

The great outdoorsman

Last weekend I turned into the great outdoorsman.

It is a role I haven't played since I was a youngster, swinging through the trees giving the Tarzan yell. There is a good reason for my not playing the role often nowadays. I am older and am bitterly opposed to violent exercise.

The fact that "The Great White Whale" (that's me) never ventures forth to tackle the crabgrass has become a running joke in the neighborhood. On the rare occasions I do show my pale face on the patio the neighbors bring their chairs and come over to watch, to see what I am going to do.

My better half, Dot, is always telling me I need to get more exercise and sunshine. It doesn't work. I'm onto her, boy. If she gets me outside it won't be long before she has me doing little odd jobs. She tells me of the marvelous things our next door neighbor, Bud Whitman, is always doing around his castle. Bud is one of those people who could drive a baseball bat into the ground and it would take root and grow baseballs. I learned a long time ago not to attempt to compete with people like that. They'll plow you under with shame.

The events leading up to my great outdoor adventure began about last Wednesday morning. I was standing there in my Fruit of the Looms scraping my beard when I saw reflected in the mirror a panel truck driving through my backyard. This was strange even for my neighborhood.

"Dortha," I called. "There seems to be a truck driving through our backyard."
"Oh! They've brought the picnic table!"; Dot shrieked.



TOM MCINTYRE

"Picnic table?"

"I had this carpenter I know build us one," she said.

On Thursday morning I discovered myself in the hardware store buying deck enamel and redwood stain. The stain was for the redwood patio furniture we bought a couple of years ago.

Well, I deck enameled that picnic table, top and bottom; stained the redwood furniture; helped move my oldest daughter back home from her apartment; dug out

weeds around the patio; trimmed tree limbs; helped clean out the utility room; watered the garden (and put the hose-pipe up).

And all of that was on Saturday.

Sunday I concluded my activities by doing a few stunts on Bud's trampoline.

The problem is once you get started you never get through. There is always something else to be done. I knew there was a good reason why I didn't want to get started in the first place.

But I found out that at least one of my children loves me. Kristi, the 13-year-old, made the comment to her mother as they pulled into the driveway about dark Saturday night with the groceries — "Mama. Something's wrong with daddy. He's working himself to death. You better go tell him to quit."

She was right. I think I broke every muscle in my entire body.

And for what? The dad-burned grass is already growing again and both cars are getting dirtier by the minute.

Famous, but little known Tar Heel date



ED SMITH

One of the most famous, but least known, dates in North Carolina history is May 31, 1775.

On this date, in Charlotte, the same group of dissidents which had supposedly gathered eleven days earlier and signed the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence met again and adopted a second document, known now as the Mecklenburg Resolves.

The existence of this second document is almost unknown by the general public today. Ironically, many historians now refuse to accept the most famous Mecklenburg Declaration of May 20 as genuine, because no original copy exists. Yet this second document, the Resolves, is recognized as being entirely authentic, since it had been published in newspapers of the period, and copies turned up in widely scattered places.

The Resolves of May 31 are considered much milder in tone than the Declaration of May 20. The word "independence," for example, does not appear in the later document. It does, however, set down the mechanics of local government in the absence of the King's authority, and establishes stiff penalties for any local citizens who profess loyalty to the King.

North Carolina's Royal Governor, Josiah Martin, called the Resolves "... the most

Damnably Treasonous document" ever published in America, and promised to hang its authors, when Royal government was restored to the colony. For this reason, most historians now maintain that the questionably "Declaration" of May 20 should be forgotten (since it cannot now be proved) and the Resolves of May 31 should be celebrated in its place as a truly significant historic event. It is illogical, they argue, to believe that the citizens of Mecklenburg would have gotten together twice in eleven days and put out two documents. Supporters of the Declaration say, however, that the second meeting was held for the purpose of establishing local government only. Though the original copy of the Declaration was destroyed by fire, they say, enough local testimony and circumstantial evidence remained to prove its existence.

The facts of the matter, like the Lost Colony, will probably remain forever one of the state's most interesting mysteries.

In late May, 1865, exact date unknown, a group of 150 armed men (mostly Confederate veterans recently returned from the war) attacked and destroyed Fort Hamby in Wilkes County.

