

The Mountaineer

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Buncombe Leads

And while on the subject of taxation let us look over into Buncombe county where action has been taken by the County Commissioners which merits for those gentlemen the striking off of medals and the recording of their names in history.

Completing the year's budget, and finding the financial condition of the county not altogether satisfactory, the Buncombe Commissioners struck more than forty thousand dollars from the appropriations and in order to accomplish this purpose abolished the county court, the rural police, the county garage, and the county draftsman and electrical inspector.

This newspaper, of course, knows nothing as to the details of Buncombe's affairs financial conditions, or otherwise, but the marvel is that a group of public officials has the bare faced nerve to abolish a lot of offices and the jobs of around 25 public employees. That is revolutionary procedure.

In addition to this news coming out of Buncombe, comes the additional news that the Commissioners reduced the salaries of county employees from \$5 to \$25 per month. As to the wisdom and justice of this last named action, The Times-News is not altogether certain.

Useless departments of government, courts employees and all useless expenses should be abolished. If they are not needed and are not giving the people value received for their costs, they should be wiped out. However, government is essential and cannot be entirely dispensed with. Government departments, courts, and the employees to man them efficiently are necessary.

It is a mistake to under pay public servants. It is also a mistake to over pay them. The logical procedure is to demand and secure high class, efficient, satisfactory public service, and pay full value for it. Satisfactory service cannot be obtained, certainly in positions of responsibility, by the payment of salaries amounting to only a fraction of what qualified men and women can make in private business.

Demand first class service of public officials and all employes, and pay for it at just rates.

One of the most damaging defects in our system of management of public affairs is that in many cases the amount of remuneration is such as to secure for the public service only mediocre officials and employees. Persons thoroughly qualified to fill the positions will not accept them for the salaries or wages paid.

On the judgment of Buncombe County Commissioners the public services in that county which have been abolished can be dispensed with without detriment to the welfare of the county. How many additional services could be abolished with large savings to the county and no inconveniences or loss to the tax payers? In the answer to this question lies the heart of any discussion of public services and taxation.

If municipal, county, State and national governmental costs were brought down to rock bottom and confined to essential public services, many billions of tax money now being sweated from the hides of taxpayers would not be demanded by the tax gatherers and one of the nation's biggest and most troublesome problems would be solved.—Hendersonville Times-News.

The man who has developed a silent celery might try his hand at taking the squirt out of grapefruit.—Ex.

200 Million Road Maps

One of the nation's largest oil companies recently announced that since 1914 they had distributed free, more than 200 million road maps. Some figurer found that that was enough paper to circle the globe three times at the equator.

Present day motorists take for granted the excellent numbering system of the highways that span the nation, and the free maps which are available at every service station. But it was a different story back in 1914 when the first highway maps were distributed.

It is rather simple for a motorist today, to select one of the several routes to any destination, and with a modern road map, make the trip of many thousands of miles without asking a single question as to the way.

Oil companies claim that road maps are the largest give-away item in the country. Certainly the average motorist takes it for granted that they are free, and usually "stock up" heavily, without giving much thought to the cost.

How Is Your Sleeping?

It is now possible to read a person's character by watching how they sleep, according to Dr. Richard C. Hoffman, phychitarist, which makes us want to ask, "What next?"

If your husband sleeps with his knees up in tent fashion, and his hands clasped around the back of his head, then he is a "great lover type", the doctor explains.

The doctor hastens to explain that when a person hugs a pillow while sleeping it shows that they are not getting enough affection. Those who sleep with their arms outside the cover in both summer and winter are of a "trusting, generous nature."

And we add, not as an authority on character reading, that tonight while listening to yourself snore, that you keep one eye open and read your own character from your sleeping poses.

The Cost Of Crime

Judge J. J. Burney, in speaking before the Columbus County grand jury recently, called attention to the enormous crime bill which the taxpayers of the United States are forced to pay annually.

As quoted in the Whiteville News-Reporter, Judge Burney said that crime cost the taxpayers \$28,000 every minute of every day of every year; \$4,447 a second. He asserted that crime cost the taxpayers of the country a total of \$15,000,000,000 annually, as compared with the \$2,978,000,000 to educate the school children of the nation.

He deplored the condition which permits 4,000 of the 12,000 murderers of the country annually never to be apprehended, and less than 1 per cent of those who kill their fellow-man to ever pay with the death penalty.

