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EDITORIAL COMMENT

By Margaret B. Laughrun

The closing of school always brings mixed emotions which accompany any commencement festivities. The good feeling of scholastic accomplishment, mixed with the sadness of separation from teachers and classmates.

As I re-live my school days I am possessed with an urge to turn back as did the tenth leper in the Bible, to thank all the fine teachers who did so much for me.

Thus it is time that I should thank my second teacher at "Old Academy Hill School," Mrs. Belle Erwin, sister of Rev. John Young of Burnsville, and mother of Lucille Sledge of Brevard. Not only for myself, but for all the students she ever taught.

Yancey County lost two exceptional teachers when Mrs. Erwin and Lucille left us to live in Brevard. I feel sure that Lucille is a great teacher too, for if there's anything to the saying "like Mother, like daughter," she would have to be!

Mrs. Erwin may be called a pioneer in education for when she grew up, even a high school education was an exception in "these parts" for there was no high school near her.

With an inherent desire for learning, "Miss Belle," as she is affectionately known by her many pupils, was not content with a grammar school education. She went to Greenville, S. C. and stayed with a relative until she graduated from high school. It was not just

"midnight oil," she burned, for more often she studied and read all night, so eager was she to absorb all the learning available to her.

Still not satisfied with her education, she went to Greensboro College for Women and worked her entire way from the first day to her diploma. Perhaps that is why education has always meant so much to Mrs. Erwin. She earned its benefits.

As is usual when one becomes the possessor of something great, Mrs. Erwin immediately began sharing her knowledge.

It was not so easy then to "get a school," for schools were scarce. However a minister who was also an educator, Rev. J. E. Harris established what he called "Mission Schools" during the summer and brought college girls to the mountains for sort of "paid vacations" to teach short schools. Interested families in the community boarded the girls and they taught mostly for the love of it. This is how "Miss Belle" began her teaching, and for years and years, she taught "one teacher schools" where she taught all classes from the first grade through the seventh. She walked miles to her home and did the household chores after her long day.

This was not just a means of livelihood to Miss Belle. It was her very life and she taught with joy in her work and with great creative skill. And she is still teaching in a very real way not only by her influence to all around her, but many of her students caught a spark

VIOLET RAYS ON OUR WAYS
 BY H. M. ALLEY

Note: This column is written with malice toward none, but with common good of all in mind.

 S'matter? Were many of the Burnsvillites away on early vacation during the two-weeks Clean-Up campaign? Either there must have been some who were out of town, or out of sympathy with Mayor Reece McIntosh's "Clean-Up" proclamation. In either case, it sure would help if all the stragglers would fall in and "Brighten the Corner," just where they are.

 After all, the quickest, best way to clean up and beautify a town is for every resident to begin right around his own doors. Then let all public spirited citizens, having swept off their own doorsteps, converge upon public spots that have collected too much debris and refuse.

Of course we are talking about cleaning up the physical and natural surroundings of our homes. How to go about cleaning up and fumigating other spots in our town and county, such as the rash and trash of dirty political tactics that break forth on occasion, well your guess would be as good as mine. But all must surely see that these things can mar and befoul the beauty and purity of a town and county's atmosphere far more than the weeds, tin cans, bottles and candy wrappers that sometimes make a mess about our doors.

 And while we are on the "Clean-Up" subject, whose place is it to clean-up or CLEAN-OUT offices

from the torch she held and there will be no end to the light that passes from one to another, right on through time.

Books have always been Mrs. Erwin's best friends and even now she is ever surrounded by a host of them. It is hardly possible to mention a subject with which she is unfamiliar, and her highly developed mind is as keen now as it was in her twenties. The wonderful thing about the mind is that the more knowledge put into it, the more it can hold. And Miss Belle has certainly kept her mental storehouse well stocked!

Knowing her background, profession and interests, it is no surprise to find Mrs. Erwin possessed of two of the noblest qualities a person can have.

First she loves people of all sorts and ages. She gets along equally well with a toddler, a teen-ager or people of her own age. She loves people, not for what she can get from them, but rather for what she can give to them. (A quality not too easily found.) And she has so much to give.

Secondly, she possesses great tolerance. Even though her standards are so high, if any one fails to live up to them, she is understanding and slow to blame. After such a lifetime of enlightenment and enlightening, how could she be otherwise?

Years after she taught me in school she influenced me greatly by her faithfulness in church work. No matter what the church function, Mrs. Erwin was there, ever pleasant in mood, ever ready to converse on any subject, ever ready to share her light with any one who would take it, always bringing out the best in everyone because of the challenge of her own mind. "To get wisdom is better than gold; understanding is to be chosen rather than silver." "The lips of the wise spread knowledge."

