

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. For those who like to watch wild game or hunt wild game needs to contact our state congressmen, senators, speaker of the house and let them know we do not want or need this in the state of 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. This will continue if dog hunting is allowed. If we want to continue to watch or hunt game on OUR public lands, we do not need bear dogs in 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. There have been several confrontations between Georgia hunters and out of state hunters over the taking of game and only taking certain parts of the game and leaving most of the animal laying. These confrontations are not needed in our communities.

For the past several years, North Carolina Bear Hunters Association has been lobbying Georgia DNR to allow hunting bears with dogs in Georgia. No person or group of persons from another state should be allowed to influence Georgia game & fish laws. For years, NC bear hunters have been going to the DNR meeting that were held concerning these changes in game laws. These meeting use to be held in local towns and the people of the county were able to keep their influence at bay. Now the closet meeting is in Marietta, GA and no longer in the local towns. Their desires should not influence Georgia DNR laws. If we allow their influence to happen, there will be no wild life for anyone to enjoy.

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 number of deer being killed is much greater than the DNR has knowledge of. They have no way of knowing the number of deer being killed with the current licensing system. When you buy your licenses over the internet, you can print as many deer harvest records as you want! People are filing 4, 5 or 6 harvest records. By doing this, people are stealing our natural resources from other people. Nobody needs 12 deer in a year! That is the current limit you can take a year in Georgia. We need to change this reporting system of deer in our state to the reporting system in states surrounding us. When you kill a deer, bear or any game, you have to tag it and report it to DNR officials and get a confirmation number. DNR would then have a record of how many animals have been killed.

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). These matters need to be addressed to preserve our heritage of hunting and give people the opportunity to be able to watch game in Georgia.

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



**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." It has been a popular little document - enough so that it is usually out of stock. Here is an abbreviated version of the five reasons:

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. Arguing takes place between equals, not between leaders and the led. When parents argue they give away their rightful authority.

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. An argument may illustrate who can outlast the other, who can outwit the other, who can outlast the other, but when two people love each other those are not their goals.

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. Who of us hasn't, in the heat of battle, said things we wish we could un-say. Next time, what to do instead of argue.

Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@rarekids.net. N(Dec7,A)SH

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. They survived Depression and war to build the society we enjoy today. They died to guarantee the rights and privileges we often take for granted.

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. He wanted to protect his children from any awareness of the horrors he had seen. Later in life he decided that his story was too important not to share.

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. He saw kamikaze attacks, collisions at sea and men torn apart by planes trying to land on a carrier in rough seas.

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. Floyd Shooke brought home a belief in the power of prayer. All of the stories that he tells of the war find resolution in that dark night of the soul when a young boy from the mountains of North Georgia, a sailor who "could not swim a lick," prayed for relief and saw his prayers answered. All that he experienced in the war is distilled into the faith which sustains him to this day.

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. Some of those celebrations seemed to be quieter and more profound as compared to modern day celebrations where we seem to be as nervous as a Jack-in-a-box. In my day we played with the cardboard box. Occasionally, a neighbor would buy an appliance like a stove or refrigerator that came in a box large enough for kids to use as a playhouse. We also used the old cardboard box to ride in. We would pretend it was a car. At times it did become a mode of travel - from the top of a hill to the bottom. One of the fastest rides I have ever taken was in a box sliding across broom sage grass down the side of a mountain. My dad using apple boxes and a bright red, store bought wheel made my first wheelbarrow. Shoeboxes became my storage place for all my valuables like marbles, knives, checkers and yo-yos. Sometimes, those boxes would conceal things like baby birds, baby rabbits or flying squirrels. When I was born I was placed in a box-like bed. As I have grown up I sleep every night on a mattress that rests on something called box springs. My relatives (kin folks) had hatboxes and collar boxes. Some of them partook of a brown dusty fine substance they kept in a square box. They

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. My mom would often send me to the local community store with a cardboard box to purchase items like a box of can lids or a box of can rings. I always checked out the icebox where the Cokes, Nehis, Nugrapes, Pepsis and RCs were kept. When I paid Mr. White, he put the money in his cash box which was a cigar box from which he made change. As life progresses the boxes change. For old times sake I have some cigar boxes for decorative purposes. The cardboard box does not interest me much lately. The toolbox is one of my most important boxes. The shoebox has been replaced by the safety deposit box. The mailbox seems to be mighty important since I have retired as well as the pillbox. For most of us, we are indeed grateful that we live in a land where the ballot box and the jury box are important to freedom and justice. I am sure that I have opened Pandora's box for some of you. It does seem that life just goes from one box to another box. I must mention that last box we must occupy. Whether it's a pine box, cherry box, walnut box, metal box or stone box, we are headed for the box. Don't get emotional just yet. Let me tell you that God knew we were boxed in by sin and He sent Jesus to get us out of the box. Jesus was crucified and put in a stone box (grave) but He got out. Because He got out you don't have to have a box life.

