

Are We Losing Control Through 'Regionalism'?

(Cont'd from page 1)

ple. Early last month the District Director from Boone saw fit to fire the well-liked nurse who for over a year had worked exclusively in Yancey County building up and conducting the program Home Health Agency. The point we consider most significant to our argument is that not one of the Yancey County board members knew anything about the firing until after it had occurred. Nor had any one of them received any intimation that there were any shortcomings in this nurse's performance.

It is not our purpose here to review the alleged justification for the firing. Here, we will only say that after a thorough inquiry it appears to us, crystal clear, that the firing was a blunder. Further, we feel sure that had Yancey County been running its own health department, the cruel injustice to this nurse would not have been perpetrated.

Directive Effectively Muzzles Local Employees

If further evidence is needed to show how local control gets suppressed under regionalism, here is a good example -- also from the Health Department. In a mimeographed

directive recently issued to employees from the headquarters in Boone, we find the following:

"No discussion of internal district problems shall take place with either Board of Health members or County Commissioners without specific approval of the Director."

This order muzzling employees cannot fail to stifle local control. Under it, not one of the nine health department employees working in Yancey County is permitted to talk directly about department problems to precisely those people who, as board members, should keep best informed about the health department problems affecting our county.

The question now remains: Has Yancey County given up its voice in too many local affairs in return for bright promises of bureaucrats from Raleigh and Washington, who have everything to gain and nothing to lose by insisting that counties be grouped into regions or districts to reap the benefits of what is actually our own tax money to begin with. We believe that decisions for or against joining "regionalism" set-ups should be made with full awareness of how much of our precious freedom to govern ourselves will be lost in the process.

★ VA News Report ★

A record \$303.8 million in Veterans Administration insurance dividends will be paid to nearly 3.9 million veterans insured under World War I and II government life insurance policies, starting this month.

H. W. Johnson, Director of the Winston-Salem VA Regional Office, said increased dividends result chiefly from higher interest earnings in the National Service Life Insurance (World War II NSLI) and United States Government Life Insurance (World War I USGLI) funds.

"Veterans expecting checks need not contact VA concerning dividends since they will be paid automatically on anniversary dates of policies," Johnson stressed.

Dividend payments will continue throughout 1974 (on policy anniversary dates) on "Participating" NSLI policies with "V"-prefixed policy numbers, and USGLI policies with "K" in front of numbers.

Some 3.75 million veterans with NSLI policies will receive a total of \$282.3 million, averaging \$75 per policy. About 138,000 USGLI policyholders will be getting \$21.5 million in dividends, averaging \$156 per policy.

Johnson said that dividends for 915,000 veterans holding NSLI will be applied to purchase of additional coverage. These veterans previously elected to buy paid-up insurance with their dividends.

Last year VA declared \$297 million in insurance dividends, also a record, which were paid to approximately 3.8 million veterans. NSLI policyholders received an average dividend of \$72, compared to \$142 for USGLI policyholders.

Johnson explained that dividends vary from a few dollars to several hundred dollars, depending on plan of policy, amount of policy, age of the insured and age of policy.

Nearly 4.2 million veterans are carrying \$27.3 billion worth of NSLI, while 161,300 veterans are insured for \$685.4 million under USGLI.

Happy Haven For Widows

By Mimi Cunningham

Although the War Between the States is long over and its veterans dead and buried, the State of North Carolina each year pays a total of \$13,500 in pensions to 15 widows of Confederate soldiers. Each widow receives \$75.00 a month.

And, one of two such remaining homes in the South, the Confederate Women's Home, located on Fort Bragg Road in Fayetteville, provides housing and care for one of the widows and 31 of the daughters of the men who fought for the Stars and Bars.

With a total of 14 employees serving 32 clients (or guests as they are called), the Confederate Women's Home is one of the smallest components of the Department of Human Resources. It is also one of the most unusual.

For 58 years, it has served as a "happy haven" for needy widows and daughters of Confederate soldiers. An act of the 1913 General Assembly established the institution with an appropriation of \$10,000 for building purposes and \$5,000 a year for maintenance. It first opened November, 1915.

Today the Home operates on a \$144,821 yearly budget. Approximately one-third of the funds come from the residents' pensions or social security checks which are signed over to the Home as part of admission requirements.

In return, the ladies are provided with food, lodging, plus the services of a full-time registered nurse. Perhaps most important, they know that someone cares about them and will try to make their last years pleasant.

To qualify for admission, one must be over 65 and "must show herself to be a needy widow or daughter, of a North Carolina Confederate soldier who saw active service."



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THE YANCEY JOURNAL
Box 667
Burnsville, N.C. 28714

Ed Yuziuk - Publisher
Carolyn Yuziuk - Editor
Patsy Randolph - Manager
Published Every Thursday

Twin Cities Publishing Co.
2nd Class Postage Paid
At Burnsville, N.C.

Thursday, February 7, 1974
Number 6

Subscription Rates By Mail:
In Yancey County
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Out of County or State
One Year \$6.00
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HEALTH NEWS

Your Rx Specialists:
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If Vitamins Could Talk

If vitamins could talk, here's how a short speech by vitamin C might go: "Hi! I'm a C-vitamin. People have been interested in me ever since they discovered I could prevent scurvy. Today, they're still interested because they're wondering if I can prevent colds, too. One thing for sure, I am rarely very effective unless my users believe in me. You wouldn't be, either!

