

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Compassion among Warriors

From a request and reminder of our great and unique American history by Trent from Dawsonville, GA: {part 1}

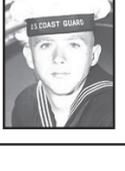
December 20, 1943 found 2nd Lieutenant Charlie Brown trying to keep his B-17F bomber, "Ye Old Pub" flying, having been mortally damaged by flak and German fighter attacks. Charlie was wounded in the shoulder. Tail gunner Sergeant Hugh "Ecky" Ekenrode was dead. Most of the crew members were wounded. His B-17 was in shambles. One of the engines was shut down and another was throttled back. They were forced to fall back behind the main bombardment group, a sure death sentence for them all. Their mission began as part of the 379th Bombardment Group with the mission of bombing the German Focke-Wulf aircraft plant in Bremen, Germany. Unfortunately the German defensive anti-aircraft flak almost destroyed "Ye Old Pub" and all aboard. As they fell behind their formation, fifteen German fighters attacked the lone B-17 and the tail section was shot to pieces; the nosecone was missing; the electrical, hydraulic, and oxygen systems were destroyed; the radio was out; and pieces of the severely damaged aircraft followed in its slipstream. There were gaping holes throughout the entire aircraft's fuselage. One is forced to question, how in the world did this plane keep flying? This can only be attributed to American ingenuity, design and engineering by those who were on the side of all that is right. Plus Charlie Brown's heroic efforts to keep her in the air and try to locate a friendly landing area.

As Brown passed out from pain and blood loss, the mighty B-17 spiraled towards the ground, signaling for the German fighters to cease fire, their killing mission was complete, thus they returned to base. Brown recovered just as their B-17 was just a few hundred feet from nosing into the earth. Through sheer will and American determination Brown was able to recover the aircraft, regain some altitude and turn west toward England, thus safety about 250 miles away. Brown was only able to gain altitude to about a thousand feet, or slightly more and was aware that he was too close to the German airfield. He then realized there was a German Messerschmitt Bf 109 fighter flying close formation beside him, and the German pilot was motioning him to land the bomber down.

With all the gunners wounded and few guns in working order trying to disable or fight the German Fighter was out of the question. Brown just looked across what was left of the cockpit at the German pilot and shook his head, "NO WAY!" Brown being unsure of his waning strength or ability to fly his aircraft and crew to safety sure as the dickens was not about to set down in German territory! The German Messerschmitt continued beside the wrecked B-17 for a few minutes then slid away to a position above and behind their dying aircraft. Brown and his crew awaited the fire from the German fighter which would be their end.

For the rest of this true saga please see part two in next week's TCH. - *Semper Paratus*

**The Veterans' Corner**  
Scott Drummond  
USCG Veteran



## Changing Tides

Fortune is a tide that rises and falls, and while we never fully understand the laws that govern its movement, we know beyond doubt that it always moves.

By most of the metrics commonly used to measure economic activity, our younger generations are less fortunate today than their elders were at the same age. There are a few dissidents who disagree.

They point out that our parents did not have iPhones and flat screen televisions, and that technology has brought to the commoner many luxuries that would have been reserved for royalty in times past.

But prosperity in the minds of most people is something relative to their neighbors. In any event, young Americans today will work longer for a dollar which has significantly less buying power than the one their parents spent. They will retire at an older age, if they have not already been replaced by a robot.

Like most questions of significance, there is not a simple answer for what appears to be a lowering tide of fortune for successive generations of Americans.

A partial explanation can be found in the nature of water itself, which always seeks its own level. Some of the affluence that was concentrated between American shores during the last several generations is beginning to seep into the economies of other nations. We are, after all, a closed system with finite resources.

Another part of the answer may be found in the cultural differences between generations. Older Americans had a world view which included experience of depression, war and hardship.

They were willing to sacrifice short term gratification to achieve long term goals.

Younger Americans, while just as intelligent and resourceful as any generation, have been "better fed" by parents who wanted to give them everything.

They are immersed in constant connectivity to media which exists for the singular purpose of creating desire in the minds of its consumers.

We have grown up expecting a constant progression of "new and improved," faster, better. As a society, we are addicted to instant gratification, and as they say here in the mountains, a fat dog won't hunt.

Science, technology and innovation continue to resist the tide. But we are cursed with another problem that our parents did not have.

We have a bloated and parasitic government, a hyper-intrusive oligarchy which has matched our advancing technical innovation with ever more sophisticated methods of manipulation, control and theft.

