

THE MOUNTAINEER

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The Worm Has Turned

The worm has turned. After many years of legislation mostly in favor of the employer, the trend now is toward legislation for the employer. Legislators are said to be planning demands on revision of the Wagner Act, which will give the employers more freedom and the unions a little less.

Employers are also seeking the same freedom of speech that the unions have enjoyed. They want the right to express their views during union organizing campaigns as the unions have. This would also include the right to distribute literature and discuss the unionizing of their plants.

They are seeking freedom to petition for employe elections, all of which sounds only fair, and brings a rather shocking realization of how far things have swung in one direction.

Next In Line

President Truman seems to be the next in line for a raise in his pay check, along with the cabinet members. Everybody on the government pay roll has had a boost but the top ranking officials. Now it appears that they have a pay raise in the making, though we are happy to say we have heard no intimation of a cabinet or presidential strike.

The salary of the president of the United States has not been raised since the days of President Taft. A jump now from the \$75,000 paid since then to \$100,000 is the best reported. In addition however to the \$75,000, the president has had free house rent, some servants and \$25,000 to cover travel expenses.

We have an idea that most presidents have been able to save a neat little sum out of their travel allowance, with the exception of the Roosevelts. We feel sure that between the comings and goings of Mrs. Roosevelt and the late president there was a big deficit every year.

A Tragic Oversight

We want to call the attention of the North Carolina State Highway Commission to the half circle curve on highway 209, going through the Crabtree section of the county. We understand from those living in the area that in less than two years there have been five accidents around this curve of the road, which proves two things; first above all that there should be more care taken by the drivers; second, that a stretch of highway as dangerous to drive as this apparently is, should have some indication of its hazardous disadvantages by way of a sign that at least there is a curve ahead.

In fact we would heartily approve a sign-board bearing the number of persons injured and killed.

We consider this a grave oversight on the part of the state highway commission not to have had some sign or some protection around the sharp curve. If the expense of removing the mountain is prohibitive, then certainly the motorist should be warned at both entries into the stretch that death lurks on the highway.

The record over the past week-end from Saturday morning to Sunday night, when ten persons were injured and one killed on Haywood county highways, should slow down traffic to a sane and safety speed. Life is getting too cheap on our highways. Why the great rush?

The Ugly Side

We may tire of stories that are revealed at this stage after the war of the crookedness and connivings in wartime purchasing, and charges of mishandling of postwar surplus property disposal, but these records should be ferreted out of the last one.

While most Americans were sacrificing and glad to do so, it is sickening to learn that underneath the cloth of aiding the government there was so much dishonest intrigue abroad in the land.

Most of the leaders in the nation seem to agree that national self respect requires these investigations and that only through their exposure will Congress and the people know how to prevent a repetition.

There are also rumors about certain abuses of the many privileges which are being given the Veterans. These things added up are calculated to give the honest citizen who pays his taxes without grumbling, a feeling of resentment against loose policies that give opportunities for graft, whether the transgressors have or have not been in uniform.

How Many Now?

The following summary of replies from county superintendents of education to questionnaires sent out by the North Carolina education association in regard to vacancies in the faculties of the public schools as of August 1, according to a recent release from Raleigh, gives an illuminating picture of the lowering of the standard in our public schools for the coming term.

There were 109 administrative units reporting a total of 14,194 positions for principals and teachers with 1,200 vacancies; 61 county units reporting 998 vacancies; 18 city units reporting 202 vacancies.

In the 109 units reporting 643 positions have been filled with teachers holding sub-standard certificates.

The prospect is not bright, but perhaps this climax (we trust it will not grow any worse) coming during a legislative year will impress the solons, who have it in their power to give a salary raise comparable to the cost of the preparation and training for a teacher plus the great responsibility of educating our children.

Time To Save

No "ifs, ands or buts" should weaken public support for President Truman's economy drive. His attitude is highly commendable, and he appears determined to carry through to positive results. Demands that governmental departments save \$2,000,000,000 and the order to postpone and screen Federal building projects are practical steps to curb spending. Others should be taken.

For the news that the budget is very nearly balanced should produce no complacency. A windfall of unexpected revenue permits this approach to balance. But the approximate balance is at an extremely high level—above \$40,000,000,000. That is ten times the Federal budget 15 years ago. And it is about half of the total national income 10 years ago. To say it is only a quarter of the present national income does not bring it into the realm of sound finance. To say that it is not yet a normal, peacetime budget is only to emphasize the need for getting down to a peace level.

