

The Big Stone Gap Post

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As the Editor Sees It

Some people read much, but do very little thinking. They see the words in print before them, but not the great fundamental truths that inspire those words.

The habit of reading is one of inestimable value to the individual, but it should not be carried beyond the point where intelligent thought can dissect the subject and master the secrets that are not otherwise revealed.

Cramming the mind is like jamming the cylinder of an engine. It becomes too tight to function, and is thus rendered useless.

Read a little, think a lot, and you will travel easier and go farther.

When you come to the forks in the road, what do you do? Does instinct tell you which way to go?

Instinct may lead you astray occasionally, but in a majority of cases it will point the way you should go.

The man who cultivates his instinct and acts upon it moves forward.

He who gropes in doubt stands still.

We should never allow ourselves to become perfectly contented. This may seem strange advice, but it isn't.

When we are perfectly contented there is nothing else that we desire, and without desire there can be no ambition, no incentive to push forward and accomplish greater things.

Perhaps the turtle on a log on a sunny day is content with his lot. But who wants to be a turtle?

Carpentier, idol of the French prize ring, was knocked out by Jack Dempsey, American pugilist who fought nothing worse than mosquitoes during the war.

Now Mr. Carpentier has been knocked out by a negro practically unknown to the sawdust ring.

A few more knockouts from gentlemen of doubtful standing may induce him to knock himself out of the business of battering other people up for money and do something that is really worth while.

As a soldier during the war Carpentier made an excellent record.

As a professional bruiser he is outclassed.

He has yet time in which to become a man.

It is unwise to frighten your child by picturing a bogie man who is laying in wait to devour it.

Timidity is natural to the young, and cowardice is but a step removed from timidity.

You don't want your child to develop a yellow streak.

Don't convince yourself that you can save nothing on your present income, no matter how small it may be.

The mind that can not plan is incapable of accomplishing, and employers know full well that the man who can not save on a moderate income is not the person to whom a greater one should be paid.

Ability will always find a way, and ability is what employers want these days.

Do you ever change your mind? The stubborn man seldom changes his. That is the reason why he is known as a stubborn one instead of as a successful one.

Great minds are susceptible to change upon submission of proof. Little ones are unable to grasp the proof, and therefore always remain little, and in time become stubborn. When a strong mind changes it is invariably for the better. That makes it even stronger, as the small one becomes smaller.

About the only way to prevent wars is for every nation not involved to refuse to lend money or sell supplies to the combatants. But what country has ever been known to sidetrack a lot of fat war contracts?

Here's a case of hard luck. A young man who biffed a ball player with a pop bottle gave his victim a lot of sympathetic notoriety, but failed to get his own name in the newspapers.

Up to the Press

"The newspapers ought to quit publishing so much scandal."

You can hear such remarks any day in the year, and from highly intelligent people.

But we disagree. They do not stop to think.

Unfortunately, we have reached the point in this country where but little respect is shown for our laws, because the laws are indifferently enforced, or not enforced at all.

Certain people can evade them with ease. Others, less fortunate, must pay the penalty.

Occasionally there is a notable exception to this rule, but only occasionally. It is for this reason we are losing our respect for law and its manner of enforcement.

But it is different with the great newspapers of the country—and also with the smaller ones. They tell the truth as they find it. The man of great wealth who forgets his manhood is as pitilessly exposed as the one without a dollar—perhaps more so.

This pitiless publicity of the press is the one safeguard that stands between respectability and a reign of debauchery that would rival the days of Sodom and Gomorrah.

There are millions of pure high minded people in this country, but there are other millions who reek with clandestine infamy.

Some agency must keep this debauched element in check for the welfare of society in general.

The press, through its publicity, is meeting with a reasonable degree of success, where the law is but a dismal failure.

Why Nothing But Smoke?

Periodically—almost daily—the newspapers of our large cities contain lurid stories of fabulous sums of money involved in run running cases unearthed by the prohibition agents. Sometimes it is with the connivance of some of the agents themselves.

Names, facts, and dates are often given, and there appears to be no doubt as to the correctness of these statements.

Presumably the evidence is passed on to the public prosecutors, whose duty it is to convict law violators and send them to jail.

But, presumably, some of these prosecutors are afflicted with conveniently short memories. And, presumably, their memories have a habit of failing them at the most critical time.

Why so much smoke and no fire? Why so much evidence and so little prosecution?

Is it a case of graft, fear to prosecute, or just plain inefficiency?

In whatever case it may be, why do we keep such birds in public office?

No Admittance

Wise county is heartily sick of carnivals.

When the American stage and the great American circus started to make the strides which have made these institutions the delight of our amusement life of today, the carnival stood still if, indeed, it did not slip backward. The failures, the derelicts, the very flotsam of the make-believe world drifted to the carnival. There brass, instead of art is the crowning achievement. When the more exacting requirements of the stage and the circus make it necessary for the actor to move down a notch he goes to "family" time in vaudeville and does his song or "dumb" act. From this stage he drifts to fifth rate medicine shows and the carnival. When he arrives on the carnival lot he is worn out, obsolete; but he demands "big time prices."

This in itself would be easy to stand. One could forget the sorry fact that there is no attempt by the carnival man to create elusion in his shows. The very faces of the "speilers," their "elevating" and hopeless English, their cheap tinsel and barbarous music all combine to make elusion impossible. His game is to get all he can for nothing, and the "concessions" are big factors in helping him realize his ambition. From the community they take what they can get and give nothing in return.

The fact that these cast off nomads of the amusement world are barred from the Gap should be a consolation to every self-respecting citizen of the community. Other towns of the county might well follow the example of this place.

If the advocates of impartial law enforcement will stand up and be counted we fear the result will be nothing. Everybody wants himself to be exempt.

