

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

# OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

## Day of Infamy

December 7th 1941- December 7th, 2022, 81 years. We should never forget that America, too is vulnerable to horrific

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



attacks, costing us blood and treasure. America lost many thousands of lives of so many of our best men and women, not only in the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor but the ensuing WWII. The lesson is plain in that our military forces should be diverse geographically, not clustered in one area. And our military forces should be strong, and supported by our nation's leaders as strong, unyielding, overwhelming forces most certainly provide deterrents against enemies who would attack our Sovereign Republic. This, of course is documented and bears repeating:

Sunday, December 7th, 1941- Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending a concert in Washington D.C.

He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered the phone, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941. There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat, you would have thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked. As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?"

Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice. Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America."

Which do you think it was?" Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?" Nimitz explained; Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning. Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave.

If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk, we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

Mistake number two: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to America to be repaired.

As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to America. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make or God was taking care of America,

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredricksburg, Texas, he was a born optimist. Anyway you look at it, Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job.

Today, as always, we desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat. And personally WWII gave rise to our Greatest Generation. Our men and women of our military Forces, we cannot know them all or their hundreds of thousands of stories, however we can honor and respect them all and our memories of their history.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST, Have we forgotten? PRAY FOR OUR COUNTRY!

-Semper Paratus

JOE HILL



# PEARL HARBOR

## As Sorry as We Should Be

When you are a teenager taking your first karate classes, you look for opportunities to verify your dubious mastery of newly discovered skills. You repeatedly punch wood, sand or otherwise innocent objects which have never done you any wrong in order to toughen your hands and feet.

One evening I found myself home alone with the opportunity to practice some recently learned moves. In the foyer at the end of our hallway I found enough room to cut loose with a flurry of kicks and punches. However, on the last punch I threw at the end of the form, I misjudged the distance to the wall and knocked a fist-sized hole in the plaster. Naturally this occurred just as my parents were pulling into the driveway.

In a slight panic, and at the time still lacking the integrity that parents, and the best martial arts teachers, attempt to instill in their wards, I concocted a story on the spot. I had been, I told them, absent-mindedly "drumming" on the wall when all at once the old and crumbling plaster gave way.

Of course, and in spite of the decrepit state of the plaster which, oddly enough is still hanging in the 70-year-old house, I got the opportunity to learn to repair holes in plaster forthwith - and also to paint a wall. Those lessons have served me well over the years.

Janet Yellen, however, did not seem to be in any kind of panic the other night when she was being interviewed by Stephen Colbert, but she did concoct a story that I found to be puzzling if not entertaining. Perhaps it was some rare species of humor. After all, Colbert is known for his love of hyperbole.

Alas, as the interview progressed it became apparent that the Treasury Secretary was sincere in placing the blame for record inflation on, drum roll - you and me. After being cooped up for a year during the pandemic, we began, she said, "splurging" on "grills" and "technology."

According to Secretary Yellen, the Biden Administration handled the economy so well that we felt confident in our splurging, which led to record inflation and the supply chain bottlenecks we're still experiencing.

It's not all our fault, however. According to the Secretary, Russia is to blame for the high price of food and gas.

Curiouser and curiouser... When they were handing out "stimulus" checks, the intention, we were told, was to "stimulate" the economy, and we all assumed this meant that we were supposed to spend that money. We did...but now we are at fault for doing our part for the Great Stimulation?

As a matter of fact, for some time now we have been actively discouraged from saving money. Money stashed in a jar and buried in the back yard retains its value almost as well as money deposited in a bank. Also, the President has told us that inflation is a sign of a strong economy and that our present discomfort is all part of the Great Conflation. So... if we are to blame for inflation, shouldn't we be congratulated?

Let's also give credit where credit is due (and if you follow economic news, you'll agree that was a pun worthy of a drum roll and a high hat). Secretary Yellen made no mention of the trillions of dollars conjured since the beginning of the pandemic. According to NASDAQ, "All-in money printing totaled \$13 trillion: \$5.2 for COVID + \$4.5 for quantitative easing + \$3 for infrastructure. Mountains of money cause inflation." (World War II, by comparison, cost \$4.7 trillion in today's dollars.)

Nevertheless, Tracey and I did buy a barbecue grill last year, and how the Treasury Secretary found out, I'll never know. Hopefully I've matured some since my wall-punching days, so I freely admit to the purchase. We are precisely as sorry about that as we should be.

## 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  
P.O. Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546  
Our email address: tcherald@windstream.net

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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.*

## Feed Hay Efficiently

Winter feeding is one of the most costly parts of running a livestock operation. It is also necessary to get livestock through the winter. I know that everyone is being stretched this year, financially, emotionally, and mentally. As we are stretched, we have to find new ways to make do with fewer resources. Let's talk about how to improve the efficiency of your hay, and some practices that you can use to make it go further.

**UGA Extension**  
**Watching and Working**  
Jacob Williams



Feeding hay in a hay ring is one of the largest gains in efficiency that you can have if you haven't been using one. Research has shown that cattle will waste 45% of hay if it is fed by simply put out on open ground. Using a hay ring can reduce waste to 20% or less. Modified cone rings are the most efficient design at 5% waste; they are usually the most expensive too. Hay rings are not cheap, but they will pay for themselves over time, because they make your hay go further. Hay trailers or wagons will reduce waste, and are in the 15-20% reduction range. The advantage of using a trailer is that you can move where the hay is fed so that the manure is spread over the pasture more evenly.