PROFFITT ELECTED TO HIGHEST OFFICE IN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
 By Rev. Warren S. Beere

Mr. David Proffitt, whose home is in Maryville, Tenn., but whose family roots are in Yancey Co., has been elevated to the highest office in the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. Only rarely is a layman so honored as to be elected to the moderatorship of the Presbyterian Assembly. Although Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, pastor of the church to which President Eisenhower belongs, also was presented as a candidate, the Assembly chose to elect Mr. Proffitt to its moderatorship.

For two reasons, this year's General Assembly has special significance. This is the 250th anniversary of the founding of the first presbytery on this continent. In the year 1706, one of that band of intrepid Scotch Irish preachers, the Rev. Francis Makemie, assembled a little group of Presbyterian divines in Philadelphia and initiated under God a duly ordered Presbyterian polity in this country.

From this first presbytery, there grew the two great denominations, the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. with its two and three-quarter million communicant members, and the "Presbyterian Church U. S. A." with its almost one million communicants. A third church, the United Presbyterian, somewhat smaller than either of these two, will vote at its forthcoming assembly on the question of merging with the Presbyterian Church U. S. A.

Under Mr. Proffitt's moderatorship, the General Assembly of the latter voted last week that the two denominations will become one in

that are shamed and reproached by incompetent men, whose personal habits and public conduct should make decent and law-abiding people blush with embarrassment, to say the least. Mark you, we are not calling names. Neither are we directing this particular Violet Ray at any one man. Please note again that we use the plural word: MEN.

 Inquiring recently how a certain fellow, starting from scratch, had made enough money in a very short while to move to a larger town and go into business in a bigger way, we were told that he did it by "boot-legging". That reminded us of the day when we followed this certain fellow, on a certain highway, for about three miles, during which he emptied and threw out of his window 3 beer cans. Of course all of you readers would like to know, "WHO, WHEN, and WHERE. Well, we might say that it was a certain guy from Constantinople, on some Wednesday last summer, and on the outskirts of New York. But, as you realize, that answer would be WRONG.

It is said that about 73% of American citizens are car owners, and that 14% of that number have more than one car. All of which makes it wiser and safer for the rest of us to spend more time at home.

 At least one thing can be said in favor of the cold, damp weather of early June, -there have been no dust storms. Which must also be a year-around advantage of living near the North Pole.

 The U. S. Labor Department has undertaken an extensive research project to determine the causes of in-employment and to correct them. We would like to suggest that LAZINESS is one of the main causes; and could be cured in many cases by giving a man his choice of a stiff sentence at hard labor on the roads, or going to work at whatever honest occupation might be available. 'Nuff Sed.

MISS HUTCHINSON'S ART BOUGHT BY LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

Miss Jane Campbell Hutchinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James P. Hutchinson of District Heights, Md., and formerly of Burnsville, has been accorded the honor of having her etching and aquatint, "Street at Night", purchased for the permanent collection of the Library of Congress.

From the 1,175 submitted from Oberlin College, where Miss Hutchinson is doing graduate work, her print was chosen to be one of the 200 for the 14th National Exhibition at the library.

The Washington Post "Gallery Notes" reports that it was also cited by the jury for its quality of "luminosity and technical excellence."

Mr. Hutchinson, former art instructor in the Burnsville schools, is now a photogrammetric engineer in the Navy's Hydrographic Office at Suitland, Md.

Mrs. Hutchinson is the former Miss Leone Warrick and is a piano teacher and organist in her church in District Heights.

Miss Hutchinson is a granddaughter of Mrs. Minnie Warrick of Burnsville RFD 1, formerly of Green Mountain, and the late Charles Warrick.

The Hutchinson family plans to go to Oberlin to bring their daughter home for a brief visit before she embarks for a three month's tour of Europe. She has been chosen to make this tour with a group from Oberlin sailing from Quebec late in June.

a union to be consummated in 1958, if the United Presbyterians also approve, and it seems very probable that they will.

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PTC. WARD ABOARD USMS BRECKENRIDGE

Cherry Point, N. C.,—The USMS Breckenridge arrived at Fort Mason, San Francisco, Calif., last Sunday afternoon. Among the 27 North Carolina Marines aboard was Pfc James D. Ward, RD 2 Burnsville.

The ship, arriving from the Far East, is carrying 1247 veterans of the Third Marine Division. All the personnel are undergoing rotation and will be reassigned duty stations.

