

Oblique Advice

Something forms in a man's head. It comes out of his mouth as sound, and it is received by everyone within earshot. These soundings, these thoughts, always undergo changes during the communication process. The changes may be great or small, harmless or hazardous. But always with us is the fact that any and all forms of thought transmission are imperfect.

The sight-and-sound reporter must choose fragments of a speech that represent the whole. The reporter favors his report—changes it—by omission as well as commission. The pad-and-pencil reporters are at an even greater disadvantage. They must make their own words, which the speaker can decide in the cool of second-thinking are not like his at all.

We did not attend the meeting at Mount Mourne School the night of August 21. We do not know what Oscar Stradley said, nor if what he meant to say. We have read what a reporter said Stradley said, and we have not read anything about Stradley saying the reporter's words did not convey the speaker's meaning.

Stradley offered his advice against the proposed merger as a private citizen made knowledgeable on the subject by his former service as a county school board member. The present school board is on record as unanimously favoring the Mount-Mourne-Mooreville consolidation. And we would suggest that Stradley's position as a teacher in Iredell County's newest public educational institution, Mitchell Community College, adds to the awkwardness of his stance as a spokesman in a localized school issue of no direct concern to him.

In any event, we would comment first on Stradley's presence at the meeting. The man is welcome to his

opinions, of course, and he has a right to speak his mind. But is the Mount Mourne question so complex, are the people involved so devious that an outside expert must be called in to mold the public mind?

In any event, Stradley's remarks were destructive, not instructive, not constructive. His position was resentment, not reason. His words were calculated to appeal to the emotions, not the calm and searching mind.

And if he said what he was reported as saying, he is incorrect. And he was wrong in critical areas.

He was especially misleading when he said Mooreville and Statesville can elect a county school board, but county residents cannot vote on municipal school board members. His implication, intentional or not, was that should Mount Mourne elect to join the Mooreville school system, Mount Mourne residents would be powerless.

The point has been made repeatedly: If Mount Mourne joins Mooreville, Mount Mourne children and Mount Mourne parents will have precisely the same voice, exactly the same services available to all other residents of the Mooreville district.

We had hoped against hope that discussion of the school-merger question could be confined to the issue to be decided. Stradley and those he represented shattered that hope. His point about "Mooreville doesn't mean it when they call you people hicks" was underscoring a man of his standing in the county. His statement was intended to convey the same message as that of the ship's first officer who wrote in the log, "the captain was not drunk last night."

Our point: Let's direct ourselves to the basic question, without accusation, without personal attack, and without muddying the waters with unrelated arguments.

A Healthy Shift In Values

Fewer students will be in college this fall than last. The enrollment decline is the first in a decade, and it may signal a healthy shift in the thinking of young people.

We had reached a disturbing state of affairs in which too few of us were willing to work with our hands. Who wanted to be an apprentice brickman when he could be cooling it as a freshman at Whooop-de-Do U?

But a freshman what? How many thousands of people are walking around today with degrees that have absolutely no practical application? Many young people went to college to prepare for a specific something, but far too many blew four—or more—years doing a great deal of nothing in particular simply because the good college life beats working for a living all hollow.

The professional student always will be among us, and he always will promote "learning for learning's sake." Fine. But somebody's got to feed, clothe and care for these individuals who feel the world owes them

the privilege of devoting their lives to contemplating their belly buttons.

As for the worldly reward, we suspect many in college had an eye on statistics about a degree being worth hundreds of thousands of dollars during a working lifetime. We say "had" because you don't see those pitches much of late. Instead, you see that four years of an apprenticeship in the construction trades in the eastern states is worth \$40,000. An apprentice can earn \$3.50 an hour while he's learning his trade, and he can expect \$7 as a journeyman.

Life's purposes certainly should go beyond financial success, and our point is that a degree is not the only path to happiness and the pursuit thereof. What we hope can be read into the college enrollment drop is that young people are establishing goals of their own. Some want to go on to school, and some don't, and they aren't being pressed into college for no other reason than it's the social thing to do.

Others' Words

Be careless in your dress if you must, but keep a tidy soul.—Mark Twain.