No one is expecting reductions to prewar figures. Increased interest costs, new expenditures for veterans, and an \$18,000,000,000 item for the Army and Navy—part of it for occupation expense—all preclude a return to the good old days that never were good enough for the worried taxpayers. Also many expenses are for services neither Congress nor the public wants to drop. But there must be sharp ax work somewhere if the total is to be cut. Real slashing is imperative.

The tax experts have estimated that the United States might reasonably carry an eighteen billion to twenty billion postwar budget. The present level of spending is double that. It is clearly necessary to get down out of the stratosphere. This is essential not only in order to start paying off the debt while the Nation is collecting boom-time revenues; a cut in Government spending also helps reduce the total competition for scarce goods which is the basic cause of price inflation.

Just where the saving should be done must be a matter of determination by careful study. We hope the president and his new budget director will make further specific proposals. Then the public should turn the searchlight on Congress—and on its own pleas for "exemptions" and special treatment.—Christian Science Monitor.

It's no comfort to a returned veteran to know the wolf won't be at the door this winter simply because he has no door.—Christian Science Monitor.

Looking over its live file, the bureau of minor research finds this one still unsettled: At what age does a bachelor become "confirmed?"—Detroit News.



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

It is doubtful if there has ever been a more constructive or a more successful program carried on outside of the schools for the children of this community, than the recent Cherokee Reading Club, which closed Wednesday of last week in one grand gala day—when 70 boys and girls with 27 interested parents and adults spent the day at the Indian Reservation and took in all the sights. If you get in conversation with any of these boys and girls on the subject of the Cherokee Indians you had better be careful how you discuss them for these youngsters might embarrass you with their store of information on the history of our neighbors over the Soco Gap.

The summer reading club has been sponsored by the Haywood County Library. The program has involved many things, the primary object of course to aid children in forming the habit and acquiring a love of reading, which succeeded beyond the dreams of the county librarian, Miss Margaret Johnston and her assistant, Mrs. James Atkins, with more than 200 children enrolled and 89 completing the reading and reporting on the required ten books.

The five Pawwow sessions carried out the Cherokee Indian theme in history, in music and in the arts and crafts of the Cherokee. They were about as interesting to adults as children, judging from the number of the latter who always asked to attend.

The cooperation given to the program by the adults in the community was one of exceptional response, with a total of 55 persons helping the librarian in the project.

The fine companionship which comes from cooperation and sharing in a project was stimulating to the children, and their summer interest was as entertaining as it was constructive.

But back to the climax of the final day at the Cherokee reservation—with the tour led by Miss Mary E. Ulmer, librarian at the school. The group left here in 16 cars, (response from public to call for transportation brought more than enough cars, left the Haywood County Library at 9:00 o'clock, all excited in anticipation of the day. The first stop was at Cave school, 10 miles off the Smoky Mountains Park highway. Here they saw the class rooms with their two weeks supply of lunch food already. They visited the gardens, the barns, saw the pigs and the horses. It was hard to get the children away from the swings, to say nothing of the fascination of crossing and recrossing the swinging bridge. Some of the boys found out that the Reservation was plenty large enough to get lost on. Here two of the little Indian girls took a great fancy to Sally Ray, who went with the group.

Picnic lunch was enjoyed on the island and they all seemed to feel very much at home—and no wonder—they had Pet milk to drink, through the generosity of the Waynesville plant. Here they waded in the Oconee Luffy river, with only one falling in the water. Then the tour of the school buildings with the boys intrigued with the fire escapes. They visited the library, the craft building; they saw the Indians weaving mats from corn shucks, they watched the Indian boys carving geese in the woodworking shop, they viewed the paintings on the walls of the Indian school.

In the afternoon they listened spell-bound to the legends as told by Miss Ulmer, librarian, of "The Story of the Strawberries" and "Smoke on the Mountains and why they are called the Great Smokies." This was followed by a talk by Mr. Knowles, dean of the Indian boys, who told them about the

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT Central Press Writer

IN DANISH restaurants, we read, a steak is served with a fried egg on top. What, no pickle or mustard?

Canadian caught a 35-pound fish with a lasso. Zadok Dumkoff thinks he must have really been aiming at a bull (frog).

Pu Yi, ex-puppet emperor of ex-Manchukuo, is unemployed. Maybe he could get a job as Charley McCarthy's stand-in.

For the second time this year the Aga Khan will receive a gift of his weight in diamonds.

There's one fat man who just doesn't dare reduce.

London is reported sinking at the rate of an inch every five years. The world's largest city may some day be the lowest.

