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JULY 17, 1952

A Lift For Today

★ We made our prayer unto our God and set a watch.
—Ne. 4:9.

PRAY AS THOUGH all depended upon God, and work as though all depended upon you. Prayer and work, coupled with complete faith, will work miracles.

Teach us, O Lord, to pray and obey—to pray and work

Unwise And Unjust

Most citizens of the town probably will agree that Franklin's mayor and aldermen are men of fine character and good intentions, men genuinely interested in the welfare of the community, and men to whom the community owes appreciation for long hours devoted to the town's business, for purely nominal pay.

It does not follow, however, that gratitude demands of the citizen that he accept without question every policy his public officials adopt. On the contrary, these policies, because they are the public's business, and because even the best public officials can be wrong, should be discussed and debated.

The question of the policy, adopted by Franklin's board of aldermen last week, of making a charge for use of the town's sewer facilities is a case in point.

Quite properly, the town authorities seek ways and means of extending the sewer system. Ordinary justice, indeed, demands that the sewer service be extended.

For when a man buys or builds a home in town, he automatically becomes subject to a town ad valorem tax. In exchange for that property tax, he is entitled to receive something. And about the least his town tax should buy for him would include reasonably adequate police protection, the availability of water and sewer service, and improved streets. Those are about the only things his extra tax dollar in town will buy for him that he cannot get out of town.

The property tax dollar he pays the town ought to finance these services; if it won't, then the property tax rate is too low.

To finance the cost of providing sewer service for him by levying a service charge is fundamentally wrong. And here are two of several reasons why:

1. Sanitation is primarily a community problem. The community is interested in sanitation on private property chiefly because lack of sanitation is a community danger. Because community safety is involved, the community has the right to require sanitary practices on private property. But it does not have the right to require a man to do something for the protection of the entire community—and then charge him for doing it. It would be almost as reasonable to draft a young man into the armed forces for the protection of the country, and then charge him an admission fee into the army!

2. Franklin has one of the lowest ad valorem tax rates in the state. But, in a land of abundant water, it has one of the highest water rates—a rate that is both a service charge AND a tax. Now it is proposed to add a sewer charge.

While we do not believe it is consciously so intended, the practical effect is to shift a disproportionate part of the cost of operating the town to the small home.

That is not right. And, if we want the town to grow, it does not make sense.

Add Similes: As rare as the man who can tell his wife what they served at the men's supper.

Republicanism Tomorrow

Last week's convention in Chicago may have been the Republicans' last.

While indications a month ago were that General Eisenhower, at that time, could have defeated any Democrat, there is serious question today whether any Republican can win; it would take something in the nature of a miracle to unite the party after the bitterness of the convention. And surely there is question whether the party can survive a sixth successive defeat.

But whatever the future of Republicanism as a political party, the convention almost certainly marked the end of Republicanism, as Americans have known it, as a political philosophy.

The Old Guard made its last stand in Chicago; even if constant defeat had not robbed it of its vigor, the advancing age of its members has. Four years from now the faction that backed Taft is unlikely to be a major factor.

The Republican party of the past, however, was something greater than Old Guard politicians. That perhaps over-maligned group, in fact, drew its strength from Republican belief in representative—as distinguished from democratic—government.

And the voting strength of the party has been the man typified by the New England Yankee. Much like our own people of the Southern Appalachians, he is a somewhat stern individualist; a man with a high sense of duty and responsibility, who believes in going his own way, taking care of himself, and letting the other fellow take care of himself. Out of that attitude, grew Republican isolationism.

Prior to 1932, the Republicans, of course, counted most heavily on the rural voter of the Middle West, rather than on New England. But generally speaking the run-of-the-mine Republican voter of the past, wherever he lived, has been an individualist.

The Chicago convention leaves, among many others, these unanswered questions:

Where can the individualist voter go now? Will a new party emerge to give voice to his philosophy? Or is the individualist in America a vanishing species?