They will be processed at Treasure Island. The processing period is expected to be completed within three days.

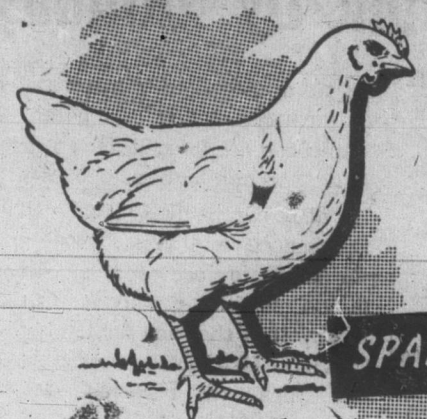
Marines with accumulated leave will receive delay enroute. Upon its expiration they will report to their new duty stations.

Central heating was provided more than 3000 years ago in a palace of the Aztecs, a city-dwelling people who lived in what is today Turkey. Recent excavations have unearthed a pipe-line system of corridors beneath most of the palace's chambers.

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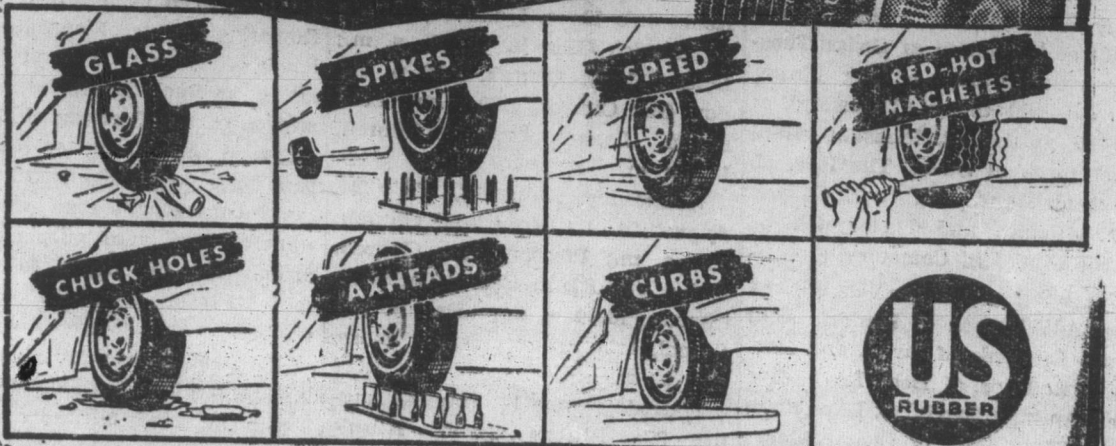
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Official Democratic Returns For County Officers

TOWNSHIPS	Harlon Holcombe	Peggy Huskins	Evelyn H. Pate	Troy Boone	W. M. Hall	E. N. Stacey	W. E. Robinson	D. H. Harrison	Lloyd Miller	S. C. Edwards	R. E. Holloway	J. E. Edwards	Roy Ray	W. H. Peterson	Rex McIntosh	J. L. Robinson	H. D. Young	Talmage Woody	Brady Black
Burnsville	696	74	641	112	429	130	73	456	433	76	96	98	548	318	248	284	92	64	109
Cane River	279	100	244	116	173	74	103	89	195	110	134	141	186	180	160	124	134	79	100
Egypt	144	51	143	34	125	14	38	12	92	137	48	35	27	25	124	36	27	30	35
Ramseytown	104	52	97	49	75	31	33	9	112	15	118	33	67	55	90	19	32	36	46
Green Mountain	154	12	130	30	124	19	13	58	124	51	24	28	136	110	59	61	8	13	14
Jacks Creek	240	45	212	61	164	65	39	168	161	33	70	50	218	190	58	145	29	20	33
Brush Creek	185	6	98	40	103	10	17	78	92	27	18	19	116	60	70	94	8	50	19
Crabtree	396	117	188	320	372	28	124	321	279	20	94	112	265	172	57	368	82	78	148
South Toe	250	28	219	49	202	54	23	219	169	54	37	25	161	122	56	187	29	13	50
Pensacola	45	4	23	15	26	13	7	13	12	28	19	12	33	28	23	7	11	5	10
Prices Creek	142	9	128	12	92	15	17	80	51	48	20	17	98	59	44	66	11	3	13
Totals	2485	498	2028	838	1885	453	487	1503	1720	599	678	570	1855	1310	989	1391	463	362	577