

Black Mountain News

"Buncombe County's Outstanding Weekly"

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An Example to Follow!

When Miss Caroline Hall spoke to the Needlecraft division of the Black Mountain Arts club last week, she made some revealing statements.

Given the task of preparing and delivering a talk on "The Textile Industries of North Carolina", Miss Hall, a convert from Michigan, came up with a set of facts which she calls "Superlatives in North Carolina." They follow:

North Carolina leads all states in Textile production.

Robbins Mills Raeford Plant is the largest spun synthetic weaving mill on one floor under one roof in the world.

Firestone Textiles plant in Gastonia is the largest textile plant under one roof in the world.

Fieldcrest Mills, Spray, is the only organization in the world which performs the complete operation of weaving, wiring, and marketing the finished electric blanket.

Chatham Manufacturing Co., Elkin, blankets, is the largest single woolen mill in one unit in the world.

Biltmore Industries, Asheville, is by far the world's largest hand-woven homespun industry.

Cannon Mills Co., Kannapolis, is the largest towel manufacturing firm in the world. The name "Kannapolis" is from the Greek, and means "loom city." It is also the largest unincorporated town in the world.

Burlington Mills, Greensboro, is the largest manufacturer of fine quality synthetic textiles in the world.

Cone Mills Corporation, Greensboro, operates the largest flannel mill and the largest denim mill in the world.

Victory May Be Near!

Polio seems ripe for a knockout blow. Scientists believe that the end is approaching for this disease which has caused more suffering and crippled more people than some of our major wars.

It now seems certain that ere too many years have passed medical men will have pulled the veil and flung back the curtain from this scourge that has plagued generation after generation. But as the research fight against polio becomes more hopeful, the epidemic impact of the disease is increasing. In 1952, polio hit the nation with record force for the fifth straight year. And for the fifth straight year, March of Dimes funds came to the aid of tens of thousands of victims.

Polio seems to be putting up a last titanic struggle just before joining the ranks of

Textiles-Incorporated, Gastonia, leads the nation in the production of fine combed yarns.

North Carolina leads the country in number of spindles. South Carolina is second.

The North Carolina State college has the largest and best equipped school of textiles in the United States.

This is an indication of what we can do in the Old North State once our hearts, minds, and hands are put to work. Years ago a group of men set out to make North Carolina first in the textile industry. Many of them have long since been forgotten, but the pioneer work they did lives on as a tribute to the native ability of those who live within the borders of North Carolina. As one can see they made the Tar Heel state first in the world, not just the United States.

But why confine our activities to the textile industry? Why not branch out into other lines that will prove just as profitable and just as much of an asset as the manufacture of hose, cloth, and allied products?

We have the climate, the water, the power, the leadership, and native labor that rank with the best. Success will surely come if we attack with the same vigor and intelligence as did the leaders of the textile industry.

If paying tribute to these leaders let us not be envious of their accomplishments, but follow their example to bring diversified industry to our state and community. They had no magic formula, except hard work, planning, initiative, and a fierce desire to make their dream a reality. All of these are available to those of us who are sincere in our desire to see our state make greater strides in the years ahead.

conquered diseases — because hopes are strong that it will be conquered.

As polio casts its shadow over the potential victims of 1953, the need for a quick knockout blow grows in significance. That punch will take a tremendous amount of March of Dimes funds.

We must make certain that as in the past, no polio patient goes without care for lack of funds. Join the March of Dimes, light up your house tonight and send your dimes and dollars soaring to victory as the Mothers March on Polio.

Your dimes, your dollars will help insure prompt and adequate treatment for those who are unfortunate enough to be struck down with this cripler of mankind, polio.

Give generously that others may walk.

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PURPOSE—The purpose of this column will always be to render the greatest good to the largest number of people.

This is an ambitious objective and will require a great deal of effort and perseverance. But I am prepared to search and probe; to inquire and prod; to search out the facts and present them as I find them to the readers of this column. Together, we may hope to have at least some small part in altering the course for good.

Those individuals and groups desiring to serve their state and the people for the common good will be assisted. Selfish interest will have their toes walked on.

