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| In Macon County— | |
| Single Copy | .10 |
| One Year..... | \$2.50 |
| Six Months..... | \$1.75 |
| Three Months..... | \$1.00 |
| Out-of-County— | |
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MAY 1, 1952

Doesn't Make Sense

This newspaper commented last week that it is a healthy sign when a dozen men and women are interested enough in schools and are public-spirited enough to offer their services as members of the county board of education.

It certainly is a healthy sign.

There is one feature of the situation, however, that is not healthy. It is the fact that the five persons finally named to the school board probably will be the choice of the minority of the county's voters—quite possibly of a very small minority.

Under the North Carolina school law, school board members are NOMINATED by Democrats in their county primary. The names of the nominees are forwarded to the state superintendent of public instruction, and he submits the list to the general assembly, which actually makes the appointments. Thus all Republicans—except those who invade the Democrats' primary—are disfranchised in this particular choice of public officials; they have no word in the selection of the men and women who are to run the county's schools.

Aside from the injustice, consider what this system does to our American plan of majority rule.

Eliminate all the Republicans in Macon County; then eliminate the Democrats who do not vote; and then take into consideration the fact that some board members may be nominated by a bare majority of the vote cast. The result easily could be the choice of a school board member by as few as 10 or 15 per cent of the county's voters.

This set-up just doesn't make sense. We are yet to find any fair-minded person who claims it does. That being true, isn't it time something was done to change it?

Legacy From The Past

At the Methodist men's supper meeting at Bethel church last week Wiley Clark said something that deserves a larger audience than the 30 present.

The Methodists at Bethel are engaged in building a fine new church, just beside the old one. Sometime soon, they will move into the new building, and the old wooden church will be sold to someone who will move it away.

Mr. Clark remarked that there are a lot of things, other than furniture, in the old structure; priceless things that should be moved across to the new building. He referred to the character of the members in other years that had made the old church building possible; to the sacrifice and the prayers that had made it more than just a building; to the loyalty and faith that have made Bethel Methodist church a continuing force, down through the years . . .

What Mr. Clark so well said about his church is true in many fields. We in Macon County are making long overdue and praiseworthy material progress. But if we fail to carry over into the new and materially better period we are entering the intangible things that make a man or a community or a nation great, we shall find we have lost the real thing in an effort to get something that is important but not vital.

A Lift For Today

(Furnished by The Raleigh Times)

★ . . . The eyes of man are never satisfied.—Pr. 27: 20.

THE AVARICIOUS MAN is like the barren sandy ground of the desert which sucks in all the rain and dew with greediness, but yields no fruitful herbs or plants for the benefit of others.—Zeno.

Our Father, help us to remember that we are but stewards of what we incorrectly call our own. May we realize that all the good things of the world are no further good to us than as they are of use.

The Grass Roots Opera

Congratulations are due the Macon County unit of the North Carolina Education Association for bringing the Grass Roots Opera to Franklin.

This North Carolina group will present Mozart's comic opera, "School for Lovers", tomorrow (Friday) at the East Franklin school. Two performances are scheduled, one for school children at 1:30 o'clock in the afternoon, and the second, for adults, at 8 in the evening.

The local N. C. E. A. hopes to make a little money on the event, and no doubt capacity audiences will enable it to do so.

But if it does no better than break even financially, it will have done a worth-while community service. Because any time good music is brought into this county, it is that much toward a more cultivated citizenry, and a better community life.

Missing A Bet

Franklin and Macon County and Southwestern North Carolina are missing a bet—an exceptionally good bet.

We are failing to take advantage of the great tourist attraction we have in the Nantahala National Forest. The proof of how attractive it is to tourists is found in figures compiled and issued by the State Advertising committee.

Last year Nantahala Forest was visited by 1,699,000 persons. This compares with just under 2 million attracted by the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

If more than a million and a half people visit the Forest without our doing anything about getting them here, how many would come if we really made the most of the opportunity the Forest offers us?

Our Best Bows — Four Of 'Em

Anybody want to take over as editor of The Press?

