

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
At Franklin, North Carolina

VOL. LXIV

Number 45

WEIMAR JONES Editor
BOB S. SLOAN Business Manager

Entered at Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class mat er.

Telephone No. 24

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

| | |
|--------------|--------|
| One Year | \$2.00 |
| Six Months | \$1.25 |
| Three Months | .75 |
| Single Copy | .05 |

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 requirements.

Light And Air Needed

EXPULSION of Franklin High school last week from the Smoky Mountain athletic conference may prove a fortunate thing for high school athletics in Western North Carolina, because the incident has revealed a situation and an atmosphere that are far from healthy.

It has revealed, first of all, a tendency to be quite indifferent to conference regulations. It happened to be Franklin that was penalized, at last week's conference meeting, for failing to observe those regulations, but all the evidence is that some of the other schools have been far from careful about complying. Good organization, and certainly good sportsmanship, demand that a game be played according to the rules.

In the second place, we have the spectacle of a court, in this case the conference officials, trying, convicting, and sentencing a defendant without the defendant's having a chance to be heard in his own defense.

That is not the type of justice Western North Carolina people are accustomed to—it is not the type they want as an example for their high school children; and the people of Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Swain, and Jackson counties are just as interested in justice and fairness as are those of Franklin and Macon County.

Finally, there is the question: Does it make sense for all conference authority to be vested in the various coaches?

The public, whose money makes high school athletics possible, has a stake in how the conference is operated—but it has no voice. The parents, whose major interest is the welfare of their children, have a stake—but they have no voice. And the students, who play the games, have a stake—but they have no voice.

It is debatable, in fact, whether the coaches should have any connection, other than advisory, with the conference—the organization that sets up and enforces rules. For these men are professional or semi-professional men, and their interests and those of the other groups often may be in conflict.

The coach, quite naturally, wishes to move up the ladder of his profession. The way to do that, and the only way, is to win games; everything else unfortunately must be made secondary.

Everybody, of course, wants to win games, but most thoughtful people consider some other things even more important—such things, for example, as a balanced physical education for all the students, and the development of a spirit of good sportsmanship.

* * *

A little light and air on the whole high school athletic situation seems to be called for. At the least, some reorganization in the Smoky Mountain conference is past due.

To Make Our Children Safe

The tragedy that befell Mr. and Mrs. John H. Swafford last week, when they lost two children within a few hours, might easily have struck in any one of scores or hundreds of Macon County homes: for diphtheria is no respecter of persons or neighborhood lines, and there are hundreds of young children in this county who have not been immunized against the disease.

The truth is that immunizations given in past years proved so effective that we have become careless. Until last week, there had not been a diphtheria death in Macon County for five years; and we were inclined to forget that that long freedom from the scourge did not just happen.

Diphtheria is a treacherous disease, most often attacking small children. It usually starts with a sore throat, chilliness, slight fever, aching, loss of appetite, and sometimes vomiting and headache. But, adds the State Board of Health, "the signs and symptoms may be so mild that the disease will go unrecognized, or it may be mistaken for tonsillitis or laryngitis. Yet, even when the symptoms are mild, the child may be in great danger."

In the old days parents lived in constant fear; and when the disease was diagnosed, there was relatively little the physician could do. But all that is changed today—as the record of the last five years

here proves! Thanks to the discovery of diphtheria toxoid, children can be given protection that is almost 100 per cent sure. And, medical authorities emphasize, that protection should start at the age of six months.

Nor is protection expensive. The health department's charge is 10 cents each for the three shots required—a total of 30 cents!

Any parents can have their children immunized at the county health department's clinics, held on the second floor of the Ashear building here on Mondays—between 9 a. m. and 4 p. m.—and Saturday mornings.

Significant Admission

A highly interesting idea on the cold war was advanced by Bishop Ivan Lee Holt in his sermon at the Franklin Methodist church Sunday morning.

Pointing out that Communism and Christianity are inevitably and hopelessly in conflict, Bishop Holt commented that Christianity cannot win by waging a "holy war".

How it can win, he suggested by quoting what a high Communist official is said to have remarked:

"We have no fear of organized Christianity. Communism can defeat the church. What we fear is Christians".

Even the Communists recognize the power of the spirit of Christ when it is alive in the hearts of individual men!

