

# The Franklin Press

and

## The Highlands Marionian

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## A First Step

Franklin's Main street is much too narrow, even for today's traffic. What will it be like, if the town continues to grow, 15 or 20 years from now!

Unless the street is widened, ultimately the major business of the community will have to shift to other streets—with resulting heavy loss in property values along Main street.

And there is only one economical way to widen a street. That is by setting up a building line, 5, 10, 15, or 20 feet back from the sidewalk, and requiring that the fronts of all new structures be placed back at that building line. By that method, in the course of a comparatively few years, as new structures replace old ones, most of the buildings along the street will have moved back to make room for a wider street.

Before Franklin got around to doing that, however, the Nantahala Power and Light company had started what probably will be the finest building on the street, and therefore one that will stand longest—and of course it is built on the old building line, the edge of the present sidewalk. Had a building line been established before this building was started, the widening of Main street probably could have been accomplished in 15 or 20 years. By waiting to do anything toward a wider street until after this fine new building was begun, we may have postponed the possibility of a wider Main street by 30, possibly 50 years.

This is pointed out in criticism of no one, but as a good example of the importance of town planning, and of how costly delay in planning may prove.

At last, however, Franklin has taken the first step toward some municipal planning, with the enactment last week by the board of aldermen of an ordinance setting up a Town Planning and Zoning Commission. The town officials deserve commendation both for taking this first step, and for their good judgment in selecting as members of the commission men who are known for their public-spiritedness, and men who will bring to their study of what we are, what we are likely to become, and what we can become, a wide diversity of background and experience.

The commission members should be given plenty of time for their work; poor or hasty planning is almost worse than none.

And it is to be hoped that, in their planning, they will envision not simply "another little town", just like all the others over the United States; but one refreshingly different, and one in which emphasis is placed not on utility and convenience alone, but on spaciousness and beauty as well.

## Graft Taken For Granted

Twelve persons, including top leaders of the Mississippi pro-Truman state Democratic committee, have been indicted by a federal grand jury on charges of conspiracy in connection with the sale of federal jobs.

That is a shocking situation.

But what is most shocking, what is most serious, is not that such a situation exists; there has been graft in American political life before; it probably is not the first time federal jobs have been sold.

What is shocking is that it is more or less routine news. Outside of Mississippi, it probably was a second- or third-rate story in newspapers over the land. And except among a few partisan Republicans it has provoked no nation-wide outcry.

What is serious is that Americans, of both political parties, have come to take such incidents for granted.

## No Hasty Action

If anyone is inclined to feel that the current clean-up campaign is a bit of a radical idea, or, at the least, on the ultra-modern side, we respectfully refer him or her to the first item in last week's Do You Remember? column on this page:

"If the streets of Franklin had a general clean-

ing up, they would look a great deal better.

That is taken from The Press 50 years ago.

It might be remarked, in passing, that, unless Franklin is a lot dirtier today than it was back in that horse-and-buggy age, The Press editor of 1901 was a master of under-statement.

It is worth remarking, too, that we do progress; because, after 50 years of talking about cleaning up, it looks as though we are about to do something about it.

And as we move into the action stage, one thing is true! No matter how many and how valid the arguments may be against cleaning up, at least nobody can accuse us of having acted on spur-of-the-minute impulse.

## For Every-Day Living

By the standards of some professional evangelists—mass emotionalism and flocks of public converts—the interdenominational series of evangelistic services here last week might not rate very high.

But measured by long-time results, it easily may prove to have been an outstanding religious event in the history of this community. Because the deep earnestness of Bishop Henry, the guest preacher, supplemented by his rare gift for simple and clear statement, brought to many persons in this community a new conception of Christianity; a conviction that it is a living force, a solution for the problems of everyday living. And nobody can read the New Testament without realizing that that is exactly what it is meant to be.

## Our American Civilization

Punishing our children for lying. Telling from one to a hundred polite lies, ourselves, every time we go to a party.

Recognizing that religion is essential in the development of any well-rounded personality. Quarreling over Bible reading in the schools.

Assuming that ours is the only real and worthwhile civilization, past or present. Ignoring the fact that American civilization drives more people insane than any in history.

