

# THE MOUNTAINEER

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The County Seat of Haywood County

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TUESDAY, MARCH 9, 1948

## Should The Schools Be Divorced From Politics?

The State Education Commission, in its current study of North Carolina's school system, is seeking the answers to a great many questions about practices in the field of education in the hope that these answers will give proper direction to school improvements.

On a questionnaire being circulated among citizens of the state, there is this question: Are the schools as free from "politics" as is desirable?

That is an important question, but it is one that needs to be thoughtfully considered before any answer is reached. The question immediately suggests that the schools should be kept apart from politics, but one should make clear what is meant by "politics" before agreeing that there ought to be a complete divorce between schools and politics.

If the term "politics" is used in the popular sense of "political favoritism," then it is unquestionably desirable, and essential if good government is to prevail, to keep the schools free from politics. The schools should never be used by politicians to pay political debts. Teachers and all other school personnel should be employed on a basis of merit and never on a basis of petty politics which raises considerations other than fitness for employment. School funds should be appropriated according to the needs and if there is not enough money to go around in the supplying of needs and no new sources to tap, the more urgent needs ought to have priority in the expenditure of available money. Expenditures should not be made to win friends for a political party or a political faction and school administrators should hold the line firm against minority pressure groups that seek an unwarranted favored position in the allocation of school funds. This is a difficult course to pursue—this business of keeping political favoritism out of the school system—but it is the right course, and when a school official shows the courage to stand firm on principles that embody fair play, the people if they are true lovers of democracy ought to stand back of him and applaud his administration.

Now there is a kind of politics that school men and all friends of schools must play if the cause of education is to meet with success. When it comes to electing legislative representatives or other officials likely to have influence in the shaping of school policies, school personnel is fully justified in getting into politics to the extent of helping to assure the election of officials who believe fully in the cause of public education and who also believe that political favoritism has no place in school administration.

A school teacher has every right to become active in politics to further efforts for obtaining higher salaries and better working conditions. A school superintendent has a right, even the duty to show sufficient interest in political developments to make sure that those who would undermine the schools and seek to use the schools for furtherance of selfish political aims are checked in carrying out their unsavory designs. In fact a superintendent or any other school official who would not rise to the defense of policies conscientiously pursued would not deserve to be in a place of leadership in education. Such a defense sometimes calls for political action, lest control of the schools falls into the hands of privilege-seeking politicians.

The question of divorcing the schools from politics, it becomes clear, must be answered with discriminating perception. Political favoritism has no place in the schools. But to say that school personnel should have nothing to do with the selection of candidates for legislative or other offices is to play into the hands of political schemers who are more interested in promoting their own self-centered objectives than in achieving a fair and democratic administration of the schools.—The Smithfield Herald.

At Last  
Everlasting news for this entire area is the fact that work is due to start this summer on the Blue Ridge Parkway at Soco Gap and continue on through to Black Camp Gap via Wolf Laurel.

At the time the war started, contractors were working on the Parkway section from Soco Gap towards Smokemont, a distance of about 44 miles. The work was just a little more than half completed when stoppage was ordered due to the war.

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## Lady Or Tiger?

We are tired of the traditional insistence that March must come in like a lion (or a lamb) and go out like a lamb (or a lion). Let the lion lie down beside the lamb in that far-away field where dispirited cliches retire to browse, while we rephrase the adage in terms of a burning question from earlier American fiction.

The lady or the tiger? No one who has felt the tigerish tooth of March or sunned himself in her melting glances can doubt that the question is apposite. Some may question whether she is a nice lady—either when picking her rather slatternly way through puddles or pitching into house-cleaning duties with a rather rude energy. Some may question whether March is a bad tiger—either when playing the frolicsome, obstreperous cub or the seedy veteran snarling over winter's vanished joys.

Be that as it may, March—like a world in transition—suggests now a lady, now a tiger. The weather—like the political climate—is ambivalent. Shall we bow or shall we shoot on sight?—Christian Science Monitor.



## Rambling 'Round

—Bits Of Human Interest News Picked Up By Members—  
—Of The Mountaineer Staff—

- Street scenes: Youngsters looking out of the Central Elementary School window watching tree trimmers at work.
- ... three business men pushing a car during a hard rain, a puppy on the back seat enjoying the fun.
- ... telephone linesmen repairing a broken pole after it was hit by a truck.
- ... a sweet young thing with a worried look on her face; perhaps worrying about her ruffles not showing.
- ... crowds gathering around to see and hear a truck sold to the highest bidder.
- ... a waitress who insists on humming the "hit parade" while serving food.
- ... a group of farmers discussing the merits of different seeds.
- ... one of a four-some playing bridge who tries (ineffectually) to explain to his partner that his phsyic bid saved a slam bid by adversaries.
- ... the watering cart cleaning Main street just as a lady steps out of her car ... and she steps right back in again as fast as she can.
- ... the little bird alighting on a truck, a bit uncertain what to do when the driver starts the motor.
- ... men hanging precariously by straps as they clip branches of trees touching electric light and telephone wires.
- ... a lady searching frantically on a counter for her change purse only to find it hanging by its cord outside her large pocket-book.

