

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:	
One Year.....	\$2.00
Six Months.....	\$1.25
Three Months.....	.75
Single Copy.....	.06

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.

Defeating Ourselves

The evidence grows that America may sacrifice many of the things it is fighting to save, in order to win a decision over Soviet Russia. Not only is there grave danger that we may lose, little by little, freedom as we have known it; we appear also to be lowering our standards of what constitutes such things as decency and justice.

The latest instance is the wholesale revision by U. S. military authorities of war crimes sentences imposed on Germans after World War 2.

Only last week American officials saved 21 convicted German war criminals from the gallows; shortened the prison terms of 35 others; gave immediate freedom to 33, including the arms king, Alfred Krupp, whose \$500,000,000 munitions empire was restored to him; and promised to review 400 other sentences imposed by war crimes courts.

Among those saved from the gallows were six sentenced for the Malmédy massacre, in which hundreds of American GIs, unarmed prisoners of war, were butchered by the Nazis. The commutation of the sentences of these six means that no German will be executed for the Malmédy massacre, others convicted and sentenced having been granted clemency earlier.

Why this mass clemency by American military authorities?

Has new evidence, raising doubt as to the guilt of these war criminals, been discovered? The news dispatch does not say so.

Have the prisoners repented? All the evidence is to the contrary.

Is there any reason whatever, based on justice, for this American clemency toward these convicted Nazis? None is even claimed.

Has America, then, decided that the mass murder of unarmed prisoners of war is no crime? Perhaps not, consciously.

But we are saying, in effect, that what was a crime yesterday is not a crime today—when the circumstances are different.

The dispatch from Frankfurt, Germany remarks: "The greatest mass clemency by any Allied power since the war came in the midst of efforts to woo Germans into General Dwight D. Eisenhower's European army and German demands that the 'honor of the German soldier' be restored before Germans take up arms again."

The brutal truth is that we are willing to forget Nazi war crimes, to condone such things as the Malmédy massacre, if only the Germans will join us in our effort to defeat Communist Russia.

This action may win the Germans to our side. But it will not win their respect for America—or increase our respect for ourselves.

It will not add to America's stature, among the peoples of the world, as a nation that fights not merely to win, but for the right.

And it will not make it easy, surely, in the days to come, for us to contemplate the fate of those hundreds of American boys who died in the Malmédy massacre, and whose deaths America is willing to let go unpunished, to forget . . .

America may win a temporary military advantage by such methods. But American military authorities in Germany have gone a long way toward undermining the very principles that are the only reason why we are willing to fight.

Even Experience Fails

It is said that experience is a dear school, but that fools will learn in no other.

What, then, shall we call those who will not learn even from experience?

The question is raised by our present blundering efforts at inflation control.

It has been scarcely five years since we had a problem similar to that of today. In those days we made many mistakes; that was to be expected, since price and wage controls were new to us. But today we are making those mistakes all over again. We waited, in the first place, six months too long to impose controls. Then froze prices and wages at the crest of the wave. Then, within 24 hours after

the freeze—which itself was far from universal—we started thawing out spots.

The result, already, is a confusion that would leave a Solomon himself shaking his head in dismay.

It doesn't take an economist to understand, after our World War 2 experience, that there is only one way to freeze the economy. That way is to freeze it; all of it. And even the layman can understand that you can't effectively freeze the economy, with one hand, and play politics, with the other; you can't say that prices and wages are fixed as of a certain date, and still seek the favor of minority groups. But that is exactly what the men in Washington—in the administration and in congress—seem to be trying to do.

A genuine freeze has to start on the farm; you can't fix food prices on the grocery store shelf, and let them go hog wild on the farm. Congress is at fault there; the only way to make a freeze work would have been to suspend farm parity for the emergency.

And you can't freeze prices and, within 24 hours, grant wage increases—any wage increases.

Finally, you can't freeze prices and wages without creating some hardship and occasional injustice. But you can't send young men to Korea to die without creating hardship and occasionally doing injustice. You just don't win a war and keep everybody happy.

What we have now is something nobody understands, and few can understand. Furthermore, what we have now will not halt inflation in its tracks. It will merely offer a little interference. It will not end inflation; it will merely attempt to control it as the spiral continues to move upward.

It probably would express the view of the majority of Americans to suggest that congress and the administration had better cancel what they've done, including the control law; then start all over again.

Time For Action

As this is written, America, engaged in a mighty effort to build up its defenses, finds itself seriously handicapped by a railroad strike.

