

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Old Davy

We have a lot to be thankful for, living here in our North Georgia Mountain Community. We have a large percentage of Veterans who were born here, and served our nation plus, many of us "outlanders" who served and made the choice to live our final years here. Amongst our blessings and with the solid continuing support of our County Commissioners, Bill Kendall and Cliff Bradshaw we have our small but beautiful Towns County Veterans Memorial Park. Many of our Veterans continue in that effort to maintain Towns County Memorial Park.

The Veterans' Corner
Scott Drummond
 USCG Veteran



Here's a small portion of our Towns County Veteran Park's history.

Perhaps you have taken notice of the small field artillery piece, unlike but similar to old cannons. As this park was being constructed under Bill Kendall's leadership in 1984 two fine, honorable men who were assisting in this project took it upon themselves to design and build this piece out of their own time and money. Both of these men were experienced in design and engineering, and one of them Tucker Ray Knight originally from Brunswick, Georgia was an expert welder. Assisted by Towns County native son, Morris Phillips, they designed, built and donated this cannon as one of the first attractions for our park.

They both felt a strong desire to do everything they could to honor our Veterans as they both were exempted from serving in our Army in the 1950s when we were drafting for service in Korea. Morris had a job working for Lockheed Aircraft down in Marietta on critical components and cataloguing down to the last nut, bolt and rivet for C-130 and upcoming C140 aircraft. The Army sent him documentation stating that his job was of extreme importance to America, and he was needed there rather than serving in the Army. Ray Knight within the same time frame had contracted tuberculosis and spent one year in Rome, Georgia's Batten State TB hospital, where he met many Towns County citizens who had also come down with TB. Both Morris and Tucker Ray were excluded from serving in our military for their respective reasons. This in spite of the fact that they were willing to serve, just as their family, friends, and brothers had before them.

Ray moved here in 1976 to work with his brother, Jessie in Blairsville while living in Hiawassee. He also taught welding at Blairsville College. He too fell in love with this area, and never left. He donated much of his time, efforts and skills to our community. In the meantime, Morris had permanently moved back here, to home. Ray and Morris became fast friends, almost like brothers.

Thus, thanks to the hard work and efforts of these two fine gentlemen Towns County Veterans Memorial Park received its first cannon named "Old Davy" for both Morris and Tucker Ray's sons, both named David. Just like Towns County GA, there's not another one like it anywhere on earth.

Semper Paratus

Timing is Everything

We watched it snow this morning while making coffee and feeling a bit nostalgic for mountain weather of years gone by. The birds are busy maneuvering for position at the one feeder still remaining. This is the sacrificial feeder, a cheap \$14 model from Walmart that the bear will soon pull down to announce that it's time to stop feeding the birds.

We must remember that ask our friend, the weatherman, how long abnormal weather takes to become the new normal and a return to the old normal is abnormal. Do you remember when it was not uncommon here to have a frost in May, or even early June? (The fact that you're reading a newspaper instead of a tweet this morning suggests that you might, and we appreciate your literacy and your support.)

We suspect that the appearance of tomato plants in the big box stores now in March is not quite normal, though we are confident that this is a clever way to sell more tomato plants. Our great aunt and uncle had a contest to grow the biggest tomato every year. He set out his plants early to get a head start. She waited until weeks later, when the ground was warm, and won the contest year after year.

Our grandfather taught us that here on the side of the mountain it was best to wait until both the persimmons and the black walnuts had put out leaves before assuming that the danger of frost was over. Timing is everything, in gardening as well as in so many other ventures.

Last year the timing of our normal abnormal weather was unfortunate for our beehives. Warm weather kept them active late into the fall, using up their stores of pollen. It is the pollen, by the way, that honeybees depend on for survival, more so than honey. Our three newest colonies were further weakened by the extended period of frigid weather we had in early winter, and by spring there were not enough bees left to maintain a temperature in the hive necessary for their survival. They died of hypothermia, still at their posts trying to protect the queen.

The ghosts of those noble bees hover around the honey in our coffee this morning. We take so much for granted, but not so much that we cannot pause to savor the bitter sweet taste of sacrifice.

This year we adjusted our timing and ordered replacement packages of bees early. Since pollen comes earlier and appears to have become weaponized in recent years, it gives us some satisfaction to know that at least something here on the farm is benefiting from the billowing clouds of burning dust.