Maryland police tried to frighten away stalkers by firing off roman candles. Birds, too, it seems, like to watch fireworks.

During the war, we read, spies crossed the U. S.-Canadian border disguised as hockey players. It takes icy nerves, all right, to pull a stunt like that.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

What do you think of the return of the OPA?

Elizabeth Leatherwood—"I think it's time to stop the OPA or have a better system."

Paul Davis—"I think the original intent was fine, but due to its poor management it has not done the job. Whether or not it will work any better is doubtful."

J. C. Jennings—"Frankly, I don't approve. I have seen too many things come and go off the market while the OPA was on and off."

Roy Parkman—"I think a continuation might have helped, but not broken doses."

Oliver H. Shelton—"I think we'll have less to eat and I don't think much of the OPA."

Dr. O. H. Champion—"I was for the OPA during the war, but not now."

Magic Hormones Synthetic plant hormones that artificially pollinate the plant buds result in seedless tomatoes. Hormones also assure farmers the flowering of their fruit trees in case of frost, and make the crop yield five times larger. Magic hormones have made seedless cucumbers, egg plant and squash.

schools on the reservation and about the Seminole Indians, from another tribe who are students at Cherokee.

Then came the high spot of the day for which they had worked—the reading certificates were awarded by a former Assistant Cherokee Chief, McKinley Ross, descendant of John Ross. He told them about the present tribe of Cherokees, who number 2,000 registered members, living on the 59,900 acres of land, divided into six townships, each with two council members, with a chief and a vice-chief elected every four years.

and the presentation of the certificates by Mr. Ross as Miss Johnston called out the names.

Homeward bound they stopped at the shops and were everywhere viewing the baskets and the Indian arts—with a last farewell to the reservation . . . and their goodbye to Miss Johnston . . . "Please let's have another reading club next year."

The handling of this program in addition to the heavy summer circulation of the county library was a real feat, for there were nearly 3,000 books read by these children, alone, and oral and written reports given the librarian . . . which took more hours than you might guess.

ALONG BROAD

By Walter Winch

James S. Bolan, former police commissioner of New York City, an old friend, is perhaps the most honest man in Manhattan. He is on a handsome pension, head of the Bolan Agency, a private detective organization patronized by insurance companies, banks and other sterling corporations. He started, half as a hobby, the Bolan Academy, in his headquarters, 280 Madison Ave. His plan was to teach investigative work for men and women by mail, with a placement bureau for his graduates. The reaction has been rather astounding. Approved by the Veterans Administration under the GI Bill of Rights, the academy drew a heavy male response. But to Bolan's surprise, women are revealing a tremendous zeal to become private investigators.

"Naturally—they're born investigators," I said. But Jim shrugged that off. "No, these are serious and definitely out to make a profession of it." So he enlisted former Director of the Bureau of Policewomen of New York, Mary A. Sullivan, to handle the co-ed's courses.

Paul Berlenbach, who used to put the roughest heavyweights to sleep, is a song-writer and publisher now. In partnership with Harold Fisher, in Queens Village, Paul, secretly marked, with all his keen fanaticism, behaves like an artist, a gentleman and a businessman. He was our favorite mauler. The night he met Young Stribling, hang on, I wish was his high spot for us. More power to him in his new and worthy endeavors, and success to his latest song.

Reported romancing—Barbara Moffett, ex-starlet, and handsome Bob Gregory, ex-wrestler, Elmer, roccing . . . Joey Adams, soon to be closed at the Capitol, off to Saratoga and Junior Starbush, clouded.

Herbert Schick, a writer, has a wife, a child, and a dog. He is a member of the North Carolina Press Association.

Henry Laing, a writer, has a wife, a child, and a dog. He is a member of the North Carolina Press Association.

Capital Letter

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

ROADS—Agriculture Commissioner Kerr Scott, who lives on an all-weather dirt road in Alamance County, cut the highway folks told in Asheville last week, pointing out that there is a strong chance of some of the counties going Republican this fall if the rural roads program doesn't get moving. In fact, he says there is some danger of Alamance going for the GOP.

There were cries in Raleigh of the effect that his criticism of the highway department was bad, coming from another State department that way—"hickering," they called it. But Scott maintains that somebody must speak up for the people living on the rural roads.

Save Some The impulse to save—to put something aside for the inevitable emergency—is strong in all of us. Foster it by opening a Savings Account at The Friendly Bank. Systematic Saving is Successful Saving. "The Friendly Bank" THE First National Bank ORGANIZED 1902 Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Member Federal Reserve Bank