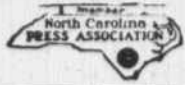


The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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WEIMAR JONES Editor-Publisher



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We Need More Water

THIS town needs a far larger supply of water than it has, or ever will have with three wells. In his interesting letter to The Press last week, Mr. Harmon Gnuse sensibly suggested the advisability of having the pumps in Franklin's municipal wells thoroughly tested to determine if they are pumping all the water that is available. Meanwhile, after Mr. Gnuse's letter was written but before it was published, the board of aldermen decided to do just that.

It is possible, even probable, that the tests will result in a somewhat larger supply of water from the wells. It certainly is to be hoped that it will, for that would sufficiently remove the urgency of the situation to give the officials and the citizens of the town a little time in which to plan carefully for a water supply adequate for longer than just a few months, or even a year or two.

No matter what the results of the tests are, however, the situation will remain essentially the same: A more adequate water supply still will be needed for a growing community—and Franklin surely will not grow without plenty of water.

Increasing the efficiency of the pumps may remove the emergency. It will not solve the problem.

The Case of Mr. Fritz

The case of R. L. Fritz, Jr., principal of the school at Hudson, in Caldwell county, continues to bob up in the news.

There seems to be no question that Mr. Fritz is technically guilty of pay roll irregularities. In fact, what he did he has admitted with disarming frankness, adding that it was done with the knowledge and approval of the Caldwell county superintendent.

On the other hand, there seems to be no evidence whatever that the Hudson school principal personally benefitted by padding his school's pay roll. An audit indicates that what he did was to place on the pay roll the names of persons who did not teach and then, when the checks were issued, use the funds to pay substitute teachers and regular teachers for extra duties—duties, incidentally, that the state expects to be performed but makes no provision to pay for.

Furthermore, though he did not personally benefit, he appears to have done all possible to make amends. When the state demanded that the Caldwell county school board refund the \$1,641.10 in question, Mr. Fritz voluntarily borrowed the money and made the refund out of his own pocket.

When the case came before the State Board of Education last month, that body promptly revoked Mr. Fritz' teaching certificate. It is worthy of note, however, that the vote to do so was not unanimous. D. Hiden Ramsey, of Asheville, refusing to vote for the revocation of the certificate, commented that: "Fritz has been a good school man professionally, and I am not willing for one offense, so far as we know, to deprive a man of the right to earn his living."

But the board of education has gone much farther. It has turned the records in the case over to the attorney general with the implied suggestion that Fritz should answer for his actions in criminal court. Members of the Caldwell school board have been told pointedly that the contract they signed with Fritz to teach this year is void. And the state board, at its meeting last week, reached a remarkable verdict: It reaffirmed its revocation of Fritz' teaching certificate, and then exonerated his superior, the Caldwell county school superintendent.

There are some aspects of this case that aren't too clear. Rather, the logical inferences are much too clear.

It will be recalled that about a year ago the recognized political and educational leaders of North Carolina decided just how much the salaries of North Carolina teachers should be raised, and announced their decision. To their shocked consternation, there were people, even school people, who dared have a different opinion; who even had the hardihood openly to advocate a different amount

of increase. Their unorthodox proposals crystallized into what became known as the South Piedmont plan. And the leader of this rebel group was none other than R. L. Fritz.

Is it possible that the vigor of North Carolina authorities in prosecuting this case could be inspired by a desire to punish Mr. Fritz for sins other than pay roll irregularities?

The question is underlined by some others:

How can the state board believe that a school pay roll could be consistently padded without the knowledge of the county superintendent? For what county superintendent doesn't know the names of the teachers in his system? If Mr. Fritz is the only one who is guilty, then certainly the Caldwell county superintendent is grossly incompetent.

Nobody, of course, can defend tampering with public pay rolls. But why was it necessary for the Hudson school principal to pad his pay rolls in order to pay for services that it appears were performed?

The answer to that one might be that the State Board of Education has set up regulations so detailed and so inelastic that it is virtually impossible to comply with them and keep the schools running. The State Board, for example, blandly and blindly allots the same amount of coal to heat a school building in Macon county that it does in Wilmington.

Because it is so stupidly rigid the state's set-up encourages just such things as Mr. Fritz did. As a matter of fact, there probably aren't a dozen counties in the state where there hasn't been some juggling of school funds to meet emergencies for which there is no provision in the state set-up. Why was the Fritz case the one chosen for investigation?

In the broader sense, there is a very real question as to which is the greater sinner, Mr. Fritz or the state school authorities.

It is true that Mr. Fritz is guilty of a sin of commission.

But what about sins of omission? Mr. Fritz did not fail to give the people of Hudson a good school; so good a school that, despite all that has happened, they want him back.

But who can muster any enthusiasm for the job being done by the state school authorities?