Chopping hay increases your efficiency because your hay comes in shorter pieces. This makes it easier for the cattle to get the hay out, resulting in less waste. It's estimated that shorter pieces of hay reduces waste by 5-10% because less hay ends up on the ground. Chopped hay is also easier for cattle to digest in their rumen. This is because smaller objects have a larger surface area to volume ratio than small objects. A larger ratio means that there is more space for the bacteria in the rumen to break down the hay.

You can sort feeding by groups, which means evaluating which of your animals need the highest quality hay, and which ones can take the lower quality hay. Lower quality hay (50% total digestible nutrients and 7% crude protein) can be fed to cattle in mid-gestation. Mid quality hay (55-58% TDN and 8-9% CP) should be fed to cattle in late-gestation. Your highest quality hay (59-65% TDN and 10-13% CP) should be fed to first calf heifers throughout gestation, growing calves, and mature cows during early lactation. Understanding cattle's body condition scoring also helps you sort which cattle need which hay.

Hay testing is important so that you know what your total digestible nutrients and crude protein are. Ideally you want to wait about 2 weeks after baling to test hay to let the moisture settle. For haylage or baleage, you should wait about a month before testing. A basic hay test will tell you about how digestible your hay is and how much energy is in it. Armed with this knowledge you can make decisions about which animals will get which hay. Animals have a limited amount of space in their belly, so making sure that space is filled with forage that will provide them with enough energy is important. If you would like to test your hay, let me know. I'd be happy to help.

If you have questions about increasing your hay efficiency contact your County Extension Office or email me at Jacob.Williams@uga.edu.

## Billy

**Around The Farm**  
Mickey Cummings



I first met Billy in 1968. He was a seventh grader at Osborne Elementary School and I was a fourth grader. I and all the other younger kids in our school looked up to Billy. Although he was considered as one of the tough kids at our school he never bullied or picked on us. He may have been the most popular kid in school. All the pretty girls liked him and he was funny.

However, Mr. Keebler didn't like Billy. Mr. Keebler was our janitor. All of us kids were afraid of him. He was a dried-up old man that growled at every kid in the school. Back in those days our teacher would line us up and march us single file to the lunch room. On the way to lunch we had to cross the main lobby where Mr. Fischer's (the Principal) office was located. Every class had to pass through this area and there was always a traffic jam of students and teachers. Mr. Keebler spent a lot of time at this junction because it also served as the main entrance into the school.

Each day at this traffic jam Billy's class would be leaving the lunch room as the fourth graders would be arriving. Billy would sneak straws from the lunch room and shoot spit wads through the straws to the ceiling above the hallway. Spit wads are spit moistened bits of paper shot through a drinking straw. Mr. Keebler, Mr. Fischer and every teacher in the school knew Billy was shooting these spit wads. But nobody ever caught Billy in the act. Each day Billy would call out to Mr. Keebler, "Look, Mr. Keebler, there is another spit wad." All of us kids would snicker while Billy was talking to Mr. Keebler. He would then turn to us and grin. We all loved Billy, but the staff at school labeled him as a troublemaker, and I guess Billy wanted to change his reputation and he got his chance in the springtime of 1969.

We sold candy for the first time that year. Our school was trying to raise money for field trips. I remember the candy man talking to us before the big sale. We were told to sell as much candy as possible and the kids that sold the most would be awarded prizes. We had one month to sell the candy and each week were to report our totals back to our teachers. At the end of the first week Billy had sold 62 candy bars. We were astonished that anyone could sell that many candy bars. Mr. Fischer announced Billy's success over the intercom. Everyone but Mr. Keebler was impressed.

The next week Billy's total was up to 158. All the teachers and the staff were rubbing Billy's blonde hair and patting him on the back. I believe that Billy was enjoying his new image. He was no longer viewed as a troublemaker. All the teachers treated him with respect and admiration. That is everyone but, Mr. Keebler.

By the end of the month of candy sales Billy had sold \$350 dollars of candy bars. At 50 cents per bar, it is easy to calculate that Billy had sold 700 candy bars. But, if you knew Billy and watched him closely you could tell he had gained weight as well.

The announcements about the winners of the sale were made on the final day of the sale. During lunch everyone was rubbing Billy's head and congratulating his success. Everyone except Mr. Keebler. As Billy walked by him in the hallway, Mr. Keebler's only comment was, "Billy, I think you have gained some weight." For the first time in weeks I noticed a troubled look in the eyes of Billy. I guess he was worried about the next day. That day was Friday and we were to bring our money from the sales back to the school. The next morning I walked into school and noticed Billy standing in the office as his Dad sat in a chair waiting for Mr. Fischer. I learned later that Billy could not sit down. Sitting would be very painful for Billy for a while.

No one ever determined the number of candy bars Billy consumed. But he only turned in \$48.50 of the \$350 he should have turned back to the school. Billy's one month of fame went to his head and now the only people that still admired him were myself and a handful of fourth graders from Osborne Elementary School. That day at lunch Mr. Keebler grinned and asked Billy if he had a belly ache. Billy grinned back and said, "No sir. I have a butt ache."

Publication No: 635540

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

Towns County (1 Year) \$30. Out of County (1 Year) \$40. 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

Phone: (706) 896-4454 Fax: (706) 896-1745 Email: tcherald@windstream.net

Or mail to: PO Box 365, Hiawassee, GA 30546

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