

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

VOL. LXVII Number 13

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
At Franklin, North Carolina
Telephone 24

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

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

In Macon County—	
Single Copy 10
One Year \$2.50
Six Months \$1.75
Three Months \$1.00
Out-of-County—	
One Year \$3.00

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MARCH 27, 1952

Where Do You Stand, Gentlemen?

AN OPEN LETTER

To the Three Candidates for the Twelfth District Democratic Nomination for Congress:

Mr. Frank M. Parker
Mr. George A. Shuford
Mr. L. Dale Thrash

Gentlemen:

With the filing date past, the race for the Democratic nomination for U. S. Representative from this district lies between you three. One of you will be the nominee, and, under normal conditions, probably will be the next congressman.

How are the Democratic voters of this district going to choose? Your character and ability are important, of course, but the voters also should have an opportunity to choose on a basis of what you stand for.

All three of you, I am sure, are in favor of the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, and other Western North Carolina projects, and will get whatever federal money you can for these projects.

That is very nice. But I do not think it is enough.

I do not think congressmen ever should be elected just for what they can get for their own districts, and surely, in today's critical situation, there are more important things for a congressman to do.

Before they cast their ballots in the May primary, the Democratic voters of this district have a right to know how you stand on some of the major issues before the country today—issues which the next congressman from this district almost certainly will be called upon to help decide.

How do you stand on economic and military aid to our friends in Europe and Asia? Are you for it or against it. If for it, is the amount we are spending too much or too little? And how long can we afford to continue this aid?—or can we afford to discontinue it as long as it is needed? If you are against it, what alternative do you propose?

How do you stand on universal military training? That is an issue that certainly is not definitely and finally decided. It is a highly important issue on which there is much honest difference of opinion. Do you favor it as a permanent, peacetime policy for the United States? Are you against it, now or ever? If so, what do you propose? Or do you think it is undesirable but may be necessary for the time-being?

Most of us are apprehensive about the size of the national budget. Do you think it should, and can, be reduced? If so, how and where? There is a widespread feeling that so much of it is for defense, and that defense is so necessary, that nothing can be done about it. Yet the chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers admitted the other day that 3 billion dollars a year could be lopped off military spending by better planning. What would you do, if you were in congress, to force the better planning that would save at least a portion of this 3 billion dollars every year?

What about taxes? Should we sweat it out and pay as we go? Or should we continue to go deeper and deeper in debt?

There is a growing feeling that, important as purely military defense is, we are spending too much money and time and thought on that phase of our defense, and not enough on equally important but less tangible defenses; that we tend to

A Lift For Today

★ Wisdom is better than weapons of war . . . —Eccles. 9:18.
IF NATIONS could overcome the mutual fear and distrust whose somber shadow is now thrown over the world, and could meet with confidence and good will to settle their possible differences, they would easily be able to establish a lasting peace.
—Fridtjof Nansen.

Merciful Father, wilt Thou fill our hearts with wisdom and understanding that war may be banished from the earth.

rely so completely on arms that we are doing little constructive and positive toward building a peaceful world. What is your thought on this?

These are only a few of the big issues that must be decided by the Congress of the United States—that one of you may be called upon to help decide—that, in case of a tie, one of you might have the final word on.

Conditions, of course, can vastly change in a year, or even in a month, and I realize that you cannot give a flat yes or no answer on all of these questions.

But I think you will agree that any man who aspires to a seat in congress should have some pretty definite ideas on these issues. And surely you will agree that the voters have a right to know what your ideas are.

The columns of this newspaper are open to each of you for an article of any reasonable length expressing your views on these and similar major issues of national importance.

Respectfully,
Weimar Jones.

Fortunate

This community is fortunate in having Mr. E. W. Renshaw accept the presidency of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. It is an admirable choice not only because Mr. Renshaw's position as head of the Nantahala National Forest gives him many valuable contacts, but also because he has a habit of doing well whatever he undertakes.

How well he will handle this job will depend, however, largely on the cooperation he receives from the community.

As business men and others ponder what cooperation, financial and otherwise, they will give the local chamber of commerce this year, they would do well to take into consideration that this year's president is a man who is engaged in no business, and therefore cannot possibly benefit, directly or indirectly, by his efforts toward a better and growing community. He will be repaid for his efforts only in the satisfaction of doing a community service.