It probably is no exaggeration to say that the members of the general assembly, who enacted the state school laws, and even more, those who administer them, unwittingly are the worst enemies of public education in North Carolina. They have attempted to apply assembly line technique to the education of children; they have sought to use slide-rule methods to determine who is and who is not a good teacher; they have tried to set up regulations governing the tiniest detail of school administration. They tell a teacher what he shall teach, when he shall teach it, and how he shall teach it.

By discouraging such things as teacher initiative, local responsibility, and independence of thought, the system under which we are trying to operate our schools has gone a long way toward destroying those things which are the very fundamentals of any educational system.

Others' Opinions

ABOLISH ALL JURIES?

Some time ago Judge Sink, pointing out some defects in operation, advocated the abolition of grand juries. Later he seemed to confine his recommendations to mending instead of ending the system.

And now comes Judge Henry Stevens, according to The Franklin Press, favoring the abolition of all juries, grand and petit.

In his charge to the Macon County grand jury last week, Judge Stevens advocated a constitutional amendment to permit substitution of three-judge courts for trial juries. Such a system, Judge Stevens argued, would reduce the number of petty cases coming into court, speed up court procedure, and cut down the cost of administering justice. In short, it would be efficient.

Not long ago in Indiana a committee of lawyers made a recommendation somewhat similar to the one Judge Stevens made in Macon County. But it received little favorable response. Recognizing and regretting some miscarriages of justice by verdicts of juries, the remedy is not to abolish a system which has proved its value through the centuries. While juries make errors, can it be said that judges are not likewise subject to human frailties?

Commenting on the rather iconoclastic, if heroic, recommendations by Judge Stevens, The Franklin Press in its leading editorial says:

He (Judge Stevens) might have gone a step farther, if efficiency is to be our goal, and suggested adoption of the methods of the Nazis. Theirs was the quickest, the cheapest, and the surest method so far devised; by eliminating court trials altogether, they attained the maximum of efficiency.

While Judge Stevens does not, of course, advocate such extreme measures, he appears to have fallen into two Nazi-like ways of thinking that are quite common today.

The first is assuming that efficiency is an end in itself. It is not. Efficiency is nothing more nor less than a method of doing something, a technique; when it becomes more than a secondary detail, we have the cart before the horse.

The second is assuming that democracies are built for speed and efficiency. They are not. If those are the things we chiefly want from our courts and our government, the intelligent course is to adopt a totalitarian form of government.

For democracies are built for one thing, and one only—freedom.

Judge Stevens feels that a three-judge court would bring to the trial of a case more intelligence and less prejudice than a jury.

Perhaps. But most juries, with all their faults, do their best to reach a verdict that is just. And most judges, with all their virtues, see the trees of justice only through the dense forest of legal technicalities.—News and Observer.

With the Churches

BAPTIST
First Church, Franklin
The Rev. Charles E. Parker,
Pastor

Sunday:
9:45 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship.
7:00 p. m.—Training union.
8:00 p. m.—Worship.

Wednesday:
8:00 p. m.—Prayer meeting.

EPISCOPAL
St. Agnes Church, Franklin
The Rev. A. Rufus Morgan,
Pastor

Sunday:
10 a. m.—Church school.
11 a. m.—First Sunday, Holy communion.
Third Sunday, Morning prayer.
8 p. m.—Second and fourth Sundays, evening prayer.

METHODIST
Franklin Church
The Rev. W. Jackson Huneycutt,
Pastor

10 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship.
7 p. m.—Intermediate Youth Fellowship

7 p. m.—Senior Youth fellowship.
8 p. m.—Union Worship every other Sunday.

Franklin Circuit
The Rev. D. P. Grant, pastor
Preaching services as follows:
First Sunday:
11 a. m.—Bethel.
3 p. m.—Salem church.
8:00 p. m.—Clark's chapel.

Second Sunday:
11 a. m.—Snow Hill church
3 p. m.—Louisa chapel.
8:00 p. m.—Iotla chapel.

Third Sunday:
11 a. m.—Clark's chapel.
3 p. m.—Salem.
8:00 p. m.—Bethel.

Fourth Sunday:
11 a. m.—Iotla.
3 p. m.—Louisa chapel.
8:00 p. m.—Snow Hill.

West Macon Circuit
The Rev. P. E. Bingham, Pastor
Preaching services as follows:
First Sunday:
11 a. m.—Maiden's Chapel.
3 p. m.—Gillespie Chapel.

Second Sunday:
11 a. m.—Mount Zion.
Third Sunday:
11 a. m.—Gillespie Chapel.
2:30 p. m.—Maiden's Chapel.

Fourth Sunday:
11 a. m.—Mount Zion.
PRESBYTERIAN
Franklin Church
The Rev. Hoyt Evans, pastor

Sunday:
10 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship.
8 p. m.—Union worship every other Sunday.

