

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 1944
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

Wanted--A Simpler Form

Our phone rang during the past week and a feminine voice asked us if the paper could not give some information regarding income tax forms in a simple manner so that the people in general could understand. In the throes of trying to make out our own income tax return we felt a deep sympathy for her and her problems.

We admitted that if we could offer a simple recipe for such complicated forms we would be glad to tell the world, but alas, we could give no such desired information. We suggested that she consult the deputy internal revenue collector who will be here for the purpose of helping the public interpret this confusing piece of governmental literature.

One reader has recently compared some of the conflicting sections of the forms to the explanation about the Pullman berths—how the upper became lower because it was higher, while the lower was higher, because it was not so high.

Frankly, some of the items in the form are just about as complicating to us. It looks like Congress has overestimated the American public's ability to understand its schedule for high pressure taxes. It has been suggested that if the members of Congress had to go back home to their own districts and act as deputy internal revenue collectors to help their constituents make out these complex returns, there would be no doubt that they would fly back to Washington and in their confusion over the problem, at once try to get the complications out of the forms.

William Allen White

The late William Allen White had a unique place in American journalism. He lived in a small American town, and he wrote of his own people, recording the events in their daily lives, yet he possessed to such degree the power to express the common needs of all mankind in his reporting that the world soon knew of Emporia and its editor.

He was a straight shooter, but his fairness and his sense of humor always took the sting out of his writings. He should ever serve as an example and an inspiration to the small town paper that should have ever before it, the ideals of serving the community in which it calls home.

While he became through the very human quality of his writing a citizen of the world and was at home with the great of this earth, he was first of all a citizen of Emporia.

He looked for the good and found it as shown in the following from his writings:

"Every friend of my childhood is my friend today. I have never had a major quarrel with anyone, and I am not conscious of having an enemy. No one ever tried to do me wrong. No one ever betrayed me, nor so far as I know ever tried to hurt me or to swindle me. I have found humanity good, with much more that was fine than false."

His life blazed a new trail for the small town paper, and today upon his passing, he is acclaimed as the "greatest American editor" by many. He left the small town newspaper a valuable legacy, if we who edit them will only claim it for our own.

Our reputations are made by what people say of us behind our backs—William Feather Magazine.

Today's specials: Running Water, S. D., and Hot and Cold, N. C.

Straight Ticket

Kerr Scott, commissioner of agriculture, has been mentioned as a potential candidate for a number of offices. Some of his friends have stated he might be a candidate for the senate, or maybe for governor. Others that he will enter the race for re-election to his present post. He was asked by a friend at the Jackson Dinner recently held in Raleigh what he is currently running for and the commissioner of agriculture at least left no doubt in his friend's mind about his party loyalty when he replied:

"I'm running for the kingdom of heaven on a straight Democratic ticket."

Boy Scout Week

Will it be possible after this war ends to create a world brotherhood among men, dedicated to peace, without sacrificing love of one's own country?

Everyone acquainted with Scouting, which this week celebrates its 34th anniversary in America, knows that the answer is yes. The Boy Scout organization is almost world-wide. Patriotism and friendliness, and respect for other men's religious beliefs, all are part of the Scout Oath and Law. The World Jamborees of Scouting were international gatherings which might well set a pattern for statesmen to follow.

Not everybody likes world brotherhood. Adolf Hitler, on coming to power abolished Boy Scouting in every occupied country. Yet it continues "underground". Someday, along with free speech, a free press and untrammeled religion, it will emerge from hiding.

It takes better boys today to build a better world tomorrow. The success of the Scout movement, in America and in other United Nations, proves that the principles of Scouting will triumph in the end.

Hundreds of the soldiers and sailors who have been decorated for heroism in this war were former Scouts. It is estimated that one third of the officers and enlisted men in Uncle Sam's armed forces were once Scouts or Scoutmasters. Scouting will not have to be "converted" after the war in the usual sense of the word, for it is being carried on in this country in a normal manner.

Since February 8, 1910, more than 11,400,000 men and boys have been actively identified with Scouting in America. The birthday anniversary will be observed in every city and town in the nation and in hundreds of villages and communities.

Human Understanding

We have read a great deal during the past weeks on the all vital problem of post war planning. There have been numerous theories put forth by various authorities. A recent editorial in the Raleigh Times presented an angle that will have a large part in the plans, yet it seems to have escaped many of the specialists now prescribing for that era.

The Times points out that a new world, free and at peace would have been ours long ago if money could have bought it, or if muscle or scientific cleverness could win it. The historic fact that we materialists cannot bring ourselves to accept is the inescapable one that peace and freedom—whether on a personal world or world level—are morally and spiritually won.

The paper quotes a soldier as saying, "The world is just one big goodbye", knowing that things were not meant to be that way. There arises the question that has troubled many of us: Why do peace and freedom so stubbornly escape us?

We have proved that superior military force can bring us victory. We have not yet proved that military victory can ever bring more than an armed truce.

