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(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article, by the immediate past mayor of Franklin, is the first in a series of guest editorials. The guest editor next week will be Robert M. Dillard, who recently took office as Franklin's mayor.)

All For One

GUEST EDITORIAL

THE future of Franklin depends on the future of Macon County. And the future of Macon County depends on the future of Franklin.

We couldn't have a town without a thriving farm section, and we wouldn't have much here without a town as a trading center for the county. Too, we are all the same kind of people, because 90 per cent of the people in town were raised in the country. Franklin is just a core, with highways leading in from every direction.



HENRY W. CABE

Franklin and the rural sections are fortunate in having in the county a third distinctive asset, an outstanding tourist center—Highlands, famed as the highest incorporated town east of the Rockies. Highlands, although its interests are a little different, is always ready to cooperate with the rest of the county, as it has proved time and again in the various drives and other community endeavors.

From the agricultural standpoint, Macon County is adapted to dairying, beef cattle, poultry, sheep, and trucking. And the business men in Franklin have supported, and will continue to support, the agricultural development, especially the 4-H clubs and the FFA. By doing this, we produce better stuff, which brings better prices, and benefits both the producers and the people in town.

Franklin is the county seat and trading center of the county, and a tourist town, and anything we can do to develop Franklin will be helpful to everybody in the county.

I have noticed in the past few years a wide difference in the homes in the country. Today most of them are painted, and their yards are neat and clean. And most of them are constantly being improved. Getting electricity into the rural homes has helped, and the farm agents and home demonstration agents have been of great assistance. But of course these improved homes are, first and foremost, the result of work and enterprise on the part of the people who live in them.

Due to this better rural life, we are attracting a considerable number of people from outside states, who have bought or built homes in the country, some of them as summer homes, some of them as permanent places for retirement.

Because Franklin really belongs to all the people of the county, any effort to clean it up and keep it clean should interest everybody in the county. Just as the country is growing and developing because it has become more attractive, so Franklin will develop as it is made clean and more attractive. A clean Franklin is the responsibility of all of us.

As we look to the future, I hope Franklin and the county can work together for a clean, attractive town and countryside and for small, diversified, desirable industries, and that the town will go ahead with a system of zoning and plans for an adequate water supply.

—HENRY W. CABE

Our American Civilization

America, land of individual freedom, teaching unquestioning obedience to constituted authority; forgetting that every freedom we enjoy was won for us by men who were rebels against constituted authority.

Zoning And Planning

There is nothing very complicated about cleaning up Franklin and Highlands, then keeping them clean, and finally adding touches of beauty to the great beauty they already are blessed with. It will take enthusiasm, hard work, perseverance, and perhaps occasional use, as a last resort, of the police power. But it is something that can be started now.

It is to be hoped that the municipal governments in the two towns will go to work without delay on zoning, but that they will take ample time for careful study before actually writing such ordinances into law.

Zoning ordinances are another matter.

Ordinances that are unjust or that will not work would be much worse than no ordinances at all; for they probably would set back progress along this line five, possibly 10, years.

As a matter of fact, it would be difficult indeed to write intelligent zoning ordinances without first doing some town planning—deciding, in the case of each town, what its future is likely to be, in what ways and in what directions it is likely to grow, and what areas are best fitted for different types of use, such as manufacturing, retail business, residential property, public buildings, and parks and recreational areas.

Franklin, incidentally, is fortunate, according to our information, in having in its files a rather complete town plan. That plan may or may not be exactly what is needed, but it certainly would provide a start. And Highlands is fortunate in another way; it has a considerable number of intelligent full-time or part-time residents who have both the leisure and interest to give time and study to such a project.

Even so, worth-while town planning probably would involve spending some money—in public, as well as private, enterprises, people usually get just about what they pay for. It probably would make sense to employ a man or firm trained in town planning to make surveys and recommendations.

This newspaper would be the first to oppose letting an expert tell us what sort of towns we are going to have and what they are going to look like when we get through with them; the towns themselves should reserve the right to make the final decisions. But experts could be extremely valuable in making suggestions that the layman, on the spot, would never think of. (It's the same sort of thing as having a surgical operation; the patient and his family reserve the right to make the final decision, but they get the advice of a good diagnostician before attempting to make a decision.)

It also might be a good idea for the two town boards to name planning commissions, made up of interested local laymen, to work with the experts, giving the latter the benefit of their knowledge of local conditions.

Finally, this newspaper believes that any town plan should be adopted only after it has been explained in detail to the public, and until the citizens have debated it. In that way, a plan could be worked out that would have general backing.

Such a procedure would be slow, to be sure; but by following it, we could get a general plan that, because it had the support of the general public, could be carried over from one municipal administration to another.

Letters

THE NEXT SUPERINTENDENT

Editor, The Press:

A few words in regard to our superintendent of schools in Macon County. How confused the whole situation seems to be and how important a capable man would be to the county at this time, when we are in a great building program. It should make us stop and think.

What man is available in North Carolina that is more capable of taking over the school system and the building program? Who knows where the material and equipment for these new buildings can be purchased for the smallest sum? No man that has been the principal of an ordinary high school for two or three years can do the job. Who has brought the program so far? Let us use our heads and allow him to finish it. Yes, I think Mr. Houk can do the best job. I believe he will be willing, for he thinks that highly of Macon County.

In our actions we should have the future of our children and county, not that of an individual, uppermost in our mind.

