



Photographers Choice



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Christmas, 2010

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January 7th, 2011

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Waxhaw: 2010



...in the Rear View

WAXHAW:
Friday, January 7th, 2011
by John Tiley

The Ball has dropped, calendars should be changed by now and we are officially just into the New Year.... A very good time to take a glance back to see what has been accomplished. And we certainly have passed a few mile markers here in Waxhaw.

You can now buy a drink at at least a few restaurants in town. The intersection of Route 16 and 75 is in the best repair I've ever seen it in! The railroad even has installed a crossing that looks like it might hold up for a good long while.

[Read the entire story here>](#)



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No, that's not the odds on winning the lottery unfortunately. Rather it is the number of "counted" unemployed... one in every ten people are unemployed in our region. And that doesn't reflect the vast number of uncounted...

The ones who have given up on ever finding a new job. And it doesn't take into account the many under employed, the ones who can't find work in their chosen/educated fields.

WHY?

[Read the entire story here>](#)

Every year I try to cover the Towns' Holiday Events with a new perspective and an eye for the unusual.

[Slide Shows & Story here>](#)

Attention Readers:

Past stories, beginning with the Autumn Treasures Follow-Up, are now available on line in their original form. Please see the links in the right side bar of the archive page.

Around Town

January 7th, 2011

"Under New Ownership"



The Main Street Grill is now open again! Run by Josh & Kati Gaskey and Josh's Parents Don & Shea Gaskey, the restaurant is open for breakfast and lunch 7 AM to 3PM Monday through Friday and Saturday from 8AM through 3PM. Closed on Sunday. I understand the menu has been expanded to include a number of new items. I plan on

stopping by in the next week or so and will let you know more in the next issue, so be sure to check back later this month for updates!

~ ~ ~ ~

It's Not Too Soon To Sign Up For Springfest 2011!

Vendor and concessionaire applications for Springfest 2011 are now available. See the Town Web Site www.waxhaw.com, for more information, or contact Cathy or Dori at 704-843-2195 ext 26 (email events@waxhaw.com).

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Please note that the leaf vacuuming program provided by the Town has been extended to January 14. After this date, all leaves are required to be placed in clear plastic bags and placed curbside.

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Businesses have come and gone... most notably restaurants... the old Bridge and Rail is but a distant memory now to us who have been around a while and in its place, Maxwell's is open for business. Those folks did a great job rehabilitating the place! Southsiders continues to re-invent themselves now that they too are "serving" and "The Big Dog" is but a memory, re-opened under new ownership and with a new name... Stack's. And the list of other new restaurants in the area goes on as well.

Now that we seem to have an overabundance of eateries, grocery stores, medical facilities and drugstores the latest craze in investor driven development seems to be dentists. Six counting the two specialty outfits. Must be an awful lot of cavities here? Always though the people of Waxhaw were especially sweet!

At the town, we've lost a few people as well, one commissioner has stepped down, a new one or two fill the ranks and I would expect the new year to see other personnel changes as well.

Every year it seems that we manage to see improvements in our town. Still it has been referred to me recently as quaint and homey! I, for one, rather enjoy that kind of description of where I live.

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No, that's not the odds on winning the lottery unfortunately. Rather, it is the number of "counted" unemployed... one in every ten people are unemployed in our region. And that doesn't reflect the vast number of uncounted. The ones who have given up on ever finding a new job. And it doesn't take into account the many under employed, the ones who can't find work in their chosen/educated fields.

WHY?

We certainly can place a good portion of the blame on the Banks and Big Corporate Executives who, with their unbridled greed and moral bankruptcy have lost all sense of loyalty toward the American worker... beholding only to their CEO's and investors who don't care how its done, just expecting a large bonus and return on their investment!

But, when you stand back and take a really good, long look at the entire picture, you will come to realize that even as so many jobs have been pulled from us and sent overseas, a vast number of the missing jobs **SIMPLY DO NOT EXIST** anymore!

Up until recently, say since the 1980's when technology really started taking hold, it took any number of skilled craftsman to complete a job. Long before the Industrial Revolution even, how many people did it take to achieve a task... say like printing a book or building a car? How about designing and putting into place an infrastructure like clean running water? The more we humans learned, the more intricate our lives became, the more people were needed to realize the completion of those tasks. Take this publication for example... it was not so long ago, even if it does seem like ancient history, it would have taken seven or eight people to do what I accomplish by myself here in just a few days! And instead of the week or so it would have taken back then. There were the writers pounding away on typewriters, artists and art directors feverishly working out layouts to custom fir the content. The photographers and illustrators that took specific orders for support materials.

And the typesetters that turned raw copy into an art form in itself all for you to read. Then there was the production people that slaved away on drawing boards putting all of the artwork together. Today I complete all of those tasks by myself on a PC. And instead of printing, I post the entire project to the internet when it is completed. All in just a few days. What took literally hundreds of "man hours" done in maybe 20 or 30. So where did all of these talented and intelligent people we don't need anymore go? Their entire professions are gone in a puff of computerized either. Professions they spent an entire careers learning.

