

H. Y. Belk

AND HIS NEWS OF NEBO VALLEY

I met Mr. John West on the Western Front Saturday. Nothing would do brother John but I must try one of his best cigars. John buys only the best and they are for his friends. Mr. Rob Parrish gives me all my smokes on the 4th of July and one Christmas. John don't believe that's often enough for a business man to smoke.

We are glad to know our friend Boyce Gault is improving after having an operation in a hospital. In Charlotte. We sent him the Herald. He said they all had to read it and several liked Nebo column so well they cut it out. Not my word for it—Mr. Gault's. I have a lot of friends in the Queen City.

Mr. Frank Price came to see me during the weekend. Frank wasn't collecting either. Frank runs a good business and has some good cars on the road. They go and come back.

It's true and we all know it. The party that out-smarts the other party gets the White House job. They don't vote him in any more, they buy him in and we, the people, take what they see fit to give us. Am I right, Brother Hiram?

I feel I'm right in speaking for a big part of our American people. We all like a change in everything. Not only politics but in the price of all commodities. They promise this and that to the waiting public but finally wind up with that or just wait 'till next time. I shall be harder to fool than I've ever been. I'm not going to bet on what any of them say and then get fooled out of my shirt. I'll wait and see what they do, then I won't be fooled out of a good shirt. Clothes cost money these days, by gosh!

We have a few men like old Hitler in the world. Some in Russia, a few in America, like Hitler. He was a typical Evolutionist. He didn't believe in God, Heaven, Hell damnation. He did claim to believe in the law of the survival of fittest, if it fit him and that he and his barnstorming, blood spilling military men were the only breed that was ever created by men or devils fit to live on the earth.

Well, here we've passed another one of Uncle George Washington's

birth days. The weather man sent us a little skiff of snow just to remind us that winter was still in the breeze.

I see in the news where they are going to draft women in future wars. I hope they don't take all of them. It will be so lonely. No one to boss us around and tell us when to get up if they all go.

It don't cost any more to speak to people when we meet them on the street or down the highway of life. They come here just like you and I did. Have you met folks walking on the same kind of dirt, breathing the same kind of air but if you please to kindly say good morning they don't know what you mean. Great shockings alive, it takes a bunch of all kinds of folks to make up a world.

No race in the world's history in the last 80 years have made more progress than the American Negro. I remember when I was a small boy my grandfather's on both sides had owned some 25 or 30 darkies. They remained on my grandfathers plantation. I was raised up with this younger generation. All they knew was work in the fields. They knew nothing about schools. All they cared for was daily bread and a few clothes made on the hand loom. Today it's different. Schools and colleges around everywhere for those who care for an education.

We've had plenty snow beginning Dec. 25th. And I'm sure we will have plenty more. This is March the biggest snows that fall on us come down in March. The biggest snow we've had came Easter Sunday 1942. It snowed all day. It was the last Sunday in March. I had a field of corn planted. It came up and made good. I was living down at the Airport. We killed more rabbits and crows that winter than I ever saw out here at Nebo. Rabbits are few on these hills. Why, I don't know. Few people hunt for the cotton tails even when it snows.

Last week I wrote asking the County or the State, or both, why in the name of high heaven the County, State, or maybe No. 4 Town ship bring some tar and feathers or just any old stuff that will keep the road bed dry and hard. If you come on and do it now believe me, we will every last one of us vote for you. You know a vote is worth money if you get what you want. We don't want promises—we want the road fixed.

Now here comes good news from war-torn Europe that should make all America glad. The grain crop is the best they have grown in several years. It's to be hoped America will not have to ship our grain over there to feed all those millions. May our bread will come cheaper if our people don't stew it up in whiskey. I mean the Boss dogs that run our country. You know one time not so long ago they branded the Republican party with all the whis key making in America. It proved not to be so. Whoever is behind the whiskey barrels for the past twelve years—Mr. Roosevelt's bunch. The Republicans love whiskey but they don't barrel it up for no party. They drink it. The difference—the third party don't have any to drink. What they get this year won't make a drunk man's story. I reckon it will be a Republican President—it should be. When President Hoover gave up the office he turned every dime back to our government they paid him. We, the American people blamed him with trying to starve the nation. I don't believe Mr. Hoover had anything to do with the depression. It was so ordained by God.

In closing today's session let me say brothers, I'm working for the Party that pays me the most. Democrats, Republicans, or Jackass Third Party. The three Parties will spend at least one hundred thousand dollars each year to keep me in office.

Jack Barber Reveives High School Diploma

The following story appeared in a recent publication at Oliver General Hospital, Augusta, Ga., where Corporal Jack Barber is a patient:

"The diligence of Cpl. Jack Barber was rewarded recently when his diploma from the Kings Mountain, N. C., high school arrived. He achieved credits for his sheepskin by taking the General Education Development tests administered by the Education Center.

"Cpl. Barber is a hero of the European Theater having fought there with the 45th Infantry Division. He has one battle star and the Bronze Star Medal.

"He also served in the Aleutian Islands in the Pacific during the war with the 30th Field Artillery, earning a battle star in conflict with the Japanese.

"His future school plans include study at the University of North Carolina."

and. That's all right. Let them pay off the bunch that works hard to get a good man in and don't get paid for getting him in before he gets to the White House. You are done paid, but you don't know what you got. Just wait 4 years and you'll find out. Every one needs to go to school. It teaches what we all find out when it's too late maybe.

Your absence is a little knife that cuts me with its blades. And all the time, O gal of mine. Deeper into my heart it plays. But gee, when you come back to me my dear, What a blessing that will be! Forgotten are the blades of time Forever just wait and see.

Cigar consumption in 1947 totaled 5,631 million compared with 5,914 million in 1946. The drop occurred despite the high level of personal income.



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