But They're Worth It!

Nobody likes to pay taxes, and it never is pleasant for a public official to raise the tax rate.

But you can't operate a Rolls Royce automobile for what it cost you to drive the old Model T Ford. Furthermore, if you are going to own a Rolls Royce, you'd be stupid not to build a garage to keep it in.

That is roughly the situation of Macon County as to its schools. We've built something like a million dollars worth of fine new buildings. We must operate and take care of them, and that will cost money. Moreover, we still lack the "garage"—several of them, in fact.

Members of the board of county commissioners are to be congratulated on facing the facts in this case, and acting accordingly.

Whether the tax increase of only 10 cents is enough remains to be seen.

A Fine Thing

It is a fine thing Franklin churches do each summer in bringing an outstanding guest preacher here for the series of county-wide, interdenominational evangelistic services at the Friendship Tabernacle. The community has been fortunate in the high calibre of the speakers in past years. And it is fortunate again this year, because the Rev. G. Ray Jordan, who will be heard at the tabernacle each evening, Sunday through the following Saturday, is considered one of the great preachers of modern Methodism.

Television viewers of last week's Republican convention learned one thing, if nothing else: That there are a lot of public speakers who cannot make a speech.

Truman says there'll be no bolt, says a headline. Well, there are a lot of Democratic hopefuls who pray he is wrong. They not only hope for a bolt, but hope the lightning will strike them.

Men are much like boys; witness the situation in Korea. There the UN is saying to the Koreans just about what the winning small boy in a fight would say to his antagonist: "Haven't had enough, eh? O. K. I'll bloody your nose some more. I'll keep on bloodying it till I make you like me."

WHO'S ZOO—ON THE HIGHWAY



DONT BE A BILLY GOAT and try to butt in at intersections. Always assume the other fellow has the right of way and you'll live longer.

Our American Civilization

Spending millions to eliminate highway curves, so that motorists, usually going nowhere, can get there twice as quickly.

Driving ourselves 50 weeks in the year, so we can save enough money to have the two-week vacation the 50 weeks of strain require.

Backers of civil rights legislation citing the 14th and 15th amendments to the U. S. Constitution to prove that such legislation must be federal; those same constitution-citers conveniently ignoring another amendment, the tenth, which flatly says that "powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution . . . are reserved to the States".

Newspaper Shop Talk

Mostly About Us

The hardest job any editor has is to read his own newspaper, only an optimist would stay in it!; the editor sits down, Thursday morning, to read the paper. Picks it up with pleasant anticipation.

As a rule, he is quickly disillusioned. As he reads, the enthusiasm rapidly fades from his face; in its place, a frown appears.

Scanning column after column, he thinks of so many things that should have been in the paper, but which—due to lack of space or of time or to some other factor—are not. He sees so many things (things the casual reader probably never notices) that are done wrong, and so many other things that could have been done better.

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ST HE MING HEL PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

The recent feature story in The Press about Ham Penland, Negro centenarian, recalls an earlier period in Franklin, when relations between the races were quite different from those of today.

Many persons have come to think of that period as one marked almost exclusively by Negro-cheating, Negro-baiting, Negro-lynching, and general hatred between the races.

By today's standards, there undoubtedly were some injustices, but it is worth recalling that the Negro of the early 1900's was a very different individual from the Negro of 1952; customs of that day were designed—and rather well designed—to fit conditions and circumstances.

While the years have perhaps brought a decrease in the injustices, there is serious question whether relations between the races have improved.

In that period, the Negro looked to his white friends for advice, protection, and security—and usually got them. Going along with that somewhat paternalistic relationship was genuine respect, among Negroes, for the better whites, and among whites, for the better Negroes. Perhaps even more important, there usually was a bond of deep affection between the individual Negro and members of the white families that employed him.