You're an oldtimer if you can remember when parents tanned a girl where the sun does these days.—Franklin P. Jones

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Colonel Moor's Musings

I never cease to be amazed at the way Lake Norman keeps changing our lives. We know we got more boaters, skiers and fishermen around today than we had yesterday, but we don't stop and think that these are new people with new ideas and new contributions to make. All this means more fun on the water. It means a general shakeup in everything from politics to making a living.

Parson Jones' Pulpit

DEAR MR. PUBLISHER:

I'll tell you a story. Once upon a time a certain man found a turtle. He took it home to be his pet. The man built it a little bed to sleep in, and bought a nice pink bowl for it to eat from. He was fascinated by the turtle. He noticed that every time the little critter got scared it pulled its head and legs in the shell and played dead. "How clever," said the man. So, he decided to call the turtle Mr. Coverup.

One day the man did a no-no. He stole some money from his boss man. When the boss man found out the money was missing he started investigating. The man was scared to death. "What shall I do?" he cried as he hid his little turtle. Then it hit him. Mr. Coverup showed him what to do: cover-up the hole mess. But how? He didn't have a shell. He would have to make one. And so, he made his own cover-up shells.

First, he would try the invisible shell. He would dodge his boss and stay out of sight. If that didn't work he would try the 5th Amendment shell. He would just be silent like the turtle. And if that didn't work he could always use the "he-don't-know" shell. Blame it on somebody else. If all else failed he could crawl into the "lying shell." He would just stick a bunch of lies together and hide under them.

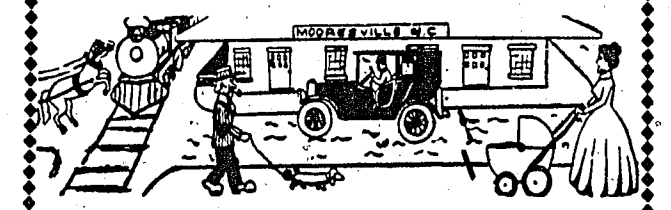
Well Sir, he tried 'em all. One shell after another worked for a while, but finally the man was jerked out into broad daylight and his crime was discovered.

Mr. Publisher, there are two morals from this story. One is that men "ain't no turtles," and the other is "don't be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows that shall he also reap."

Oh, I forgot to tell you, the man finally found a cover-up that works—prison bars. I understand he couldn't take his turtle with him on account of a turtle ain't a person. By now,

Yours Truly,
Parson Jones

OUR COMMUNITY



IN OTHER YEARS... 52 YEARS AGO

Fire destroyed approximately \$25,000 worth of property last Friday night about 12 o'clock, when John T. McNeely's building at the corner of Main street and Moore avenue burned with practically all contents. There were seven small businesses in the building, including Mr. McNeely's trading stables. The fire, it is alleged, was first discovered by Dr. Flowers in the rear room occupied by the New York cafe. When the firemen reached the scene a little later, the fire could not be put under control. The construction of the inner parts of the building was of wood, and so perfectly dry that it burned quickly and with such intense heat that the only thing the firemen could do was to preserve the adjacent property on the three opposite corners. The M. & F. Bank building and the one occupied by the post office caught fire, but were put out before any damage resulted. However, the large glass in the bank building, W.C. Johnston & Co.'s and the Mooreville Drug Company were split in many places from the contraction after the intense heat. Heroic work was done by the firemen. At one time they were playing five streams of water on various buildings. Embers were flying high in the air and many were falling on buildings many blocks away from the fire. A fortunate rain had fallen in the early hours of the night, which probably prevented a more serious situation. There was no lack of water at any time. The pressure was low from the fact that five streams were flowing at one time, yet the fact did not render the water supply inefficient from the tank's supply, which was full and running over a 9 o'clock Friday night. Only a few of the firemen knew anything of the disaster until Saturday morning, the alarm into their homes having failed to ring. Many citizens volunteered and assisted the few firemen present in laying the hose and making the necessary connections. The light from the fire was seen by Mooreville parties from Newton, who were enroute home from the mountains in automobiles. It was the biggest fire visited upon us since the burning of the Mooreville furniture factory several years ago.