With a sophistication which rivals that of Joseph Goebbels, our current "two party" political system has artfully deceived us away from any awareness of truth and divided us from any possible consensus. We see our fellow Americans through arbitrary and distorted filters of red and blue while we are encouraged to hold in contempt anyone who might think or vote differently.

Water seeks its own level. Distracted for at least 30 years, we have allowed prosperity in the United States to be channeled into government/corporate reservoirs like water behind a dam.

Meanwhile around the world, the tide has turned in favor of people who are hungrier than we are, and willing to sacrifice to be better fed.

We don't know when the dam will break. We don't know when the next high or low tide will occur.

We do need to be equally prepared for drought and flood.

## 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, 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. 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.\*

*Note: All letters must be signed, and contain the first and last name and phone number for verification.*

## Insect Mouthparts

As we move into the summer, insect pests on plants become more and more of a problem. Warm temperatures throughout the winter mean that insects could be more of an issue for us this summer. I've already seen cucumber beetles earlier than I expected this year. However, not all insects are pests and a lot of that has to do with the type of mouth that the insect has. Today let's talk about the different types of mouthparts that insects have, and insects that fall into each of the categories.

There are four different categories for insect mouthparts. The first one is chewing. Chewing insects can be pests on plants as they eat leaves. Grasshoppers, beetles and caterpillars all fall into this category. Japanese beetles and tomato hornworm are two examples. However, not all insects in this category are pests. Some of them are beneficial because they use their chewing mouthparts to prey on other insects. Ladybugs are one very common example.

Ladybugs will predate on many small soft-bodied insects like aphids. A praying mantis is another example. Mantids use their raptorial front legs to grab prey, and then starts to eat. Chewing insects all have a pair of mandibles. The mandibles help them rip and tear apart the leaves or insects that they're eating. Some insects with mandibles that are highly specialized for unique purposes, like stag beetles.

Piercing/sucking insects have a mouthpart that functions more like a straw. They can push their mouth into the plant that they're feeding on to suck out the juices. Stinkbugs like the brown marmorated stinkbug or the green stinkbug are a couple of examples. Stinkbugs can cause cat-facing on fruit from where they've fed. When they put their mouth in it kills the plant cells in that vicinity, causing the deformed growth. Cat-facing happens on tomatoes, peaches, apples, and grapes.

The fruit is still edible, but it just looks a little ugly. Aphids are another example of piercing/sucking. Crinkled leaves and stunted growth can be a symptom of aphids. There are also beneficial insects like assassin bugs that use this mouthpart to feed on other insects. They will catch an insect and stab it with their mouthpart. Then they begin to suck up the insides of their prey. Assassin bugs will use their mouthpart to defend themselves if a person gets too close to them.

The siphoning mouthpart is found on moths and butterflies. These guys are usually not thought of as pests, but their caterpillar counterpart with chewing mouthparts can be. The siphoning mouthpart is used like a hose to suck up nectar from flowers. This hose is called a proboscis and is coiled up under the insect's head until use.

The last type of mouthpart is sponging. Flies are the most common insect with this mouthpart. They use saliva to dissolve solids, then the use their mouthpart to draw it up.

Flies can be pollinators, but generally, they are thought of as pests, especially in livestock situations. In livestock situations, a heavy infestation of flies can reduce the amount of weight gained by cattle.

If you have questions about insect identification or mouthparts contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

**UGA extension**  
UNION COUNTY  
**Watching and Working**

Jacob Williams



## Letters to The Editor

### A Concerned Citizen

Dear Editor,

As a proud alum of Young Harris College in Towns County, I am worried for the safety and sanity of the community. Comments were made on Facebook by an apparent immediate relative of the Towns County Sheriff. Those comments promoted violence, inherent racism, and complete misinformation on the history of our "great" country. If these ideals are shared amongst those who are elected/hired to protect and serve the residents of Towns County as well as the students at YHC of all colors of skin, attention MUST be brought to the abuse of basic human rights.

Kate Hohn

*\*Editor's Note: The Towns County Herald reached out to both Sheriff Chris Clinton and the relative who allegedly made the online post that is the subject of this letter. Neither responded by press time to requests for comment or verification of the post, which has apparently been deleted from Facebook. The Herald did learn Friday that a screenshot of the post had been submitted to the Georgia Bureau of Investigation out of concern over its contents.*

### Single County Water & Sewer Authority

Dear Editor,

This is in support of Mr. Tuner's Single County Water & Sewer Authority. First: to those who do not pay for services. Nuthin' is free. You are cheating the rest of us by refusing to pay your sewer bill. Those "customers" should be disconnected from the taxpayer owned sewer line and let them install their privately owned and maintained septic tank systems.

