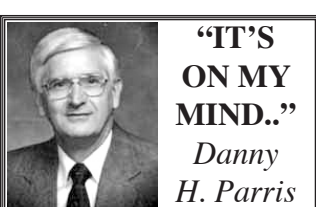


DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY



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

A prayer for the holidays

Thou hast prepared this table at which we gather, To give thanks unto Thee Our Father To whom all praise, all honor should be given For Thou art our God Who Art in Heaven Thou by Thy wisdom rule the earth's whole frame Forever, therefore Hallowed Be Thy Name Let not delays, nor evils divide us from Thy glorious grace, but let Thy Kingdom Come Let Thy commands and wishes be opposed by none, But let Thy pleasure and Thy Will Be Done And let our promptness in obedience be even, The very same On Earth As It Is In Heaven Then for all men, O Lord, we also pray, and Ask that Thou would'st Give Us This Day The food of life, where with our souls are fed Sufficient raiment and Our Daily Bread From every evil thing, will Thou relieve us Pity, comfort

And Forgive Us All our misdeeds, for Him, whom Thou did'st please, To send as an offering for Our Trespasses And because of this, O Lord, we do believe, That Thou will pardon us, As We Forgive All those who deny that Christ did acquit us And love all Those Who Trespass Against Us And though sometimes Thou finds we have forgot Thy love, still help And Lead Us Not Through soul's or body's want to desperation -nor let Earth's greed drive us Into Temptation Let not one soul sink in doubt's dark river In times of grief But Deliver Yea, save us from the malice of the devil, And in life or death keep Us From Evil Thus pray we Lord, to Thee we come, There is no other For Thine Is The Kingdom The world is of Thy work, its wondrous story To Thee belongs The Power And Glory And all Thy gracious Words have ended never But will remain Forever and Forever. Today we humbly offer our thanks again, And then eternally - Amen

Author unknown



RARE KIDS; WELL DONE
By Don Jacobsen

Do you have argumentative kids? I love to ask that question to a roomful of parents because almost without exception every hand goes up. If I asked you that question would you raise your hand? Would you like to know how to deal with your kids in a way that will stop their arguing... today? Contrary to what most mental health professionals would tell us, kids are born with uncivilized natures. Some call it stubborn. The Good Book calls it selfish. One parenting expert I know calls toddlers Little Barbarians. We don't have to teach a two-year old to hit. We don't have to teach a five-year old to lie. And we don't have to teach them at any age to want to have their own way, hence, the argument. It might go like this: Mom or Dad makes a decision the kids don't like so the kids "push-back." Billy says, "Can I?" Mom says "No." That lights the fuse, "Why, Mom? Why can't I, Mom? Mom,

why can't I?" The argument follows when Mom tries to explain to Billy why he can't. Her motive for explaining is reasonable; she wants Billy to understand her decision. But she is asking him to do something no child has ever done. See, if he isn't happy with the decision he is not going to be happy with the reason behind it. She is wanting him to say, "Oh, now I see, Mom. You're right. You are such a wise mother..." If your twelve-year old ever says that to you, let me know. Kids learn to argue because we set the stage for them. We have legitimate authority as parents with a perspective the youngster doesn't have. It is within our job description to answer No, turn and walk away. Don't engage; don't explain. Your answer is not a suggestion to be challenged, it is an expectation to be carried out. If Billy has no one to argue with there is no argument. More next time. Send your parenting questions to: DrDon@RareKids.net.

The Middle Path

by Don Perry

If we drop an egg onto a parking lot from a third story window we can predict with some accuracy that the egg will break. There is nothing psychic about it; we simply reason from the information we have available, guided by past observations of egg behavior. As we approach the end of the calendar year, making predictions for the next year becomes popular among egg men - and those of us who look for patterns in the course of events.

Over the course of the Thanksgiving holidays, two eggs were tossed out which appear to be following a trajectory straight for the windshield of our national sports-utility vehicle. Russia, the world's largest energy producer, and China, the world's most populous nation, agreed to drop the dollar and trade bilaterally in their own currencies. A few days after this announcement, Putin suggested that Russia may soon join the Euro-zone, which would effectively make the euro the world's reserve currency, replacing the Fed-diluted dollar.

