

The Mountaineer

Published By
THE WAYNESVILLE PRINTING CO.
 Main Street Phone 137
 Waynesville, North Carolina
 The County Seat of Haywood County

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 W. Curtis Russ and Marion T. Bridges, Publishers

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year, In Haywood County\$1.50
 Six Months, In Haywood County 75c
 One Year, Outside Haywood County 2.00
 All Subscriptions Payable in Advance

Entered at the post office at Waynesville, N. C., as Second Class Mail Matter, on November 20, 1914, under Act of March 3, 1879, November 20, 1914.

Ordinary notices, resolutions of respect, cards of thanks, and all business communications for profit, will be charged for at the rate of the long, per word.



THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 1940

Character First

From our small town viewpoint, we glory in the public sentiment that ousted Professor Bertrand Russell, British mathematician and philosopher, from his appointment of philosophy at City College, in New York.

In a 17-page decision, Justice McGeehan sustained the contention of Mrs. Jean Kay, a Brooklyn taxpayer, that the professor was not fit for the position because of his "immoral attitude toward sex," and was not legally qualified because he was not a citizen of this country.

It is said that Judge McGeehan sat up one whole night to read the four books written by Professor Russell, and that after doing so he declared in his decision that the appointment by the Board of Higher Education was "an insult to the people." He quoted, "As a man thinketh in his heart so is he."

No one disputed the fact that Professor Russell was brilliant, nor that he was an outstanding scholar, a logician and an excellent classroom teacher of the subject in hand, but it seems that when it came to character the professor did not make such a good grade.

We congratulate the taxpayers of New York for rising in their rights to uphold the standards of their teachers. Bring the matter home: Would you like for your boy or girl to be taught by such a man, however so brilliant?

A High Cost

With the closing of schools and an election just ahead with campaign platforms greeting one from every front page of the newspapers, the following editorial from the Oxford Public Ledger, might well be incorporated into a definite plank for some candidate, as all of them are having a lot to say about schools and education:

"Have you ever contemplated the cost of lack of an adequate system of public schools in North Carolina?"

"Did you know that there is a larger prison population in North Carolina than there is college population?"

"Did you know that it costs the state an average of \$25 per month to retain a negro boy at Morrison Training School?"

"A state with an inadequate education system may be expected to continue feeding prisons and reform schools with delinquents and keep the prison population at a higher level than college enrollment. It costs more to maintain prisons and reform schools than it does public schools and colleges."

"Overcrowded school rooms, dangerously overloaded school busses, underpaid school teachers and from one and a half to twice as many students to the teacher as good educational practices would allow are not components of an adequate educational system."

"Studies by the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare reveal that it costs the state as much to retain a Negro boy committed to reform school as the boy's entire family can earn during the months the youth is being rebuilt from a delinquent offender to a worthwhile citizen. The study further shows that nearly half of delinquent youths are convicted of larceny."

"Youth is a major problem in North Carolina today. Properly trained, well-guided youth, with educational opportunities, is most certain to be a less troublesome adult. The job is not one for police officers, welfare workers and court officials, but one for influential men and women of all races and creeds who are willing to lend a helping hand to today's problems of society."

"Youth crusades are far better than a crusading youth resulting from negligence."

Breakers Ahead

We are told that it took the United States Government the first 133 years of its existence to spend sixty-six billion dollars, in the course of which the expense of five wars was defrayed including the Civil War and the World War. That was yesterday. Today it takes the Federal government a mere eight years to spend \$65,628,526,692.

Individuals and government alike have set up a high-powered standard of spending. The automobile is not the only contrivance that has shown an amazing increase in speed.

Modern American bureaucracy spends public money at a rate that would have been thought impossible a few years ago.

It can also create bigger deficits with greater speed than our forefathers could ever conceive of—\$25,538,000,000 in eight years. Apparently our ability to pile up deficits is surpassed only by our ability to spend.

The taxpayer complains, yet on the other hand he is urging on the government to still greater expenditures. New services are demanded by the people.

Complaints go up from all over the country, and yet with eagle eye they watch the economy measurements in Congress with much concern, lest their local pet projects that will benefit their own community be cut off.

Unless average citizens—housewives, business, professional people and workers—come to their senses, there is danger of our entering an era that will make the great depression of the thirties "look like a pink tea."

Each Generation

There is something rather startling about items from the past. They so often have such a modern sound. It looks as if each generation must have more or less the same problems.

The following was taken from the Raleigh Register of June 5, 1850:

"This is the age of high pressure. Men eat faster, drink faster and talk faster than they did in our younger days, and in order to be consistent on all points, they die younger."