We, the taxpayers, currently own all three water and sewer authorities in the county. Consolidation into a single County W & S Authority makes good economic and logical business sense. The ultimate ownership remains the same. The entire water and sewer systems need to be updated... That effort would be far more efficient under a Single W & S Authority. A two inch water line to a couple of houses 40 years ago may have been fine. It does not provide enough water volume or pressure to 20 to 40 houses today. The minimum requirement to support the water volume and pressure to fight a fire from a fire hydrant is a minimum of a 5 inch line. A Fire hydrant near your home is key to lower fire insurance premiums. The sewer lift stations could be standardized instead of a custom one off design at each position. A Single W & S Authority would eliminate the billing and service call confusion and could establish new standards to accommodate future growth. Mr. Turner's possible employment reduction plan is a reasonable common sense suggestion. The field workers are all well trained and some hold required certifications. We should be very deliberate and cautious in any workforce reduction. The administrative end of the operations may yield significant savings and provide clear and decisive procedures. If we, the taxpayers, allow things to continue to do what we have done in the past... We should not be surprised at what we see in the future. Left uncorrected, we can expect our taxes will go up. Instead we can and should cut expenses and improve services into the future. We... the taxpayers own the problem. Let's fix it.

John L. Holmes

## Locally Grown

This is one I do every year at this time to remind you to support your local farmers, buy the crops that they have grown in the local area which supports the local economy, creates local jobs, and makes us eat healthier. I will buy American even if I costs more because it will help us boost our economy. It's that time of year that we look forward to all winter when our gardens are beginning to have things for us to eat and our farmer's markets open and local grown vegetables are ready for us to enjoy. If we figured how much the vegetables that we plant really cost we would just go to the farmer's market and buy our vegetables already picked and ready to prepare and save a lot of money, but that's not as much fun as growing it ourselves and playing with our tractors. Local farmers need a place to sell their crops and this is where our local farmer's markets provide the place to sell what they grow so they can try to recoup some of their investment. Farmers Markets are a throwback to earlier days when our ancestors had to grow their own food and then they would bring what they did not use to town to sell to the community. One of the best examples of a very successful local market is in Blairsville. When they boast "Home Grown and Handmade", you know that you are purchasing products that have been produced right here in this area! Food purchased at a local Farmers Market comes with outstanding freshness, quality, flavor, and variety. You know exactly where your food comes from and how it was grown. Additionally, you support a sustainable regional food system that helps small family farms stay in business, protects land from development, and provides all of us with fresh, local food. They also provide a vendor list of the participating growers & artisans with their contact information so you can contact them before market day to buy what they have to sell. Admission is always free, with free parking and they are there rain or shine. Pets (except service dogs) are not allowed in the market area, but, for the convenience of visitors with dogs, the Humane Society Mountain Shelter provides free, safe, pet-sitting in a covered area between the parking lot and Building B. You had better get there early because the sheds get crowded by mid-morning and some of the favorite vendors sell out early, particularly corn and cut flowers. Union County also has a state-of-the-art canning plant that is growing rapidly. Contact market manager Mickey Cummings or assistant market manager Christy Peney for more information. The market opens for the 2020 season Saturday June 6th and each Saturday until fall from 7 AM to 1 PM and on Tuesday is open from 2 PM to 5 PM. Hayesville has a market on the square on Saturdays and Towns County has its Farmers Market located next to the county beach north of Hiawassee on Saturday mornings. Come out on Saturday mornings and see what the local farmers have to offer or grow your own and come out and sell it. Visit your local farmer's markets and support your local farmers, it is good for us and good for the community. For more information on Locally Grown, Farmers Markets, contact us at: info.ccred@gmail.com.

**RC&D**  
Frank Riley  
Executive Director



## Towns County Herald

Legal Organ of Towns County

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Owner/Publisher

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Copy Editor

Lowell Nicholson  
Photographer

Publication No: 635540

Advertising, News deadlines: Friday at 5 p.m.

Towns County (1 Year) \$25. Out of County (1 Year) \$35. Entered as second-class matter on November 8, 1928, at the post office at Hiawassee, Georgia under Act of March 3, 1879. With additional mailing points. The Towns County Herald is not responsible for errors in advertising beyond the cost of the actual space involved. All advertisements are accepted subject to the Publisher's approval of the copy and to the space being available, and the Publisher reserves the right to refuse any advertisement. **Postmaster:** Send change of address to: Towns County Herald, P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546.

Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee

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