

The Franklin Press
and
The Highlands Maconian

VOL. LXVI Number 31

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
At Franklin, North Carolina
Telephone No. 24

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

WEIMAR JONES Editor
BOB S. SLOAN Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

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About School Attendance

(GUEST EDITORIAL)

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article, by the Macon County superintendent of public welfare, is one in a series of guest editorials by public officials.)

WE want to take this opportunity, so kindly given us by Mr. Weimar Jones, to talk with all the people of Macon County concerning school attendance.

As the Superintendent of Public Welfare in Macon County is the school attendance officer, and as the staff is small, we want and need your help. We believe that it is the duty and the privilege of all of us to help with this problem. We further believe in the way of life as practiced throughout Christian lands: if your neighbor is hungry, feed him; if he is cold, give him warmth; if he is in trouble, help him. This simply means that all of us should be interested in the people around us. Find out if there is something you can do to help a child whose father is sick or temporarily out of work. A little help may enable this child to continue in school.



MRS. F. H. POTTS

Several Parent-Teacher associations in the county now have clothing pools which fill a vital community need, but there is still work to be done by all of us.

With our modern school buildings and our excellent teachers, we should not permit a normal, well child to grow up in Macon County with less than a high school education.

Two years ago the Welfare Department, with the cooperation of the principals of the schools, checked census cards in all school districts against attendance. During the summer home visits were made to all families where attendance had been irregular. As a result of this case work, school attendance improved.

This spring, we again made this check and are now visiting the homes with the hope of improving attendance even more.

In this connection, I should like to quote a statement made by Dr. Ellen Winston, State Commissioner of Public Welfare, Raleigh, North Carolina:

"Through legislation enacted by the 1945 General Assembly, North Carolina finally achieved a long-sought goal, namely, the gradual raising of the school-leaving age from fourteen to sixteen. This extension of the compulsory attendance period was the result of the combined efforts over a number of years of many groups and agencies actively concerned with the welfare of North Carolina's children.

"Under the State statutes an educational unit may have a special school attendance officer who has responsibility for the enforcement of the compulsory attendance law. In school districts without such officers, county welfare departments of public welfare retain the responsibility, vested in them by a 1923 statute, for school attendance. Until such time as a State-supported program for enforcing school attendance is provided, the county welfare departments will continue to work closely with school authorities on the problem of getting all children into school and of keeping children in regular attendance.

"The basic problems involved in failure of children to attend school are not solved solely by a law compelling attendance. There must be facilities for meeting the basic needs of children who are out of school because of social or individual maladjustments or economic need in the family situation. Even with special enforcement personnel, many problem situations will continue to require services available through county welfare departments. In the future, as in the past, the school authorities may look to county welfare staffs for full cooperation in meeting the needs of children out of school because of lack of adequate food or clothing, inadequate medical attention, parental neglect, or other problems.

"No group is more cognizant than the social work group in the State of the necessity of adequate educational preparation of young people. The importance of such preparation in achieving and maintaining self-support in our highly complex, modern life is increasingly recognized. The social worker also recognizes the fact that the school is a major preventive of juvenile delinquency and other social ills.

"The detailed procedure for enforcing school attendance has been tested by experience in many counties. It followed carefully by school and public welfare officers,

it provides the framework for seeing that the children of North Carolina are required to attend school regularly. Yet the procedures are recognized as temporary with the expectation that the time is almost here when all school districts in North Carolina will have the benefit of especially trained attendance officers, designated professionally throughout the United States as school social workers."

All of us want the best for Macon County. We believe that children are our most valuable resource. Then by working together, let us endeavor to make school attendance for the 1951-52 school year the best in our history.

Let us encourage this work by quoting from our Great Teacher: "Verily, I say unto you, in as much as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me."

MRS. F. H. POTTS

Justice—In 1951

In Bryson City last week a 15-year old boy was sentenced to 25 to 30 years for killing his father. Superior Court Judge R. C. Rudisill specified that the sentence be served at Central Prison in Raleigh.

In a signed statement admitting the slaying, the boy explained that he feared his father would harm his mother.

A psychiatrist's report, submitted by Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., said the boy is afflicted with a mental derangement. The Bryson City news story said the report described the boy as a "dangerous schizophrenic", but the psychiatrist who made the examination, Dr. M. J. Hornowski, in a letter to The Asheville Citizen, wrote:

"Although Denver Shuler did kill his father, I did not consider him to be dangerous to anyone else, and at no time in my report was the phrase "dangerous, schizophrenic" used. I felt, and still do, that his chances for rehabilitation are excellent. Denver Shuler was the product of a severely unfortunate and traumatic home situation, and given half a chance, I think he could become a very useful member of society. This will not come to pass in the State Prison."