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!!



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 Democratic Party meets the 2nd Thursday of every month. Please call Kim Bailey at 706-994-2727 or 706-896-6747 for details.

Towns County Republican Party meets the 4th Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Daniels Steak House. Dinner at 6 p.m., 706-896-7281.

Towns County Planning Commission is held the 2nd Monday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Courthouse.

Towns County Commissioners meeting is the 3rd Thursday at 5:30 p.m. in the courthouse.

School Board Meeting, 2nd Monday each month at 7 p.m. in the auditorium.

Hiawassee City Council 1st Tuesday of month 4 p.m., at City Hall.

Young Harris City Council, 1st Tuesday of month at 7 p.m., Young Harris City Hall.

The Hiawassee River Valley Kennel Club meetings are held at 7 p.m. the 1st Monday of each month at Brother's Restaurant on Hwy 64 in Murphy, NC. Call President Kit Miracle: 706-492-5253 or Peggy Moorman: 828-835-1082.

The Unicoy Masonic Lodge #259 meets on the 2nd Monday of the month at 7:30 p.m.

Stevens Lodge #414 F & AM meets the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Young Harris.

Board of Voter Registrars meets the 3rd Wednesday of the month

at 4:30 p.m., Courthouse.

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. Annual dues \$15, PO Box 1182, Hiawassee, GA 706-896-1060, www.townshistory.org

Bridge Players intermediate level meets at 12:45 p.m. on Mondays & Fridays at the Towns County Health Dept. Call Eden at 706-896-6921.

Mountain Regional Arts and Crafts Guild, Inc (MRACG) meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month at ArtWorks Artisan Centre, located at 308 Big Sky Drive (behind the Holiday Inn), Hiawassee. Refreshments at 6 p.m. & the meeting begins at 6:30 p.m. Contact us by calling 706-896-0932, mtnregartsandcraftsguild.org. mtnregartsandcraftsguild@hotmail.com.

VFW Post #7807 Fish Fry will be 2nd and 4th Friday of the month, 4:30-7 p.m., \$9 a plate, all you can eat.

Mountain Computer User Group meets the 2nd Monday of each month at the Goolsby Center at YHC. Q & A at 6 p.m., meeting at 7 p.m.

FPL Retirees Breakfast will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at the Hole in the Wall Restaurant on the square in Blairsville at 9 a.m.

Chattahoochee-Nantahala Chapter, Trout Unlimited meets 2nd Thursday of each month at Cadence Bank in Blairsville. 5 p.m. Fly Tying - 7 p.m. General Meeting. Everyone welcome.

www.ngatu692.com.

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.

Mothers of Preschoolers meets on the third Thursday of each month at First Baptist Church of Blairsville from 6 - 8 p.m. Call the church office at 706-745-2469 for more information.

Chatuge Regional Hospital Auxiliary on the 3rd Monday of each month, except the months of July, October and December, in the hospital cafeteria at 1:30 p.m.

Mountain Magic Table Tennis Club meets 6 p.m. Thursdays at Pine Log Baptist Church Fellowship Hall in Brasstown. Ping Pong players welcome. Call Lee (828) 389-0924.

We do Family Oral History of all of our residents. If you have not had your family history recorded and would like to do so, please call the Towns County Historical Society at 706-896-1060.

Fall Storytime at Towns County Public Library Thursdays at 1 P.M.

Prostate Cancer Support Group meets the 3rd Monday of every month from 5-6 PM in the Cancer Treatment Center Auditorium in Blairsville. For more info call Steve 706-896-1064.

Mountain Coin Club meets the second Tuesday of each month at the Blairsville Civic Center. Doors open at 5:30. Program and auction begins at 6:30. For more information, call Ye Old Coin Shop, 706-379-1488.

Towns County Herald

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