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and

The Highlands Maconian

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Concerning Our Courthouse

MACON COUNTY'S courthouse, built in the late seventies or the early eighties, has long needed repairs and improvements. Time and time again grand juries have recommended that something be done about it; but nothing more than superficial repairs have resulted. Some months ago Franklin's building inspector condemned the structure as unsafe and in violation of the state building code; and since then the grand jury has twice demanded that the county commissioners put the building in proper condition.

The commissioners themselves realize that the building should be repaired; but they claim they have not had the funds at their disposal to finance the work, and the statute limitation on the tax rate precluded a special levy to provide the necessary money. At one time the commissioners thought they might obtain federal funds for the work through the Public Works Administration; but their proposal was rejected on the ground that the county was in default on its bonds.

Now, we have been informed by a local official of the Works Progress Administration, there is a very good likelihood that the county, by supplying a comparatively small part of the funds necessary, could obtain WPA approval of the project.

Certainly no stone should be left unturned. Every possible means of obtaining federal aid for repairing the courthouse should be investigated. We feel sure the county commissioners will not pass up an opportunity to have this work done.

It is to be hoped that, if and when the opportunity arises, the repairs and improvements will be made with an eye to the future and that they will not be merely of a temporary nature.

While the courthouse presents a very dilapidated appearance now and is woefully inadequate, it is basically sound in its construction. Under the supervision of a good architect, it could be remodeled into a serviceable and beautiful building.

We feel that most of the county's taxpayers will agree with us that it would be far better to spend a few thousand dollars on the courthouse now to make it last for ten or twenty years longer, rather than to allow it to disintegrate. If the latter is permitted, it will only be a matter of several years before it will become necessary for the county to build an entirely new courthouse, which would mean adding a hundred thousand dollars or more to our bonded indebtedness.

The Weather

THE weather may be a dull topic of conversation; but, nevertheless, most of us are deeply interested in it. For it not only affects our personal comfort, but is also an important factor in our economic life.

If there is anything to the weather cycle theory, we are in for another winter of lowering temperatures and increasing coal bills. The long range forecasters have ventured the opinion that the winter of 1934-35 marked the end of 25 years or so of generally mild, open winters, and that last winter was the first of a series of cold, wet winters.

Uncle Sam's official weather men, however, look skeptically at these generalized long time predictions and decline to make forecasts for more than a week or two ahead.

It is pointed out that this is a mighty big country and it would be unusual for one forecast to cover the entire country. Sometimes it is cold in the west and warm in the east, and sometimes it is just the other way around. Then, again, it may be wet in

NEWS REEL, December Release

by A. B. Chapin



YOUTOWN, U.S.A.

MR. MERCHANT HAS BROKEN THE WORLD'S RECORD TO THE TELEGRAPH OFFICE TWICE THIS FALL. HE WAS IN A HURRY TO ORDER MORE HOLIDAY GOODS.



NORTH POLE, TERQA FIRMA;

BUSY SCENE IN WORKSHOP OF SANTA CLAUS, INC. HE REPORTS LARGEST NUMBER OF ORDERS AND GREATEST ACTIVITY IN YEARS, AND STATES THAT AN EXTRA DIVIDEND IN GOOD CHEER WILL BE DECLARED THIS CHRISTMAS.



BIG BURG, U.S.A.

MANY JOBBING EMPLOYEES ARE CRACKING UNDER THE STRAIN OF KEEPING UP WITH THE DEMAND FOR MORE CHRISTMAS GOODS.



MIDDLETOWN, U.S.A.

THIS TOWN HAS NOT SEEN SUCH TRAFFIC JAMS AT EMPLOYEES' ENTRANCES FOR YEARS.



ALL AROUND US, U.S.A.

JOHNNY Q. PUBLIC BETTERED THE RECORD OF THE LAST FEW YEARS IN THE WEIGHT-LIFTING EVENT.



EVERYWHERE, U.S.A.

