

THE YANCEY RECORD
Established July, 1936

ARNEY and TRENA FOX CO-PUBLISHERS & EDITORS
MISS HOPE BAILEY ASSOCIATE EDITOR
T. L. BROWN SHOP MANAGER
Published Every Thursday By
YANCEY PUBLISHING COMPANY
A Partnership
Second Class Mail Privileges Authorized at Burnsville, N. C.
THURSDAY, JUNE 19, 1958 NUMBER FORTY-THREE
SUB. RATE \$2.00 PER YEAR

-- Overlook On Life --

By WARREN S. REEVE

The idea of "Overlook" is taken from the Overlooks provided for viewing panoramas along the Blue Ridge Parkway.

History shows, I think, that democracy does not always work successfully, — not always, even among people that are supposed to be highly civilized. Whether or not we could go so far as to say that recent developments in France and in Algeria indicate that democracy there had failed might be a debatable question. Careful thinking, however, will make clear to us that there are degrees of failure and degrees of success. What has happened recently in France and in Algeria is evidence that democratic thought and practice have fallen far short of working in a perfect way, and that they have, in fact, failed to a certain degree.

My thesis is that if a democratic society is to be a safe and happy society in which to live, the people who make up that society have to be people with disciplined character. When things go along nicely, when there is prosperity, when everybody had a job and few people are poor, a democratic social order and political structure will work all right. Even a non-democratic system will sometimes work smoothly and without being challenged by public opinion when peace and prosperity prevail. But let trouble come on a people. Let there be widespread unemployment. Let there be poverty. Under such circumstances, groups or blocs are likely to form, and by bringing into their circle the right personalities, they may, even though they are numerically only a small minority, be able to take over the government. They may succeed in throwing democracy out. Such is the general pattern of what has happened numerous times in the last one hundred and fifty years. It happened in Germany twenty-five years ago. It is probably happening in the Near East country of Lebanon today. There is at least a semblance of this kind of a development in France right now.

We Americans who so often pay devout lip service to democracy are self-deceived if we let the concept of democracy be unqualifiedly exalted as the supreme system of political and economic

social order.

The order of democracy is indeed a great idea. It presupposes, however, a certain faith that every individual human being and that all the larger and smaller groupings of human beings that there are in the world are each of infinite worth. Democracy assumes, furthermore, that the rank and file of people have good sense. A successfully working democratic political and social order means that the majority of the people are endowed with good judgment and that they have sufficient strength of character both to do what is right and to insist that what is right shall be done by them all as a group.

Let us examine, now, these premises of the philosophy of democracy. Do we all indeed believe that every single human individual is a creature of infinite worth? Are we persuaded, without one tinge of doubt, that even the most primitive human creature is worth an infinite sacrifice, worth dying for? Such a question, taken seriously, may well cause us great heart searching. It will make us, I think, to babble too facetiously about the universal practicality of democracy.

The next premise is that people as a whole have good sense. How do you answer that proposition? My answer is: Sometimes they have; sometimes they haven't. On occasion, they will surprise the world by the uncanny wisdom that inheres in a popular mass instinct. But on as many occasions the things that a majority cry out for will be all wrong. A majority were in favor of the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. A majority of Frenchmen in 1939-1940 approved, I suppose, of collaboration with Hitler.

Thus, I say, the opinion of the majority is not reliable. You can't count on it as being right. It is sometimes right, but it is often wrong. There is always need for a searching analysis of every significant popular idea or enactment, to see wherein it is right and wherein it is in order.

The third great premise of de-

Effective Way To Secure Industry

(from N. C. Industrial Newsletter)

Remembered by many, practiced by many, and probably ignored by too many is the age-old maxim that "The Lord helps those who help themselves."

This old truism may well be applied to those of you who are endeavoring to provide more industrial payrolls for the communities in which you live and at the same time help build a bigger, better and more prosperous North Carolina.

Yes, the good Lord does help those who help themselves.

This fact is made crystal clear by the results being obtained at local levels throughout North Carolina. It is especially true of communities which have live, active development organizations, whose members work together for the common good of their respective areas.