GOVERNOR'S ILLNESS — It has been said that a pessimist can see a difficulty in every opportunity; and an optimist can see an opportunity in every difficulty.

I'm an optimist.

For instance, I think Gov. William B. Umstead's illness may very well add many years to his life and to his usefulness to the people of North Carolina.

There has never been a person with more concern for the welfare and comforts of the people and less concern for his own than Governor Bill Umstead.

When he was in the United States Senate, he became ill. The senate physician diagnosed his case as pneumonia and prescribed treatment which included absolute rest. What happened?

With a high temperature and a deep cough, Senator Umstead ignored the advice of the physician and continued to carry out the regular duties of his office, working daily from early morning until nearly midnight.

Being Senator Umstead's administrative assistant, I naturally worried a great deal about him then. That is the main reason I am not so worried about him now. No doubt a cardiogram at that time would have shown his heart

in a condition similar to that which existed a few days ago when he was taken to Watts hospital. Main difference in the two illnesses was that, in Washington, Mrs. Umstead and his family physician were not around to look after Mr. Umstead's health.

These two—the wife and the physician—are the only two people I can think of right now who can influence him with regard to his health and taking care of himself.

OWN MASTER—Come to think of it, I don't know anyone, including those two just mentioned, who has much influence with Governor William B. Umstead on anything. He is pretty much his own master; and this may become more apparent as time goes by.

PROTECTION—If Gov. Umstead's illness keeps his friends from imposing too heavily upon his time for such things as speeches and conferences during the next four years, then it will have been helpful—and my prediction is that the new governor of North Carolina will be just as active, maybe more so, as any of his predecessors, will serve out his term and attend the funerals of a lot of his friends who for the past two weeks have been worrying about his health.

As you know, Mr. Umstead is not a large man physically. He is slightly built, but is wiry, and has a lot of stamina and endurance.

His mental strength and enthusiasm keeps him moving at a pace which would soon wear out the average fellow.

TOPSOIL FOR HIGHWAYS—One of the first matters which will receive the attention of this column is that of using the precious topsoil off fine old North Carolina fields in the construction of our highways.

It just doesn't make sense on the face of it for the federal government and state governments to

spend millions of dollars each and every year to stop soil erosion and to build up the soil while at the same time thousands and thousands of dollars worth of our finest soil is being used on our highways.

It will not be necessary to build the farmer a road on which to come to town in all kinds of weather if he has no soil left at home on which to grow his crops.

He will have nothing to bring with him to sell, and therefore no money with which to buy his needs.

A serious situation is becoming more serious daily as we continue to dump topsoil on our highways. This subject will receive more and more study; and facts and figures will be provided in later columns.

Meantime, if any of our readers will write us about the situation in regard to this in their own communities, we will appreciate it. No names will be used.

GOVERNOR'S OFFICE — To me, walking into the governor's office was a little like returning home after a long absence.

The first time I went into the office two weeks ago, I felt like hanging up my hat and going to work.

There was Ed Rankin, Lib Duke, Rachael Spears, and Margaret Scott, all of whom were in William B. Umstead's office when he was in the U. S. Senate. The work was hard, but we all enjoyed it.

The only landmark missing was Betty Claywell of Morganton, but in her place was her best friend in Washington, May Davidson of

LEXON SEZ

"Some of de ol' doctors sez all of us folks is crazy some of de time . . . I guess de new doctors dese days knows just how much of de time . . . But they is just afraid to say."

Poets Corner

BEAUTY

I find you in a raindrop,
Or in a great oak's cloud,
I find you in a tiny cloud,
Or in a new green shoot.
I find you in a spider's web
Silvered in the sun,
I find you in a fire fly's glow
When day is done.

—Clara Lundie Crawford.

"I find you in a spider's web
Silvered in the sun."

No "versifier," but only a "poet at heart" could have composed these exquisite lines. All true lovers of nature will hear the echo in their hearts.

Charlotte, who served as secretary to Congressman Hamilton Jones until the Republic caught him and he was defeated by Charles Jonas.

This crew that is in Governor Umstead's office is the hardest working team I have been on—and I do not except Wallace Wade's football outfit at Duke university.