SPEED RECORDS ARE BEING BUSTED DAILY IN AND AROUND THE HOME FIELD.

the north and dry in the south, or vice versa. Nobody is yet sure why the cold air currents from the North Pole which sweep southward sometimes come down west of the Rockies and sometimes east. Nobody has yet fathomed what effect sun spots and other disturbances outside the earth's atmosphere have upon the weather.

Here in the mountains we have local circumstances which make weather forecasting most difficult. We recall that winter before last there was hardly a snow around Franklin, while just across the mountain in Jackson county there were several heavy snows. We have a southern exposure and, therefore, a slightly warmer climate than Jackson county; but who could tell with any certainty when an approaching snow storm would sweep on southward to Macon and beyond, or when it would vent its fury in Jackson and call it quits at the top of the Cowee range?

When anyone asks us for our opinion about the weather, we are inclined to repeat the remark of an old man at Blowing Rock, who, when asked whether he thought it would rain, laconically replied:

"Nobody but dern fools and strangers try to predict the weather around here."

However, we are open to conviction, and we will watch the weather with a great deal of interest this winter, the next and the next just to see whether there is any reliability in this weather cycle theory.

BRUCE BARTON Soap



WILL TO LIVE IS IMPORTANT

Among the men whose friendship I enjoyed was the late C. W. Barron, owner of the Wall Street Journal.

He told me two stories. The first was about a man who accumulated a large fortune, built a house on Fifth Avenue, put his feet on the window-sill, and said: "Now, I am going to enjoy myself." But he was like a watch spring which has been wound up tight for a long time, and, being suddenly released, snaps in pieces. After only a few months of idleness he died.

The second story had been told to Barron by a noted surgeon. A woman, taken to the hospital for a slight operation, died almost before the anesthetic was applied. The surgeon could not understand it.

On looking into her history, he discovered that from the minute the operation was decided upon she had begun to prepare for the worst. The surgeon said: "That taught me a lesson. I shall never again operate until I find out what preparations the patient has made. If any person cares so little about holding on to life that he makes all preparations to let go, then some other surgeon can have the job."

Barron said that by the degree of their courage and faith men themselves determine how long they will live.

I believe that is true—that those who want to live; that when interest ceases, the heart stops. None of us can escape the process of decay, but there are many things I want to learn, so many places I want to see, that I hope to fool the

old heart and kidneys for a while. And so, I trust, will you.

COURT NOT THE HATERS

A group of people had listened to a candidate's radio speech after it was over, there was a deal of criticism. I noticed the intelligent woman took no part in the conversation, and when I asked her why, she said: "The older I grow the more I hate haters." It's a remark to set one thinking. Down through the ages HATTI dragged its bloody trail across the heart of this good earth. It hurled nations at each other, throats in war; hate kindled fires of persecution. Hate is the hemlock to the lips of Solomon and raised in Jerusalem the shouts of "Crucify."

One might say truthfully that a very good measure of the historical worth of a man or institution is the sum total of human hate. Napoleon does not stand the test. Back and forth across the continent of Europe he trampled in his drenched boots, until at last there was only one sentiment in the hearts of men and women of the whole continent—desperate to rid themselves forever of the conscienceless destroyer; a relentless hate.

Businesses could properly measure once a year and check them by this measuring rod:—How more or less are they liked or disliked than twelve months ago? What have they done, or what are they doing, if anything, that adds to the total of hate? (Copyright, K. F. S.)

Altitude Affects Power

A car that develops 100 horsepower at sea-level has only 60 horsepower at the top of Pike's Peak.

All Love

Fred: Have you ever loved before?

Marlynn: No dear. I have admired men for their strength, courage, good looks, or intelligence, but with you, Freddie, it is a—nothing else.

A Terrible Disappointment

"Yes," said the old man, "I had some terrible disappointments, but none stands out over the others like the one that came to me when I was a boy."

"And what was it?" "When I was a boy I went under a tent to see a circus and discovered it was a revival meeting."