

DEDICATED TO THE PROMOTION OF TOWNS COUNTY

OPINIONS & COMMENTARY

Towns County is Blessed Again

Welcome Marion Crawford 1st SGT, US Army Ret and Major Joyce Miller, US Army Ret!

Marion was at one time the youngest 1st SGT in our nation's Army. It all began back home in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan when she was 11 years old, riding her bike behind a parade of the 501st Women's Army Corps operations unit.

Immediately after HS she went to the local PO to apply, was told, and "No Way" until she showed them the certified letter sent by Army top brass, in September, 1948.

Her dad, who joined the US Navy on the day of Pearl Harbor, pitched a fit! She was the first woman in Michigan to join the WAAC Peace Corps.

Not to last forever, the Vietnam War required her services managing the first combat detachment of women since WWII. Administration was her and her girls' primary duty, but under constant attack by the VC in their Saigon encampment, she is proud of all our soldiers who protected them during these attacks.

With 21 years in the regular Army, she became the top recruit carrying her Army duty over into the ROTC for three years. Married for a short while, she was told by her soon to be ex-husband, "It's me or the Army".

Her troops called her "Mom". Every command officer, from Generals on down that ever met her or worked with her showered her with praises; she has the documentation to prove it as well as a loaded chest full of awards, and medals. Towns County is blessed that Marion's CO and best friend Major E. Joyce Miller are now permanent residents at our wonderful Brasstown Manor, both having full, exciting wonderful lives.

Successful in real estate, as top Realtor, Coldwell Banker for 20 more years, she and Joyce bought a decrepit RV Park renovating it into a successful business.

Both are military historians. Did you know that there were 900 women in Vietnam at one time or another, representing four of our five military services? Army has the largest percentage.

Sexual harassment or foul play was non-existent back then. Quotes: "Young women with half a brain and ambition join the Army"; "Army was best years of my life"; "Military service should be an American institution two years minimum, for all our young folks!"

Semper Paratus

Lichens

Have you seen moss growing on trees? Lichen is the term used for the blue green, papery growth that is often found on the bark of trees and other perennials.

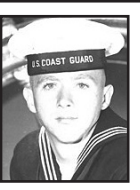
Lichens are usually made up of a couple of different organisms. They will really have a fungus and an algae.

Lichens work together in a relationship that is mutually beneficial. Together these organisms produce the thallus, which is the leaf like growth that people see and recognize as lichen. Each organism has its own role in the relationship. The fungus provides a physical structure for growth, because the algae is slimy and has no structure.

Lichens do not kill plants. An abundant amount of lichen can be an indicator that something else is affecting the plant. There are not any products that are recommended for use on lichen that is also safe for plants.

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

The Veterans' Corner Scott Drummond USCG Veteran



We Should Be...

The Age of Information has produced experts for any notion and every pursuit. I'm sure there is an expert, or a hundred, who can tell us, for example, whether corporal punishment is a bad thing or not.

It was a familiar sound to many who might read this, but regardless of whether your childhood was punctuated by the crack of a thin leather belt cracking the sound barrier in an effort to adjust your attitude, you probably heard something like this at least once while growing up: "You should be ashamed of yourself."

I'm guessing that you heard that phrase when you were mean to your brother or sister or one of the neighborhood kids. Children are like that. But there is probably an expert school of thought which holds that even this method of attempting to foster a sense of right and wrong in a child is incorrect.

But let's not be too hasty. Perhaps a measure of guilt does serve a purpose if it leads to self awareness and the development of a conscience.

Besides, I'm hoping that a little guilt, or better, a little self reflection will get a rise when I say, in all sincerity and hoping that you will understand, that some of us should be ashamed of ourselves.

We do it almost every day, now that so many of our waking hours are spent as transponders for social media. We're clicking along and see a meme that amuses us.

Without thinking too much about it, we post it or re-tweet it. Our friends who think the way we do, like it. They think it's funny, and they may add something similar to the thread to demonstrate a shared contempt for those others.

But when you have 500 Facebook "friends," chances are that several of those people are "them" and not "us."

How many friends did you lose during the course of the last election? Have you made any new ones to replace them? Is your world richer, now that it has been purged of those who hold different opinions?

Way out here on the lonely rim of a small galaxy of hundreds of billions of stars in a universe composed of more galaxies than we can comprehend, on this tiny dot of a planet suspended in the vastness of space, are our opinions so sure, so important, so inviolate and sacred that they are worth more than the friendship or the peace of mind of another human being, another neighbor?

Let's think about that for a moment. Maybe we're not so sure of ourselves. The world is complicated and our ability to influence it is always in doubt. If we were truly secure in our beliefs, if we really believed what we think, would we have any real reason to say much more about it? Perhaps our beliefs are on such shaky ground that we need constant reinforcement to sustain them.

Oh, but I'm not talking about us, right? I'm talking about them. As democrats, we believe that all people are the same and we celebrate diversity. It's those republicans. They're racists, homophobes and misogynists.

Surely I'm not talking about the republicans either. We are guided by our faith, which informs us that all are the same in the sight of God. But those democrats are godless communists who want to destroy this country.

Does it ever occur to us that when we think and act this way, it is frightfully easy to manipulate us? Do we ever see the contradiction or the hypocrisy?

Are we really so willing to judge and condemn other people based on so little information about the world, and even less experience, when what we think we know is a one eyed, half-brained squint through a pinhole from a darkened room? Yes, we have a right to our opinions, but we are not entitled to them.

How much are those opinions really worth against the pale blue dot of our sun in a background of countless stars? And when we assume the mantle of phenomenal cosmic power required to judge even a single human being, much less millions of them, we should be ashamed.

The Middle Path

By: Don Perry

True Confession

Okay, here it comes. Real dirt. On July 27, 2018, I stepped out on my husband John. I feel no remorse or guilt.

Though disappointed, I remained undaunted. Fifteen minutes before the appointed 2 a.m. tryst, I eased out of bed as silently as possible and made my way to The Elixir of Life making machine.

Outside dew had fallen and the chairs on the deck were wet. A thick, folded towel took care of that. I lit a softly scented candle for the fragrance. No additional light was needed because the moon was at its radiant best.

What I had hoped to share with husband and friends turned out perfectly without them. I know I'm not the only person in the world and am nothing special, but when Mars caught my gaze and held it, I was. He was there just for me.

The Annual Perseid Meteor Shower (Aug. 10 - 13, with best dates Aug. 12 and 13) will benefit from a darker-than-usual sky, due to a tiny crescent moon. It should be prime shooting star viewing conditions. I'd love to share my stars with you.

John, I'll never leave you for a mere mortal (like there's a chance) but watch out for those kids of Zeus and Hera.

Dishin' Dirt Dale Harmon



Cartoon illustration with text: "It's exciting for everyone to focus on the Governor's race!" and "NATION EYES GEORGIA CAMPAIGN".

Cartoon illustration with text: "I just wish the Governor's race would focus on us." and "STATE NEEDS".

Towns County Community Calendar

Table listing community events with columns for activity, day, and time. Includes events like Bridge Players, Free GED prep, SMART Recovery, etc.

Towns County Herald

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