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Scene From Top O' The Hill

By: Jack Kelly

In our last elections, 1966, only one incumbent Representative was beaten in North Carolina. He was Democrat Harold D. Cooley of the 4th District who was trounced soundly by Republican James C. Gardner, who carried some 56.2% of the total vote. Only two other Republicans grabbed a membership in the North Carolina Delegation. However, a couple of the Democratic stalwarts had a bit of a scare. Mr. Horace R. Kornegay, over in the 6th District would have lost if only 15 people out of every 1,000 had changed their vote. In our own 11th District, Roy Taylor only beat Scott Harvey by some 6,500 votes out of a total in excess of 126,000. Figures like that almost guarantee a short session of Congress this term because all of the Members just "got" to get home and mend fences. States like Virginia that, in the last election placed 4 Republicans in its 10-man Delegation, are ranting to get home and get moving. This coming election might change the face of Congress more than a little bit.

Republican Governor Kirk, of Florida, charged publicly, in a speech delivered in Washington recently that the Wallace movement was a Johnson conspiracy. Whether it is or is not the result is the same. A strong Wallace vote can only help the Democrats in the National Race. Wallace has to draw the bulk of his strength from potential Republicans in Southern States, ergo, his movement will doubtless swing them into the Johnson column — if Mr. J. runs.

Lots of people feel that New York Governor Rockefeller could make the best and mayhap the winning run for the Republicans. Mr. Nixon dissents. Mr. Nixon is wrong for many reasons. One very copious one I heard discussed recently had more than a little logic in it. The proponent claimed that no one who voted against Nixon and for Kennedy could now vote for Nixon. However, a huge percentage of those Kennedy people consider Rocky as almost an exact duplicate of Kennedy and would have little or no hesitancy in switching their allegiance to Rocky. As a matter of fact, a lot of those who voted for Rocky had he been the opposition nominee. Even the late President, himself, admitted that Rocky would have been the most difficult candidate for him to whp. Nixon, of course, came awful close to winning and it is hard to convince a near winner that he won't win the next pot. That's the reason the big losers in poker games are the ones who had very good hands — only they were always the second best ones.

Bobby Kennedy, in the Democratic arena, faces a different yet somewhat similar situation

that Nixon does. Bobby can taste the nomination and wants it. However, he has sense enough to know that no one can take the nomination away from LBJ. Despite this knowledge, Bobby is surrounded by a coterie of men who feed his ego every minute and constantly urge him to strike for the nomination regardless of that situation. Bobby, of course, according to the Washington writers, has set his time-table for 1972. However, four years is a long time to keep a pot stewing and History has proven that many changes come about during almost any four-year period. Bobby, being most conscious and knowledgeable about History, has to worry whether he can keep his personal pot stewing for another four years. If he can not, he is a dead duck. Therefore, the alternative might well be that he make a swing against LBJ. There, again, if he misses, he is a dead duck. Possibly that is his future. Our History is replete with personages who always were prominent and always ended up a dead duck.

Personally, I wish Bobby would forget everything except the Senate. Then his potential as a Statesman might well blossom forth for the benefit of the entire Country.

Some day, the voters are going to realize that politics is a profession all to itself. There doubtless will be schools where political degrees will be given and the graduates will present themselves to the electorate. These graduates should not be big business men but persons who are well grounded in politics and political science. Then we will have people who serve because they want to accomplish things. We had examples in the late President Kennedy and the present Governor Rockefeller. Both of them had so much money that no one could possibly imagine their being crooked. Each of them had sufficient resources so that, if necessary, he could finance his own campaign. When and if the Country ever has the opportunity to decide between two such men, it will be a great day indeed.