"It is to be feared that the invention of the lightning telegraph will give an additional go-ahead impulse to humanity, equal to that imparted by the rush of steam. If so progress only knows where we shall land."

What would those of the 1850's think if they could vision the national highways and the airports of today? It is interesting to contemplate the changes of the next century. Will they be as great in comparison as the last?

Greener Pastures

In driving through the county, we have recently been impressed with the green pastures. Then we reminded ourselves that it was merely an illusion that they seemed unusually green. We decided we were contrasting them with the recent landscape of the severe winter.

On second thought we realized that we were right in the first instance. They are greener than we have ever seen them. For were in the history of the county have the pastures had such care and attention.

During the past few years tons of super phosphate have been spread over the county pastures, and as a result they are more luxuriant and greener than ever before.

'Tomayto' Or 'Tomahto'?

We reprint with interest the following from the Providence (R.I.) Bulletin, on a subject that has been discussed by a great number of people:

"We are pleased by the action of the Ways and Means Committee of the House of Representatives in determining the correct pronunciation of the word 'tomato.' This is one of the outstanding issues in the daily lives of all of us, and it is gratifying to have a Congressional committee pass on it."

"It was Republican Representative Allen Treadway of Massachusetts who raised the question by giving the pronunciation 'tomahto.' And that moved Mr. Cannon, Florida Democrat, to inquire if Mr. Treadway meant 'tomayto,' whereupon Mr. Treadway firmly insisted that he meant 'tomahto.' Then Mr. Cannon appealed to his Democratic brethren of the committee, and with one voice they favored 'tomayto.' So the Florida Congressman declared a majority for the long 'a' and told Mr. Treadway: You mean 'tomayto.'"

"No one has ever explained why a tomato should be a 'tomahto,' while a potato is never a 'potahto.' Probably it is just one of the insidious influences of Boston on New England habits of speech."

Good judgment and safe driving go together. Practice them.

A careful driver and a good set of brakes are a combination of few mistakes.

Here and There

—By—
 HILDA WAY GWYN

We attended a dinner meeting last week of the cattlemen in Haywood County. . . . We had a chance during the evening to "take the floor" . . . but refrained. . . . We felt that the time was too valuable to be used by a woman who couldn't give a Haywood farmer one pointer about the subject under discussion that he didn't know far more about than she . . . but it was a temptation to really make a speech. . . . For nearly six years now . . . it has been our pleasure and privilege to write of the farmers and of the rural life of Haywood County. . . . We have seen vast and inspiring changes . . . we have seen a nationally known company give a great impetus to the dairy industry . . . we have seen undreamed of soil improvement program launched on farms, from the largest to the smallest acreage . . . we have seen two definite steps taken toward soil erosion . . . terracing and the reforestation programs . . . we have seen homes improved . . . we have seen the cool mountain springs piped into the farm houses . . . and end forever the back-breaking job of carrying water . . . we have seen houses painted . . . grounds beautified . . . fields cleaned . . . we have seen barren and gully hillsides bloom into thick, grassy pastures. . . .

We have watched the women organize under the leadership of a home demonstration agent, into study groups—and keep pace with their progressive husbands . . . we have seen electricity light the country home, and supplant the kerosene lamp . . . we have seen the young boy study vocational agriculture, and catch a vision denied his father farmer . . . who, in some cases, has caught, however late in life, the vision from his son . . . we have seen the cattle industry that the depression caused to reach a low ebb gradually come back with renewed hope and promise to the stock raiser . . . we have seen the office of the county farm agent hanging in the balance . . . a debatable thing as to its worth and merit . . . and watched it increase annually, until today with its county agents working day and night, it is the busiest office in the county government . . . serving people in new and practical ways. . . . We have seen a great co-operative spirit develop among the country people of the county . . . we have seen a closer affiliation grow between the rural and the townspeople . . . a better understanding . . . We have seen truck farming come into its own . . . we have seen the humble blackberry put into cans for outside markets, and bring thousands of dollars to the people of the county . . . we have watched six years of agricultural progress in Haywood . . . across the march of time, it is like a thrilling pageant passing in review . . . and in all our varied contacts with the public as a reporter on this paper, we have covered few things that have given us deeper satisfaction than the news of the farmer and his wife. . . .

Reference to speech-making reminds us that our Mountaineer "audience" has grown to the point where it almost gives one "writer's fright" . . . The owners set a goal . . . that someday the circulation of the paper would match the population of Waynesville! . . . It has been practically reached now . . . with its approximate 2,400 subscribers (the last census gave the town 2,474 population.) . . . Newspapers calculate an average of five readers to a paper . . . so in that case we easily have a reader audience of more than 10,000! . . . Now if we had to stand up before that many people we would be terrified. . . . but after "talking" to you in this informal manner . . . and in view of relations in general with our readers . . . which have been so pleasant . . . and the fact that you have so gradually increased . . . we do not think of you in terms of thousands, but in small friendly groups. . . . May your number continue to increase . . . for the circulation of a paper is a pretty good indication of the conditions in the community which it serves . . . and our steady growth shows that times are better with you. . . .