Wednesday:
8 p. m.—Prayer meeting.

Morrison Church
Sunday:
3 p. m.—Union Sunday school.
First Sunday:
3:45 p. m.—Worship conducted by the Rev. Hoyt Evans.

CATHOLIC
Franklin
(At John Wasilik's Residence—Rogers Hill)
The Rev. A. F. Rohrbacher,
Pastor

Sunday:
8:00 a. m.—Mass.

CHURCH OF GOD
Prentiss
The Rev. H. L. Helms, pastor

Sunday:
10 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship.
7 p. m.—Young People's Endeavor.

1:30 p. m.—Evangelistic service.
INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
Sloan's Chapel

Sunday:
2 p. m.—Sunday school on the first, second, third, and fifth Sundays.

2 p. m.—Preaching on the fourth Sunday.
3 p. m.—Preaching on the first, second, and third Sundays.

Tuesday:
7:30 p. m.—Prayer meeting.

Friendship (Angel) Tabernacle
Sunday:
2:30 p. m.—Sunday school.

River Bend
Sunday:
2:30 p. m.—Sunday school.
3:30 p. m.—Preaching Fourth Sunday, conducted by the Rev. V. C. Ramey.

Wednesday:
7:30 p. m.—Prayer meeting.

Olive Hill
Sunday:
2 p. m. Sunday school, E. A. Roper, superintendent.
3 p. m.—Preaching Third Sunday.

NEGRO
St. Cyprian's Episcopal
The Rev. James T. Kennedy,
Pastor

Sunday:
11 a. m.—Third Sunday, Holy communion.
2 p. m.—First and second Sundays, evening prayer.

3 p. m.—Church school.
Friday:
5 p. m.—Litany.

Smokey Says:



The average cost of making a movie film has been estimated at \$400,000.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of C. A. Setser, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 12th day of August, 1947, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 12th day of August, 1947.
NORA SETSER,
Administratrix.

A21-6tp-S25

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator C. T. A., of D. McCoy, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 8th day of August, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 8th day of August, 1947.
Wm. L. MCCOY,
Administrator.

A14-6tc-S18

NOTICE OF SALE

STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA,
COUNTY OF MACON.
MACON COUNTY, Plaintiff.

vs.
S. L. MILLS;
LEONARD JACOBWITH, et al,
Defendants.

Under and by virtue of a decree of the Superior Court of Macon County entered in the above entitled action on the 25 day of August, 1947, the undersigned Commissioner will on the 25th day of September, 1947, at 12 o'clock, noon, at the Court-house door in Macon County, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described real estate:

In Macon County, North Carolina, adjoining Mason et al, BEGINNING at a hickory on top of the mountain near Miller Gap, a corner of the J. M. Dalton's heirs land, also a corner of Lyle Knob tract State Grant No. 3022, and runs with Dalton's line N 26 E 12 poles to a walnut (now down) in field; N 61 W 46 poles to a chestnut oak stump; S 24 W 3 1/4 poles to a stake, SE corner of old James Raby tract of land; then with said line N 87 W 85 poles to a stake, SW corner of said tract; N 3 E 25 poles to a stake in line of said tract; N 88 W 43 poles to a stake on top of the ridge; N 2 E 31 poles to a stake on top of the ridge; N 87 1/2 W 62 poles to a hickory in a hollow, corner of Hester Welch's land; N 75 W 8 poles to a large hickory corner of said Hester Welch's land, also the NW corner of State Grant No. 3022; S 2 W 78 poles to a stake in N boundary line of section 106; N 87 W 1/2 pole to a stake, the NW corner of section 106; then running with Hester Welch's and James Mason's line from the large Hickory mentioned above; then still with James Mason's line and the line of section 106, S 3 W 60 poles to a stake in the line of section 106 and James Mason's corner; then still with said James Mason's line N 87 W 40 poles to a stake near an old road leading to Lyle Knob, still with James Mason's line S 3 W 60 poles to a stake replacing a chestnut, John H. Dalton's corner of State Grant 2447 and passing a black gum, an old corner of the Jane Mason land, now corner of John H. Dalton and James Mason; then S 87 E 48 poles to a stake replacing a black oak, old corner of Grant No. 2447 and Grant No. 3022; then with the line of Grant No. 3022 and the Cowee and Millshoal Township lines to the BEGINNING.

This, the 25th day of August, 1947.

R. S. JONES,
Commissioner.

A28-4tc-S18

Franklin Methodist Circuit

(A. M. E. Zion)
The Rev. John G. Williams
Pastor

Preaching services as follows:
First and third Sundays:

11 a. m.—Green Street church.
2:30 p. m.—Cowe church.
8 p. m.—Green Street church.