

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Towns County needs a museum!

Each year much of our heritage is discarded or sold because no one knows what to do with it. Everything from valuable antiques to family memorabilia that are part of the history of Towns County are gone forever.

What we need to make the museum a reality is a centrally located building that can be climate controlled year round to be donated or leased at a reasonable rate.

The ideal would be to build a new courthouse and to house the museum in the present one. But any type of structurally-sound building would work. Ekalaka, Montana, population 463, has a wonderful museum in a former garage.

Then someone (or some group) would assume responsibility to receive and catalogue donations. The History Society (sic) seems like a logical choice. Citizens could donate or loan items for exhibit. I am willing to donate my doll collection, doll houses and doll rooms; write the identification cards and history summaries, and volunteer at the museum.

Talented local woodworkers could build display cases.

How could we pay for upkeep? The Union County museum charges \$2 per visitor, the museum in Murphy asks for a \$3 donation.

Some have said we have a museum at the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds. But this collection is only open to the public during the Fair and Fall Festival, and the building is not air conditioned year round; climate control is necessary to prevent deterioration of exhibited items like costumes, pictures, dolls, paper items, etc.

If some public-spirited citizen has a viable building to donate, we could get started at once.

Hopefully,
Georgia Moultrie

Dear Editor,

This is a story about a little puppy, four to five weeks old. She was found in Fires Creek in Hayesville, NC. She had been put in a bag along with three other puppies. Someone threw this bag in the river. Johnathon was looking for his dog down by the river and heard a whine. He looked around and seen (sic) a little puppy trying to keep her head above the water. He went in hip-deep and grabbed the bag. Three of the puppies did not make it, but the one did. She was drowning and starving. They brought her to me. I got her to eat a little but she still was very sick. I called Dr. Vardeman's office at Hiwassee Animal Hospital. I explained what had happened and asked if they could help. They said he didn't blink an eye. He said yes and would do it for no pay. I want to thank Dr. Vardeman from the bottom of my heart. She's going to be okay. It's doctors like this that deserve the praise. Thank you, again. God bless you and your nurses.

Sincerely,
Carol Swafford

Letter to the Editor:

With Spring in the air and flowers blooming, I, like so many others, am trying to lose weight. It seems like we constantly "diet" with different fads from shakes to micro-waved meals. I went by the Relay for Life event on the square this weekend and this thought came to my mind: Why aren't we emphasizing to our kids how to LIVE cancer free? Why do we continually bombard our kids with sugars, fats, artificial sweeteners, artificial flavors, food colorings, and junk foods containing MSG's (monosodium glutamate) that are all collectively known to have adverse effects?

In my opinion, living a life cancer FREE is eating more natural foods - free of toxins, eliminating tobacco use, reducing EM radiation (cell phone, computer, and TV use), reducing stress, oxygenating your body (exercising), balancing your body's pH level and having a close relationship with God. Please don't misunderstand me- I'm all for helping those in need (I baked a cake for the Relay for Life Cake Walk but made it without vegetable oil - I used applesauce and orange juice instead). We all know that smoking increases your risk of developing cancer. Don't you think what we eat might effect our risk of developing cancer? You don't "catch" cancer, doesn't it develop?

Some people wonder why cancer rates are so high- look at what we do to our bodies that our grandparents DIDN'T do- it wasn't in their lifestyle! We need to make a change in our habits- we are slowly killing ourselves and our kids! It is up to us to teach our young people how to eat right, exercise, and live a life without obesity, high blood pressure, cholesterol, diabetes, depression, and cancer.

I recently read the book titled, Natural Cures They Don't want you to Know About, and I recommend every household having a copy to read- it has changed the way I approach grocery shopping and feeding my family, although my husband is still skeptical. Big name food manufacturers don't care if we get cancer or other health problems - they are getting what they want - MONEY. It is my wish for Towns County residents, Georgia residents, and residents of this great nation to rally together and join the Food Revolution (the show airs on Friday, March 26 at 8 p.m. on ABC)!

Heather Moss

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The Middle Path

by Don Perry

On March 15, 2010, Hersie Wilson went home. She passed away peacefully on a moonless night, on the Ides of March after 92 years on this earth.

There was nothing remarkable about her death, but the life she lived was extraordinary, and the faith that sustained her life was remarkable indeed.

If you have lived in Towns County for more than a few days you have passed HERSIE'S little house across from the High School; longer, and you have probably seen her hanging out her wash or working in her flower gardens; longer still and you may even have bought produce from her little roadside stand where she sold vegetables for many years. HERSIE could have lived in a mansion, hired a maid to do her wash and a gardener to tend to her flowers, but she preferred to live simply, close to her roots and surrounded by her memories.

Born in 1918 in a little cabin on the headwaters of Upper Hightower Creek, HERSIE survived some of the hardest times imaginable and endured privations that would be unimaginable to today's generations. She found her Christian faith at an early age and like Job of the scriptures, she never lost sight of that faith, even through lean times, epidemic, Depression and World War. She never lost the desire to share that faith even after her husband and both her children

were taken from her. When her health began to fail in her later years, she never lost her sense of humor, and the twinkle in her eyes faded only when she closed them for the last time.

When HERSIE lost the second of her two sons last year, she began to wonder why she had been allowed to live so long and to know the loneliness of surviving one's children, but she quickly decided that there must be a purpose, and that purpose was for her to be able to continue sharing her faith. This she did until the very last.

On the day before she died she was still encouraging her family to live so that they could all be together in heaven.

With HERSIE Wilson's passing we have lost another link to the past, another living testimony to the heritage, the character and the characters of these old hills.

Few now survive who remember when the mountains were wild, the roads few and unpaved.