The occupants of the building and their losses were as follows: H.B. Mayhew, pressing club and dye plant, \$2,000; William Freeze, meat market, \$600; Goodman's barber shop, \$1,500—the chairs, shoe shop, \$2,250; Anne Smith's blacksmith shop and tools; McNeely's trading stables, the building being estimated to be worth \$15,000 and contents \$10,000, with \$8,000 insurance. The shop of Mr. Fry was insured for \$1,000. The remainder was total loss.

El Overcash, aged 74 years, 1 month and 28 days, died at his home in the Shinnville vicinity Saturday, August 6, after a brief illness. Deceased was a man highly esteemed in his community, and by his old comrades in war. While a boy of the 16-year-old class, he volunteered in the Confederate army, and was a member of Company 1, 7th Regiment. He was a soldier-soldier and did some excellent service. At the battle of Chancellorsville he was wounded, having been shot in the knee, and from that day until the end he carried a minnie ball underneath the knee cap. This wound caused him to be crippled all through the remainder of his life, yet he never complained.

Carl Poston, the 15-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. J.R. Poston, who live on Eastern Heights, sustained a severe injury last Thursday night while on the playgrounds at the First Presbyterian Church. A number of young people and gathered there late in the evening to enjoy the many attractions provided for them, and among other things were several sliding chutes. Young Poston was at the top of one of the slides when it gave way and he fell to the ground about eight feet below. His right arm was broken in two places, his left arm broken above the wrist and his neck badly wrenched, having fallen on his hands and head. He is able to sit up, but he is a patient sufferer.

During an electrical storm several days ago Messrs. John T. McNeely and G.L. McKnight had quite a thrilling experience. They were coming along the public road two miles below Coddle Creek Church when lightning struck the top of the car in which they were riding, tearing a hole in the curtain and bursting the frame work. However, the men were not shocked. The bottom of the car had a rubber blanket in it, and of course the rubber in the tires acted as non-conductors. Minor damage was done to the Ford.

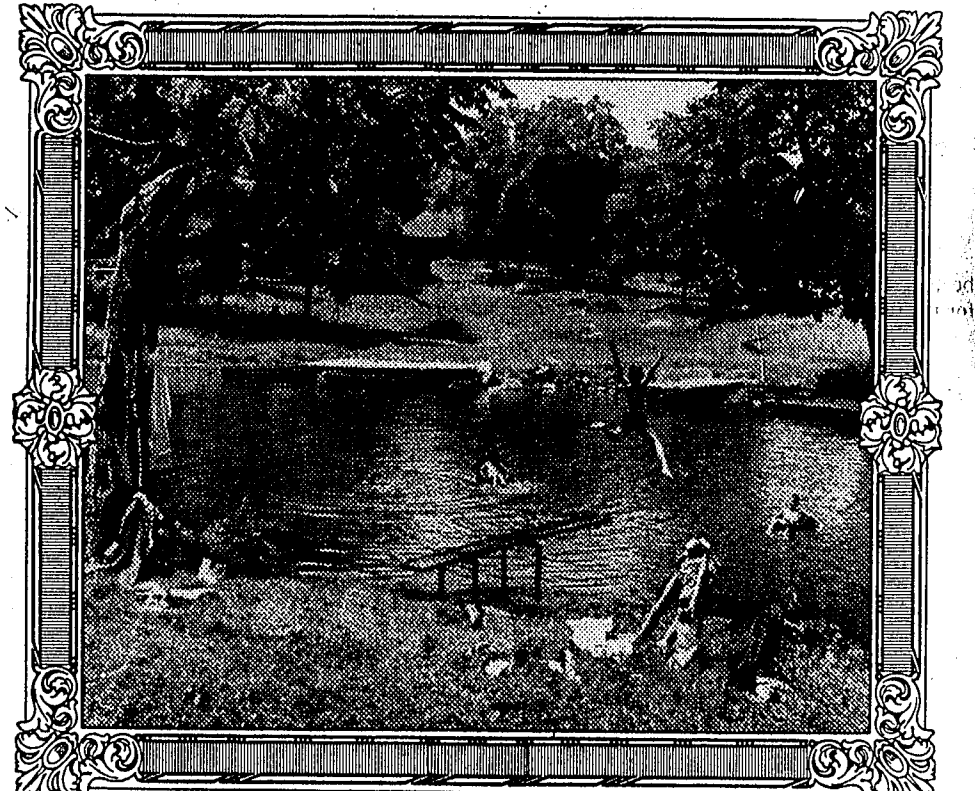
Mr. Sam Pharr has purchased the west half of the E.H. Miller lot on Eastern Heights and will begin the erection of a handsome cottage there next week. Mr. Hugh Sloth, who owns the eastern half, will probably build there next spring.