Those are rather startling figures, and in these days and times when such huge sums are needed for defense purposes in order to protect us against any possible blitzkrieg, it would seem a wise policy to start a blitzkrieg of our own against this terrific waste.

While we are guarding against spies and saboteurs we should also take steps in an effort to bring about a reduction of our crime bill.—The State Magazine, Raleigh, N. C.

The Choice Of Wise Men

Somewhere we recently read the story of a king of old, who commanded his wise men to prepare a six word sentence that would be appropriate on all occasions—in perversity or prosperity. The wise men came forth with this statement, "And this, too, shall pass away."

Whether the incident ever happened does not matter. It gives us something to think about—certainly something encouraging in international crisis as these.

Non-Saluters

Fifteen thousand Jehovah's Witnesses—the sect whose members refuse to salute the American Flag—have just held a convention in Detroit.

They avail themselves of the privilege of assembly while they refuse to salute the flag under which that right is guaranteed.

They avail themselves of the privilege of having their children educated in public schools and refuse to salute the flag under which free education is furnished.

They will avail themselves of the conscientious objector's privilege to fight for the flag which they refuse to salute and whose protection they invoke when misguided patriots try to force them to salute it.

We don't care if they salute the flag or not. The flag is not honored by any salute that is not as much a gesture of the heart as of the hand.—Rock Hill Herald.

Here and There

—By—
HILDA WAY GWYN

The following contribution was written by Odin G. Buell, of Buellton, Calif. . . husband of a former Waynesville girl . . . Josephine Thomas, daughter of Mrs. James R. Thomas and the late Mr. Thomas . . . It is significant—not only for its forceful message . . . but also for the fact that Mr. Odin's parents are English born . . . and yet in one generation he has become a full fledged American citizen . . . with the ideals of an "All American" . . . with the heritage of a pioneer background. . . .

"We all know if we sit in a poker game long enough . . . with the house taking its customary percentage from each pot . . . it must eventually have all the chips without taking the gamble . . . the same applies to interest . . . this gourmet, by preying upon production soon develop an appetite that production cannot both satisfy and leave enough to sustain the producer . . . then comes mutual ill health expressing itself in periodic depressions . . . this condition sets up very definite . . . tides of public sentiment . . . which our statesmen try to translate into action by means of man-made laws . . . the eventual manifestation of this natural phenomena will be solved only when we all understand that the only permanent remedy rests in the acceptance of the common law . . . that any great concentration of the fruits of labor in the hands of the few . . . results only in poverty and hunger of the many, with its . . . resultant unrest and sad repercussions. . . .

"The solution doesn't necessarily lie in the utter elimination of profit interest . . . this man-made invention seems to be as necessary an ingredient with the average human being . . . as religion . . . Interest debt is both the spur and the carriage essential to direct a natural outlet for energy along paths . . . to conform to society's demands for proper civilized conduct. . . . This gives full vent to that primal instinct of accumulation . . . with the law of compensation the unflinching brake. . . .

"In the present process of our evolution, when interest and production become greatly out of proportion . . . they are forcibly but temporarily balanced again through the medium of wars . . . whether a democracy or a dictatorship . . . no amount of moral rearmament alone can change the fundamental effects . . . Since the laws of nature are inexorable it is only through an understanding . . . by men, not to abuse . . . these laws . . . that they will cease . . . to exact their penalties . . . For example . . . in the same proportion as our natural resources tend to become exhausted . . . must our democratic government become one of more rigid controls in the interest of posterity . . . hence the utter necessity for national conservation . . . to avoid absolute dictatorship. . . ."

"Those so violently resisting the New Deal . . . through much fear from lack of understanding . . . should remember the lessons of similar groups and races down through the ages . . . their reasoning seems to be that since nature has given superior abilities for accumulating wealth and power . . . it is theirs to do with as they choose . . . even to the extent of obstructing the normal processes of democracy . . . Would it not be much better . . . for everyone . . . if this selfchosen group would re-study this natural phenomena as they have . . . preached it is the past . . . and not try to change the irrevocable laws of nature? . . ."