During 2010 Jeep ran a commercial touting their new car. They spoke all about craftsmanship and pride. They used many old time clips with people slaving away in factories, etc.at the beginning to illustrate a heritage but when they showed the "new car" being built there was only one guy in a "clean suite" not doing anything. They did show great shots of their wonderful vehicle with leather and wood steering wheels and oh yes, robots welding mega spots to "reinforce the integrity" of the car. But not once, not even a guy wiping off a bit of dust with a rag....

This isn't an American Workers vs. Wall Street piece. Not even an American vs. China or Mexico article. This is about what are the millions of intelligent, creative individuals that have been the backbone of human development going to do to exercise their capabilities? Robots are great at pounding out precision welds one after the other 24-7. But they are totally incapable of producing a better weld than the one they are programed to do. They are dumb in that sense. People can be unbelievably creative, but have to exercise their craftsmanship in order to come up with that "better mouse trap". And that isn't going to happen if they are all unemployed or under employed. People have to be actively participating to be creative and make those advancements, those leaps of understanding. And in this world, it is up to the "Captains of Industry" to realize this and act accordingly. Governments can't do it only industry. The question is will they heed the calling or ride along obliviously to what is happening around them?

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And now, Our Weekly Dose of Humor directly from the Internet.....

bits and pieces that your Editor will not testify to for correctness, accuracy nor even believability but they are certainly humorous, So Enjoy!

Senior health care solution - according to Maxine



So you're a sick senior citizen and the government says there is no nursing home available for you - what do you do?

Our plan gives anyone 65 years or older a gun and 4 bullets. You are allowed to shoot 4 politicians - not necessarily dead!

Of course, this means you will be sent to prison where you will get 3 meals a day, a roof over your head, central heating, and all the health care you need! New teeth - no problem. Need glasses, great. New hip, knees, kidney, lungs, heart? All covered. (And your kids can come and visit you as often as they do now).

And who will be paying for all of this? The same government that just told you that they cannot afford for you to go into a home.

Plus, because you are a prisoner, you don't have to pay any income taxes anymore.

IS THIS A GREAT COUNTRY OR WHAT?

The Reason

On the first day, God created the dog and said, "Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I will give you a life span of twenty years."

The dog said, "That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?"

So God agreed.....

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, "Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span."

The monkey said, "Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?"

And God agreed.....

On the third day, God created the cow and said, "You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this, I will give you a life span of sixty years."

The cow said, "That's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty and I'll give back the other forty?"

And God agreed again.....

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, "Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this, I'll give you twenty years."

But the human said, "Only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?"

"Okay," said God. "You asked for it."

So that is why for our first twenty years, we eat, sleep, play and enjoy ourselves. For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family. For the next ten years, we do monkey tricks to entertain the grandchildren. And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information. I'm doing it as a public service.



Bertha and Betty

Two 90-year-old women, Bertha and Betty, had been friends all of their lives.

When it was clear that Bertha was dying, Betty visited her every day.

One day Betty said, 'Bertha, we both loved playing softball all our lives, and we played all through high school. Please do me one favor: when you get to heaven, somehow you must let me know if there's women's softball there.'

Bertha looked up at Betty from her deathbed and said, 'Betty, you've been my best friend for many years. If it's at all possible, I'll do this favor for you.'

Shortly after that, Bertha passed on.

A few nights later, Betty was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, 'Betty, Betty.'

'Who is it', asked Betty, sitting up suddenly. 'Who is it?'

'Betty -- it's me, Bertha.'

'You're not Bertha. Bertha just died.'

'I'm telling you, it's me, Bertha,' insisted the voice.

'Bertha! Where are you?'

'In heaven,' replied Bertha. 'I have some really good news and a little bad news.'

'Tell me the good news first,' said Betty.

'The good news,' Bertha said, 'is that there's women's softball in heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before me are here, too. Even better than that, we're all young again. Better still, it's always Springtime and it never rains or snows. And best of all, we can play softball all we want, and we never get tired.'

'That's fantastic,' said Betty. 'It's beyond my wildest dreams! So what's the bad news?'

'You're pitching Tuesday.'

Life is uncertain...

*Eat dessert first***The room**

was full of pregnant women with their partners. The class was in full swing. The instructor was teaching the women how to breathe properly and was telling the men how to give the necessary assurance to their partners at this stage of the pregnancy.

She said "Ladies, remember that exercise is good for you. Walking is especially beneficial. It strengthens the pelvic muscles and will make delivery that much easier." Just take several stops and stay on a soft surface like grass or a path.

She looked at the men in the room, "and Gentlemen, remember -- You're in this together -- It wouldn't hurt you to go walking with her.

The room suddenly got very quiet as the men absorbed this information. Then a man at the back of the room slowly raised his hand.

"Yes?" answered the Instructor.

"I was just wondering if it would be all right if she carries a golf bag while we walk?"

..... *This kind of sensitivity just can't be taught.*

