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and

The Highlands Maconian

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Obituary notices, cards of thanks, tributes of respect, by individuals, lodges, churches, organizations or societies, will be regarded as advertising and inserted at regular classified advertising rates. Such notices will be marked "adv." in compliance with the postal regulations.

This newspaper invites its readers to express their opinions on matters of public interest through its columns. The Press-Maconian is independent in its policies and is glad to print both sides of any question. Letters to the editor should be written legibly, on only one side of the paper and should be of reasonable length. The editor reserves the right to reject letters which are too long, are of small general interest or which would violate the sensibilities of our readers.

When Democrats Forget Democratic Principles

GERRYMANDERING is an old political trick described in Funk & Wagnalls dictionary as "an unnatural and arbitrary redistricting of state or county." The word has an odd origin, being derived from the name "Gerry" and the word "salamander," for while Elbridge Gerry was Governor of Massachusetts a district was created resembling a salamander in outline.

Since then the word and the practice have increased in odium. Fortunately, North Carolina has had slight acquaintance with this means of denying the principle of self-government. Occasionally, however, it bobs up even in the Old North State, as it did in the past week in the form of bills introduced in the legislature to divide the counties of Madison and Clay into districts for the purpose of electing county commissioners. The measures also increase the number of commissioners and carry appointments of additional members to meet the situation until the next election. Patently, the bills are intended to maintain Democratic control of local government in these counties, which last Autumn elected Republican boards.

The Asheville Citizen, an independent Democratic newspaper, rightfully condemns such undemocratic methods as "partisan tyranny" and "shoddy politics," pointing out in connection with the Madison County bill:

"If there is one policy which the Democratic party has consistently professed throughout all the years and in which all true Democrats must believe, it is the right of a people to govern themselves. Whenever the Democratic party departs from that principle it stultifies itself."

The same applies to the Clay County bill, or any other measure similarly designed.

In a later editorial the Asheville paper declares:

"The Citizen would like to see a victorious Democratic party created in Madison County. But such a party cannot be erected upon injustice or despotism and by thwarting the views of the majority."

To all of which this newspaper adds a hearty "Amen."

It appears to us that the policy being followed by some Democratic leaders and legislators, especially in the Western counties, is weakening, not strengthening the party. Not only is over-zealous partisanship manifest in some bills before the Assembly, notably the gerrymandering measures; but some other measures introduced, a few pertaining to our own county of Macon, reflect both political and personal grudges.

Such political short-sightedness can work only damage to the Democratic party and to the people affected by this legislation. If the party as a state unit wants to keep its name above reproach it should take action to strangle any legislation, local or statewide, which is contrary to democratic principles. The attitude of some of the lawmakers at Raleigh is arousing concern among good Democrats as well as the justified wrath of offended Republicans.

Are We Proud of This Generosity

WHEN the Red Cross last Spring sent out appeals for emergency relief funds to aid the tornado-stricken people of Gainesville, Ga., Macon County responded most liberally, trebling its quota of \$300 in addition to sending quantities of food and clothing.

Again in the past week the people of this county have manifested a fine spirit of full-hearted sympathy and open-handed generosity in answer to the Red Cross' appeal for funds to aid the flood victims in the Ohio and Mississippi river valleys.

At last report the county had raised nearly \$450 and the fund was still growing. The first request from national Red Cross headquarters was for \$60, but this amount already had been passed when the appeal came. Later came another appeal, suggesting that Macon County set a quota of \$300, and this amount was over-subscribed before nightfall.

People in all walks of life have contributed, some in moderate circumstances "straining" their pocketbooks in a realization of the immensity of the catastrophe and the dire need of the affected people. The splendid thing about the way the relief money has come in is that all contributions have been voluntary. There has been no soliciting. All contributions have come straight from the heart.

This splendid generosity and feeling of brotherly love on the part of our people gives us more pride in this community than anything that has come to our notice. It deserves the highest of commendation.

LETTER-PRESS

BRICK PAINT vs. STUCCO FOR COURTHOUSE JOB

I have had the opportunity of reading your editorial of January 14th on the courthouse project.

In writing you I wish to say that I also do not want to argue the advantages or disadvantages, in general, of brick paint versus stucco. I may, however, have to argue the advantages of brick paint over

stucco for this particular project.

I would like to point out that an architect's job is to design, or redesign, a building for it to give the utmost in efficiency as a functioning unit and at the same time make it as attractive as possible in the eyes of the onlooker.

For both of these reasons this building should not be stuccoed. In the first place the building was

On the Gasoline Circuit — by A. B. CHAPIN

THE NIGHT YOU SWIPED DAD'S CAR
TO TAKE HER TO THE JUNIOR DANCE
AND YOU SKIDDED —
AND SMACKED A WHEEL —
AND IT WAS 2.30 A.M. —
AND — AND —
OH BOY, WHAT A MESS !!!



well designed in brick. The only reason for covering it with any material is to preserve it from further deterioration. It is then my opinion that the best thing to do is to use the material that will satisfy this need and make as little change in the appearance of the present building as possible and with the least cost to the taxpayer.

For the application of either material the wall surfaces will have to be carefully cleaned and prepared. From this point on the prices are no longer comparable, the stucco if applied according to the specifications of the Portland Cement Association being easily three times as expensive as a recognized brand of brick and cement coating.

