

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor: It has come to my attention through reliable sources and confirmed by Rep. Stephen Allison that some want to introduce a bill to allow bear hunting with dogs in North Georgia.

Our game population on management and forest service lands, especially the deer population, has already been severely decreased in the counties in North Georgia.

Georgia DNR last year had a task force trying to catch hunters who were illegally killing black bears and hogs then leaving them laying, which is against Georgia game & fish laws in Towns, Union & Rabun Counties.

For the past several years, North Carolina Bear Hunters Association has been lobbying Georgia DNR to allow hunting bears with dogs in Georgia.

As of this date, Georgia DNR does not want this to happen, according to DNR Asst. Director, whom I've spoken to. We also need to have the laws changed regarding how many deer are being killed in Georgia.

The state of Georgia and we the people need to demand that the laws concerning our wildlife to be changed. US, THE PEOPLE, should have the say so and not be mandated by special lobbyist groups (auto insurance companies, etc).

Please contact our state officials regarding this matter. Gov. Sonny Perdue 404-656-1776 Rep. Stephen Allison 404-656-0177 or 0185 Sen. Jim Butterworth 404-463-1367 David Ralston, Speaker of the House 404-656-5020 Georgia DNR 770-918-6400

Tim Coleman

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

When the calendar approaches December 7th, I always think of my father and his generation. Although many thousands of Americans have made the ultimate sacrifice since the end of WWII, no other generation has faced and met the challenges overcome by the Greatest Generation.

Floyd Shooke was among over 16 million Americans serving under arms during World War II. He is among a scant 2 million surviving today. Like many WWII vets, he did not talk about his experiences for decades after the war.

Floyd was a "Tin Can Sailor," a name given to the men who served on Destroyers. Destroyers were lightly armored vessels, fast, maneuverable - and "expendable." Destroyers guarded convoys and hunted submarines. On more than one occasion my dad's ship was ordered to protect a carrier "at all costs," even if that meant sacrificing itself to intercept a torpedo.

Floyd's ship, the USS Kalk, was a Benson Class Destroyer. Ships like his participated in every major naval campaign during WWII. In 1944 the Kalk guarded convoys supporting offensive operations from Luzon to Okinawa and it was during that time that the events occurred which became the defining moments for the rest of my father's life.

In June of 1944 the Kalk passed through a raging typhoon with winds in excess of 90 knots.

Several ships in the convoy were lost. With the hatches battened down, the men of the Kalk were trapped inside their tin can during a ride that would

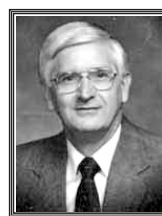
pale any roller coaster by comparison. Hit amidstships by a gigantic wave, the Kalk experienced a 72 degree roll which sank a sister ship, but somehow the Kalk survived. My father attributes his survival to prayer, but not just prayer alone, but to faith that prayers would be answered.

War veterans bring home memories which can haunt them for the rest of their lives. Some become embittered or depressed, some fearful. Some are plagued by waking nightmares. Transcending the horrors of war, my father's generation brought home a zest for life and a determination to build a better world for their children.

December 7th marks the beginning of America's involvement in the Second World War. During this season of gratitude and of giving we should not forget the sacrifices made by the Greatest Generation, nor those made in Korea and Vietnam; sacrifices which allow us the luxury of contemplating these things from the comfort of our armchairs, sacrifices which continue to be made in Afghanistan and Iraq.

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

It's all about boxes

Christmas reminds us that life is all about boxes. Everywhere you look there are beautifully decorated boxes. We stuff shoeboxes for the needy and fill food boxes for the hungry. There are boxes of candy and boxes of toys. Boxes, boxes, boxes everywhere. Sometimes at Christmas we are prone to get on our soapboxes and reminisce about those more humble celebrations of Christmas in years gone by.

didn't eat the stuff, but it would always take them a while to get it spit out. There were toy boxes but few toys in them. One of my duties as a young boy was to keep the kindling box supplied so the firebox would stay hot. The matchbox was placed in a metal box on the wall out of the reach of small children.

You can enjoy the abundant, overflowing life that is everlasting. If you woke up this morning and you didn't feel wood on either side of you, there is still hope for you to shed the box life!!

RARE KIDS; WELL DONE By Don Jacobsen

I've written a little pamphlet titled, "Five Reasons Never to Argue With Your Kids and what to do instead."

1. Mom and Dad are the leaders in your family but arguing levels the playing field. Good leaders don't argue with those they lead.

2. You do not respect those who will argue with you. Kids quickly lose respect for those who will engage them in argument, and building respect is an essential part of parenting.

3. As long as you will argue with your youngster he/she is in control. You are playing by their rules. They have just set the agenda. They have just staked out the terms of engagement. They have decided

that a battle will be fought and they have decided when and where.

4. You'll never win an argument with your child so don't go there. When you and your youngster disagree to the point of argument the goal of both of you becomes to win. The issue itself can become totally lost sight of.

5. It sets up a bad learning situation about how people should handle disagreements. This is often the arena in which words are spoken causing wounds that take a long time to heal.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@rarekids.net.

Community Calendar

Towns County Water Board Meeting 3rd Monday of each month at 6 p.m. in the TC Water Office Building. Mountain Community Seniors meet the second Thursday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 2 p.m.

Towns County Board of Elections holds its monthly meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 4 p.m. at the Elections Office (Old Rock Jail). Towns County Historical Society meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Senior Center in Hiawassee at 5 p.m.

Military Officers Association of America (MOAA) meets the 3rd Monday of each month at various area restaurants. For information call John Quinlan at 706-896-2430 or visit www.moaa.org/chapter/blueridgemountains. Alcoholics Anonymous: 24-hour phone line 828-837-4440.

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.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR SHOULD BE EMAILED OR MAILED

TO: Towns County Herald, Letter to the Editor, PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546. Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net. Letters should be limited to 200 words or less, signed, dated and include a phone number for verification purposes.

Towns County Herald

Dedicated to the promotion of Towns County KENNETH WEST.....PUBLISHER CHARLES DUNCAN.....EDITOR, ADVERTISING SHAWN HENRIKSON.....COPY EDITOR JAMES REESE.....SPORTS WRITER, PHOTOGRAPHER LOWELL NICHOLSON.....NEWS, SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER LISA DAVIS.....RECEPTIONIST, CLASSIFIEDS OFFICE LOCATED AT 446 NORTH MAIN STREET "THE MALL," HIAWASSEE (706) 896-4454



"What worries me is that now we're elected, they expect us to do something!"