This war demands, as the Times points out, that we go beyond being experts in military production and strategy. We need to be experts as well in the art of human understanding and teamwork, which produce sound homes and the sound industrial and political structure of the new era.

We have drifted away on a high tide of materialism from the moral and spiritual moorings of civilization. So today we find ourselves surrounded by suffering and death—a world aching like one big goodbye, according to the soldier who is said to have continued, "We need to make the world into a big hello, but that will take something brand new in a mighty lot of people."

We have shown that we can organize our nation into one powerful army almost overnight from a peace loving people, so we should be able to restore our moral standards as well when it is over, if we start with the right viewpoint and determination. Surely the price we will pay before the war is over will teach us some constructive ideas on human understanding.

"THE DAILY GRIND"



HERE and THERE

By
 HILDA WAY GWYN

Since the men are being returned home from the fighting areas many of them broken in body, some never to be fully restored again... new responsibility comes to our government... For the rehabilitation of the men in service will demand special care... A man broken in body will also need much restoration of the spirit along with the physical... There will be need for deep understanding... morale will have to be boosted for these men who will have to build new lives... Perhaps you read during the week of the tour of one Charles McGonegal, of North Dakota, World War I veteran, is making to the army hospitals... If you saw the story, you will not mind reading it a second time, for it is heart warming... and if you have not it will bring a touch of human interest that is refreshing... Now this McGonegal is just an ordinary American citizen... who is now in Washington... No, he is not there to confer with governmental heads, merely on a mission of mercy and morale... He may not even visit the White House, but he has a tremendous task ahead of him... He is going to give the patients in veterans hospitals a new vision... a new yardstick by which to measure their lives...

Twenty-five years ago McGonegal walked out of the Walter Reed Hospital, a tall slim wondrous boy, facing life, with two bright steel hooks, where hands should have been... What could he do? What would the years ahead mean to him... What could he accomplish with such a handicap? These questions must have fairly eaten into his soul... Now he comes back to Walter Reed... and will go to other hospitals to tell the fellows who have "gotten theirs" in World War II, that there is a big chance for them... He is going to convince armless veterans that they can find a place in the business affairs of tomorrow...

McGonegal was a mechanic before joining up back in 1917, and was wounded in France in 1918. He had a compound fracture of the skull... both knees splintered, a foot fractured and both arms were shot off just below the elbow. Today he is a pilot with more than 3000 hours flying... a horse breeder... he drives a car... shaves himself... lights his own cigarettes... writes... uses a telephone and plays cards... he can do almost anything that a person with two good hands can do... Between now and April he will tell the boys in five army hospitals and two naval hospitals not to be discouraged... They are now just where he started 25 years ago, he says... and right now they don't think there is any sense in living, but he is going to tell them there is... and we have a hunch that he will be able to put that story over better than the most learned psychologists in the land...

We see where the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs has asked its State Legislature to place framed copies of the Ten Commandments in all public school class rooms... We liked the idea... we hear a great deal about juvenile delinquency these days... and when we stop to consider all the laws made by mankind, has there ever been a set of rules more comprehensive than those laid down so many centuries ago? If these commandments were learned by the old as well as the young today, and "written not with ink", as the Apostle put it, "but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshy tables of the heart," much of the human ills would be eliminated... the teaching of the ten commandments in school would be reflected in the lives of the pupils, and no doubt if they could be engraved on their hearts, many of the problems of discipline would vanish.

We have heard of a good many versions of dice throwing, but the latest use is just all belief... We see where dice are being thrown in the psychological laboratory of Duke University to study what the Professor in charge calls the "psychokinetic effect"... it all came about when a crap shooter turned up at the University some time ago and claimed that by yelling, "Come seven, come eleven" he got results... So the Professor decided to try him out and the score was so good that it was decided to begin some studies along this line... A summary of these appears in the Journal of Parapsychology published by Duke University Press. Now to our uninitiated mind, it sounds like a case of glorified wishful thinking, and not a psychological problem.

The following on Safety was contributed to this column during the week, with the request, "Please use"...

"Here lies the remains of Percival Sap. He drove his car with his girl in his lap. Lies slumbering here, one William Blake. He heard the bell but had no brake. Beneath this stone lies William Raines. Ice on the hill, he had no chains. Here lies the body of William Jay. He died maintaining the right of way. John Smith lies here without his shoes. He drove his car while filled with booze. Here lies Mary Jane, but not alive. She made her car do eighty-five."

Grayden Ferguson—"It is merely part of the routine of war and I still believe we have a long way to go."

Lee R. Scruggs—"I think the events in the Pacific are fast shortening the war."

Chris George—"No, definitely. I figure we will have a long way to go before final victory."

C. L. Edmonds—"What has happened is encouraging, but I think the war will last a long time."

R. L. Coin—"No, they have not, for the reason that the supply lines of Japan are shortening while ours are lengthening. We have not yet met the full strength of their fleet, which we will before the war is over."

Adjutant Cecil Brown—"No, they have not changed my ideas. I feel that the events are just part of the regular fighting."