O. K. Here's the typewriter. And here's the office key. Moreover, here's luck to you—you'll need it!

For consider the plight of an editor. He's damned if he does. He's damned if he doesn't.

A case in point:

A fortnight ago The Press commented on how refreshingly different a recent P. T. A.-sponsored supper at the Cullasaja school was. It was non-benefit, non-charge, non-formal; the womenfolks in the community prepared and brought a delicious supper to the school, and the people of the community gathered for the meal, talked informally, and then sang some songs. We said it was a pleasant, community-unifying, worth-while affair; that the idea was so good and so new, the supper ought to become an annual affair. Between-the-lines, perhaps, we suggested that other schools follow the Cullasaja example.

And what happened?

We heard from Cullasaja's neighbor, the school at Otto!

Because the idea, it seems, wasn't new at all. It's already an annual event with the Otto P. T. A.; they've been doing it for four years! And The Press had never mentioned the Otto suppers!

We plead guilty. But to paraphrase Will Rogers, all we put in the paper is what somebody tells us. And all these years Otto has been hiding its suppers under the proverbial bushel.

We've got nothing to take back (and maybe you think that doesn't take courage!). We still think the idea is a fine one. We still make our best bow to Cullasaja.

But we also make our best bows to Otto—four of 'em! (And we dare the Otto folks, after we've written this about them, not to invite us next year!)

Our American Civilization

Preaching conservation; practicing destruction.

The parasites, those who produce nothing, laughing at the farmers, those who produce the one basic essential, as "hicks".

Spending an hour lost in the daily newspaper; remarking when it's completely read, that "there's nothing in the paper today".

Assuming that because the United States, with vast natural resources, has prospered by industrialization that that therefore is the economic cure-all for every nation, regardless of resources.

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

I FOUND

I found a song in my heart today,
I sent it into the cool of May;
A listening bird came out of the blue
And carried the song to the heart of you.

ELTA HANDT BLANCHARD

Letters

SUGGESTS MILKING SCHOOL

Dear Mr. Jones:

Why not a milking school in Franklin?

If that sounds silly think how many urban girls marry men who either own a farm or move to a farm. For these young women, it seems to me, a milking school in Franklin would be very practical.

This is just a suggestion, as I think there will be a back-to-the-farm movement when the present prices deflate to nothing in no time at all.

My idea would be to give the beginners real gentle cows, but give nice kicking cows to those who think they know it all!

Certificates could be awarded to those who master the art of milking, and then milking contests could be held.

Sincerely yours,

BOB RAMSEY

Long Beach, Calif.

Others' Opinions

THE PERFECT EDITORIAL

We read recently where a certain editor was receiving complaints about his editorials. There is nothing unusual about that, but this editor felt that he was receiving too many.

He decided to do something about it. He took a passage from the Bible and placed it on the front page as an editorial. The next day some irate subscribers called him and gave him the devil about the editorial. The editor told the reader, "Sorry, tell Jesus about it; he wrote."—Ashley Futrell in Washington News.

HE WENT UP INTO A MOUNTAIN

Press and platform are busy these days telling us what the United States must do to be militarily and economically strong. It is clear that we must be both, and it is fairly clear how we can become both. While our material forces are being geared to ward off war, however, what are we doing to strengthen spiritual forces? What are we doing to win men's hearts to peace; for material might is a way only to temporary peace.

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STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

I like the uncommon place names that are so common in Macon County and this area. Names like Cullasaja and Cartoogechaye, Chunky Gal and Onion Mountain, Highlands and Burningtown. Many of the spots and communities here have names that are unusual or musical or picturesque, or all three. And I like even better the designations that aren't formally names at all, but which tell everybody who lives here the place is meant; a word or phrase somebody sometime used to describe a spot—and it fitted so well it stuck.

What, for example, could have a pleasanter note than Blossomtown? or could be a more accurate description than Town Hill? or could conjure up a better SOUND picture than Frogtown Branch?

