

• Letters

STRICTLY
PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

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hasn't. Many of the places you hear most about are the very places sensible people flee as they would the plague.

Another reason is that a region or a state or a community has to grow from its ROOTS. And the roots of the South are far different from those of, say, New England; the roots of North Carolina are different even from those of the rest of the South; and surely this mountain region has roots that are completely different from those of the eastern end of this same state.

Like a plant, a region or a state or a community will grow best by making the best use of its own roots and its own soil.

All this isn't to suggest that we in the South or in North Carolina or in Macon County should be smugly satisfied—far from it! But surely it isn't up to us to so slavishly follow the lead of others as to repeat their mistakes. Instead, it seems to me it is up to us to develop our regional and state and community personalities—and we do have such personalities—and try to create something that is different because it is BETTER.

I rarely go to a community gathering here, especially one in the country, that I don't get a thrill. The latest instance was last Saturday night's "house warming" supper at the new Iotia school.

For the occasion, the weather put on one of the foulest demonstrations I've ever seen; but 300 people—and they weren't all from Iotia—were there for supper.

The women, after baking cakes without number and preparing supper for that many and then serving it, must have been dog-tired. But you'd never have guessed it—they were all wearing big smiles. And they must have been proud of the way their menfolk did their bit, especially at the cake sale.

The Rev. Bill Sorrells served as auctioneer—it was his first experience, he told me afterward, but he acted like a professional—at the sale, follow-

ing the meal. And before it was over with they had Mr. Sorrells mopping his face; because every time he'd get the cake table cleared, he'd look around to find half a dozen cakes to be sold again—sent back to the auction table by those who already had bought and paid for them. They sold some of those cakes so many times I lost count of how many cakes there really were, but they made nearly \$100 on them.

The money from the supper and the cake sale will go toward equipping the lunchroom. But the spirit displayed at Iotia—and you'll find that spirit in most Macon County communities—builds something even more important than lunchrooms. It is the stuff good communities are made of.

HIGDON TAKES UP HIS DUTIES AS TECHNICIAN

Succeeds G. Hunnicutt With Artificial Breeders

W. C. (Bill) Higdon has taken over as technician for the Macon County Artificial Breeders association, succeeding George Hunnicutt, who has resigned after holding the position for a year and a half.

Mr. Higdon recently completed a three-week course in artificial breeding and dairy herd improvement testing at N. C. State college, Raleigh.

A schedule for the artificial breeding program was outlined at a joint directors' meeting of the Macon County Milk Producers' association and the Breeders' association Tuesday night, according to County Agent S. W. Mendenhall.

The new technician may be reached at his home in the Higdonville community, phone 2706, or at the county agent's office, phone 97. Mr. Higdon said all farmers can be assured that whether they own one or more cows, he will answer all morning calls promptly the same day, and all afternoon calls the following day.

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buildings and excellent gymnasium in which our basketball teams competed with Hayesville and Cullowhee.

In 1942 I went into this community to see a desperately sick woman and carried my Negro orderly, Friday Harshaw, with me. I drove to the home of the patient, ministered to the critically ill woman and when I got ready to leave, the husband of the sick lady told me it would be dangerous to let anyone see that Negro; and that I had better put him out of sight. Friday was just a little Negro boy only five feet tall and I promptly stowed him in the trunk of my Cadillac and locked him in. This proved to be very wise. We had only gone a few miles when we ran into a road block. Eight or ten men stopped the car and wanted to see the Negro I had with me. I told them to look, there was no Negro with me; and they let the car pass by. Just as we were leaving the scene, Friday coughed and I heard one of them say, "I knew that Negro was in there." However, after passing this road block I "sold out" and was soon out of Graham county.

Graham county and the Stecoah community have made great strides since 1924. However, after we returned from the basketball game at Stecoah and looked at our own gymnasium, it occurred to me that Franklin, an old town, a cultured town, a town that had produced a truly great figure in education, a lady named "T." Kelly, was far behind Stecoah, a backwoods community of Graham county, in its physical equipment.

Franklin needs both an auditorium and a gymnasium where athletic events can be held from time to time. It is the central point in the Smoky conference and instead of Franklin teams going to Stecoah, other teams should be coming to Franklin to play in the post-season contests.

Recently the Little Symphony came to Franklin and one thousand school children were forced to jam into the old and outdated Tabernacle to hear this splendid performance, and I personally noted that a great many of the children sat on the ground. This should not be. When graduating time comes around in the spring, the members of the class, with a few of their relatives, will be able to gain entrance to the small local theatre for the graduation exercises. When possible three or four hundred will be able to get inside, there will be one thousand outside who want in. This situation must not go on. If submitted to a vote of the people of Macon County, I have no concern about the outcome of that vote.

\$350,000 to build a first class auditorium and \$200,000 to build a first class gymnasium can be raised. The town and county should both be in on it. It may require a slight increase in taxes but what of it if it does? If the town and county do not get all of your money for taxes, the state and U. S. government will. I feel that this is a matter to which the county board of education and the board of county commissioners should give their urgent attention.

Very truly yours,
DR. FURMAN ANGEL.

Franklin, March 22, 1952.

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