It just started snowing again, and the bees will be inside today, staying warm and doing housekeeping duties. Tomorrow it will be sunny and mild and our hard working insect friends will venture forth to collect more pollen and bring it home inside the little baskets on their hind legs. It's a shame they can't collect enough to reduce the pain of the many who suffer this time of year. It is unfortunate timing for those of us who yearn to throw open the doors and windows for some fresh air, but will abstain from that pleasure in deference to allergy.

It is a cold comfort that, just a few aisles over from the sacrificial tomato plants, the big box stores will have antihistamines on sale.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

Truth and Deception

Deceptions abound. We were well aware that mass media news outlets abuse and omit truth long before someone uttered the term "fake news." We know Hollywood sends subtle messages to moviegoers who just want a momentary distraction, not a lecture on political correctness. But don't point a finger at those bogeymen because we are perfectly capable of deceiving ourselves.

Daniel Kahneman received a Nobel Prize in Economics as a psychologist. He summarized much of his life's work in *Thinking Fast And Slow*. In this book, he describes the human mind as System 1 (involuntary) and System 2 (focused). He writes, "When System 2 is otherwise engaged, we will believe almost anything. System 1 is gullible and biased to believe, System 2 is in charge of doubting and unbelieving, but System 2 is sometimes busy, and often lazy." The result is that often we believe what we want to, despite facts that would lead to a different conclusion, if we bother to consider them.

That human weakness has always been exploited. In the Garden of Eden, the crafty serpent tempted Eve by questioning what God said, then offered a different viewpoint mixed with just enough truth to make it seem palatable (Gen. 3:1-7). Who was that deceiver? "The serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). The greatest deception questions who God is, and persists to this day masquerading as wisdom. "Though they knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21-22). If you are deceived about God, you are deceived about yourself.

Truth is precious and valuable, so much so that the word appears around 200 times in the Bible. The Christian worldview sees Jesus not just as a lens to perceive truth, but as the embodiment of Truth. He came full of grace and truth. John the Baptist testified to that truth. The Hebrew Scriptures point to truth. "You will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Then His big reveal: "I am the truth." (John 1:14, 5:33, 5:39, 8:32, 14:6) Vince Vitale in *Jesus Among Secular Gods* writes, "Only a Christian can be a lover of truth, in the deepest sense of love, because only Christianity is an invitation to a personal loving relationship with the truth."

What are you really looking for, the American right to pursue happiness? It's a deception to believe that you can find true happiness in anything this world has to offer. Look for Truth, and when you find Him, you'll have transcendent joy that no deceiver can spoil.

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.

Walter Scott Brown

North Georgia has many true pioneers, but one of Towns County's own is Walter Scott Brown who was born in Waynesville, North Carolina in 1889. His family moved to Towns County in 1891 and settled on a farm down on the Hiawassee River. It was two days ride for his family by wagon to the nearest market in Gainesville, so they did not make the trip more than a few times a year to get supplies and to sell their produce in the fall. He grew up loving the mountain life while farming, fishing the mountain streams and listening to his favorite fox hounds hunt. The hours he spent in the woods fox hunting gave him time to think and plan for the future. It was this mountain childhood and pioneer spirit that developed his strong work ethic, leadership skills and common sense approach to life. He possessed a great desire for education, ideas and a better way of life. He saved enough money to enter the University of Georgia in 1913 when he was 24 years old by farming, teaching school and doing odd jobs.

RC&D
Frank Riley
 Executive Director



He entered college when there was not much encouragement for a person to seek an education but he found education an exciting experience. During his college years when he came home to visit family, he would ride the train from Athens to Robertstown and walk over the mountain to get home. He graduated from UGA in 1917, and his first employment was serving as the County Agent in Towns County in 1917, just three years after the creation of the Cooperative Extension Service. He was sought after for this position by the people of Towns County which was an indication of his reputation among those who knew him as a boy. He was promoted to the position of District Agent in the Atlanta district in 1919. In 1921, he was given the challenging assignment of influencing the County Commissioners of forty counties in Southeast Georgia to employ county agents. All forty counties responded and the Cooperative Extension Service spread throughout the

state and became a force for change in those difficult agricultural times of the depression years and beyond.

As a result of his love for the youth of Georgia in the Cooperative Extension Service 4-H program, enrollment grew from 61,000 to 117,000 under his leadership, and he was a driving force in the creation of the Rock Eagle 4-H Center. He served as the chairman of the Georgia 4-H Foundation which raised \$2,000,000 in funds for construction of the 4-H center near Eatonton. Walter became the Director of Extension in 1937 and guided the development of the Cooperative Extension Service throughout the state, and he retired in 1954 after his career of 37 years.