Some of these days, no doubt, people who want everything conventional and proper will want to change Blossomtown to Smithville or Jonesboro or Brownton—or something else unusual! And they'll want to make our Town Hills (we have two of 'em!) East and West Boulevards or Main Extensions, or something equally dull and uninteresting. And Frogtown Branch! Can't you just hear them: "How uncouth. Let's change that. Let's call it South Franklin Creek".

Years ago there was another interesting term in use. Back when only half a dozen or so Franklin families lived on the east side of the Little Tennessee river, they—and everybody else—would have told you that those families lived "over the river". That was the standard description of that part of the community lying east of the river; and those three words described the section about as accurately, as vividly, and as beautifully as words could.

Why not revive that phrase? "East Franklin" is all right, of course, but there's nothing very beautiful about it; it isn't very vivid; and certainly it isn't specific, because "East Franklin" could mean all of Franklin lying east of the courthouse, rather than what is meant—that part of the town that is "over the river".

Besides, there probably are as many East Franklins in the United States as there Franklins—and that number is 29! But if the folks "over the river" should decide to rechristen their community, "Over-the-River", they'd have something unique.

A family would live "on Second Street, Over-the-River"; it would be "the Over-the-River school"; etc.

This is just a neighborly suggestion from this side of the river to the folks who live "over the river". They are the ones who live there; they are the ones to say.

If they liked the idea, they could even take it up with the board of aldermen and make it official: "Over-the-River, Franklin, North Carolina". Who could forget that address!

Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

For lack of anything else to write about, I will go way out on a limb and make some predictions about things which I believe will happen in Macon county within the next 10 years, and then I will go a little further and suggest some more things which, as one person I think should happen, but probably won't. But remember it's a free country and this will just be one man's opinion.

Within the next 10 years U. S. 23 will follow a new route, turning off about the site of the old T. W. Angel barn and following the Frogtown branch to a point near Maple street (the Old Georgia Road). Franklin will have regular air freight service between both Atlanta and Asheville, there will be an increase in the agricultural growth of the county and decline in the tourist growth, the industrial payrolls will remain about the same with probably one new mill or industry coming here and one moving away. Franklin will have an additional bank, Highlands will obtain an industry—probably in the wood craft field, the population of Macon County will increase to around 21,000 to 22,000—Franklin will probably be a town of around 3,500.

Now as to some of the things which I think should happen, but probably won't. Both Franklin and Highlands should take over or build and operate swimming pools and recreation areas. The people of Nantahala should band together and go all out to bring tourists to their area. Macon County should double its tax valuation, have all property appraised by an impartial group on an equal basis and cut the tax rate by one third, steps should be taken to widen the business streets, city manager forms of government should be established in both Highlands, and Franklin, County officials should be paid on salary rather than a fee basis, vocational agricultural and home economics should be taught at the Franklin, Highlands, and Nantahala schools. Well, I guess that is enough points of contention for one issue.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

It is said that the happiest man in Georgia has six fiddles, ten children and thirteen hounds, a deaf and dumb wife and a moonshine still that has never been spotted by the government.

Dr. Frank T. Smith has caught it where the chicken got the axe. He bewails a carbuncle on the neck that he regards more cross than an ill natured baby.

One of the old landmarks of Franklin is disappearing this week. The old store building on the Robinson corner is being torn down.

25 YEARS AGO

A merger of the independent telephone companies in Franklin, Sylva, Bryson City, and Clayton, Ga., into a single concern, with its home office at Franklin, was announced here Saturday by D. G. Stewart, manager of the local company.

T. W. Angel Jr., has changed the name of his drug store from the Franklin Pharmacy to Angel's Drug store. The sign on the window bearing the latter name is undoubtedly the most artistic in town.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Ethel Mincey and two daughters, Sallie Sue and Ruth, have moved to Bryson City where they will operate the Hiawatha Craft house on Route 19.

Mrs. Wade Cunningham has returned home after a visit to her children, Mr. and Mrs. William Cunningham, in Norfolk, Va.

Some 6½ million farm families were reached in 1950 by the Cooperative Extension Service program conducted by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, the land-grant colleges in the various states, and local counties.

In the last 15 years, total production of American farmers has increased about 40 per cent.