Smart Politics

For a long time it has been considered smart politics to give appointments to public office as rewards for support of the man doing the appointing. That way, the politicians have figured, the appointee wins the friendship of the appointee and of the appointee's kin and friends. The unfortunate part of that theory, of course, is that that is only a small proportion of the voters.

Today a new political theory is gradually winning acceptance among the really smart politicians: Appoint to a public office a man who really is qualified to do a good job, and the appointer wins the friendship of everybody.

Evolution of a prejudice: (a) damning prejudice; (b) damning prejudice in the South; (c) damning the South.

There are two kinds of bullies, the physical one and the intellectual one — and both are cowards.

Ideas are the content of a liberal education.

Nothing is so radical as the truth.

Letters

PROFESSIONALISM IN SPORTS

Dear Weimar:

I was very much interested in your editorial of October 27th entitled "Honest, At Least". However, knowing that you are one editor who endeavors to be very accurate and fair, I call your attention to an omission in the article. Perhaps it was a mere oversight but in detailing the unusual names of football players no mention was made of your Ala Mater. If you will note the substitutes for Carolina in the Tennessee game you will find an interesting list: Rywak, Bestwick, Neidkirk, Miketa, Dudeck, Bilpuch, Rizzo, Kosinski and Verchick. Of course, I do not know the residence of the above named persons but they do not sound like Macon or Yancey County names, and not even Buncombe County.

You and I know that there may be professionalism even in the use of persons with such familiar names as Jones, Sml h, Justice, etc., though they live in Western North Carolina. This spirit of practice prevailed, though not on as large a scale, when you and I were boys at the old Franklin Academy in Franklin. The Franklin baseball team would get a player or two from Prentiss when a game was scheduled with Iola, and Iola would get two or three players from Cowee. Then when Franklin would play Clayton, Franklin would sometimes import a player or so from Sylva or from that area. So you see it goes on ad infinitum.

With sincere regards,

Burnsville, N. C. DOVER R. FOUTS.
November 1, 1949.

LIKES EDITORIAL AND POEM

Dear Weimar:

In the current issue of The Franklin Press are two features on which I feel both you and The Press are to be congratulated.

The first is your editorial entitled "Fundamental Issue". While I feel it is hardly correct to apply the term "isolationist" to Senator Taft, and do not agree with you that his election as President would be, or could even turn out to be, an international catastrophe, even if he were an isolationist, considering the limited authority of the President over Congress, this is a minor detail. What I am impressed with is the forthright stand taken in your editorial against the tactics of organized labor in its efforts to purge from our national government every senator and congressman who has had the guts to stand up against their pressure politics.

We have the same situation in Georgia. The C. I. O. has served notice that it is out to get Senator George and Congressman Davis, among others. Down here, of course, the endorsement of a candidate by the C. I. O. is a kiss of death and is all the opposing candidate needs to insure his election. The real menace is the power of organized labor in the industrial centers of the North and East. When it develops the strength to defeat men like Taft and consolidate its hold on the Northern Democratic party, a labor government for this country is just around the corner. Your paper is discharging a public duty in taking a stand against the gangster methods with which labor hopes to accomplish this.

The second feature I wish to congratulate you on is the sonnet by Cora Talley, "To a Rich Young Man". Its meaning, when you make it out, is both well conceived and excellently expressed. I see the author is from Franklin, which should be proud of her, and I hope she contributes more of the same to the columns of The Press.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Atlanta, Ga. T. B. HIGDON.
November 5, 1949.

OUR DEMOCRACY

A MARK OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP

VOTING IN THE "OFF-YEAR" ELECTION, WHEN NO NATIONAL OFFICE IS AT STAKE, IS A RESPONSIBILITY THAT SERVES AS A MEASURE OF GOOD CITIZENSHIP IN OUR DEMOCRACY.



ACTUALLY, THE STRENGTH OF THE COUNTRY LIES IN THE REPRESENTATIVE CHARACTER, NOT ONLY OF THE FEDERAL, BUT OF THE STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS. THE TRULY GOOD CITIZEN ADMITS NO "OFF-YEAR" IN THE DISCHARGE OF HIS RESPONSIBILITY... HE BOTH SERVES THE COMMUNITY AND PROTECTS HIS OWN INTERESTS BY CASTING HIS VOTE.

