

# The Franklin Press

and

## The Highlands Maconian

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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.

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.

### BIBLE THOUGHT

He that worketh deceit shall not dwell within my house: he that telleth lies shall not tarry in my sight.—Psalms 101:7,8.

Every violation of truth is not only a sort of suicide in the liar, but is a stab at the health of human society.—Ralph Waldo Emerson.

### Macon Ventures An Opinion

CITIZENS of Macon county have noted with justifiable interest the appointments made by Governor Broughton in this section of the state.

So far, no Macon citizen has received recognition, as far as we have been able to ascertain.

We do not want to be understood as suggesting that strict geographical lines should be adhered to in making appointments, nor that rewards should be bestowed upon counties according to the way the majority voted in the primary. But when this latter method has been followed more or less faithfully in other cases, we cannot help wondering why an exception has been made of Macon county. Does it imply that the governor misjudges the qualifications of this county to be able to furnish good material for service to the state?

We cite one example. When the governor was authorized to appoint two special judges from the western section of the state, both of these special appointments were made from the 19th district and from the city of Asheville, giving Buncombe county three judges, while there is only one superior court judge, the resident judge elected by the people, the Honorable Felix Alley of Waynesville, in the entire 20th district, embracing eight counties. An attorney of Franklin, eminently qualified, was unanimously endorsed by the local bar for this judgeship, as well as by many other prominent members of the bar in this section. In point of the large territory covered by the 20th district, and of the good legal

For those who are interested in statistics from a material that could have been recognized, we believe we are justified in citing at least one example where a fairer distribution could have been made.

### Macon Progress

WE have been reminded ever since our 28-page "Ten Years of Progress Edition" that there was much we left out. We are finding it easy to list additional marks of progress as we go along. A reliable source, we are giving below some figures from Dun and Bradstreet's survey of Macon county's business firms made by their representative, G. E. Musgraves, last fall. He gave the following figures to the Franklin Press and Highlands Maconian which were secured for publication in Dun and Bradstreet's directory of industrial and business firms which show marked growth.

Franklin business firms numbered 59 in 1925, and had increased to 84 in 1940. In the same time firms increased from 10 to 27.

Firms located at the smaller postoffices of the county remained stationary, for the most part, and in a few instances showed a loss. This is attributed to good roads, which have the effect of reducing business in many rural areas. This loss is accounted for in the increase of business in the larger towns.

### USO

THIS week Macon county citizens are being asked to contribute towards a quota of \$200 to the United Service Organization for National Defense. The whole amount was pledged last week by representatives of the churches and organizations of the county. No general campaign has been launched because the cause is one that has received spontaneous response.

However, the pledges have not been entirely met, and for those who wish to share in this cause for the welfare of the men now in Army and Navy camps we are giving the following brief information:

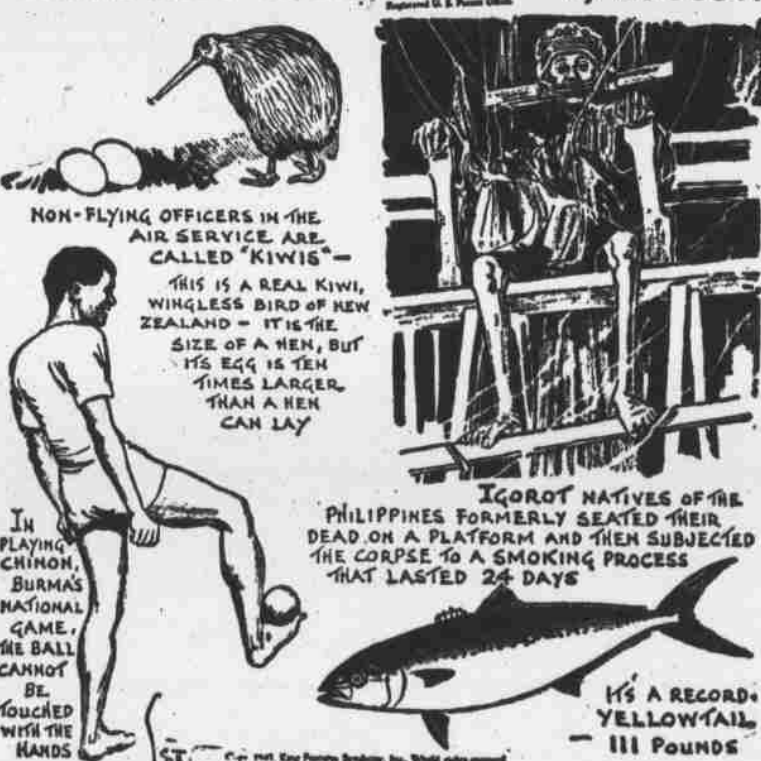
USO is a merger, for war work only, of the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., the National Catholic Community Service, the Salvation Army, the Jewish Welfare Board and the National Traveler's Aid Association. These unite in supplying decent amusement and clean recreational facilities in the towns adjacent to camps.