They might well ponder, too, the fact that no financial donation they may make to the organization is likely to be as large as the one the president will make, in time and thought and effort.

Our American Civilization

Some present-day American definitions:

Realism: A lot of sex.

Odd Character: The person who plays neither Bridge NOR Canasta.

Expert: The man we assume must have all the answers because he says he has.

Intolerant Person: One who states his convictions as emphatically as we assert our own.

Dangerous Subversive: Anybody who tries to think about the international situation instead of merely feeling about it.

Damn-socialist (it's become one word as much as damn-yankee once was in the South): All the Truman-Fair Deal group, plus everybody who doubts that the free enterprise system was handed down from on high.

Letters

'THE BEST COMMUNITY'

Dear Mr. Jones:

What would be the outstanding qualities of the best community in the world?

In this country, thank heaven, the community is its inhabitants. The community, like the chain, is only as strong as its weakest link.

If we make a slight change in your question, "What would be the outstanding qualities of the inhabitants of the best community in the world?" the answer is in Luke 10:30-37:

The Good Samaritan

1. Recognized the weak link and had compassion.
2. Rendered first aid.
3. Continued remedial work as long as he could.
4. Made necessary arrangements to care for the situation until the weak link was no longer a community liability.

Yours sincerely,

L. C. (MRS. JAMES H.) HOWE.

Highlands, N. C.

March 15, 1952

NEED AUDITORIUM AND GYMNASIUM

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your recent editorial relative to an auditorium for Franklin and Macon County is timely and appropriate. We need such a structure, and it ought to have a seating capacity of 1,500 or 2,000.

While we are talking about an auditorium, in the same breath let us remember a very urgent need for a gymnasium for Franklin High school. In following our basketball and football teams from town to town during the fall and winter, our last trip was to the little community of Stecoah, in Graham county. I was surprised, pleasantly, by the splendid school

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

CALL TO ACTION

* PRODUCE! PRODUCE! WERE IT THE PITIFULST INFINITESIMAL FRACTION OF A PRODUCT, PRODUCE IT IN HEAVEN'S NAME! 'WHATSOEVER THY HAND FINDETH TO DO, DO IT WITH ALL THY MIGHT.'
—THOMAS CARLYLE



AMERICANS HAVE CARRIED OUT THAT INJUNCTION OF CARLYLE'S—AND MORE THAN ANY OTHER PEOPLE THEY HAVE PROSPERED. UNDER A SYSTEM THAT REWARDS INDIVIDUAL EFFORT AND INITIATIVE, THAT PROVIDES PLANTS AND MACHINES THROUGH THE INVESTMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S SAVINGS AND LIFE INSURANCE FUNDS, THE PRODUCTIVITY OF OUR DEMOCRACY IS THE ENVY—AND THE HOPE—OF THE WORLD.

Others' Opinions

THE WAY TO STOP IT

... If we want less spending in government we must forego the handouts. And the way to stop them is to write our congressmen and tell them to halt them. It isn't easy to stop the gravy train and it takes a lot of willpower to get off once you're a passenger. But stop it we must, and get off we must. America was built by hard working hands—not hands upturned for handouts.—San Marino (Calif.) Tribune.

DARK HORSE HAS CHANCE

... In the meantime, a great many people seem to think that the only question is whether the GOP candidate will be Taft or Eisenhower—that one of the two is a cinch. That is not so. There is definite possibility that the strength of one will offset the strength of the other—a case of the irresistible force meeting the immovable object—and that neither one can get the needed 601 convention votes as a result. Then a more or less dark horse would be tapped by the weary delegates. It has happened before, when two strong candidates cancelled each other out. Such hopefuls as Warren and Stassen are doubtless hoping it will happen again.—Crookston (Minn.) Times.

WATCHING THEIR MONEY

The news from Florida winter resorts is bad for Florida, but good for the rest of the country.

The tourists are there, but all of them except those who can afford the luxury hotels (now filled to capacity) are watching their money. Lesser places than the big luxury palaces are feeling the competition of lower priced hotels and motels and merchants and amusement vendors are complaining of "penny pinching."