This newspaper is not familiar with all the issues involved.

It does not pretend to know who is right, and who wrong, in the dispute. And it isn't particularly interested in knowing.

What it does know is that what is happening doesn't make sense. It doesn't make sense for a tiny minority, whether it be labor, or management, or farmers, or any other group, to interfere with the efforts of the nation as a whole. At a time like this, it not only doesn't make sense; it is perilously close to a crime.

The time has come for the people of the United States, through their government, to make it clear, once and for all, that the nation is bigger than any group, and that its interests should, and shall, come first.

Others' Opinions

RELIEF

That reminds us that the old jokes of World War II are being told all over again plus a good supply of new ones . . . Well, the Hadasol jokes were getting a little stale anyway.

—Allen Barbee in Spring Hope Enterprise.

ACID TEST

Under the glass on top of desks of my business friends is where I find many choice bits of philosophy that I copy down on the back of an envelope to be digested later or filed away. One of them is before me now, and it reads:

He may wear a greasy hat and the seat of his trousers may be shiny, but if his children have their noses flattened against the window pane a half hour before he is due home for supper, you can trust him with anything you have.

—The State.

SIX ABOUT RIGHT

Cooking for two is not so much easier than cooking for a larger number, though many persons think it should be. The trouble is that, if food is prepared in fairly large quantities, there is always the feeling of living on leftovers or of eating scraps, since few of us could afford to throw away all left at every meal. And if just enough for two is cooked, it looks like mere dabs of stuff, and is hard to season right. Four or six are satisfactory numbers to have at the table; and if meals are prepared for eight or ten, there is a noble sense of accomplishment that may, at times, elevate the cook to where washing dishes doesn't matter too much.—Mrs. Theo Davis in Zebulon Record.

MIRACLE OUT OF OKRA

In these times when the society of man as a whole views death and destruction as the only proper methods of negotiation among nations, we take exceptional pleasure in glorifying, whenever the opportunity arises, those obscure men who labor patiently to exploit the benevolent resources with which Man was endowed by his Creator.

A Marquette University research team announced last week that they have been able to turn the common okra pod into a cheap and plentiful substitute for life-giving blood plasma.

It might well be that no one who reads this will ever have

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat



ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Here was a man to hold against the world
A man to match the mountains and the sea
The color of the ground was in him, the red earth,
The smack and tang of elemental things
And when he fell in whirlwind, he went down
As when a lordly cedar, green with boughs,
Goes down with a great shout upon the hills
And leaves a lonesome place against the sky.

—EDWIN MARKHAM

heard of Dr. Hiram Benjamin, Dr. Harry Ihrig, Dr. Walter Zeit or Dr. Donald Roth. Yet, those four men, their names indicating far-flung origins, developed this vital material from the weedlike okra—a life-giving substance which "has all the advantages of blood plasma and none of the disadvantages," such as transmitting virus from donor to recipient.

Furthermore, the "okra plasma" can be stored indefinitely in powdered form and without refrigeration. It can be produced for only a fraction of the cost of processing plasma from whole blood, even when the blood is furnished by voluntary donors. And, it can be produced in almost infinite quantity.

Dr. Benjamin has been working with okra for medical purposes since 1931. To men of his kind the society of man owes far greater debts of gratitude and encouragement than to the shrewdest general. He has toiled for years toward a goal not calculated to get his picture on the front page daily or to greatly fatten his wallet. But, unfortunately, in these times the majority of men will shrug at the announcement of "okra plasma" and turn to the front page—any day—to pore devoutly over the latest pronouncement from the Oracle of MacArthur.

There is a substantial source of faith in the tomorrow of human society as long as men like Dr. Benjamin continue to devote themselves to the search for the gifts of life and peace with which the Maker has invested the earth and which are hidden from those who think they can construct a future on the foundation of power and violence, rather than patience and labor.—Shelby (N. C.) Cleveland Times.

BLUE 'SCARLET SAGE'

A few weeks ago I confessed ignorance of the fact that salvia, a folwer commonly known as scarlet sage, grew in any other color than red—all I had ever seen was true to the name "scarlet". In a seed catalog I came across an advertisement of blue salvia, and I couldn't take it in that there could be such a contradiction as "blue scarlet sage". But there is, just the same. A number of people wrote or telephoned to give me information on the subject. Horace Port, who is in the process of establishing a green house and plant business a few miles south of Morganton, took the trouble to write at some length on what he terms "one of the older annuals of the flower garden that is still loved and adored by young and old." I think others, particularly flower lovers, will share the interest I had in reading the notes he sent me on the various types of salvia:

"When we first heard the name 'scarlet sage' we think of spikes of scarlet flowers held high over beautiful green foliage adorning the flower garden from midsummer to frost. However some of the most attractive of this family are quite strangers to many of us.