NOTES—We are particularly impressed with the fine little publication, "North Carolina Facts," published weekly now by the N. C. Research Institute, with Felix A. Grissette, editorial director. Articles in the first issue had to do with subjects like: "Counting Can't Succeed Themselves in 15 States" and "Many Counties Named for Former Governors" and "Governors Enjoy Good Health While on Duty."

Look for Wilson's veteran representative, Larry I. Moore, Jr., to be one of the powers again in the legislature. When we say "veteran" we mean with reference to service—not to age.

We keep hearing reports that Secretary of State Thad Eure will run against Sen. Willis Smith next year. . . . He can do so, of course, and continue his office. If he should lose, well, it's still a long way from 1954 to 1956 when he would come up for re-election.

MORE WASTE—Last week we mentioned the waste resulting from money being spent to conserve precious topsoil while at the same time this soil, heavy with plant food, is used to build our highways. This is only one way in which the taxpayers' money is being diverted from its intended purpose.

Our State Highway Dept. spends an enormous amount of money each year—and a lot of it is wasted.

The majority of our State employees are hard-working and honest, but Washington has no monopoly on graft and corruption in government. It is high time for us to take a look in our own closets before more money is swept down the drain.

INVESTIGATION NEEDED — The sooner the Legislature provides machinery for a wholesale investigation of the N. C. Highway Dept., the better it will be for the taxpayer. The member of this Legislature who introduces such legislation will be doing his State a noble service. It should be done. It must be done. Once an investigation committee is established to receive and check on information furnished it, the facts will be amazing!

GIFTS—The public was shocked to learn that employees and officials of the Federal Government had accepted expensive gifts and entertainment from those desiring to do business with Uncle Sam. Do you think such activity is confined to the National Capital? Then you should stand at the receiving door of our own State Highway Department here in Raleigh the week preceding Christmas and watch the carts of hams and other more expensive looking gifts being delivered to the employees and officials.

Imagine the same procedure being followed at the ten division headquarters throughout the State and you begin to get some idea of what we are talking about.

Do you think for one minute all those gifts are from Aunt Emma? Or do you believe they come from people who expect to make the recipient say "Uncle" when the chips are down?

A CASE—Believe me, a case of whiskey to a two-hundred-dollar-a-month highway inspector is a small amount when compared to the fact that the inspector has the full authority to approve, let us say, Material B instead of Material A as meeting the specifications on a road costing the state a million dollars to build.

Said case of whiskey might well cost the state—taxpayers, that is, —\$50,000 and, my friends, that is expensive whiskey.

FULL SCALE—Let us repeat. If and when a full scale investigation is made, hundreds and hundreds of shady instances occurring throughout this fair state of ours will come to light. In the meanwhile, any information furnished this column will be useful in bringing about a thorough investigation. The source will, of course, be kept confidential.

I am sure the majority of our public servants are above reproach and will, therefore, welcome the investigation the same as you and I. It is long overdue.

TURNPIKE—While on the subject of roads and investigations, it is time also for the Legislature to find out what has happened since it passed the necessary legislation at its last session to permit the construction of a 200-million-dollar toll road stretching across the Piedmont from the Charlotte-Gastonia area to Mount Airy.

Any investigation should include a very close look at the manner of procedure followed so far in connection with the proposed road. The public is entitled to know the facts.

NEW DAY—Remember the good old days when a political campaign, once finished, was wrapped up and ill feelings melted in the warm sunlight of party harmony? Remember 1936 when Dr. Ralph McDonald was finally knocked out in that famous long count? But came the fall of 1936—despite the fact that Dr. Ralph was confined to a Black Mountain sanitarium with TB—the Democrats pulled together behind FIR and Clyde R. Hoey?

Used to be that, when the decisions were in, the final whistle had blown, and the crowds had departed, the game was over. Well, they were the good old days.

Now we must go into extra innings, overtimes, and what have

you. Although the Olive-Umstead campaign was concluded eight months ago, it still proceeds apace.

A stink bomb set to explode in Smithfield on the day of Gov. Bill Umstead's inauguration, and thus to take the news play away from same, is now sputtering merrily away.