Others' Opinions

OUT OF TURNIP BUSINESS

After spending all these years in trying to grow more turnips and greens than any of my neighbors, along comes the Burrells and beats me all to pieces growing turnip greens. Then comes Rev. Jesse Rogers and brings me a bag of turnips that weigh an average of three pounds and I never grew one that large in my life. Hereafter I am devoting my attention to popcorn. One of the Cannon boys, down on Shee Creek, has given me an ear of seed popcorn that looks more like an over grown straw berry than anything else that I know of and I will try growing something to pop instead of potlicker.—L. P. Cross in Clayton Tribune.

WHO ARE THE 570,000?

It probably was rather surprising to many well-informed Southern people to read the forecast of wage-hour administration officials in Washington that pay rolls in the South are likely to be increased by as much as \$150 million a year as a result of the new 75-cents-an-hour minimum wage act.

Probably somewhat of a surprise also was the official estimate that as many as 570,000 workers in eight Southern states, including the Carolinas, will receive wage increases averaging between five and fifteen cents an hour, even though the law applies only to those whose work is "directly essential" to production of interstate commerce and employed by firms engaged in interstate commerce.

Seventy-five cents an hour is the equivalent of \$30 for a week of 40 hours or of \$26.25 for a week of 35 hours. Are there 570,000 workers in eight Southern states whose work is "directly essential" to interstate commerce and whose wages are below \$26.25 to \$30 a week? Where are they?

It is difficult to believe so, unless the law be interpreted so broadly as to include the work of common, unskilled laborers, janitors, and others in that general class, as "directly essential" to interstate commerce.

That could scarcely have been the intent of congress in enacting the law, else there would have been no qualification, but the act would have been made to apply clearly to all employees of concerns engaged in interstate commerce.

It apparently is the intention of the wage-hour administration to apply the new act to all employees of firms engaged in interstate commerce on the ground that all are "directly essential," no matter what kind of work they do.—Charlotte Observer.

POLITICAL MORALTY AT LOW EBB

The United States has hit a new low in political morality. We have allowed the worst faults of the big city political machines to become a part of our national political thought and methods. We make a fetish of our loyalty to the Party, which isn't even one cut above loyalty down in the wards to the big city machine in power.

Our political schemes are aimed at enabling the crowd in power to profit at the expense of the crowd out of power. It seems that almost every piece of legislation introduced in our State and national legislative bodies is designed to benefit one group at the expense of another. Still other legislation is designed to weld minority groups into a large group which can swing elections.

And that isn't all. If the residents of one or two of Greenville's wards, or the Main street merchants, raised \$50,000 to win or "buy" a city election, the scandal would be so rank that the smell of it would roll out over Paris Mountain and Caesar's Head would hold its nose.

But we seem to overlook the fact that it takes many thousands of dollars (some say \$200,000 and more) to elect a governor or a United States senator in South Carolina. It takes millions to elect a President of the United States.

Comes now the American Federation of Labor with the announcement that it intends to raise \$16,000,000 (sixteen millions, that is) to elect a "friendly" congress in 1950. Of course, big business has been accused of spending big money to elect candidates it favored, but we don't believe it's ever reached this scale. As a matter of fact, campaign contributions by big business have been divided among the parties and factions—and if it hadn't been for wealthy business men, Harry Truman's campaign fund would have wound up looking like a cloudy sunset.

If the AFL and its rivals for the favor of the working man succeed in electing a "friendly" majority to congress it will get only what it pays for and most probably less. By "friendly," the AFL means a subservient congress. It will be a congress made up of politicians who have been bought and paid for. There won't be a statesman in the lot.

What this country needs is a congress friendly to the welfare of the majority and that would be a congress "owned" by neither capital nor labor.—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

When a naval admiral goes aboard his flagship, his flag is hoisted immediately from the signal bridge. By the number of stars on the flag, one can tell the admiral's rank.

FRANKLIN SCHOOL BAND

Honorary Membership Drive

OUR GOAL

\$2000



Total Contributed Last Week—\$295.00 by the following persons or business firms:

H. L. Bryant, Macon County Supply Co., Duncan Motor Co., Ziekgraf Hardware Co., J. E. S. Thorpe, Lassic Kelly, Belks, Western Auto Associa'e Store, The Franklin Press, Paul Russell, Miss Beulah Wyke, J. L. Harris, City Market, J. W. Addington, Mrs. Pauline Potekin, W. L. Hall, Cagle's Scenic Motor Court, Wood's Motor Court.

HELP THE BAND MAKE THIS COLUMN GROW BY ADDING YOUR NAME.

Sponsored By THE FRANKLIN LIONS CLUB