"In the scarlet or crimson color we have a number varieties that vary in height from 10 to 12 inches to 3½ or 4 feet. The shorter varieties coming into bloom first, and up to the taller ones which are last to burst into scarlet spikes.

"Then we have several shades of blue ranging from the lighter pastel to wedgewood blue, and on to the deep Royal blue. There is also a white salvia with silver leaves and long wands of dainty white flowers. But the newest salvia that is making its appearance in our gardens this year for the first time is 'Rose Flame', about 20 inches high, and coming into bloom in midseason. The flowers have a coral pink-calyx, surrounding the deeper rose petal tube.

"There is also the hardy perennial salvia, 'Azurea Grandiflora' is about three feet high, the deepest and purest of salvia blues, coming into bloom in late summer and continuing until frost. It carries 1 inch flowers along thin nimble stems that makes it excellent for cut flowers as well as a hardy border perennial. 'Argentea', about 3½ feet high has silver rosettes of leaves and is very hardy, blooming the second year. The flowers may be white, light yellow, pale rose, or blue.

"And last of all we have the tuberous rooted salvia, about 3 feet high. Flowers are of bright blue, sometimes red or white and one inch or more long in racemes. The foliage is exceptionally attractive, being toothed and wrinkled, spotted blood red."—Miss Beatrice Cobb in Morganton News-Herald.

Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

Since we have already labeled February as the "stick whittling" or stock taking month we thought we would take stock a little as to what Macon County has and has not to attract industry here.

We will serve desert first and take up the haves:

1. We have a fairly large force of semi-skilled workers—most of which need only training to make them skilled workers. We would estimate this group at a thousand people. This estimate is based on the supposition that if we had jobs for them here so many of our young people would not go to other states in search of work. We believe that there is at least an additional force of 500 workers who could be trained to semi-skilled jobs.

2. Being in the center of a large hydro-electric development there is abundant electric power available here at considerable below the average rate for the Southeastern United States.

3. We have one of the lowest tax rates in North Carolina—that includes both the county rate and the town of Franklin tax rate.

3. For the lumber industry we have a fair supply of raw material available.

The liability side of the ledger contains several entries—but none which could not be corrected by our own effort if we would work together on a plan to overcome the drawbacks.

1. Even though we live in an area which has one of the highest rainfalls in the United States we have a very inadequate water supply when considered for commercial or industrial use. We believe this will be true as long as the town of Franklin relies on wells for its water supply. One of the first inquiries that many industries make when they discuss plant location is, "How much water is available?"

2. Macon County needs a through railroad. The Tallulah Falls railroad should be extended to join the Southern railroad at Bryson City. Pioneers in this county recognized that fact 50

Turn to Back Page, 1st Section

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The population of Macon county by the census of 1900 is 12,104. In 1850 it was 10,102, and the increase is 2,002 for the intervening ten years.

The Press will begin the publication next week of "An English Woman's Love Letters". They are actual love letters—the story of a life, the revelation of a heart—the true story of an actual life. Nothing could be more intensely real. The literary sensation of two continents.

Mr. E. D. Franks has removed his store from the Rogers building to the one recently occupied by Jean Bryson, where he is better prepared to serve his customers.

25 YEARS AGO

In these days if you are able to speak in three minutes after taking a drink of it, they call it pretty good whiskey.

It must have been a whale of a monkey wrench that got mixed up in the machinery of the proposed new hotel in Franklin.

We must expect our summer visitors to roost in the maples on Main street.

The fact that a man recently paid \$40,000 for a half interest in 200 acres of mountain lands near Highlands only goes to show that Highlands is ideally located for a summer resort.

10 YEARS AGO

C. R. Tomlin, formerly of Atlanta, Ga., has come to Franklin to represent General Motors Acceptance corporation.

The Franklin mattress project resumed operation in the Andy Reid building near the Tennessee river bridge Monday.

Steps are being taken for the building of a new Boy Scout headquarters for the Franklin troop.

An enjoyable affair was the President's birthday ball last Thursday night at Panorama Courts.