From the standpoint of the country as a whole there could not be a more wholesome picture, than that of a people with money but careful about getting value received for it—even if it does call for some revision of "values" in Florida.
—Raleigh News and Observer.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

These are the opinions of one man—and he may be wrong:

Franklin, in the next five years, will grow much faster than it has in the last five.

Highlands, in the same period, will realize that it has two things, and only two things, to sell—climate and scenery; and it will find, when it gets around to really trying to sell them, that the buyers are almost without limit.

Both of these things will happen, if—

There are two qualifications: Qualification No. 1: The growth of Franklin and Highlands can be stopped; the way to do it is for their leaders to be so greedy they can't see tomorrow's dollar for grabbing at today's nickel.

No. 2. Unless the entire Macon County community does something about keeping its young people, the towns AND the county may dry up and blow away.

This county has only begun to farm. Thanks to the ideas of a few agricultural leaders, plus

the fact the farmer had the good sense to take and test those ideas, the farmer probably is the most prosperous man in the county today. He started freeing himself from poverty when he started farming by KNOW instead of by GUESS. Sure, there'll be a lot of downs along with the ups, but the green pastures program, together with other intelligent methods, is revolutionizing mountain agriculture. We've barely scratched the surface, on tourists and on farming—yes, and on progress, too.

I'm fed up with the idea that the South, or North Carolina, or Macon County are progressive in direct proportion as they become exactly like every other section of the country.

The idea doesn't make sense for a lot of reasons. One reason it doesn't is that the rest of the country hasn't found the final answer in creating the good life for the most people—not by a long shot, it

Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

This week I would like to digress completely from the subject of business and indulge in what is fast becoming one of America's popular sports (indoor, that is)—political speculation and commentary.

First there is a lot being said about President Truman's book which was actually compiled by William Hillman. I don't feel capable of passing judgment on the whole work, but there was a paragraph in there containing a comment by the President to which I would like to say Amen in bold face type a thousand times over:

"Where there is corruption there are always the corrupters. We must find a way to make the corrupter as guilty legally as the one who is corrupted. . . . There is nothing I detest so much as a crooked politician or corrupt government official. But the type of businessman who is a fixer is even lower in my estimation."

The above statement contains a lot of the answers to those who want to know how can we clean up the government.

Guess that the above comes under the head of political commentary, so now I believe I will indulge in a little speculation. I am going to get way out on a limb and predict that the Republican nominees for President and Vice-president will be Eisenhower and Warren and that Stevenson and Russell will head the Democratic ticket. Looking back at that I guess that it is only wishful thinking because if they head the tickets I think the American people will have the four best men to choose from that they have had in my life time. If you have read this far and want to count back, I was born in 1917. Furthermore I believe the Democratic platform will contain a modified civil rights program which Dick Russell can support. As to the winner, my guess is that it would be very close with the party in power being able to hold on by a scant margin so close in fact that the election will be in doubt for several days.

Now what will probably happen will be none of these men will even be on the ticket. It is hard to tell in these topsyturvy days when Eisenhower, a conservative, is backed by the liberal element in his party, and Dick Russell, whose voting record (and that's the real test) is as liberal as any potential nominee, is backed by the conservatives.

Kenneth Young Is Given Promotion To Corporal

Kenneth Young, stationed with the air force at Sheppard Field, Tex., recently was promoted to corporal, it has been learned here. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Wymer Young, of Franklin, Route 4.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Dyed Eggs; Easter bonnets; next Sunday is Easter.

Atty. Henry Robertson went to Jackson county Wednesday on legal business.

The continual cold weather has kept back peach blooms. We may have a peach crop in consequence.

Attorneys F. S. Johnson and Kope Ellas returned last Thursday from Graham court.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. O. E. Young and son, Earle, left Tuesday for New York City on a purchasing trip for Wits' End Gift shop. (Highlands item).

Homer Collier, of Route 1, was surprised last week to find that one of his Rhode Island Reds had laid an egg which looked more like an overgrown peanut about three inches long. If you don't believe it, see it in The Press window.

Miss Helen Patton, head of the art department of Western Carolina Teachers college, visited her father, Robert Patton, last week.