J. R. Boyd—"No, not one bit, because we haven't won anything yet worth any great importance."

Clayton Walker—"No, they have not, for I feel as I always have."

Voice OF THE People

Have recent events in the Pacific war theatre changed your mind as to the length of the war?

J. C. Patrick—"Yes, they have. The progress made in the Gilbert and Marshall Islands will open a way to the Philippines and then a way to Tokyo."

Paul Martin—"No, Mam, I have always thought it would be a long war."

THE OLD HOME TOWN



Inside WASHINGTON

Fight Over Renegotiation Could Kill New Tax Bill | Japanese Thought Able to Increase War Production

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—Do not be surprised—or disappointed—if there is no tax bill passed at all by congress.

A battle is shaping up over the measure that will at least delay its enactment, but the fight has nothing to do, strangely enough, with taxes.

The controversy is over the changes voted by the senate finance committee in the war contract renegotiation law passed in April, 1942, and designed to recapture excessive war profits. The house rewrote the law and attached it to the tax bill as a rider. Then the senate rewrote the house version.

Army, Navy and several government agencies were not pleased with the way the house revised the law. But they are likewise satisfied with the senate's work. They contend the house action would punch a hole or two in it, and they add the senate's work would scuttle the law entirely.

So, if the tax bill carries with it changes in the renegotiation law which war agencies feel would impair their ability to recapture excessive profits, it is entirely likely President Roosevelt would veto the bill. That would mean no tax bill at all at this time.

There is an added likelihood the president might veto the act, if the bill, as finally passed, contains the finance committee provision freezing the old age benefit payroll tax at present levels, it is likely to meet with executive disapproval.

Finance committee changes which have aroused greatest administration opposition are those exempting certain manufacturers from renegotiation. For example, all makers of "standard commercial articles" would be exempt and exemption also would be granted machine tool manufacturers, retroactive to the time the law went into effect.

A formidable array of legislators has announced opposition to the measure as it now stands. Among those who have announced they will fight it to the limit are Senate Majority Leader Alben Barkley, and Senators Harry Truman, Hatch, Walsh and Robert LaFollette.

AMIDST ALL THE TALK about manpower needs and increased war production, the word "unemployment" has a strange sound. But a little-noted paragraph in a recent OWI report on curtailments of war production had a portentous ring. OWI pointed out that the shifting of production needs, although minor in relation to the whole program, undoubtedly will throw some people out of work.

Is this the beginning of the end of the war employment boom? Some employers think so.

OWI said that when some war production is curtailed, unemployment is not likely to become serious so long as plants can shift rapidly from one item to another. For instance, a tank factory recently went back to making locomotives.

THE FOREIGN ECONOMIC ADMINISTRATION, in predicting German war production cannot be increased to meet the crushing attack to be launched against the Reich soon, pointed out also that Japan probably can expand its output of materiel.

The Japs have passed their peak of plant expansion but are believed able to turn out more armament with present facilities by intensive methods.

The Nipponese, formerly the world's greatest imitators, have advanced technically and are now doing creative work of their own. However, there is an optimistic note. The Japs have failed to exploit their conquered territory and resources fully, principally because of lack of shipping. None of the captured territory has added materially to Japanese steel making capacity. It has, however, provided oil for the Jap navy.

The size of the Japanese war machine is determined directly by steel. Presumably after current steel stock piles are exhausted the Japs will be in bad shape. The FEA thinks Japan, if left undisturbed for 20 or 30 years in possession of its conquered areas, might easily reach the front rank of industrial nations. But mere possession of potentially rich countries, FEA points out, won't increase Jap war capacity and the Allies intend to make certain that the Nipponese are crushed long before they can turn these areas into any real account.

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Letters To The Editor

LIKES MOUNTAINEER

England, Jan. 10, 1944
 Editor The Mountaineer.

Just a small letter of appreciation which I sincerely know the whole staff deserves and for the splendid papers you have sent us. And speaking for all the boys who are over here, we are greatly pleased and want to express our thanks to the whole staff of The Mountaineer.

My mother, Mrs. H. L. Wright has been sending The Mountaineer since March, 1943, which I have received in Africa, Italy and England, and am always looking forward to the next paper.

I am very glad the boys are writing to The Mountaineer and tell how much they enjoy the paper and at the same time showing their appreciation.

Sincerely yours,
 Pvt. Robert H. Wright.

CONGRATULATIONS
 Publishers of The Mountaineer, Waynesville, N. C.

Please accept my sincerest congratulations on the double honor which was conferred on you by the North Carolina Press Association when you received first prize in general excellence for your Sylva paper and second prize for your Waynesville paper.

I rejoice with you in this well merited recognition that has come to you.

With kindest greetings, I am Gratefully yours,
 Rev. A. F. Rohrbacher.

When has a man four hands? When he doubles his fists. What is it that has four legs, one foot, one head and a body but no eyes? A. A. bed. When is a doctor most annoyed? A. When he is out of patients (patients).

4th WAR LOAN
 * Let's All *
 BACK THE ATTACK