Youngsters of that day, it is true, never called a Negro Mr. or Mrs. But they were careful to show deference for the older Negroes by use of a more intimate "handle" to the name—to white children, the older Negro invariably was uncle or aunt.

If a white youngster forgot that, he received sure and prompt bodily reminder from his parents; or, if they were not present, often the old Negro administered corporal punishment—and any child in a self-respecting white family knew better than to tattle-tale about it.

There was thoughtful consideration, on both sides, for sensitive feelings. Well-trained white children, for example, never used the word Negro, and certainly not the word nigger; instead, they referred to colored persons as "darkies".

And that consideration extended to the individual. I still can feel the knuckle-rapping I received from my mother when I questioned one of our cooks too closely about how she could have a child without ever having been married. There was no condoning the sin that had brought about such a situation, but it definitely was not for a child, even innocently, to embarrass the sinner.

Among the beloved darkies of that day that I personally remember were Aunt Jane Murray, Aunt Martha Porter, Aunt Caroline Obey, Aunt Angeline Scruggs, Uncle Jess Coleman, and Uncle Dick Addington.

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News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Many reams of copy paper will be used in analyzing the Republican convention, so I may as well get my two cents worth. (Many people, if they happen to read this, will say that putting a value of two cents on this writing that is another proof of the extreme degree of inflation we now have).

There were two things that happened at the Republican convention which pleased many people—Democrats and Republicans.

1. Machine politics in the hands of a well entrenched and firmly established "Old Guard" received a defeat at the hands of a group which was not entirely devoid of professional politicians, but was composed of a group of people who were trying to reflect more nearly the voice of the people. The Eisenhower group also made it possible for the Republican party to escape the stigma of placing before the American people a "Smoke Filled Room" candidate, or one elected by the votes of "Puppet Delegations" from the South.

2. In selecting their candidates the Republican party is offering the American public new blood and youth. The vice-presidential candidate is only 39 years old. The presidential nominee is making his first appearance as a candidate on the American political scene. These two factors help to add vigor, vitality, and originality to the fall election.

The other day a native of Macon County who was riding out in the county looking at the fine homes and farms found throughout the county was heard to exclaim, "This county sure has had its face lifted in the past 10 years". He then remarked that he had not seen such prosperity in any other part of the United States in the rural areas. Since he had just completed a trans-continent trip we feel that that is quite a compliment. He was particularly impressed with the improvement in the quality of live stock found here, better pastures, and better rural roads. He was so impressed with the improved roads that he spent two afternoons driving places

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

A few days ago near Etna the little son of Deputy Sheriff Cary Hall, aged about 5 years, and a little girl cousin about the same age, while at play found a rattlesnake in the weeds. Without raising any alarm they procured a stick about three feet long and beat the snake to death and taking it up on the stick carried it to the house. The snake was over two feet in length.

Mr. Grundy Hill, of Horse Cove, was in town Monday on business and received his cross of honor as a Confederate veteran.

Mr. Chas. L. Ingram, of Franklin, traveling salesman for the J. K. Orr Shoe Co., Atlanta, was in town last Friday and Saturday.

25 YEARS AGO

Talk about a time, but ask Sovereigns L. M. Pritchett, H. Sloan Rickman, and John W. Edwards. These boys of Franklin went to Asheville July 11 to a meeting of the W. O. W. It was a glorious affair, banquet, a real feast, musical program of great variety, and five speeches.

The man who can enforce the parking law in Franklin without making somebody mad ought to have a gold medal, or a whole flock of them for that matter.

Our water is short and soft. Better take that bath now while there is sufficient water to wet the cuticle—whatever that is.

10 YEARS AGO

Funeral services for J. Matt Daves, 96, the last remaining Confederate veteran in Macon County, were held Tuesday afternoon at Clark's Chapel Methodist church.

R. S. O'Mohundro, manager of the Auto Associate Store, has purchased the stock of the Five-and-Ten cent store of Jack Sanders, next door, which will be called the Franklin Variety Store.