## Washington Letter

**SCHOOL ART LINKS WORLD'S CHILDREN**  
By JANE EADS  
WASHINGTON — School children in four foreign countries will soon get a glimpse of American life as children in the United States see it.  
More than 2,500 paintings by junior and senior high school students are being sent to schools in Czechoslovakia, France, Sweden and Venezuela. This is being done through an international art student program worked out by the American Junior Red Cross and the Eastern Art Association.  
Schools in the four foreign countries have agreed to exchange their art work with American schools. The project's planners hope the program can be broadened next year to include schools in many more countries.  
Subject matter ranges from a small boy fishing off a bridge to a homey scene of a harassed husband wearing a dress while his wife turns up a hem. The young artists portrayed 60 towns and cities, almost as different in their local color as the countries to which the paintings are going.  
Texas oil wells, New Jersey wharves, Pittsburgh steel mills, (Continued on Page Three)

## Looking Back Over The Years

- 15 YEARS AGO**  
City and county take banking holiday calmly—Banks of nation are closed four days.  
The city is accepting checks on the local bank in payment of light and water bills.  
S. S. Williams, field inspector of the crop production office, is ready to help farmers get loans.  
Students in township schools observe "Better English Week".  
Hugh Sloan, Jr., of the U. S. Coast Guard, arrived yesterday after an absence of two years to spend a thirty day leave with his father, Hugh Sloan, Sr.
- 10 YEARS AGO**  
A broken press delays publication of this week's Mountaineer.  
Joe Johnson, member of the senior class of Waynesville High School, wins the gold medal in declamation contest sponsored by the D.A.R.  
Illinois and Ohio folk lead among visitors in the Park.  
A new garbage truck is put into service this week.  
Yamamoto, Japanese author, tells Rotarians that Japan is trying to protect China from Russia.
- 5 YEARS AGO**  
Miss Elizabeth Francis is home demonstration agent for Lincoln county and is residing in Lincoln town.  
Milk prices advance from 14 to 16 cents a quart.  
Practice blackout to be held Tuesday night to inaugurate new rules.  
David Michal, of the Woodrow section, is elected vice president of the senior class in aeronautical engineering at State College.  
Red Cross quota of \$4,000 is in sight.  
Rural women are asked to pledge more "Food for Freedom".

## MIRROR OF YOUR MIND



Are some women born incapable of passion?  
Answer: By the findings of the scientific study recently reported in "Sexual Behavior in the Human Male," some thirty per cent of women are "more or less sexually unresponsive," and although the authors don't specifically say so, readers might infer that this is an "inborn" or constitutional condition. The psychologist would say that for some reason sexual feeling can be much more fully repressed in a woman than in a man, and that therefore most of these "unresponsive" women are probably repressed, but not constitutionally defective.

## VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Do you think radio station owners should have the right to take sides in politics or controversial issues on the air, as they are prevented from so doing at the present time?  
Bill Porter: "They have the right to express their views as well as anyone else."  
William G. Dover: "No, I think the way it is now is very good."  
J. E. Barr: "The radio is part of the voice of the people. If we are going to have free speech, radio should have the same right as publications and other organizations to express opinions."  
Howard Bryson: "Yes, I think radio should have the right to take sides. It is as fair for one side as the other."  
Walter Crawford: "A radio station is a quasi-public corporation, and should not be permitted to engage in political controversies. The public is composed of many parties, some of which could not be heard on the air."  
Charles Isley: "I think as long as we live in a free country, radio owners should have this right."

Senator Scott W. Lucas  
Special to Central Press  
WASHINGTON.—Senate Democrats are wearing "canary" expressions. And they have good reason. Their self-pleasure comes from the little-publicized but have virtually succeeded in stopping all Republican investigations in the upper chamber for the time being.

Under terms of the Lucas motion, called up for debate until after the "pending business" except by unanimous consent—and this the Democrats will not do—the pending business is the St. Lawrence project, and the Senate has postponed this issue until Feb. 27. That date the funds matter until near month without funds no investigations on the moddy market speculation and on the war surplus materials.

NEW DEAL CONFLICT—President Truman now in action of sponsoring New Deal legislation and at the same time New Deal holdover officials from key government agencies are in point is failure to reappoint James H. Doolittle, "baby" New Dealer of President Roosevelt's man of the Civil Aeronautics board.

TAFT-HARTLEY HEADACHES—Employers are much grief in a provision of the Taft-Hartley law that small groups of skilled workers in a plant to break rank-and-file union.

TIME SAVER—A high ranking member of the staff confides that he spends so much time on Capitol Hill that the work of his agency is suffering. "I testify and testify and testify," he wailed, "while the work piles up on my desk."

As a solution, this official proposes that each department and agency designate one staff member as an ambassador to Congress, charged with making all appearances before "Hill" committees and leaving the rest of the staff free to do his job.

The janissaries of the early Turkish empire were maintained by taking every fifth boy of Christian families in Turkish territory and training them apart from their families from an early age in the palace of the sultan.

## They'll Do It Every Time



## By Jimmy Hatlo



FOR SALE 4-ROOM BUNGALOW SARDINE MANOR BUILDERS  
THANK! PLUS ZE TIP OF ZE HATLO CHAPER TO M.M. PETT, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

I'VE MOVED THE NURSERY OUT INTO THE HALL! I'LL SLEEP IN THE BATH TUB—HOW LONG IS YOUR MOTHER GOING TO STAY?  
I SPOSE IT'S NICE TO COME NOW AND THEN—BUT YOU SEEM DONE RIGHT WELL IN HOOTERS

By LAWRENCE Consulting Pro  
him has tried to  
control. Such peo  
"ambivalent" (s  
and while it is tr  
when they're anxi  
prevent their abn  
cercy. And in an  
which they take  
mainly an outlet  
sentiments they  
from childhood.

Should normal  
for a sick brain  
Answer: It cramp  
ment of normal  
a sick person—  
mental patient—  
and it cannot be  
they should have  
situation they had  
ating. But abnor  
dom can be schiz  
tive, the disease  
perhaps be whete  
is better off at h  
always the case.  
tious parents may  
children suffer rath  
impulse "retic"

Should you take hot-tempered  
people seriously?  
Answer: Yes, but not too seri  
ously. The things a hot-temper  
ed person says and does express  
one side of his real nature, but  
the very violence of the "explos  
ion" shows how hard another side  
of

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