## Others' Opinions

### BALLOON FISHING

When Coach Carlton goes fishing for crappies, he takes along a handful of toy balloons in his bait box.

When he gets out in his boat, he inflates the balloons, and ties the end with a piece of string about eighteen inches or so long.

When he lands his first fish, he ties the other end of the string around it.

Then he tosses the fish back in the water.

The fish promptly dives under and takes off to rejoin his school.

At the same time, however, he leads Weatherby to his classmates (the fish's).

Coach Carlton rarely misses taking home a load of fish every trip.

But not only does the balloon trick show Coach Carlton where the school of fish is.

It also tells him how deep, comparatively, the fish are swimming.

For if the balloon is lying flat on the water, he knows that the fish are within 18 inches of the surface. If it's standing on end, he knows they are swimming deep.—Smoky Mountain Times.

### WELFARE ROLLS

A state legislative proposal which would open welfare records to inspection by those other than members of county welfare boards, has once again directed attention to the fact that to receive federal aid also means to receive federal dictation and consequent loss of freedoms.

The Federal Security Administration has given a strong hint that \$20,000,000 of subsidy to Indiana's welfare program might be cut off if the names of persons getting state aid are made public. In other words, if the state of Indiana does not do exactly as the federal government dictates in the conduct of the Hoosier welfare program, Indiana may lose the millions of dollars now donated federally to the program.

A law which would open public welfare records to inspection would undoubtedly result in a reduction in the number of persons now receiving such aid. For one thing, such a law would help to uncover those cases in which both individuals, and entire families have been discovered, through special investigation, to have been receiving public funds, while at the same time receiving money from regular jobs in amounts sufficient for support.—Shelbyville (Ind.) News.

### SEGREGATION

We so continually emphasize age groups and the urgent necessity for each child to be with his own that it would be surprising if some attention were not given to what we say. In school we are told that it will do strange and tragic things to a pupil's personality to be with these older or younger; he must stay with his age-group. In Sunday School the same prin-

## OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

### EVERYTHING BUT THE SQUEAL

IT'S AN OLD STOCKYARD CUSTOM TO USE "EVERYTHING OF THE PIG BUT THE SQUEAL"



IN TODAY'S EMERGENCY, BOTH IN THE DAY-TO-DAY LIVING OF OUR FAMILIES AND IN GOVERNMENT, THERE IS NEED FOR THAT SAME EFFICIENCY IN USING EVERYTHING WE HAVE AND ELIMINATING WASTE.

THAT'S WHY IT IS SO IMPORTANT FOR GOVERNMENT TO TRIM NON-MILITARY EXPENSES—AND FOR US, AS INDIVIDUALS, TO BUY ONLY WHAT WE NEED AND STEP UP OUR SAVINGS, GOVERNMENT BONDS AND LIFE INSURANCE.

IT WILL MEAN WORK, THRIFT AND SACRIFICE—BUT LET'S LEAVE THE "SQUEAL" TO THE PIGS.

ciple holds; there must be classes for every year, too, and, if this seems impossible, we are ashamed of the lack of provision made. Even married couples must be sectioned off into groups according to their years on earth.

No more do we see whole families sitting in a row at church, the father at one end and the mother at the other, with "stairs" of children between. The little ones have their own service, suited to their age.

All this may make for efficiency, but it widens the gulf that is always between those of different generations. Small wonder that youngsters feel their recreation must be found, not at home, but where there are more like themselves; that it does not occur to many of them that parents are people who might sometimes say something interesting, or that fun may actually be found at home.—Mrs. Theo Davis in Zebulon Record.

### THE PATRIOT

The man who loves his country will not accept Stephen Decatur's toast as given, but will modify it thus: "My country, right or wrong: if right, to keep her right; if wrong, to make her right."

And it is in that effort to make her right (as well as to keep her right) that the patriot can expend all his zeal and all his strength. And here, too, he will always be in conflict with the lip-serving pseudo-patriot.

The patriot is the man, described by Micah, who acts with justice and with kindness, and who walks in God's fellowship and service.