If the man in the elected office has no private business he can not possibly have a conflict of interest. Too many of our elected officials have law practices, insurance companies, contracting businesses, or something that benefits if the top man gets into office. Therefore, the elected official must have an interest other than the very best conduction of the office to which he was elected. The elected official, with no private interests to cause him conflict, can look with dispassion upon contracts presented to the City, Town, County, State, or National body for his action. Such an official can maintain friendships with the winners and the

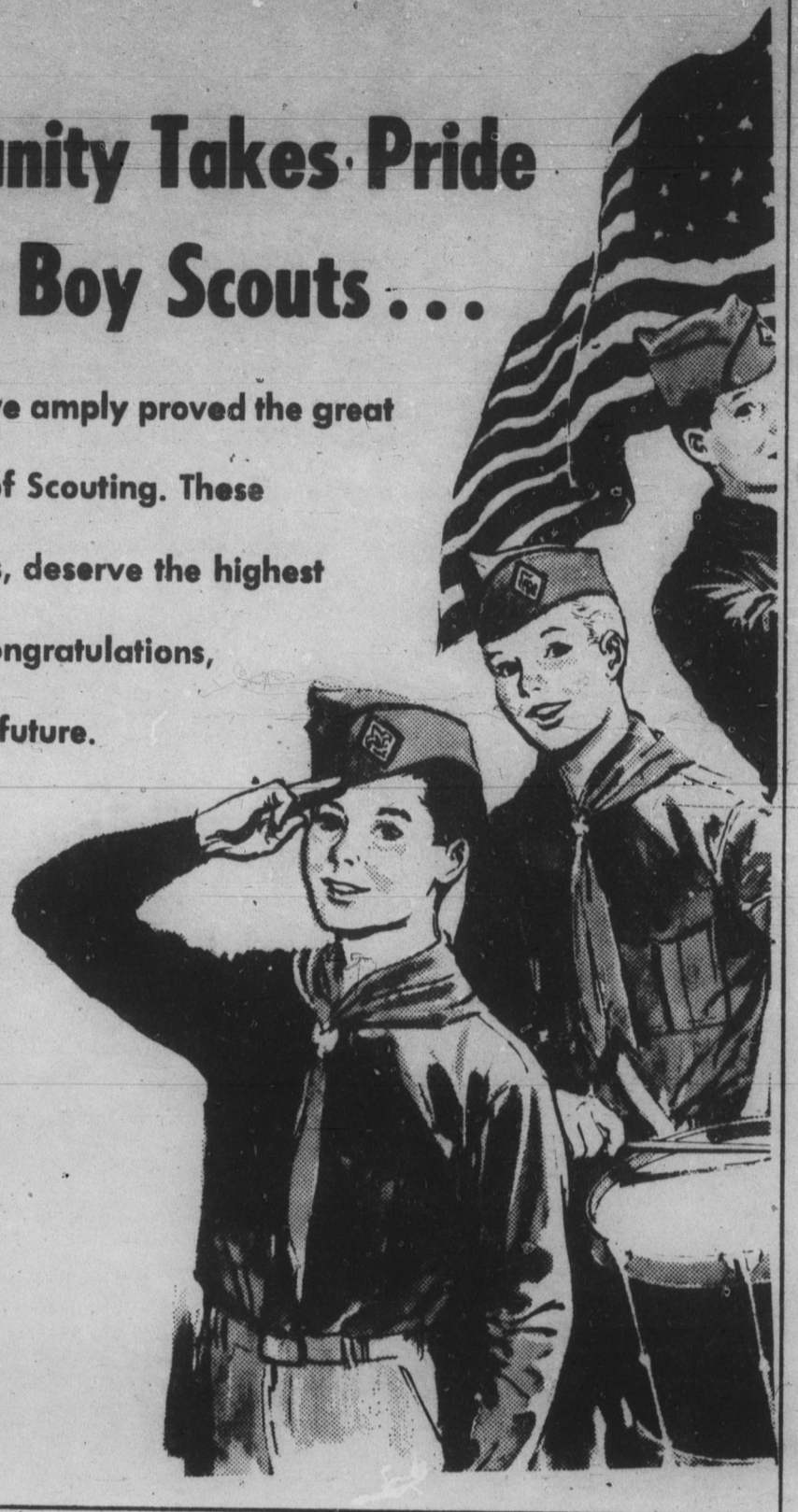
This Community Takes Pride in Our Own Boy Scouts...

