

# Editorials

## July Fourth

The Fourth of July—Independence Day! What a world of color, of drama, of history, those few little words bring to mind, and especially to those of an age who can remember what the Fourth used to mean.

It was a day of fun, of course. There were games, complete with prizes for young and old alike, running the gamut from three-legged races to shooting matches. There were the family picnics, and sturdy old tables groaned under them. There were the fireworks now banned almost everywhere, except in formal displays, for safety reasons. There were the orators—they ran the full gamut from good to indifferent to bad, but they all had one thing in common—dedication, passion, pride in nation, its heritage, and its future. There were the great brass bands, the members standing tall in their pressed, polished uniforms. There were the roll calls of the towering names that had provided leadership in molding and making a nation fit to stand with any nation—Washington, Madison, Monroe, Jefferson, the Adamses, Franklin. . . . And the flags, proud against the sky, flew everywhere.

We still celebrate the Fourth. It's still a national holiday. But something vital has gone out of it. Whatever the reason, the nation is poorer, weaker and smaller because of that. Times have changed. We have grown, prospered, learned 'sophistications, enjoyed vast material progress. But is the old pride, the old sense of faith in nation and in its destiny, the old courage, still with us?

Each must answer that question for himself. But let him ponder deeply and honestly before answering as another Fourth comes near.

## Viewpoint

BY TOM HIGGINS

It occurs to me:—That although the weatherman tells us the month just past was the coolest June on record, things were pretty hot in Burnsville.

—That the wife who thinks her hubby's jokes are corny should remember that he supplies the cabbage, too.

—That it won't seem like the Fourth of July without the annual picnic thrown by the Farmers' Federation organization (perhaps the splurges on Independence Day are the cause of the outfit's bankruptcy).

—That the best way to celebrate the Fourth is with a fifth (July 5th, that is).

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## IT NEVER FAILS



## Grassroots Opinion

MILLER, S. D., PRESS: "It appears that bees come under the heading of property and are therefore taxable. If you are wondering just how a bee owner goes about the business of counting his bees, let me hasten to assure you that the head count is made easy, if you can use the word 'easy' and 'taxes' in the same sentence. It's just a simple matter of counting the hives, not the inhabitants. The next time you are assaulted by a bee, in a very vulnerable area, and bees have a built-in radar which guides them to the vulnerable areas, don't smear him. The life you save may be that of a taxpayer."

LEESBURG, FLA., COMMERCIAL: "Youth is 'slowing down', a high school principal is quoted as saying. You wouldn't think so to see the way some boys and girls . . . round the corners in the family automobile."

CORYDON, IND., REPUBLICAN: "It should require but a moment's thought to realize that no other nation is so well-fed as ours, with such a variety of foods, or so completely protected by its growers, food-processors and government against food contamination from any source, even from misrepresentation in grading and measurement."

AFTON, OKLA., AMERICAN: "Was it Patrick Henry who said: 'Give me Liberty or give me death' or did he say: 'Taxation without Representation is Tyranny'? We cannot say as to our liberties but we do know that under the present setup we pay taxes

into death and our liberties are slowly being taken away from us and our representative (is), at times, doubtful."

QUAKERTOWN, PA., FREE PRESS: "One mark of dictatorship, fascist or communist, is rigid control of the labor force. Just recently, Cuba, which is now perfecting the tools of dictatorship, announced that from now on all employment must be handled through the state employment service. . . . We are heading in the same direction here. . . . A number of people connected with U. S. Employment Service have made it plain that they want to do all the job placement in the country. In the Employment Security Review it is stated that 'It is intended that the employment office in each locality will become the community manpower center.'"

PORT GIBSON, MISS., REVEILLE: "One news item . . . showed that common sense won over a bunch of sociologists, when the House of Representatives voted overwhelmingly to allow teachers in the District of Columbia schools to spank unruly pupils. Probably this should come under the heading of a 'Progress Report'."

BOONE, IOWA, NEWS-REPUBLICAN: "Spring is check-up time as far as house and garden are concerned. It might be well to consider a check-up on one's own physical condition. For a long time an annual health check-up has been recommended. People know of this recommendation but too few act on their knowledge. Some individuals may avoid this

physical check-up because they think it takes time. Who is to judge the cost of time? An hour's visit to a doctor may save your life."

## What Others Are Saying

### FROM THE CANTON ENTERPRISE

When people in responsible places are trying to do their jobs as well as the public interest dictates, there are bound to be differences of opinions as to how some things should be handled.

That's only human nature. And newspaper people are as susceptible to this condition as any other person is.

A situation arose recently when some people thought it might be best if a certain news story could be left out of the paper. The newspaper people thought that the story ought to be published. For two reasons: People have the right of information. They need to know what is going on in the community just as do the people who already know what is happening. Secondly, a news story with the facts presented accurately can clear the air of rumors.

For these reasons, this newspaper chose to publish the story. But it did not choose to publish the story in such a way that further speculation would arise. And it did not choose to display the story with the prominence of big banner headlines, as some other newspapers would have done in the same situation.

But it should be pointed out that suppressing the news in any community in the hope that the situation will resolve itself is a fallacy because no problem will go away when it's ignored.

We are willing to concede, however, that publicity of events—the racial strife that is sweeping this country is a good example—does nothing to bring about understanding and agreement.

Many newspapers and other press media have played up the racial events solely for big headlines. In fact, many of them have used so many big headlines that agitation has been stirred to the point that racial peace will be long in coming to this country.

But this is the way of America. We have freedom of the press and

we must have the right of freedom, though, there is a duty on the press to inform people. It is not our duty to incite and agitate situations. In the long run, however, a free press is better than a censored one. It has to remain that way no matter how distasteful some news events are handled.

## Letters To The Editor

God commanded the priests to drink no wine nor strong drink (Lev. 10, 8-9). God commanded the Nazirites to drink no wine (Num. 6, 1-3). God commanded the mother of Samson to drink no wine nor strong drink (Judges 13, 4-14).

Daniel, the great prophet of the Bible, was a total abstainer. But Daniel purposed in his heart that he would not defile himself with the portion of the king's meat, nor with the wine which he drank; therefore he requested of the prince of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself (Daniel 1, 8).

Paul, the great apostle to the gentiles, wrote: It is good neither to eat flesh, nor drink wine, nor anything whereby thy brother stumbleth, or is offended, or is made weak (Romans 14, 11).

John the Baptist was a total abstainer. For he shall be great in the sight of the Lord, and shall drink neither wine nor strong drink; and he shall be filled with the Holy Ghost, even from his mother's womb (Luke 1, 15).

Woe unto him that giveth his

neighbor drink, that putteth thy drunk also, that thou mayest put a bottle to him, and makest him drunk on their nakedness (Hosea 2, 15). Wine is a mocker, strong drink is raging; and whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise (Prov. 20, 1). Woe to them that rise up early in the morning, that they may follow strong drink; that continue until night, till wine inflame them! (Isa. 5, 11).

Woe unto them that are mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink; which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! (Isa. 5, 22-3).

Who hath woe? Who hath sorrow? Who hath contentions? Who hath babbling? Who hath wounds without cause? Who hath redness of eyes? They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine, Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. (Prov. 23, 29-31).

Rev. Earl Blankenship, Double Island Baptist Church

## THE YANCEY RECORD

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1946

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