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The Town's New Sign Is For The Birds

Mooreville has been a bird sanctuary since 1957, but for some years no signs to this effect have been evident on roads leading into town. This was corrected last week when a sign secured by the Mooreville Garden Club was erected near the town limits on River Road near the N. C. 150 bypass intersection. With Town Manager Tate Mills at the new sign are Mrs. Troy Scoggins, representing the



Not Far From Main Street

Just for a minute, think about the local places you have loved. The old swimming hole, the town park, the walk by the river, the view from the hill—your church. Life would be so much less without them; yet we tend to take them for granted.

What a beautiful world God has created for us! How much He must love us to have given us shaded valleys and sparkling waters! He planned for us the constant variety of the changing seasons. For our enjoyment, He made trees and grasses, flowers and fruits. Before such miraculous inventiveness, science stands baffled and incredulous.

It is obvious that behind all creation there is a power greater than we, a power constantly concerned with man's development. In the church of your choice you will find the opportunity to give thanks for the gifts of creation. Here, too, you will learn to understand better the complexities of our world. You will find a faith that will sustain you throughout life.

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Burlington's 50th Birthday Party At Cascade

Ronnie Johnson, manager of Klopman Mills Cascade Plant, presents to Betty Walker a gift during a reception in the mill last week as part of the local Burlington property's participation in the 50th anniversary celebration of Burlington Industries. With Johnson are Mooreville Mayor Joe Knox, center, a former Cascade official, and Jim Grubbs, Cascade personnel manager. All Cascade employees were served cake and each received a gift. Cascade is one of Burlington's oldest properties. It was acquired in December 1933, the 12th for the company that was chartered in November 1923. Burlington also operates Mooreville Mills here. The first Burlington plant opened with 200 employees in Burlington early in 1924. Today, the giant textile complex employs 84,000 persons in 91 United States communities and in 10 other countries. Last year, it recorded \$2 billion in sales.

Medals Stored In Raleigh In 1919 Now Being Presented To WWI Vets

A medal for honorable service will no doubt go down in history, not just for the honor it bestowed on the recipient, but for the time it took the State of North Carolina to deliver it to soldiers and sailors of World War I, who are still living, or their immediate families.

The medals were ordered from a Massachusetts firm after the North Carolina General Assembly approved \$20,000 on March 10, 1919 for the design and purchase of the medal for World War I veterans. They were found early this year stored in an old Raleigh warehouse, where they have been since they were received from The Robbins Company, manufacturers of badges and medals in Attleboro, Mass. Once the news of the discovery of the medals was made public, recipients or members of their immediate family were asked to apply for them at the Office of the Adjutant General in Raleigh, but the demand for the State World War I medals became so great that a new system of distribution was begun several weeks ago in order to get the medals to those entitled to them. Citizens of Iredell County may apply for the medals at the Veterans Service Office in Statesville. Only one medal will be allotted to a family.

Annual Park Festival Planned In Charlotte

The tenth annual Festival in the Park September 18-22 in Freedom Park in Charlotte will be a kaleidoscope of color, sound and activity. There will be live entertainment by more than three dozen performing groups, more than 200 panel boards of art and more than 70 tent displaying the arts and crafts. The admission is free to everyone. "The business community donates the funds to make free admission possible," said Festival Director A. Grant Whitney. "We get help from firemen, policemen, parks and recreation workers, labor groups, businesses, other groups and individuals in putting on this event," Whitney said. There is something in the Festival for all tastes. Exhibits display things ranging from copper jewelry, heraldic designs and woodcarfts to violins, dulcimers and leathercraft. Performing groups range from a harmonica band to jazz groups to bagpipers to the Charlotte Opera Chorus. The opening ceremony kicking off the Festival will take place on stage at Freedom Park at 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 18. After the first night, live performances will begin at 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, and at 2:00 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. This year's Festival is expected to draw hundreds of thousands of visitors during its six-day run.

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