Our local Boy Scouts have amply proved the great worth of the principles of Scouting. These Scouts, and their leaders, deserve the highest praise. To our Scouts, congratulations, and best wishes for the future.



February 7-13, 1968

Respect for others,
pride in country,
faith in God... for a
Boy Scout, these
beliefs grow and are
strengthened, daily



losers because he is not in politics to make money.

Such an operation would not affect the present two-party system of politics at all. As a matter of fact it would strengthen it. As a general result, our Country would profit because all of the big businesses would know that the only thing they had to offer in obtaining contracts would be a good product at a reasonable price. Such a system might even balance a budget or two.

Letter To The Editor

February 7, 1968

Mrs. Trena Fox, Editor
The Yancey Record
Burnsville, N. C.

Dear Mrs. Fox:

The message of this letter is intended for a person, or persons, whose identity I do not know, but who I trust will read it and think.

Just before Christmas I took a lovely driftwood floral arrangement to "Dad" Woody's grave in the Pete Young Cemetery near Wndom. It had considerable monetary value, but even more sentimental value, for I had picked up the driftwood on one of our last fishing trips. Because I had heard rumors that decorations were sometimes stolen from graves in this cemetery, I put a florist's card, incased in plastic, on this piece, asking that it be left on "Dad's" grave. From time to time I visited the grave and it was still just as lovely as when first placed. On Sunday afternoon, Jan. 28, members of the family were there, and later in the week remarked to me about it still being there and as

pretty as ever. The Thursday following I was there, and it was gone, so it disappeared between Jan. 28 and Thursday, Feb. 1.

The person who took this floral piece is bound to know it was made for "Dad's" grave only, by the note on it, which was still clearly legible when I last saw it, so this is plain and simple THEFT. I'm writing this letter in the hope conscience will be awakened and this floral piece will be returned, and that those with loved ones buried there will no longer feel there is no need to bring anything of value to their graves for fear of common theft.

Thank you, Mrs. Fox, for letting me get this "off my chest", so to speak — the only way I know how to do it.

Sincerely yours,
Frances Radford

GARDEN TIME

By: M. E. Gardner

This quotation caught my eye not long ago and I think it is worth passing along to my readers: "The farm is the anchor that will hold through the storms that sweep all else away."

This must be true if we are to survive the population explosion with which we are now confronted. However, it will not be the closely-knit, self-sufficient family unit that we have known through the years. This is tragic, too, because the rapid disappearance of the family farm is continually breaking family ties on which the greatness and economic stability of this country has rested.

While the family farm may completely disappear from the

American scene, it can be predicted with some degree of certainty that in the next 10-15 years the producers of food, feed and fiber will be the most respected citizens in America. And, we might hope, tho, the best paid.

As the family farm disintegrates, the girls marry or go to work, the boys go into industry, Ma and Pa can't get labor so they sell out and begin looking down the road to a rest home. Tragic, isn't it?

I do not believe that any man living today is wise enough to predict what will happen in the area of food and fiber production, unless he, at the same time, can give some assurance of the labor supply. Right now this is a nebulous area of pure conjecture.

A House labor subcommittee has approved legislation to include farmers under the National Labor Relations Act. This legislation is supported by labor and opposed by farmers.

If this proposed legislation is enacted into law, it seems obvious that the small farmer will be faced with a hopeless situation, and one with which he cannot cope.

It seems obvious, too, that the only solution will be corporation farming, highly specialized, with top management and able to cope with labor problems as is now done in industry.

Mechanization is not the complete answer because many tree fruits, small fruits and vegetables cannot be successfully harvested for fresh market outlets by machines now available.

Mine Potential

The nickel mines operated by International Nickel in Northern Canada have proven ore reserves that contain some 10 million tons of nickel and copper.