Furthermore, this fact was recently brought into sharp focus by Harry W. Clark, former executive director of Wilmington's Industrial Development Council and now

vice president of Fantus Area Research, Inc., with headquarters in Atlanta.

Addressing some 80 businessmen attending the Industrial Workshop sponsored at Elkin by the Northwest North Carolina Development Association, the energetic Mr. Clark urged development of active area organizations, community organizations, and efforts of individuals as an effective combination to guide and promote a community's industrial development.

Said Mr. Clark and we quote him: "America will change whether Northwest North Carolina changes or not—and communities which do not quite fit into the industrial picture will dry up."

We agree, Mr. Clark.

Fire Chief Urges Clean-Up

Fires that started in rubbish caused property loss of \$11,000,000 in 1956.

Old magazines and newspapers, discarded clothing and furniture piled into attics, basements and garages and store corners and dried leaves dropped by the wind around buildings give fire a good place to start.

"Take time to clear out these accumulations of rubbish," advised Fire Chief Bob Hilliard. "You may avoid a fire that could destroy your property and your neighbors."

J. W. Howell Dies At 91

Final rites for John Wesley Howell, 91, Yancey County merchant for many years who died at his home at Green Mountain, on Wednesday, June 11, were conducted at 2:30 p. m. Friday in Green Mountain Presbyterian Church. Masonic rites were conducted by the Bald Creek Lodge.

Mr. Howell had served as deputy U. S. marshal, Green Mountain Postmaster and chairman of the Yancey Selective Service Board in both World Wars. He also had been a member of the County Board of Education for six years. He was a member of the Green Mountain Church and the oldest member of the Bald Creek Masonic Lodge.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Lucretia Horton; three daughters, Mrs. Clarence E. Bailey of Green Mountain, Mrs. J. J. Sullivan of Columbus, Ga., and Mrs. C. P. Randolph of Burnsville; five sons, R. C., Richard and J. Walter of Green Mountain, Capt. E. M. Howell of Austin, Tex. and Frank W. Howell of Marion; a brother, Jesse of Green Mountain; 20 grandchildren, and 11 great-grandchildren.

Arrangements were under direction of Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home.

Market Price Important in Wool Program Payments

Farmers who sell wool below the national average price for the 1958 marketing year will wind up getting less for their wool than the national incentive price of 62 cents per pound, according to Alvin Pate, chairman of the Yancey County ASC Committee. Mr. Pate cited the following example to show how the wool payment program works:

For the 1956 marketing year (for which payments were made in the summer of 1957) the national average wool price was 44.3 cents per pound. The incentive payment rate was 40 per cent of the average price — in order to

bring the average price up to the incentive level. A farmer who sold his wool for 35 cents per pound received a payment of 40 per cent of this amount, or 14 cents. This gave him a total rate of 49 cents per pound. A grower who sold his wool for 50 cents a pound during the same marketing year received a payment of 20 cents per pound, giving him a total rate of 70 cents per pound for his wool.

Wool payments, said Mr. Pate, are true incentive payments. The more a farmer gets for his wool when he sells it the more payments he gets.

Smoke Takes Life Of Man

John W. Bowditch, 48, a World War II veteran, was found dead of suffocation on his burned mattress in his home at Hamrick Saturday morning, Coroner Willard Hensley reported.

The coroner attributed the death to an accident and no inquest will be held. He said the evidence indicated the mattress, had caught fire and that Bowditch had attempted to beat the blaze out with his hands before he was overcome by smoke. The origin of the fire was not immediately determined.

Hensley said Bowditch lived alone, and his body was found by a brother, Frank Bowditch, also of Hamrick.

Services were held at 3 p. m. Sunday at the South Estate Presbyterian Church.

The Rev. John W. Young and the Rev. Horace Stoessel officiated and burial was in the Ballew Cemetery.

Surviving in addition to Frank Bowditch is another brother, R. S. Bowditch of Charlotte; and a sister, Mrs. Lawrence Gibbs of Mica-

Holcombe Brothers Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements.

Obituaries

W. A. RANDOLPH

Willard A. Randolph, 75, died suddenly at his home, Burnsville RFD 4, Monday.

Services were held in Little Creek Holiness Church Wednesday at 11 a. m. The Rev. Robert Randolph officiated and burial was in Honeycutt Cemetery.