A bandit gang under the command of a notorious "Captain" Wade had used the "fort" — a strong log building on a hill overlooking a fork of the Yadkin River — as a refuge. Taking advantage of the collapse of local law enforcement near the end of the Civil War, the bandits had terrorized the inhabitants of Wilkes, Caldwell, Yadkin and Surry Counties for months.

The fort had withstood two earlier attacks. With their ranks swelled by returning soldiers, however, the local vigilantes attacked again. When the building was set afire, Wade and most of his men escaped. Three captured bandits were hanged, however, and order was reestablished in the area.



Poet's Corner

TODAY IS THE DAY TO BE GLAD IN

Never put off until tomorrow
What we can sing about today,
Joy is the cloak to be clad in
To find roses along the way.

Today is the day to rejoice in
Today is the day to live,
Today is the day to sing for joy
And look for a song to give.

Today is the day to cherish
To live without regret,
Today is the day to make memorable
With joys you cannot forget

Never put off until tomorrow
What we can sing about today,
Life would be so beautiful
If only we were made that way.

VIVIAN STEWART BILTCLIFFE

READER DIALOGUE

Principal asks citizens' help

AN OPEN LETTER TO CITIZENS OF THE KINGS MOUNTAIN SCHOOL COMMUNITY

Our 242 seniors are now approaching the event that they have been eagerly awaiting for twelve years — the hour of their graduation. Since this is an important milestone in their lives, all of us (teachers, administrators and school board members) are anxious to make this time a memorable experience for them.

Barnes Auditorium is one of the nicest high school facilities in the state, but the seating capacity is only 1,000. If we hold our graduation exercises in the auditorium, this would mean that our seniors would be able to invite only three guests. For this reason, the graduation exercises are still scheduled to be held in the John Gamble Stadium so that all the graduate's relatives and friends who so desire may attend. This program, however, is not a sports contest or an athletic meet. Names yelled out accompanied by cheers and applause are certainly inappropriate at this occasion. Also, the moving in and out of the stands before the program is concluded is disruptive and hardly shows respect for the graduating class.

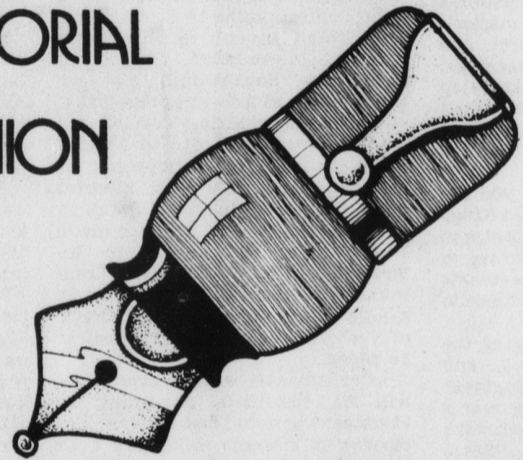
I have already talked with both our seniors and our underclassmen urging them to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner for this most important occasion. I have also talked with all the other principals in our school district, asking that they make the same appeal to their student body.

I now appeal to you, the members of our school community, asking that you lend your assistance and cooperation, for we cannot eliminate all the discourtesy at this function without the help and concern of the public. It is my hope that our seniors and their families will be able to recall this once in a lifetime event with pleasant and unmarred memories.

With your cooperation we can make this 1978 graduation ceremony a truly memorable occasion and continue to hold our commencement exercises in the stadium so that all the family and friends of our seniors may attend.

W. FORREST WHEELER
Principal

EDITORIAL OPINION



Despite Gastonia board vote, airport study on

We cannot quite understand the complete aboutface made by the Gastonia City Council concerning the regional airport proposition.

In light of the fact that the City of Gastonia paid for a study, which included the regional airport concept, to determine the future of the city's aviation business in 1977, we find the recent negative decision hard to fathom.

Councilman John Bridgeman commented something to the effect that it sickened him to see people always ready to take the grant handouts. He also pushed for a continuation of expansion of the present Gastonia Municipal Airport facilities.

They can push, but it is a known fact that airport is not going to expand very much further.

One day after the Gastonia officials said "No" to the regional airport proposition with the added comment that "without Gastonia" such a facility did not have a chance of being developed, Gaston County Manager David Hunscher sent out invitations to the airport committee involved in planning the regional concept. The invitation was to attend a meeting in Gastonia to talk with an FAA representative from Atlanta and a representative from the airport division of the N. C. Department of Transportation.