Sincerely,

DONALD SEAGLE

Western Carolina Teachers College,
Cullowhee, N. C.
May 15, 1951.

EDITOR'S NOTE: On one point, at least, Mr. Seagle appears to be laboring under a misapprehension. As a matter of keeping the record straight, here is the situation as to Macon County's school building program, and the responsibility for completing that program:

The general planning for the building program was the responsibility of the county superintendent and the county board of education. That planning has been completed. With the exception of the Negro school, the school sites have been selected, the sizes of the schools determined, the plans drawn and approved, and the contracts let.

From here on out, the responsibility is largely that of (1)

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat



Countless men and women of past generations have, by their courage, integrity, devotion and sacrifice, contributed to the glory that is America.

How sleep the brave? They sleep well, their duty done, their fame secure—as we, the living, carry on the purpose to which they dedicated their lives—the perpetuation and advancement of Our Democracy.

the contractor, who is under bond to do the construction in accordance with clearly defined plans and specifications (which have the approval of both state and local authorities), and (2) the architect's building inspector. A man trained for that type of work, who is here on the ground, the inspector being paid by the county to see to it that the contractor complies with the terms of his contract—and that he doesn't get paid unless and until he does.

Others' Opinions

THE KIDS FEEL FINE

Mr. and Mrs. J. Perquimans Hampstead (fictitious name) of Winston-Salem have two children named Lucy and Henry. They found out that the children of friends of theirs who live nearby had the mumps.

Mr. Hampstead said, "I think this is as good time as any for Lucy and Henry to get the mumps and get it over with. You take them over and have them exposed. Then the children will, in due time, come down with the mumps and we'll be through with it. It won't be hanging with us."

So, Mrs. Hampstead took the children to the friend's house. Lucy and Henry played in the sick room with the other children afflicted with mumps.

Now, quite a few days later, Mr. Hampstead and Mrs. Hampstead are in bed with the mumps.

Lucy and Henry are felling fine.—Pete Ivey in Twin City Sentinel.

"MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING"

For weeks now this country has presented to the world a spectacle of almost incredible assinnity. While a senseless wave of mass hysteria sweeps over the people at large, our law making machinery is clogged and completely stalled to allow our reverend senators, in committee assembled, to go on and on, hour after hour and day after day, asking of General MacArthur and General Marshall, and the many who are to follow them, useless and idiotic questions the answers to which are known to all thinking men as well as they are to the distinguished men to whom they are addressed. And all of this memery because the commander-in-chief of our military forces, upon the advice of his chief military and civilian counselors, has found it necessary to relieve of his command the general in charge of operations in a war theatre. What under heaven is all the fuss about? It is not as though it were the business of the Congress, or the Senate, to decide which general should command a given operation. That is not their job. Our government suffers greatly from too many people, particularly in Congress, trying to do the other fellow's job. Gen MacArthur, himself, was a shining success as long as he stuck to his own military job, and came a cropper only when he tried to enter the field of international policy making, where he did not belong and had no authority. Well, it all goes to prove that people are funny animals.

—Franklin Rotary Club's Fly Wheel.

Men often make up in wrath what they want in reason.
—Cyrus Alger.

Men's best successes come after their disappointments.
—Henry Ward Beecher.

Never do anything just because other people do it.
—Bruce Barton.

Any fool can cut prices; but it takes a man of brains to make an article of quality and sell it.—F. D. Armour.

Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

If you adopt a slogan it's nice to be able to live up to it. With that in mind we suggest that a good slogan for Franklin might be, "Franklin, the town with an individual filling station for every car."

On the subject of filling stations, there is a rumor that one of Franklin's most popular filling station owners may leave the retail field and become operator of the new bulk plant here. The man in question is D. A. Stewart.

All Spring I have had trouble keeping in step with Bruce Palmer and the new Franklin Feed Mill. When I would say that work was progressing well on the new plant work would stop and if I said that work was at a standstill Bruce would double the shifts. Now the new modern plant has been completed and the firm is moved to the location. Besides a big help to the farmers of this county, Bruce asked me to tell every one that the "side walk would be blocked no longer."

Perhaps by the time that this is published we will have had some rain. If not by that time the Franklin water supply will be reaching the very low point. If it is a long dry Summer, as there are indications of its being, serving on the town board may be as hot in the next three months as the Board of Education seats have been in the last three. Perhaps more than one alderman will roll over in his sleep and mutter, "If only we had a nice good watershed."

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Every teacher in the public schools of Macon County ought to take the county paper. The reason ought to be plain to all who are qualified to teach.

The commencement exercises of the Franklin High school begins tomorrow night at the courthouse.

Would it not be along the line of progress for Franklin to revive the Board of Trade?

The dry weather of last month cut off the strawberry crop considerably.

25 YEARS AGO

Rev. J. A. Flanagan, pastor of the Presbyterian churches in Macon County, arrived here on the 13th instant and preached his first sermon at the Franklin Presbyterian church last Sunday to a large and appreciative audience.

The local forest officials received word that two inches of snow fell on Wayah Bald on the night of May 14. What's the use of going to the Rockies for cool weather?

10 YEARS AGO

The Franklin team, with English pitching, defeated Blue Ridge in the first game of a double-header with a score 14-11 in last Sunday's game.

The continued dry weather has damaged the lespedeza crop seeded this spring by at least half and also the potato crop, according to Sam Mendenhall, county farm agent.

Through the cooperation of the Franklin Rotary club, a pig chain is being started in Macon County.

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The Franklin Press

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