Whatever the truth about whether this boy is or is not dangerous to society, these damning facts stand out:

1. If this individual is sick, he should be in a hospital, not in prison.
2. Sick or well, a 15-year old boy is a mere child—and children do not belong in prison.
3. The surest way to turn a 15-year old into a life-long criminal is to coop him up with older, hardened criminals at Central Prison.

The evidence suggests that, of the two injustices done, Denver Shuler's slaying of his father was the lesser.

Mr. Archer's Letter

The letter from Mr. John M. Archer, Jr., is a welcome contribution to this week's editorial page.

It is welcome, first of all, because The Press last week made a mis-statement, and this newspaper always is glad to have errors of fact called to its attention, so that correction can be made.

It is welcome, also, because it is pleasing to learn that the Nantahala Power and Light company's new home is to be set six feet back from the sidewalk, and the space used for the planting of grass and shrubbery. This will be a refreshing exception to the somewhat drab sameness customarily in business areas—one building after the other, all set right up to the edge of the sidewalk.

It is welcome, finally, because here is an instance of a concern's being so conscious of the necessity for a wider Main street that it voluntarily makes provision for a possible future widening project.

There should have been a Main street building line before this structure was begun. Thanks to the foresight of power company officials, it still is not too late to fix one, and get results within a comparatively short time.

In the old days, a backward North Carolina was accustomed to "thank God for South Carolina". Today the South, often responsible for the election of demagogues, can thank God for Wisconsin. At least, the South didn't send Joe McCarthy to the United States Senate.

Our American Civilization

Being poverty stricken at church collection or tax time. Always having money for movies or ball games.

Being immature enough to think we can solve such age-old problems as intemperance and racial frictions overnight.

Driving ourselves at our work until our bodies demand a vacation. Driving ourselves even harder while on vacation.

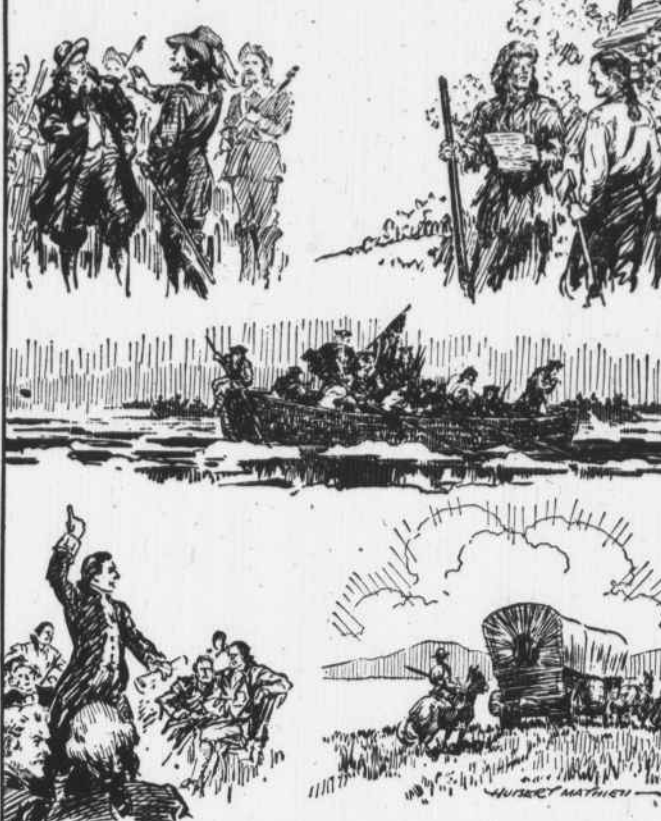
Assuming that because America leads the world in the production of things, it is qualified to lead in every other realm.

Crusading to make more and more people, including 18-year olds, eligible to vote. Being indifferent to the fact that half those already eligible never bother to cast their ballots.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

The PRICE of FREEDOM—

BLOOD, SWEAT AND TEARS, ETERNAL VIGILANCE,
NEVER-FLAGGING FAITH.



AS AMERICANS THROUGH OUR HISTORY HAVE PAID THE PRICE TO GAIN AND MAINTAIN THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY, SO WE MUST BE READY TO PAY HIGH TO HOLD IT. FACED WITH A WORLD-THREAT TO OUR WAY OF LIFE, WE KNOW THAT, WHATEVER THE COST, OUR FREEDOM IS WORTH IT.

Letters

BACK OF BUILDING LINE

Editor, The Press:

I have just read with interest the editorial, "A First Step," which appeared in the July 26 issue of The Franklin Press. In the fourth paragraph of this editorial, it is stated—

"... the Nantahala Power and Light Company had started what probably will be the finest building on the street, . . . and of course it is built on the old building line, the edge of the present sidewalk."

For your information, the front line of this building is six feet from the sidewalk and was placed there for two reasons: First, in order to allow the planting of grass and shrubbery; and second, with the idea that some day the town of Franklin might want to increase the width of Main Street.