So, despite the city fathers of Gastonia feeling that an airport facility to serve Kings Mountain, Cherryville, Bessemer City and Gastonia will never get off the ground without Gastonia's support, it appears that planning is going ahead just like before.

And as far as the comment concerning accepting grants when offered being "sickening," we look at it like this; if the government agencies can spend thousands of dollars on surveys to determine how long it takes to cook breakfast, or describing a step-ladder or what causes flooding, and if Congressmen have no qualms about accepting hefty payraises when the common working man can hardly make ends meet, then why should a community or group of communities feel "sickened" about accepting federal funds to create a facility that will bring improved economic opportunity to the area?



Three in Charlotte area

Learning disability programs available

Johnny sits in School all day long just waiting for the end of the day to come so that he can get back home and away from his teachers and classmates. He doesn't know what's the matter with him, all he knows is that he has a very hard time trying to read and understand what the rest of the class is reading.

What a position of shame and unhappiness this has put him in and when called upon and not able to do what is required — he becomes very frustrated.

Immature, slow to finish work, possible daydreamer, poor handwriting, poor attention span and poor organizing ability — all of these characteristics have been handed out to these children — but it all boils down to just one possible thing — could this child have a learning disability which is holding him back?

Learning Disability, doesn't that fall under the heading of Dyslexia? Yes, and the word Dyslexia may be defined as the failure to develop Specific Perceptual-motor skills to expected proficiency independent of instruction, motivation, sense organ functioning, intelligence and central nervous system damage.

In research done on all the children who are Dyslexic, the following five points are especially outstanding:

- (1) That there was no pertinent history of illness or injury before, during or after birth;
- (2) Developmental history within normal limits (walking, talking, etc.);
- (3) Family incidence of reading and/or learning problems;
- (4) No pertinent symptoms of neurological impairment and

(5) No difficulties noted by parents until the child began normal learning in School. The Hyperkinetic Child on the other hand exhibits many characteristics common to the dyslexic child. They are immature, slow in finishing work, lazy, daydreamers, with extremely poor handwriting and they are very clumsy — may fall frequently. They are poor in all subjects and their behavior is typically explosive and impulsive.

In researching their case histories it was found that:

- (1) There was a greater incidence of illness or injury before, during or after birth;
- (2) Developmental history somewhat slow but usually within normal limits;
- (3) Usually no family history of reading or learning problems;

- (4) Some pertinent symptoms suggesting neurological impairment and
- (5) Hyperactivity usually noted quite early — usually before beginning School.

And, again, yes! There is help available for these individuals who are experiencing such difficulties. The Association for Specific Learning Disabilities of North Carolina is located in Charlotte, and was founded in 1973. Its goals are to detect specific learning disabilities through diagnostic tests, then provide varied programs of remediation for specific learning disabilities and finally disseminating information about Learning Disabilities. All monies for this Association is through dues and contributions of its members. And, since this is a non-profit organization, parental participation is required.

There are three programs available in and around the Charlotte area. The first of these is the Saturday School Program which is composed of thirteen consecutive week sessions beginning in September.

The morning is broken up into four one-hour periods and the person receives individual tutoring during that time. Parents must attend workshops prior to the beginning of School so that they may tutor

someone else's child while their child is being worked with.

The next Program available is the Charles L. Shedd full-time School, located in Charlotte, and which is designed for children in Grades 1-8 with the specific learning disability of Dyslexia or Hyperkinesia. This also is a non-profit School governed by a Board of Directors elected by the parents of students enrolled in the School. The primary goal of this School is to teach academic skills and to instill self-confidence necessary to become well-adjusted, productive members of society.

The final Program is a six week long, five day a week — Summer Program, again stressing the A.P.S.L. Approach (alphabetic - phonetic - structural - linguistic) to reading plus Auditory Discrimination.

Once again this Summer — beginning June 19, 1978 and continuing on for six weeks — the Summer Program will be in operation. Testing for entering this particular program will be held the end of May and beginning of June 1978.

Should you be interested in this Program, please contact the Association for Specific Learning Disabilities of North Carolina at 1420 East 7th Street, Suite 100, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204, or just call (704) 376-5192.

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