Long suffering readers will remember our discussions of how oil traded in dollars effectively gives the United States a discount on the price of oil. The end of dollar hegemony will continue the upward pressure on energy prices for Americans and that will tend to counterbalance any small gains displayed by other economic indicators. In our energy-intensive economy we will continue to pay higher prices for everything we buy and everything we do.

Food prices, in particular, will continue to rise, in part because of higher energy prices which impact every stage of industrial farming but also because of Indians and Chinese who are buying more energy intensive foods. World supplies of sugar are already tight and legalities which will prevent the planting of genetically modified sugar beet seed next year may reduce US sugar production by up to 20 percent. Intense speculation in commodities will add to spikes in food prices.

Toxic assets will continue to egg the housing market. Bad paper will reveal itself like thin ice during a spring melt which looks good on the surface until pressure

is applied. Look for more bank failures, more foreclosures and housing prices that continue to fall.

More Americans will spend less, save more and continue to pay down debt in spite of the concerted effort by the financial sector through the actions of the Federal Reserve to encourage spending and penalize saving. Despite some of the most intense marketing campaigns in living memory, consumers spent only .3 percent more on Black Friday than they did last year. More of us are beginning to "get it."

Perhaps most importantly, more Americans will become aware in the coming months that the prosperity of Wall Street, the ups and downs of the stock market and the array of economic indicators which follow the financial sector, are indicators of an economy divorced and decoupled from what makes the average American prosperous. We are slowly beginning to realize that our addiction to material gratification has made us host to a number of parasites; parasites which can cause a great deal of discomfort as we begin to deny them sustenance.

To conclude, the context of the struggle that we may see, that we need to see in the coming months and years is one of the dismantling of a national paradigm based upon consumerism. Our individual voices as citizens are currently muted by the mutations we have allowed in our Republic. Our votes count for so much less when our choices are predetermined and when the corridors of power in Washington lead so unswervingly to backrooms and boardrooms. The more effective vote in building a new paradigm is the voting we will do with our check books. By limiting our participation in the borrow-and-spend economy we have come to accept as the norm, we will gradually starve it to death and allow healthier alternatives to develop. It will not be an easy process and not, as living memory of the Great Depression tells us, a good time for keeping all of our eggs in one basket.

Letters to The Editor

Letter to the Editor:

Last week Ruth Nelson bombasted BRMEMC, but I don't think she went far enough! I agree with everything she said, but I'll say more!! They tell me that this is a COOPERATIVE!! Well, tell me, folks, what's cooperative about taking advantage of those of us that live here full time and will have to pay for their foolishness if they continue to pursue this multimillion (or is it going to end up multi-billion) dollar fiasco? In their October meeting, where I voiced my disgust about their "customer charges" and its \$6 increase since July, we were told that the first phase of this fiasco was just about finished. Well, if BRMEMC would be realistic, because they made a BIG BIG MISTAKE in signing a contract like this when all things pointed to a failing economy and the resulting loss of potential customers buying homes, building homes, and increasing revenue here, they would stop this construction for the present time. I know, I know- it would cost them money to put the contract on hold. But I believe the cost would far outweigh the amount of hardship and loss that the existing customers will be facing if they proceed with this outrageous project. So they're sharing offices! -Big deal! Everyone else has to tighten their belts. Why should they sit in luxurious offices with all the frills, bells and whistles you know they're planning to go along with the new facility, when we, the supposed owners of this cooperative, suffer to pay for their luxury??? Everyday as I travel around the county I see more homes for sale or rent, more businesses with signs out front-- "going out of business" and more people going to our food pantry for help. Construction is at a standstill and it and the real estate business has been pretty much the industries here for a long time. When unemployment checks run out, what are they going to do for food and mortgage or rent payments??? BRMEMC will be "Johnny on the spot to cut off their power, you can bet! One of my grandsons had been in construction since he was a senior in high school and was desperate for work after being laid off. He did pick up work all over the place until he was finally forced to leave this area that he loves, and the friends he has made over the years, and move to another state to work. Before long ours will be a ghost town of poor people, and BRMEMC will cut off their power because they can't pay the increased charges from this MONSTER we are facing! Come on, BRMEMC--get real--have a heart and do something logical! Shut down this project for now and when the economy recovers, then may be the time to consider continuing this project that is now a source of irritation every time I pass by it and see all the expensive landscaping I see being installed!

Mary Jean Boyette

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Deadline for the T.C. Herald is Monday by noon

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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.*



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