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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY BY

YANCEY PUBLISHING COMPANY

SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BURNSVILLE, N. C.

THURSDAY, SEPT. 28, 1967

NUMBER FOUR

SUBSCRIPTION RATES \$3.00 PER YEAR

OUT OF COUNTY \$4.00 PER YEAR

## Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

There is a chap around Town, Washington, that is, who does an awful lot of travelling for a polling outfit. It polls people on anything and everything you can mention. That is, if his company can make a buck or two out of it. The company prefers to make two. This chap is of Italian descent, third generation American, and probably has a political stand as a Republican or a Democrat. He does not state which one it is. Personally, I have asked him about it several times and he always tergiversates when he answers. That means he either equivocates or prevaricates. In any event, I know that he always votes an absentee ballot up in New England. That tended to make me think he was a Democrat.

Recently, when several of us were having a jawbone session, I put in my two-cents worth of comment, based upon the assumption that my friend was doubtless a Democrat. He grinned at me and said: "You don't give up, do you Irishman?" Then he added: "It makes no difference what Party I favor. I work for an outfit that checks into things and finds out what everybody or, at least, the majority of everybody is going to do. Right now, for example, I know that the Democrats are in a very bad way. Will you admit that?" He waited until my admission that the Democrats had, in the past, at least been in a better way than now, then he continued. "You have been around this Town too long. I can assure you that, given the proper Candidates, the Republican Party will chase the Democrats off the field, in the coming elections. Do you want to know how?"

Not being a complete idiot, I assured him I would like to know how the Republicans could beat, much less "chase off the field", any man who was incumbent.

Then he started to talk. And he talked, and he talked. He was convincing, I must admit that. He pointed out that, by and large, people will not vote for a person they dislike. After he had suckered us into agreement on that score, he threw out his first blockbuster point. He claimed his polls had shown that a terrific portion of the voting public disliked the incumbent. Then he added that of the rest, most of them did not "like" him. He claimed that all of the voters who "disliked" the incumbent in any election will vote against him and that those who do "not like" him will vote about 50-50. Thus the margin will swing against him and the opponent will get elected.

One of those listening interposed: "Wait a minute. You are ignoring the issues of the campaign. Are you claiming they don't count?"

"Of course they count," answered my pollster-friend. "But they only count if they are

handled properly." He chuckled a little and added "Then, they must be chosen by a Master and handled by a Master." He let that sink in, then continued. "The last election was strictly no contest. But take the one before that. Nixon versus Kennedy. Everybody knew Nixon. No one knew Kennedy, except some people up in New England. Nixon was a "shoo-in". Couldn't be beaten. For sure, he could not be beaten by an unknown Senator who had no campaign issues to argue, and who, besides all of that, was too young, and was a Catholic." He watched the heads nod in agreement and laughed when someone reminded him that Kennedy had won.

"That's my point," he said. "Kennedy won despite objects impossible to overcome because he picked his own issues to campaign upon and led Nixon into the trap of defending the issues Kennedy raised. For example, the biggest issue, after Kennedy settled the religious one, was the American image abroad. Nobody in their right senses knew or cared about that as a Campaign issue, except Kennedy, and he made it terrific. He had poor Dick Nixon trying to slay a dragon that didn't exist. Kennedy never claimed that Europe disliked Ike yet he made Nixon waste a lot of time trying to prove that all of Europe loved Ike. Kennedy brought the two little islands off the China Coast into the deal, along with Chiang Kai Shek. Nixon then defended the islands and the Generalissimo. Most important of all, Kennedy trapped Nixon into allowing Kennedy to get National publicity via the famous debates." He shook his head sadly in remembrance. "That was a real smart maneuver." He checked into a little notebook he carried,

then put it away. "It was almost unanimous among high-school and collegiate teachers of Debate that Nixon won the debates — on points." He grinned as he recollect. "But we all know that Kennedy won votes. My point is this. If the Republicans come up with the right Candidates and run a smart campaign, they can't lose. Nixon has already stolen the Kennedy system and is talking of our bad image with

other Countries. But Nixon is too late. Maybe people don't dislike him but they sure don't "like" him, so he should become a "team" man, but I doubt if he will. Nobody really "loves" Dick, yet, if he plumps out for someone that the people will "love" then our incumbent is in bad shape." He waited for comment

but received none. "Our most recent poll shows that it can be a romp, if the Republicans come up with a real team. Today, you need a good Veep too — just in

case. But there is one thing for sure," he concluded, "you can't beat somebody with nobody."