### "TOAST OF THE TOWN"



### SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK

By R. J. SCOTT



### LETTER FROM MISSIONARIES

#### Zam Zam Survivors Tell Story Of Torpedoed Vessel

(The following letter by Rev. and Mrs. Thomas K. Morrison, who, with their children arrived in New York last week, will be of interest to many friends. Mrs. Morrison is the daughter of C. A. Setser of Franklin, and the letter was written to the Presbyterian Mission Board, Nashville, Tenn. Editor.)

Sintra, Portugal  
June 10, 1941

Dear Friends:

When we sailed from New York on the SS "Zam Zam" we little thought that three months later would find us here in Portugal trying to get back to our starting point. The way to Congo from here seems to be closed on all sides so the only way we can get there is to go back to the States and start over again. The State Department has been very adamant in its decision to repatriate all the Zam Zam survivors, and that just as soon as possible. So, much as we would like to continue to the Congo, that way seems to be effectively closed. Just where we shall go or what we shall do when we reach the States we do not yet know, but hope to be able to get an apartment at Mission Court in Richmond for the summer at least. The Consul here hopes to get us off for New York the last of this week on an American boat, but we are not sure of that yet. There is a good chance though that by the time you get this letter we shall have arrived in New York.

We still do not understand the position of the Zam Zam with regard to its neutrality. Since the State Department had pronounced it neutral and given us passports to travel on it we were glad to take passage as we had not been able to get bookings on any other boat at that time. But it did travel blackout and sailed under British Admiralty orders from Trinidad on, and the Germans say its cargo was destined for the British forces in Egypt, all of which definitely marked it as not neutral.

In spite of all that we have been through from the sinking of the Zam Zam on April 17 up to the present we have had every reason to be thankful to our God who has so wonderfully cared for us through it all. Not a missionary on board was wounded during the shelling, a thing remarkable in itself since there were so many of us and so many hits scored on the boat by the raider before firing

stopped. It was perhaps fortunate that we were shelled just at dawn when most of us were in our cabins and asleep. Had we been on deck it might have been another story with flying shrapnel and wreckage. The first shot fired awakened us though it missed the boat; but the next one fired hit and though no signal was given or alarm sounded there was no mistaking what was happening. About all we got away with was our overcoats and our night clothes, our money and our passport. There was no hysteria among the passengers but as much cannot be said of the crew. The less said of that though the better. The big thing is that every one was saved and taken on board the raider after less than an hour in the life boats. Another blessing was the calmness of the sea. I have rarely seen it calmer than it was that morning. Just as we pulled away from the Zam Zam in life boats, a beautiful rainbow appeared. Was it the rainbow of promise?

#### On A German Raider

We spent the next thirty hours on the raider and they were probably the most dangerous hours we have had in our life, for there we were on a German raider being hunted by any number of British cruisers, and the raider could in no way provide enough life boats in an emergency. One alarm was sounded at midnight when they sighted another boat but it proved not to be an enemy vessel. The next day we were transferred to a German merchantman that had escaped from a port in Chile after the outbreak of the war and was trying to make its way home to Europe. We spent 33 days on that boat, being told all sorts of tales as to where we were being taken, but never the truth. They always insisted that it would be a neutral port somewhere or a transfer to a neutral boat, that would take us to port. But as you now know none of those promises materialized. We will never know the dangers we went through on that trip, I am sure. Eight days before we landed the Captain told us we must all sleep in our clothing and have our life belts at hand at all times. The hand of God was certainly on that wheel and working elsewhere as well or we could never have eluded all the British ships that were on the lookout for us. The chase after the German battleship "Bismarck" just at that time probably drew away several potential dangers from the waters we crossed.

At any rate we sighted the Spanish coast just at dark on the night of May 18 and traveled within her territorial waters until the morning of the 10th which we found ourselves in the port of St. Jean de Luz, a little town in occupied France. From there we

were taken in buses to Biarritz just ten miles away where we spent ten days pending arrangements for our passage through Spain and into Portugal. The Consul from Bordeaux, his office in Biarritz, and the Embassy attaches from Madrid together with the American Red Cross did us many a noble service in helping us out with our many difficulties and smoothing the way we had to travel.

#### From Spain To Portugal

It was a happy day when we crossed the border of Spain into Portugal at noon Sunday, June 1. There for the first time in weeks we had plenty to eat and felt a sense of freedom and safety. We are here now at a little resort about 16 miles from Lisbon waiting for our passage home. We are very comfortable here, but will be more than happy when we are again on American soil. If we can judge by the little we have seen of this war it is a terrible thing and Europe a sad continent indeed. And what a tragedy if America, too, must be drawn into it!

We said in another part of this letter that no missionary was wounded and that was true in a physical sense, but there are wounds not of the body! How our hearts ached for those of our number as well as all the other Britishers and passengers of other nationalities when we had to leave them on the boat to be taken on to Bordeaux for internment. We had come to love and admire them and beg that you join us in earnest prayer for their early deliverance.

We still want to go on to the Congo and believe that He wants us there, so please pray with and for us that all will work out according to His will.

Very sincerely yours,  
Rev. and Mrs. T. K. Morrison  
Received at Nashville, Tenn.,

June 20, 1941  
Address: Rev. and Mrs. T. K. Morrison, Box 330, Nashville, Tenn.

### Henry D. West

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