If the project moves forward it will be under a WPA grant. As I understand it, the aim of the Works Administration is to furnish as much employment as possible to the maximum number of local laborers in that community. This is verified by the fact that proposed projects have been turned down in which the material was too great a percentage of the amount desired. It is also a fact that more local men will receive work by painting the courthouse instead of bringing plasterers from another community.

I wish to enclose data and material verifying my opinion.

Yours truly,
RICHARD L. AECK
Atlanta, Georgia
January 26, 1937

(EDITOR'S NOTE—The data referred to by Mr. Aeck in the last paragraph of his letter is on file in The Press-Maconian office and is open to examination by any interested person.)

ANTIQUITY vs. MODERNISM

Editor, Press:
I see in your editorial in the last issue of The Press that there is a controversy about remodeling the court house.

In the same issue, you tell of the incident of the man from the country thinking our capitol building at Raleigh was old and he thought we needed a new one.

Most of us know, of course, that the Capitol at Raleigh is considered by both the old and the new school of architecture as one of the most perfect buildings in the United States. Also, that age adds to its value!

I feel the same about our court house—not like the man that wants a new one, but that in its small way, our court house is also an example of simple and beautiful architecture.

As you come up the street facing the court house, its dignified lines, its size and style to fit an old and

cultured village, appeals to anyone with an eye for beauty. The old red, hand made, brick, mellowed by time, the elegant but simple belfry all show splendid taste in building, that to my way of thinking, would be just too bad to destroy.

Of course, the court house cannot be "fixed" to suit anyone, and for years and years, it has needed the inside cleaned out because of years of neglect, but the outside and the gracefully curving stairs at the entrance, Mr. Editor, I hope will not be destroyed to make our picturesque old court house look NEW.

M. R. S.
Woodside, L. I.

PROTESTS AGAINST COURT HOUSE CHANGES

Mr. Editor:
A voice of protest against any modern finish to the outside of our court house. It and Dixie Hall are the only buildings in Franklin that have any air of Southern architecture. Why let Franklin, as old as it is, look like a mushroom town? If there is any money to be spent, let the tower be painted and those back stairs be cleaned, and furnish brass spittoons for the jury!

A sentimental taxpayer,
(Mrs.) Daisy Siler D'Onofrio
Woodside, L. I.
January 19, 1937

OPPOSES OPENING OF INDIAN MOUND

Editor, Press:
I have just received a letter forwarded to me from Franklin, from Dr. Douglas L. Rights of Winston-Salem, president of our State Archaeological Society, informing me that steps are being taken by a Mr. Rich to open the Nequassee Mound, and that our Society has taken the matter up with Washington to try to stop this. Dr. Rights writes me to try and get up public sentiment about this at home, and of course, the columns of The Franklin Press is the best way to do this.

If this Mound is ever opened, it must be done by scientific experts and the contents placed in our own museums and not taken away!

In the little history of the counties of North Carolina, written by Professor Oles, the first sentence about our county reads, "Macon county is known for its great Indian Mound."

Nequassee Mound is the best preserved mound in the Cherokee country, which embraces several states. Nobody knows how old this Indian monument is. It is far too valuable an asset to our community for the public to allow it to be tampered with.

While it is privately owned, I believe it could also be claimed as

public property as a land mark of inestimable value.

Don't let anyone bother "our Indian Mound."

Sincerely,
Margaret R. Siler
New York City,
January 21, 1937

COMPLAINS OF ROADS TAXES HAVEN'T IMPROVED

"If I should die before I wake,
I pray thee, Lord, my soul to take."

And my body, too, for it would be impossible for the undertaker to reach me or for my neighbors to take me to the cemetery, with the roads in their present condition. Perhaps we should be thankful for the mud that has built up our resistance to disease to such an extent that we don't need doctors. (Try wading mud for exercise.) Doctors couldn't reach us if we did need them.

I doubt, however, if the mail carrier likes this business of hiring a boy to carry the mail to his patrons on the south side of the Cullasaja river from Cullasaja post-office to Franklin. He's had this expense for a month already, and there may be countless weeks yet. I doubt, also, if the merchants of Franklin like for our purchasing to be done through the mail for the simple reason that we cannot go to town in a car to buy what we need. Our country merchants, though, are probably glad that we cannot drive to town for our groceries.

We people who live in neglected communities have to pay our taxes just as the citizens of favored sections do. We must buy tags for our cars and pay gasoline tax, too. (With roads as they are, tags are useless, and the gasoline we don't burn pays no tax.) Those people who depend on hauling for a living are now unable to haul from Nickajack and other sections. And yet, if they want to drive a car or an empty truck through the mud, they must have a tag. This tag costs the same as it does in a community with gravel roads to every door. That is, it costs the same in dollars and cents, but what a difference in the ease or difficulty with which those dollars and cents were earned on good roads and bad!

The school bus for colored children cannot reach the children on Mashburn Branch on account of the neglected roads.

Will some one who knows the ropes please tell us what strings to pull in order to have our roads made passable?

With charity to all, I remain,
A Neglected Citizen.
Cullasaja, N. C.
January 25, 1937.