The sweetness of flattery turns to bitterness when the truth becomes known.

HOLSTON ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Holston Annual Conference closed its ninth session at Bristol, Va., on October 2nd.

This was one of the most interesting sessions in its long career as an organization.

The Big Stone Gap District was well taken care of in the appointments which is always the case when an efficient presiding elder like Rev. E. A. Shugart is at the helm.

The following are the pastors who were sent to Wise county: Appalachia, W. H. Briggs; Big Stone Gap, R. G. Reynolds; Coeburn R. N. Havens; Coeburn Circuit, W. H. Simpkins; Dunbar, J. W. Aker; Inman, C. A. Hillman; Imboden, W. K. Cregger; Norton, J. F. Benton; Roda, R. W. Brooks; Stonega, R. H. Ballard; Toms Creek, S. O. Frye; Wise, J. M. Paxton; Wise Circuit, J. B. Staley; East Stone Gap, A. M. Stone.

We note that there are seven new men in the county and observing the work they have done in the past we have a right to complement the congregations to which they come.

A. M. Stone, the East Stone Gap man, is a good preacher, a concentrated man and well qualified to do a great work.

East Stone Gap has been "tacked on" to Big Stone Gap for some years. But now that it has become the seat of a charge we look for wonderful things to happen in that town.

Coeburn should be proud of R. N. Havens. He is one of the best evangelists in Holston Conference. As evangelist and pastor he is always a success.

C. A. Hillman, the pastor at Inman, is a graduate of Hiwassee College, student of Emory and Henry, and has experience as a Y. M. C. A. secretary. Of course he will deliver the goods.

Y. W. Brooks comes to Roda. His fire, pluck and perseverance soon wins for him the admiration and appreciation of any congregation.

Rev. J. M. Paxton, of Wise station, is a man of broad experience and mature years. His preaching is "food for drink" such that "Wise people" should relish.

J. B. Staley, the Wise Circuit man, hails from West Virginia. "Pep and push" is his motto. Look out for old Wise circuit.

Rev. R. H. Ballard, we mention last but by no means is he the least. He keeps his hand on the throttle and eyes on the rail always. He thunders along at lightning speed. So old Stonega you are a recipient of grace.

The Big Stone Gap District reported to the Annual Conference, 1193 professions of faith, 889 accessions to the church.

The total amount of money raised for Preachers in charge; Missionaries, Home and Foreign, education and other purposes was \$107,401.00.

Bishop Mouzon complimented the Presiding Elder highly for the work done last year and for the splendid report given.

The people of Big Stone Gap, especially the members of the church, were delighted to have Rev. R. G. Reynolds returned as pastor for another year. Mr. Reynolds is a splendid preacher and has accomplished much good during his past year's service here. The church is in a flourishing condition and new members are being constantly added to the church role.

DORCHESTER NEWS

Messrs. Joe G'Daniack, Boren and Harold Stillman motored over to Abingdon Saturday and attended the football game between Emory and Henry College and Milligan College.

Miss Nelle Dunnington left Friday for a several weeks visit to relatives in Knoxville.

Misses Laura Burke and Marie Scott, of East Stone Gap, were calling on Mrs. Begley last Friday.

Mrs. Jas. Donaldson, one of our teachers, spent the week-end in Appalachia.

Dr. and Mrs. Usery, Mr. and Mrs. Fred L. Troy, of Josephine, Misses Sara and Anna Reese, Messrs. Tommie Reese and Gilbert Boothe attended the dance at Hotel Norton Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Milton Copenhaver, who were recently married here, have been spending their honeymoon in New York. They expect to visit their parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Terpstra, before going to Bristol where they will make their future home.

Some one should remind us, occasionally, of the continued existence of the league of nations.

Few difficulties are too great to be overcome by the person who says "I will" and lives up to it.

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ROAD MATTER "IN STATUS QUO"

Exorbitant Prices Asked by Property Owners May Cause Concrete Project to be Abandoned

Norton, Va., Oct. 10.—Plans for a proposed concrete road from the corporate limits west 1.55 miles to the forks of the road to Big Stone Gap and Appalachia will doubtless have to be abandoned because of exorbitant prices placed on the right of way by individual property owners along the route. Announcement to this effect was made today before the Kiwanis Club by R. S. Graham.

While this property is undoubtedly valuable, it is generally considered that owing to the small amount needed on either side of the present 30-foot right of way, to give the road the 50-foot width required under federal aid, the enhancement in value that would ensue would justify the owners in donating the necessary strips of land, receiving compensation of course for removal of such improvements as may be necessary. At least, it is felt the property owners should place a fair and reasonable price upon the land.

In order to eliminate several grade crossings on the Interstate and L. & N. railways, and the bridge over Powell's river, it has been suggested that the state highway go out Virginia avenue, to the north of the Interstate railway, thence by way of Josephine to the junction point of the present highway below the Powell's river bridge west of Dooly. A concrete road could then be built from the Big Stone Gap road to this point.

DANCE AT DUNBAR

The Dunbar boys have issued invitations to a large number in this section for a dance to be given in Dunbar Thursday evening at the new Dance Hall. As Dunbar is famed for its delightful dances, a large crowd is expected to attend from the Gap. The music will be furnished by the All Star Society Entertainers, of New York.

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STEVENSON CHAPTER
No. 19, R. A. M.
Meets third Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. Masonic Hall. Visiting companions welcome.
JOHN RAY, H. P.
J. H. MATHEWS, Sec'y.

BIG STONE GAP LODGE
No. 20, A. F. & A. M.
Meets second Thursday of each month at 8 p.m. Masonic Hall. Visiting brethren welcome.
JOHN RAY, W. M.
J. H. MATHEWS, Sec'y