good marriages are comprised of good people. Mature marriages are comprised of mature people. Happy marriages are comprised of happy people. Does that tell you anything about what you need to be working on?

On money — it purchases opportunity and that's about all.

On attitudes — it's easy to see the negatives in our world, but far more difficult and rewarding is the task of seeing the positives. Both are there, all around us, but only if we've developed a positive awareness can our attitude be equally positive.

The People Ask

The People Ask is a weekly feature of The News Record. The public may submit questions on any local subject by calling 649-2741 or by mailing them to The People Ask, The News Record, P.O. Box 369, Marshall, N.C. 28753.

QUESTION: Are our county taxes governed by the county commissioners? Is it true that the 1981 tax raise was the highest in the history of Madison County in one year? Is it true that Southern Railway and Carolina Power and Light Co. have paid no taxes for 1980 and 1981?

ANSWER: County taxes are not "governed" by the county commissioners, but the commissioners do set the ad valorem tax rate every eight years as required by the state, according to Wesley Staude, county tax supervisor. The Machinery Act of 1944, passed by the N.C. General Assembly, governs the listing, appraisal and assessment of real and personal property and the collection of taxes on property in all North

Carolina counties.

The 75 cent tax rate set in July by the commissioners was not the highest tax raise in the history of the county. The rate is actually 40 cents lower than last year's rate of \$1.15, however, countywide property revaluation, as required by the state every eight years, raised real property value to \$130,330,000 or slightly more than double the \$62 million figure used in establishing the tax rate for the past eight years.

Southern Railway has made a partial payment of some \$24,000 in utilities taxes to the county for 1980, according to Harold Wallin, county tax collector. But, Southern still owes the county some \$81,000 in taxes for which the county has gone to court to obtain payment. A tentative settlement in the court case is expected to yield the county approximately 55 percent of that figure.

CP&L owes the county no taxes for 1980 and is expected to pay its utilities taxes for 1981, Wallin said.

Letters To The Editor

Messer Writes Appreciation

Editor:

As of Nov. 1, I relinquished my 44th District seat in the North Carolina House of Representatives in order to replace Nathan Yelton as Assistant Secretary of Human Resources for the Division of Aging.

It was after careful consideration and great reluctance, that, after 19 years in the North Carolina House, I make this change.

I believe that I can do more for the people of North Carolina as Assistant Secretary for the Division of Aging than I can by remaining in the General Assembly.

The number of people over 65 in North Carolina will increase from the present 600,000 to near 1,000,000 by the year 2000. What happens to these people is important to us all, because if we are fortunate we will all one day be joining them.

I wish to express my appreciation to all of you who have given to me and Speaker Liston Ramsey your loyal support through many campaigns.

My only request is that you continue to support Speaker Liston Ramsey. The District cannot afford to lose him.

My best wishes to all of you.

Sincerely,
Ernest B. Messer



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