The patriot is Franklin K. Lane's, Flag Maker—the boy who won the corn club prize, the mother who sacrificed to educate her son, the clerk who helped the troubled farmer.

The patriot is the man who seeks to serve his fellowmen, rather than to be served by them. . . . The patriot is never insular, never disparaging of others, never threatening, never building his own interests—nor his nation's—at the expense or hurt of another's.—Zion's Herald.

### THE SAVING INSTINCT

The usual rustle that always precedes the taking up of the offertory spread through the church as the congregation opened purses or put hands into pockets. Then this soft confusion was broken by the unmistakable sound of a silver piece hitting the floor with a resounding smack, and the shirring sound that told of its rolling along.

Suddenly a shrill infantile voice broke the silence, "Oh, Mommie, here's a fiftycent piece. Let's put it in the plate and save our money."—Waynesville Mountaineer.

### A FINE DOLLAR

One fine thing about the tourist dollar. It is all cash business on the barrel-head. No credits, no trade-ins, no returns, and no bad accounts unless we offend or drive it away. Another thing, the tourist requires nothing in return after he is gone. He doesn't use our welfare or schools, and he will continue to advertise us in whichever manner we have shown him we deserve to be advertised, by the treatment we gave him, when he was here.—Coastland Times.

### MODERN CHEAT

According to a college professor, there is no more cheating among college students of today than there was in the old days. Maybe not, but we just read the other day where a boy had been shipped from a medical college because they caught him counting his ribs in a physiology examination.

—Camden Chronicle.

## Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

Business is business whether it is the handling of public affairs or in private business. In general the same axioms apply in one field that would apply in the other. With this in mind we question if the 3 cent tax levy in the county tax rate which is to be applied to debt service is a wise move. At present, the county has more than one hundred thousand dollars surplus in the debt service fund. This money can't be used in case an emergency arises as it has been acquired by a debt service levy. We agree with the reasoning of the county commissioners that it is proper to lay up a little reserve in good times to carry over for the bad. However, we wonder if all the accumulating surplus should be in the debt service fund, while other county funds are asked get by on a minimum.

Speaking of the transaction of county business, we believe that one of the wisest moves that could be made by local government officials would be to place the register of deeds, the clerk of the superior court and the sheriff on a salary basis rather than paying them by fees and commissions. One of the chief advantages of this would be that if a salary system were used the public would know what the officials who work for them are being paid. As it is both the public and the officials have only a hazy idea what they will make each year. It is not my intention to imply that these officials are making too much. In fact, I think they are making too little, and that if the public actually knew what these folks receive they would gladly pay them more. Another reason the present system is not an efficient method of financing the offices is that there is very little relationship between the work of the office and the source of the funds from which their pay comes. The sheriff for his pay receives a commission on the money paid out by the county while his work is primarily that of enforcing the law and keeping the peace in our (Turn to Back Page 1st Section)

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

We want it distinctly understood that we want no person to take The Press who don't want it, or who cannot appreciate it.

Mr. Mack Gillespie lost several chickens that died suddenly and mysteriously about his yard. Last Sunday evening he saw a rattlesnake strike one, which explained the mystery.

We hope the threshers are keeping a record of all the grain threshed in this county and will report it to The Press when through.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Uncle John Berry says that since he began practicing for the cow calling contest to be held at Franklin on July 30th at the formal opening of the creamery here, Mr. Alex Moore has been making almost daily trips to Hamburg to count his herd now pasturing there.

Last Friday the Cozad Ice company displayed a block of ice with a bunch of flowers frozen in the center. Another block of ice had ice tickets in the center of the block. Both flowers and tickets were plainly visible. We presumed that these blocks of ice were displayed as an advertisement of the quality of ice the company makes.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The board of directors of the Franklin chamber of commerce, in their regular monthly meeting, discussed plans for the formation of a retail merchant's association in Franklin last Thursday night.

The Farmers Federation picnic held last Saturday at the Franklin High school was attended by a large group of between 1,000 and 1,500 people.

James Averell, for four years assistant supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest, has been promoted to the regional office of the United States Forest Service located in Atlanta, Ga.