He received numerous awards including Man of the Year in Agriculture in 1942 by the *Progressive Farmer* and was inducted into the UGA Agriculture Hall of Fame. During the World War II years as he served as Extension Director, he wrote monthly letters to the County Agents who were serving as soldiers in the war overseas to keep them abreast of the activities on the home front. The letters he received in return from the soldiers provide a very interesting history of life at that time both at home front and overseas. This collection has been contributed to the UGA Archives for a major exhibit featured during the 125 Centennial of the Cooperative Extension Service in 2014.

After retirement he was employed by Georgia Farm Bureau and Southern Railway as a consultant. As an example of his reputation in the field of agriculture, the Farm Bureau president stated, "We are indeed fortunate in obtaining the services of this outstanding leader with his vast reservoir of experience and knowledge." After 48 years of service to agriculture, Walter S. Brown died on December 5, 1965.

He was a true pioneer with the same spirit of adventure possessed by those who settled the lands of this country. His understanding of hardships, gained through his childhood in the mountains of Towns County enabled him to make significant contributions to the development of a richer, fuller life for the farm families and youth of Georgia. My times with "Granddaddy Brown" in these mountains; fishing trips on Corbin Creek, fox hunting on Owl Creek, duck hunting, working in his garden, and the lectures that I got about always being a gentleman still stick in my mind today. These memories have been an inspiration to me all thru my career, and I am proud to be his grandson.

Frank M. Riley Jr, is Executive Director Chestatee/Chattahoochee RC&D Council - www.frank.crced@gmail.com.

Have something to sell?

Let the Herald work for you!
Contact us at 706-896-4454
Deadline for the Towns County Herald is Friday by 5 PM

Towns County Community Calendar

Bridge Players	Every Monday:	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Bingo		Brasstown Manor	9:30 am
Free GED prep.	Every Tuesday:	Old Rec. Center	4 pm
SMART Recovery	Every Wednesday	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Bridge Players	Every Thursday:	All Saints Lutheran	12:30 pm
Free GED prep.		Old Rec. Center	4 pm
Movers & Shakers	Every Friday:	Sundance Grill	8 am
Alcoholics Anon.		Red Cross Building	7 pm
Alcoholics Anon.	Every Sunday:	Red Cross Building	7 pm
Chamber Board	Second Monday of each month:	1411 Jack Dayton Cir.	8 am
Historical Society		Old Rec. Center	5:30 pm
Planning Comm.		Civic Center	7 pm
School Board		Auditorium	7 pm
Unicoy Masonic		Lodge Hall	7:30 pm
Gem & Mineral Club	Second Tuesday of each month:	Senior Center	1:30 pm
Caregiver support		Brasstown Manor	3 pm
Arts & Crafts Guild		Calvary Church	4 pm
Lions Club		Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Mtn. Coin Club		N. GA Tech	6 pm
Basket Weavers	Second Wednesday of each month:	SC Fire Hall	10 am
Board of Elections		67 Lakeview Cir., Ste. A	4 pm
CVB Board	Second Thursday of each month:	Rec Center	9 am
Awake America Prayer		Civic Center	Noon
Mtn. Comm. Seniors		Senior Center	1 pm
Democratic Party		Civic Center	6 pm
Hospital Auxiliary	Third Monday of each month:	Cafeteria	1:30 pm
YH Plan Comm.	Third Tuesday of each month:	YH City Hall	5 pm
Co. Comm. Mtg		Courthouse	5:30 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.		Blairsville store	5:30 pm
Water Board		Water Office	6 pm
Quilting Bee	Third Wednesday of each month:	McConnell Church	10 am
MOAA		Call Joff @ 386-530-0904	
Friendship Comm.	Third Thursday of each month:	Clubhouse	6 pm
Republican Party		Civic Center	5:30 pm
Goldwing Riders	Third Saturday of each month:	Daniel's Restaurant	11 am
Red Cross DAT	Fourth Monday of each month:	1298 Jack Dayton Cir.	5:30 pm
Lions Club	Fourth Tuesday of each month:	Daniel's Restaurant	6 pm
Humane Shelter Bd.	Last Thursday of each month:	Cadence Bank	5:30 pm



"You know, the best way to celebrate Earth Day is to get a bit of it on you!"

Towns County Herald

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Office located at: 518 N. Main St. Suite 7 "The Mall", Hiawassee
Phone: (706) 896-4454 **Fax:** (706) 896-1745 **Email:** tcherald@windstream.net
Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546