Now that the matter has been opened again, many a day may go by ere it is closed again. The home team must next have its turn at bat; and so marches in close harmony North Carolina's grand old Democratic party.

THE SEARCH—Some time ago Lt. Gov. Luther Hodges received from 10-year-old Beamon Thomas a letter with reference to his being appointed a State Senate page. However, Beamon didn't include his home address. The letter was postmarked Raleigh.

Mr. Hodges is an exceedingly busy man, but Beamon will be proud to learn that Lieutenant Governor Hodges went to the trouble to check through several sources, including the rolls of the city schools of Raleigh, to secure Beamon's address in order that he might write the lad a personal letter.

The little incident makes me feel proud, too—proud of Lt. Gov. Luther Hodges.

DEFENSE DIRECTOR — W. F. (Bill) Bailey, former mayor of High Point, was the first appointment made by Gov. Umstead. This was a compliment to Bill Bailey. It was also a compliment to Gov. Umstead; and fortunate for the State that Bill Bailey would serve in the capacity of director of our civil defense program.

I was present recently when Bailey was offered an opportunity in private business which would

have paid him double the salary he will receive in his new job. It just happens that Bailey is, and always has been, interested in public service.

If we are not moving in the direction of war, then we are spending a lot of money foolishly for armaments. Bill Bailey set up the Civil Defense program for the last year. He was a colonel in the last war. He realized that the next war will be fought by civilians as well as by the military. He thus knows the necessity for being alert and prepared for all emergencies. Bill Bailey is thinking of the protection of our children and his.

If war comes, you and I will be glad Bill Bailey was more interested in his children and ours than in the amount of salary he would make.

If Gov. Bill can get a Bill Bailey to fill all of his appointments, then the people of North Carolina should feel fortunate indeed.

NEW OUTLETS — We appreciate the fine reception the column is receiving. Among the fine papers which have started running Roundup since we took over are the following: Cherokee Scout in Murphy; McDowell News, Marion; Cleveland Times, Shelby; Farmville Enterprise, Farmville; Courier-Times, Roxboro; Smithfield Herald, Smithfield; News-Journal, Raeford; The Enterprise, Williamston; Franklin Times, Louisburg; and Mocksville Enterprise, Mocksville.

This brings to 53 the total number of papers getting the column. Their combined circulation 161,000.

Hope to see you right here next week.



REPORT to the PEOPLE
By Willis Smith, U.S. Senator

Washington—Well, folks, here we go again, beginning this column to give you my impressions of what is going on in the new congress. Doubtless most of you realize that the make up of the new congress isn't precisely what many of us would desire, since we Democrats lost control of both the house and the senate in the last election.

But, after all, there are probably enough of us to hold the lines fairly well and to exercise some influence in connection with approaching legislation.

Office Setup
But before I go further, let me again tell you something about my office setup.

Jesse Helms is my administrative assistant. He keeps up with legislation and assists me in many ways in the legislative work that I am called upon to perform. Many times he will be able to answer questions and make suggestions with respect to matters in which you are interested without delay, if he is contacted here in the office either by mail or telephone. Sometimes I am tied up for hours, and occasionally days, on some hearing

that keeps me out of the for considerable stretches of time.

John K. Slear, who for 30 years was with Congressmen Winkle, Jones, Dougherty and Rison, is secretary in the office. He is always ready to make one with various government in an effort to ascertain what as and when his services are needed.

We have an excellent staff of young ladies in the office who are likewise anxious to be of the service that they can to the of North Carolina.

Recently, Mrs. Helen B. Newton, who has been coming with my office from the beginning, has returned to her home and taken a position with the Hickory Daily Record, resuming her long-time journalistic work. She has been a most valuable adjunct to this office and we regret very much to see her leave Washington. But, the of her newspaper instinct was too great for her to resist the position that was offered her. Certainly, The Hickory Daily Record has the congratulations of one of us here in the office in securing the services of Mrs. Newton. Furthermore, she has been a staunch and true Democrat and had a keen insight into many problems constantly arising in Washington. We shall miss her very much.

We have recently taken into office Miss Doris Conger.

—Turn to Page



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