Other beauty spots since a recent reference to the bank of rhododendron at the depot was mentioned . . . have been called to our attention which include . . . (and we gladly admit the merits of each . . .) the view from the porch of the Barber residence . . . the garden of Miss Caroline Alsteater . . . with its musical brook . . . the cool refreshing grounds around the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Medford . . . the utter peace . . . and the sweeping view from Greenhill cemetery . . . the planting at Mrs. Holtzclaw's cabin . . . at Balsam . . . Uncle Will Shelton's lawn . . . the view of Waynesville from the sun room of Blink Bonnie . . . Mrs. Clayton Walker's garden . . . Rufus Siler's outdoor fire place . . . Mrs. Saumenig's immaculate lawn . . . the trees on the Withers lawn . . . Mrs. Charles R. Thomas's garden . . . her granddaughter's (Pat Prevost's) outdoor living room . . . the holly trees on the Henry Gaddy place . . . on East street . . . the inviting woods back of Mrs. J. F. Abel . . . and what can beat sitting on the porch at the Country Club and looking across the golf course . . . rimmed around with towering peaks in the background. . . .



Voice of The People

If a beautification project for the town of Waynesville and Hazelwood should ever be carried out, as has been suggested from time to time, with a general planting by all property owners of one variety of shrub or tree, which shrub or tree do you think would be the most appropriate for planting?

G. C. Plott—"I would say dogwood, because it blooms in the early spring. There are enough dogwood cut each year in this county to beautify the entire towns of Waynesville and Hazelwood."

Mrs. S. P. Gay—"Rhododendron. So far I know of no town that has made this particular use of this shrub. It can be grown without too much attention to make it worthwhile. People come here to see rhododendron, so why not bring it to them in the towns."

Mrs. R. N. Barber—"I would say rhododendron or our native mountain laurels or ivy. These, are not only beautiful when in bloom, but are evergreens and are typical of our mountains."

Mrs. Rufus Siler—"I would suggest a combination of native dogwoods and azaleas."

Harry Roth—"I would say my choice would be a combination of native rhododendron, azaleas, and hemlock."

Miss Caroline Alsteater—"It seems to me that the Carolina hemlock is the most beautiful evergreen we have—whether large or small—and it is a joy forever."

Mrs. Harry J. Hyatt—"From the luxurious manner in which they thrive in this soil and climate, I would suggest prostrate juniper."

Jarvis Palmer—"I would say balsams and spruce."

Clyde H. Ray, Jr.—"I would like hemlock, as it is beautiful in both summer and winter and lends itself to pruning in any shape desired."

Dr. Gladys Osborne—"I would suggest a combination of dogwoods and azaleas. I look forward each spring to the beautiful dogwood tree on Main street."

CLIPPINGS

A LOT OF SUGAR
 (Statesville Daily)
 Three North Carolina grocermen were given heavy fines and suspended sentences after conviction in the United States district court in Greensboro on charges that they had failed to make complete report of sugar sales, as required under the federal alcohol control statutes.

The news item that tells of this action relates that "Agents of the alcohol tax unit reported 2,000,000 pounds of sugar sales not properly reported by the firm." That's a lot of sugar for one firm to sell, and mind you, those figures take into account only the "unreported" part of the volume. There are other wholesalers in that progressive little city, too.

Off-hand and unfamiliar with the Wilkes technique, you'd think the natives were anticipating in a big blackberry crop and were getting ready to harvest and preserve it. But Judge Johnson J. Haynes, who knows every cove in Wilkes that would shelter a still, in passing sentence on the offenders, explained that a close tie-up often exists between sales of sugar in bulk and the operations of illicit distillers.

N. C. HISTORICAL MARKERS
 (Hickory Record)
 Tar Heel citizens should be pleased to find upon examination of a new "Guide to North Carolina Historical Highway Markers" that almost three hundred of these markers have been erected.

The Record considers this work extremely important, due to the fact that it not only brings to the attention of tourists the many places of historical interest throughout the Old North State, but because it serves to make our own people more keenly conscious of traditions that were being lost sight of by the present generation.

The new guide lists the markers and their locations, giving their full inscriptions. The historical marker program was begun in North Carolina in 1935, and is conducted jointly by the Historical Commission, Department of Conservation and Development, and the Highway and Public Works Commission. An appropriation of \$5,000 annually is available from the highway fund to meet the expense of casting and erecting the markers.

Under the law, all inscriptions for these markers are written by a group of the state's leading histor-

ians. Each marker bears the state seal in a scroll at the top center, in double-faced, has black lettering on an aluminum-colored background, and is mounted on an iron pipe imbedded in a concrete base. Each is placed on a numbered, hard-surfaced highway. The inscriptions have been made brief in order to facilitate reading from passing automobiles.