An editorial in a recent issue of the Christian Science Monitor . . . "Statistics of the Heart" . . . brought to our attention . . . some astonishing observations. . . . We have known for sometime that the work done by the woman in the home . . . who is listed as housewife . . . is and always will be "tops" in careers for women . . . but we did not know that anyone had ever compiled statistics on her services. . . . It seems that the late Arthur Sinker, Episcopal rector of England, collected data on the subject . . . and as a result the following was compiled: "During a career of 20 years the woman who makes a house a home for a family of six bestows 45,000 kisses, peels 87,600 potatoes, darns 10,400 socks and stockings, and butters



Voice of The People

Do you approve of the act of the last legislature which abolished the absentee ballot?

Mrs. W. T. Crawford—"I approve of abolishing the absentee ballot, because it was so much abused."

J. Colvin Brown—"I don't think the absentee ballot worked for the best interest of the people."

W. G. Byers—"No, I do not approve of the abolishment of the absentee ballot. A great many people are old, sick or out of the county and state, who would like to vote, but are disfranchised because of their inability to get to the polls, even though they are entitled to vote. Of course I grant that the privilege was abused, but it does not seem fair to disfranchise between 30,000 and 40,000 people in North Carolina (which it is said the law affects) because they can not get to the polls."

C. B. Atkinson—"Yes, I do approve of abolishing the absentee ballot, because it was so much abused. The purpose for which it was originally made to serve was lost sight of in its abuse. I think it is for the best interest of the

public to have it abolished, as where one person will be denied the right to vote there would be around one hundred illegally cast."

Paul Walker—"I approve of abolishing it, there was too much crookedness about the way the absentee ballot was handled."

W. T. Shelton—"Yes, I do approve of abolishing the absentee ballot. It gave too much opportunity for fraud, where there should be none."

Mrs. Bryant Smith—"Yes, I do approve of abolishing the absentee ballot. It offered too great an opportunity for illegal voting."

Dan Watkins—"Yes, I do approve, there was too much room for corruptness under the system of voting by absentee ballot."

Irving Leatherwood—"I approve of the abolishing of the absentee ballot. I think a lot of things were pulled under the old system that should have been left off."

Johnny Ferguson—"Yes, I do approve. For one thing they are too much trouble to get, and I do not feel that they are fair."

General Haywood

GETS A FEW THINGS OF COUNTY-WIDE INTEREST OFF HIS MIND WITH LETTERS

To the Graduates of the Haywood Schools

Dear Girls and Boys:— I would like to give each one of you a graduating present. Something I have worked long and hard to get. It was not easy to earn. I would like to tie up a neat little package of some of the pages of experience from my own life's history.

But you would not appreciate the gift any more than I would have at your age. Youth is made like that. It changes very little with the generations. Every boy and girl has to learn certain things for themselves. They can't profit by the other fellow's mistakes. They have to make their own, which sometimes makes us older ones feel a bit sad that our philosophies can not be used again.

Now, some of you are feeling 175,200 slices of bread! . . . Now, statistics like these can not be considered as "cold facts" . . . because anybody knows that the woman who has done these things has put enough love into her work to take the chill out of the figures . . . for what went into the daily tasks can and one's reaction to such data is not from a mathematical angle . . . but one that stirs the emotions.

Contributed by a reader . . . we reprint with thanks: "SOME PRAYER. . . . An old Southern darkey got off the following prayer . . . 'O, Lord, giv dy servant dis mawning de wisdom ob de owl; conneck his soul wid de gospel teleam leading frum de central skies; 'tumnate his brow wid de love of dis people; turpentine his imagination; grease his lips wid possum oil; loose his tongue wid de sledge hammer of dy power; electrify his brain wid de lightning' ob dy word; put perpetual motion in his arms; ob dy glory; 'noint him all over wid de kerosene ob dy salvation; an' set him on fire' . . . And, after all, how could the thought be better conveyed? . . ."

Nothing of any value can be accomplished by meandering through the days and weeks without an aim. A man may be capable, he may even be a genius, but if he cannot apply himself to working for some end he'll be a failure.

There is also another side to this business of having a plan. It makes work a hundred per cent more interesting. If we are artisans at something, whether it be the painting of a picture or the making of a common household tool, don't we have a real end in view—the perfect completion of the job?

Reaching a certain point is a great incentive. We think harder.

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