Surviving are the wife; a daughter, Mrs. Ray Wyatt of Carleton; two sons, Roosevelt of the Army, Ft. Knox, Ky., and Dover of the home; two step-sons, Forrest Parker of Arlington, Va., and Roland Parker of Oregon; and four grandchildren.

L. B. SILVER

L. B. Silver, 80, of Burnsville, died suddenly at the home of a daughter, Mrs. L. A. Autrey, of Pensacola, Monday about noon.

Services were held Wednesday at 2 p. m. at Pensacola Methodist Church. The Rev. O. L. Brown and the Rev. Jim Hall officiated, and burial was in the Pensacola Cemetery.

Surviving in addition to Mrs. Autrey are three other daughters,

Mrs. Hal Gibbs of Burnsville, Mrs. W. K. Wood of Swannanoa and Mrs. Hosea Angel of Detroit, Mich. three sons, Alphonso of San Diego, Calif., Charles, of the U. S. Navy, Galveston, Texas; and L. B. Jr. of Clarksville, Ga.; a sister, Mrs. Lillie McMahan of Morganton; 14 grandchildren; 20 great-grandchildren; and 2 great-great-grandchildren.

Mrs. Higgins Dies At 102

Mrs. Mary Higgins, 102, widow of the late Marcus Higgins, died at the home of a daughter, Mrs. J. E. Hipkins of Burnsville RFD 1, Sunday after a short illness.

Services were held Tuesday at 2:30 p. m. in Higgins Free Will Baptist Church. The Rev. A. Z. Jamerson and the Rev. E. G. Adkins officiated and burial was in Higgins Cemetery.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Hipkins, Mrs. Betsy Higgins of Green Creek and Mrs. Bertha Price of Shelby; four sons, C. J., Noah and Linville of Lakeland, Fla., and Charlie of Inman, S. C.; 61 grandchildren; 92 great-grandchildren; and 13 great-great-grandchildren.

FOR AND ABOUT TEENAGERS

Teens, Parents Each Have Problems

By Clare D. Smith



A teenage friend in New Jersey writes that she is fifteen but her parents will not let her date on Saturday nights. She also says her parents listen to her telephone conversations and if she talks 15 minutes makes her get "off the telephone."

Dates and telephones! I can't think of two greater teenage problems. But let's take them in order.

Dates: Many parents allow their children to date at the age of fifteen. Some do not. Our young friend has indicated that when she is 16 she will be allowed to go to Saturday night dances. At the moment that seems like a long time in the future, but actually it

is only a few months away. Be patient.

One thing disturbs me, however. Our friend says she knows many girls who are dating at the age of 12 and 13. This is entirely too young.

Telephone: Our young friend also reports her parents listening to her conversations on the telephone. This, I think, is justified. Parents should respect the privacy of their children's conversations the same as they would other individuals.

I must, however, agree with the parents that a 15 minute telephone conversation is long enough. Telephones are not instruments for visiting. If a teenager has many friends and they call often the telephone can be tied up for hours and days.

All teenagers should remember that other members of the family have telephone privileges also.

If you have a teenage problem you want to discuss, or an observation to make, address your letter to FOR AND ABOUT TEENAGERS, NATIONAL WEEKLY NEWSPAPER SERVICE, FRANKFORT, KY.

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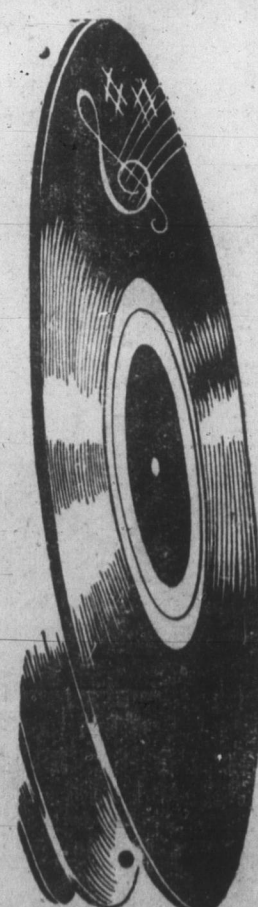


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