## IT NEVER FAILS



## Letter To The Editor

September 22, 1967

Editor Yancey Record  
Burnsville  
North Carolina

Dear Editor:

I am writing this letter in hope that you will find space for it in your valued newspaper, probably in your "letters to the editor" column.

I believe that this is a vital problem that you as a newspaper editor and the good citizens of Yancey county will strive to correct as it has a direct bearing on your future tourist business and sale of property to people who wish to buy and build summer homes in your wonderful North Carolina mountains.

Several years ago we purchased land in the Celu section, and have since influenced many other Florida people to locate in that area and the Burnsville area. From year to year we have improved this property looking forward to retirement next year when we will be able to spend as much as four or five months there during the summer season.

For the last four years we have had to tolerate wanton destruction of our property and thievery of articles left in the cabin from year to year. Twice last year and once so far this year. Two other Fort Lauderdale citizens have experienced the same treatment.

Unless something can be done to bring these renegades to an accounting, there is only one thing left for us and others to do and that is to sell our properties and move to a section where we are not confronted with this type of lawlessness.

I hope that the good citizens who are working for the advancement and development of Yancey County will recognize the seriousness of this type of law violation and will demand that every effort be made to correct it.

Yours very truly,  
Fred W. Pyles  
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

## Bacon Honor Graduate

It is a pleasure to hear good things about our boys in service. For this reason we are happy to share with our readers a highly complimentary letter received by Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Bacon about their son, A3c Richard N. Bacon, better known to his friends as "Rick".

Mr. and Mrs. F. N. Bacon  
P. O. Box 764  
Burnsville, N. C. 28714

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Bacon:

I am most pleased to inform you that your son, A3c Richard N. Bacon, has been selected as Honor Graduate of the Morse Intercept Operator Course. This is a distinction attained by a very few of our students, and I thought you would enjoy hearing about it.

Your son has completed all 10 weeks of his technical training in an outstanding manner, and his selection was based heavily on his military attributes as an airman, as well as on his academic achievements.

The operation of our complex communications systems is vital to the defense of our country, and is largely in the hands of capable young people like your son. Accordingly, it is gratifying to have individuals of his calibre serving as members of the Air Force team.

Sincerely,  
Danny R. Van Cleave II  
Captain, United States Air  
Force Chief, Intercept Operator  
Branch Operator Department

## C.R. High School Menu

Oct. 2 through Oct. 6

Monday: Hot Dogs and Chili, Buns, Baked Potato, Slaw and Onion, Oatmeal Cake with Lemon Sauce, Milk.

Tuesday: Pinto Beans, Turnip Greens, Corn Muffins, Tomatoes, Onion Rings, Apple Cobbler with Cheese wedges, Milk.

Wednesday: Turkey and dressing, Rice and Gravy, Buttered Green Peas, Carrot and Celery Strips, Sliced Peaches, Hot rolls and milk.

Thursday: Spaghetti and meat balls, Green beans, Hot rolls, Two minute cookies, milk or orange juice.

Friday: Hamburger and buns, Dill pickles, Potato chips, Sliced tomatoes, Pineapple pudding, milk.

## SLOW FAST

The world's longest recorded hunger strike was one of 94 days by nine men in Cork Prison, Ireland, in 1920.

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
- Red-bellied woodpecker
  - Ancient Semitic local deity
  - Loyal
  - Snapshot book
  - Month
  - Cubic meter
  - Begone!
  - Approaches, as game
  - Game of cat's cradle (H. I.)
  - Roman road
  - Half an em
  - Medicinal plant
  - Any fruit drink
  - Varieties of corundum
  - Owens
  - Forest ways
  - Land measure
  - Farm animal
  - River island
  - Unstable
  - Greek portico
  - Canadian river
  - Performing
  - More rational
  - Garry Moore, for one
  - Ancient Irish capital
  - Direction

- DOWN
- Zero
  - Leading actresses
  - Exchange premium
  - Chief deity (Babyl.)
  - Sew with long stitches
  - Place of worship
  - Adam's son
  - Sneaked
  - Biblical name
  - Middle (law)
  - Frighten

17. Frozen water
20. Contraction: I am
21. Tibetans, e.g.
23. Anger
24. Water god
25. Stops
26. Biblical mount
28. Young lion
29. The theatre



Answer

31. Crider
32. Extreme
35. East Indian grass
36. More or less
38. Moisture