Few remember the sense of community and place, the respect for the land and the ways of nature and the reliance on faith required by life in those isolated mountain coves. If you knew HERSIE, hold onto the stories she told. If you are blessed to know someone from that generation still living, cherish the time you have left with them - and pay attention. We may need to learn those lessons again.



"IT'S ON MY MIND.."
Danny H. Parris

What Is Your Life?

James, the half brother of Jesus, says that life is like a vapor. It is like a puff of smoke or like your breath that you can see only very briefly on a cold morning. The dictionary defines life as existence, or what people, plants and animals possess, but rocks, dirt and metals lack. About thirty years ago the back of a church bulletin listed a simple five - point definition of life. It stated that life is a journey, live it trustingly. Life is a task, live it obediently. Life is a mission, live it helpfully. Life is a contest, live it earnestly. Life is a battle, live it courageously. Those are good thoughts and suggestions about life, but we keep coming back to the question, what is life? The Bible declares that God is the source of life and that it is through Him we live and move and have our being (Acts 17:28). In my journey of life, it has been my observation that some people have a very narrow and limited view of what life really is. It seems to me that a vast number of individuals never see themselves to be more than a physical being. That is, they see life only in its fleshly form. They are merely an organism that has a variety of needs such as food, water, air, sleep, and etc. They consider themselves nothing more than a physical machine. There fore, life is the process of providing all of the basic needs to keep the physical machine going. So, they spend their lives engaged in activities that maintain the life of the flesh. They work to earn

money to buy food to feed the body; to shelter and clothe the body; they eat, drink, sleep, exercise and juggle schedules to make sure the flesh life is maintained. They also understand the flesh has all kinds of cravings, desires, longings and appetites. Again, there are vast numbers of people who feel that the purpose of life is to gratify every passion the flesh suggests. They pursue the means to satisfy every longing, craving and desire the flesh exhibits. Of course, people who live to pacify the passions of the flesh, whether it be excessive eating, drinking, sexual activity, accumulation of wealth or numerous other pursuits such as pleasure, entertainment or whatever, find themselves not living life but serving the masters of passions. Their daily existence is an endless task of finding ways, methods and means to please the ceaseless appetites of the flesh. The more you feed its passions the greedier it becomes. Our body, flesh is certainly important. It gives a visible expression of who we are. It is nothing more than a tent or house that will someday be folded up and disappear. However, the tenant of the house will still exist, though in different form. The flesh, our tent is tarnished. It is conceived in iniquity and brought forth in sin. Therefore, the tent is temporary. It is not the permanent abode of life. The body, flesh is God's gift. It is to be the temple where God abides so take care of it. However, remember it is just the temporary house, so don't spend all your time pampering the tent, but care for the tenant that lives forever. Yes, life is flesh, but that is only one dimension of life. What is your fleshly life? Is it in subjection to God's will and purpose or is it out of control?

From the Desk of:



Sheriff Clinton of Towns County

There is a lot of talk today about the federal government taking away our freedoms. While there are many who would like to take away our freedoms and do away with our Constitution, they cannot do so unless we let them. The Constitution defines, very narrowly, the scope of the federal government's authority. In fact, the Constitution actually states very clearly that the real power lies in the states and the people, and not in the federal government.

The Constitution was not ratified by the states until many years after it was written. Many of the states were uncomfortable ratifying the Constitution because it lacked a basic list of rights for citizens. Finally, after the first ten Constitutional amendments were drafted as a uniform "Bill of Rights," the Constitution gained the support of the states. Many political leaders have forgotten, or hope Americans have forgotten, what the Constitution's Bill of Rights says. The Bill of Rights guarantees American citizens certain freedoms. Freedoms guaranteed by the Bill of Rights include, the right to keep and bear arms, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, etc. These freedoms that we hold dear are all contained in the Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights also addresses something even more significant. We hear a lot about how our

forefathers could not have imagined the world today and therefore the Constitution needs to be a fluid document. Our forefathers were actually ready for that one! They included an amendment just for that purpose.

The Tenth Amendment of the Bill of Rights is an amendment set in place to give the authority to the states and the citizens, rather than the federal government, to decide those things not named in the Constitution. The Tenth Amendment says, "The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people." In other words, it is up to the state governments or "we, the people" to decide those issues not named by the Constitution. The Tenth Amendment is a very powerful amendment, and in a time such as this, every elected

official should be aware of it. Not only should they be aware of the Tenth Amendment, they should be doing all they can to make sure that the people are aware of it. Many are afraid to say such things because they don't want to be labeled as radical. Well, our forefathers were radical enough to believe in freedom.

In a time when people are terrified about national issues such as health care and gun ownership rights, we need to remind ourselves of one Constitutional fact: the federal government does not have the authority to tell the states what to do outside the scope of the Constitution. I'm not interested in starting a revolution; there is no need to because we won that war over 200 years ago. I am simply trying to remind everyone of that fact. If we forget about the Constitution, we lose all that our forefathers purchased with their lives.

GUEST COLUMNS

From time to time, people in the community have a grand slant on an issue that would make a great guest editorial. Those who feel they have an issue of great importance should call our editor and talk with him about the idea. Others have a strong opinion after reading one of the many columns that appear throughout the paper. If so, please write. Please remember that publication of submitted editorials is not guaranteed.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE E-MAILED OR MAILED TO:

Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiwassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@brmcmc.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes. This paper reserves the right to edit letters to conform with Editorial page policy or refuse to print letters deemed pointless, potentially defamatory or in poor taste. Letters should address issues of general interest, such as politics, the community, environment, school issues, etc.

Letters opposing the views of previous comments are welcomed; however, letters cannot be directed at, nor name or ridicule previous writers. Letters that recognize good deeds of others will be considered for publication.*

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