It is to be hoped that the work will continue and that the several hundred additional markers, which will be required to do an adequate job, will be erected.

HOME, SWEETER HOME
 (Christian Science Monitor)
 One hundred seventy-three thousand, eight hundred ninety-six vacuum cleaners can't be wrong. Not in an age moving toward lightening the housewife's burden. That number is reported as sold in the United States in May, to set a record.

Today largely because of this and other adaptations of the electric motor, homemakers are being relieved of much of the drudgery which until two-score years ago, had been regarded as the housewife's lot. The little "power box" has been taught to perform a multitude of time-and-labor-saving tasks. It washes and dries dishes, does family laundry and ironing. Because of it, woman's place is no longer endlessly and wearily "in the home." And the home can take its proper place as a center for interests not necessarily bounded by "four walls."

LIVE OR DIE FOR IT
 (Rock Hill, S. C., Herald)
 The United States of America is what it is today because the founders of this great nation loved liberty more than anything else—including their own lives.

In an effort to obtain independence, they staked their puny strength in what must have seemed to them a hopeless struggle against one of the world's mightiest powers.

And they were successful only because they were willing to make any sacrifice for the principles for which they were fighting—and every one of them was ready to lay down his life, if that was necessary.

The United States of America—the only remaining stronghold of liberty in this war-torn world—will survive only if its people remain true to the traditions of their forefathers and continue to consider liberty their most valuable

Letters To The Editor

LET'S GROW UP

Editor The Mountaineer—
 Let's BE equal to the tance of the title "Eastern B to the Great Smokies."
 A taxpayer has a noisy dumped in his front yard, the guests of the Parkway disturbance and loss of to this carnival has been to Waynesville at a season year when we want to Town looking its best. An ate and expensive campaign put on in the Spring to to Waynesville. We have ed the "Cleanest" town in North Carolina and yet mitted this carnival to town at the height of our season. Tourists driving a conglomeration of dirty noise get the impression is part of our town, that permanent installation. If vals must be permitted to to Waynesville, to tempt away the livelihood of the class of people who can afford to throw money away them go to the edge of town the cheap cries of hawkers, ling devices, squeaky general bedlam will make citizens of Waynesville not give the impression to that it is in any way with the town of Waynesville.

ELAINE HUDS
 Owner Parkway

GEMS For Your Scrap Book

THE BIBLE
 The Bible is the only all Christian truth—the only for the Christian life—the book that unfolds to us the ties of eternity. — Sir Ma Hale.

I know the Bible is inspire cause it finds me at greater of being that any other Coleridge.

The Bible is the learned master-piece, the ignorant dictionary, the wise man's diary.—Mary Baker Eddy.

Nobody ever outgrows ture; the book widens and with our years.—Spurgeon.

The whole hope of human gross is suspended on the growing influence of the Bible.—William H. Seward.

To say nothing of to hold or authority, the Bible contains more specimens of genius, taste than any other volume existence.—Landon.

FAITH
 Now faith is the substance things hoped for, the evidence things not seen.—Hebrews 11:1

Through love, through hope, faith's transcendent power, We feel that we are greater we know.—Wordsworth.

possession. It may not be necessary for of us to die to preserve An canism, but it is absolutely al that all of us live for purpose.

Americans must be willing for Americanism—as well as ing to die for it—if democracy to be preserved on this earth.

CLAMOR FOR COINS
 Working feverishly to clear books of piled-up orders, the United States Mint stamped out 693,000 coins during the fiscal ending last June 30.

But even this all-time production record—more than the preceding year's output—lagged behind demand. As a result with its stocks of coins virtually depleted, the mint last week decided to place its coinage at Philadelphia and Denver on a 24-hour basis and the unit at San Francisco on a 16-hour basis.

Never before in the history of the mint, according to Director Lie Taylor Ross, has there been a clamor for coins. Always, increased demand is a sign of proved business conditions, and other important factor is the growing use of coin-hungry slot machines throughout the United States. But the chief reason for the unprecedented call for coins probably the new "defense tax" which went into effect July 1, 1940, which extra pennies to standing movie admissions, cigarette, and a host of miscellaneous items.

Because of these "defense taxes, the mint will this year see likelihood top the record set last year when the output was 678,000 half-dollars, 40,867,000 quarters, 97,276,000 dimes, 632,000 nickels, and 440,540,000 pennies.