"To be effective, my users have to determine, first, how much of me they need. This varies from 250 mg to 5000 mg per day. The average is perhaps 1000 mg. Then, I must team up with other nutrients, notably vitamin A,

found in sweet potatoes, liver, and fresh vegetables to work at my best.

"Try me in the time-release form, and see if I don't help prevent the catching of and the severity of cold infections."

*The above comments appear each week to air thoughts, opinions, and information we believe to be important to our friends and customers -- your comments are welcomed.

Letter To The Editor

Dear Editor:

So, at last, Yancey County is beginning to experience "the gasoline crunch". In my opinion, there would be 30% more gasoline for those who truly need it if some of the senior citizens, including the writer, would permit their vehicles to set 5 days out of each week. (Unless hauling wood from the forest, the writer does this consistently).

There are families who are running 2 or 3 cars needlessly every day of the week. Many students probably are driving who could ride the buses, and even walk to keep in condition for athletics. People who live in town could walk 3/4 up to 1 mile and probably accomplish what diets and health fads do not do.

The electrical, energy crisis could be alleviated a bit, if some of the Yancey County citizenry would not fire up an automatic washer 4 or 5 days out of each week-- once weekly should be enough if one can manage at all.

Trapping and poisoning rats and mice would help ease the flour and wheat shortage more than one might think. It is the duty of ministers of their congregations to at least encourage car pooling for church attendance. Teachers of public schools might form a car pool or two, also.

Serious gardening to fight the unreasonable prices of food where there's been none before, would also help. Many people are burning wood for heat and for cooking. It can be done in many instances without any suffering or sacrifice.

Many prices on consumer items today are away out of line, and where legitimate protest is justified consumers should protest. Perhaps the truck lines have a justifiable complaint. Maybe American citizens, 200 million, could live less expensively and less cramped if exports in wheat, oil, and cotton were decreased.

You may "hate me" for saying these things and writing this letter, but the "sad sack" truth of it is that 200 millions of us are so thoughtlessly wasteful and so pampered in unnecessary luxury that we cannot even try to economize, save, and eliminate waste of all commodities. As many do realize it is probably past time and away pat due for millions of us to change our wasteful, materialistic ways of living.

If you have any better ideas, I'd like to see them in print, including those of the Journal Editor, President of the Chamber of Commerce, Chairman of County Commissioners, and Superintendent of Schools.

Yours Sincerely and Respectfully,
Vernon D. Stenzel, South Toe Township

Yancey Health Dept.

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE

Feb. 4, Monday	Immunization Clinic	8:30 - 11:30
Feb. 5, Tuesday	Nurse Screening Clinic	8:30 - 12:00
	Maternal Nurse Clinic	12:30 - 3:30
Feb. 6, Wednesday	Eye Clinic (App't only)	8:30 - 11:00
Feb. 7, Thursday	Mental Health Clinic (App't only)	
Feb. 11, Monday	Immunization Clinic	8:30 - 11:30
	Nurse Screening	1:00 - 3:00
Feb. 12, Tuesday	Child Health, Dr. Pope	8:30 - 3:30
Feb. 14, Thursday	Family Planning Clinic, Dr. Webb	8:30 - 12:00
	Maternal Nurse Clinic, Miss Kingham	4:30 - 7:00
Feb. 18, Monday	Immunization Clinic	8:30 - 11:30
Feb. 19, Tuesday	Nurse Screening	8:30 - 11:30
	Maternal Nurse, Miss Kingham	12:30 - 3:30
Feb. 25, Monday	Immunization Clinic	8:30 - 11:30
	Nurse Screening	1:00 - 3:00
Feb. 26, Tuesday	Child Health, Dr. Pope	8:30 - 3:30
Feb. 27, Wednesday	Orthopedic Clinic, Dr. Galloway	8:30 - 10:00
Feb. 28, Thursday	Family Planning Clinic, Dr. Webb	8:30 - 12:00
	Maternal Nurse, Miss Kingham	4:30 - 7:00

BOOK CORNER

BY Mrs. Gladys Coletta

The *Sleeping Partner*, by Winston Graham, 1956, Doubleday and Co., Inc., N.Y.

Love is blind (so they say), but just how blind can a husband be when his wife practically flaunts her infidelities in his face? So blind (or stupid) that he actually encourages her in it--all in the name of good faith, of course. Such is the story (or mystery) of the chilling suspense novel, *The Sleeping Partner*, by Winston Graham.

Starting from scratch, Michael Granville, successful young scientist, seeks to unravel the mystery of his missing wife, Lynn. True, she had left him, bag and baggage, with only a Dear John note for a clue. Unwittingly, another minor clue sparks his search: she had taken his toothpaste, which he knew she utterly despised. Her signature at the bank did not look exactly right, either. One thing leads to another until he finally discovers the double life that Lynn had been leading, which finally had led to her murder.

During Michael's search for Lynn, an unexpected love story develops from another quarter. It has complications also, but of a different nature. So different that the reader wonders if this is for real. How good is good if a man goes all the way to save the life and reputation of a man who has won his own wife's love?

Without preaching or moralizing (much), the story abruptly comes to an end. It sounds plausible (we suppose) when Michael decides "to thine own self be true, and it must follow as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." So, off he rides into the wild blue yonder--in this case, Africa. So ends the story.