Very truly yours,
JOHN M. ARCHER, Jr.,
President,
Nantahala Power and Light Co.

Franklin, N. C.,
July 27, 1951.

Others' Opinions

NEW SBI DIRECTOR

The fact that James W. Powell has been a member of the State Bureau of Investigation ever since it was organized 13 years ago, plus his background, will inspire public confidence that he is qualified for the important post of director, for which he has been selected by Attorney General Harry McMullan.

A graduate of the Virginia Military Institute and a veteran of 30 months of war service in which he attained the rank of major, he was one of the four men selected as agents of the SBI when it was formed in 1938 under the administration of Governor Clyde R. Hoey.

He has the advantage of being thoroughly familiar with the functions, responsibilities, and problems of the SBI, and the public has reason to share the confidence of the Attorney General that he will prove a worthy successor to Chief Walter F. Anderson.—Charlotte Observer.

RAISING A POINT

Justice in Buncombe, for all we know, may be wearing that puzzled look which possesses a child when she is alternately spanked and praised.

Consider the case of two lottery merchants.

Both are inveterate law breakers. One has appeared three times in Police Court on lottery charges within a period of 60 days. When both of them faced Police Judge Sam Cathey recently he was duly severe. George Melton was given four months in jail. George Dawson received two 90-day sentences. In each case appeals were carried to Superior Court.

There, on Thursday, Judge George B. Patton said something about the rackets which brought a whoop of joy in the editorial rooms. He said something that this newspaper had been saying repeatedly. He said: "There is a general understanding around this town that you can deal in most anything you want and pay a little 'tax' (in court) and go on. That's wrong."

Indeed it is. But it's also bewildering. For in the next motion His Honor continued prayer for judgment in both cases, ordering the defendants to report later on and demonstrate that they had quit the rackets.

No jail. No fine. Not even any "tax."

A point which this may raise, which is the point raised by at least one previous term of Superior Court, is why Asheville should go to the trouble and expense of maintaining a Police Court in the first place.—Asheville Citizen.

Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

The recently launched clean up campaign here in Franklin seems to be more effective in the Loganville section, than in any other area. We aren't just speaking of the sudden demise of Dianne (filth of a type), but we have also noticed that the old Hastings store building is being torn down. This building had long ago finished serving as a useful and attractive addition and we believe its removal is a big help.

This end of the state has in its midst a very good example of the old business adage that you have to spend money to make money.

When the North Carolina legislature first set aside a sum of money (considerable less than \$100,000.00) to promote the Indian Pageant over at Cherokee we feel sure that there were those who shook their heads and said "waste of money". After asking around here and in other towns we find that this year that throughout the area one of the best tourist seasons is being enjoyed. The Pageant is reported to be one of the main drawing cards. Western North Carolina has probably already been repaid on the investment.

Locally we believe we could profit by this example that it pays to offer the tourist something. Either the merchants of Franklin or the town itself could get its money back by investing money in the construction of a good 18 hole golf course and a swimming pool. Neither project would be completely self supporting but the additional tourist dollars which would be brought into circulation to pass through all our hands would be a fine addition to the monetary system here. You can't get something for nothing, and so long as we sit around and only hope for a good season we will have only a few tourists. We get those, not through our efforts, but because the Lord endowed this area with beautiful scenery and (Turn to Back Page 1st Section)

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Franklin would make a move in the right direction to set apart a suitable plot of ground within the corporate limits and improve it for a public park. Nothing is more attractive nor useful than such a park in a progressive town.

The front porch of the Cunningham house is the favorite resort during the hottest hours of the day. It is the coolest place in town.

Mr. Henry Slagle, of Cartoogechaye, sent a bull rush to our office this morning that measured 6 feet 6 inches in length, and is nearly three-fourths of an inch in diameter.

25 YEARS AGO

The citizens of Franklin are becoming indignant at the continued filthy condition of Main street. The town board, so it is understood, claims that the use of the hose on the street will wear out the pavement. Scrubbing kitchen tables will likewise wear out the table, but no good housekeeper will permit grease to remain on her table indefinitely.

Current reports have it that a large amount of liquor has been stolen from the jail. Sheriff Ingram denies that such is the case while Chief Coffey states that the jailer has reported 30 or 40 gallons missing. The public craves light.

10 YEARS AGO

Ben W. Woodruff, vice-president of the board of directors of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, has succeeded James Averell as president, and L. H. Page has been elected vice-president.

Miss Emma Lu Hurst, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Hurst, Route 1, was chosen the healthiest 4-H girl in North Carolina Wednesday when she won the state-wide health contest being held in Raleigh the first part of the week.

William S. Johnson, publisher and manager of The Franklin Press and Highlands Maconian, was inducted into the army last week, having enlisted in the air corps.