

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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APRIL 29, 1954

Lennon vs Scott

It would be hard to find two men as different as the major contenders for the Democratic nomination for U. S. senator.

Mr. Lennon could be counted on always to do the respectable thing; North Carolinians would have little reason to fear he ever would make a spectacle of himself. But even his best friends would hardly claim that he ever would greatly distinguish himself in the Senate.

Mr. Scott, on the other hand, is unpredictable. He would be quite likely to do the unorthodox thing; it is conceivable that he might sometimes make a fool of himself. But it is entirely possible that he would become a great senator.

So you can pay your money and take your choice.

Could It?

With the highways in the shape they are in, Franklin's tourists this summer may be few and far between.

But some people will come through Franklin. Will we keep those who do come?—for a few days, or even a few hours?

When you or I want to make a good impression on strangers, one of the first things we do is to clean up and dress up.

And the same is true of a town. A town that is spic and span—clean streets, sidewalks, alleys, and vacant lots, attractive yards, neat stores and businesses—is the kind of town in which a stranger is tempted to tarry.

Could Franklin stand a first class spring cleaning?

A Hard Decision

Is the United States going to become engaged in another interminable Korean war, this time in Indochina?

The Eisenhower administration faces a hard decision. Nobody wants a war, and even less does anybody want another "police action". But are we going to sit idly by while the Russians take over all southeast Asia?

It is a tough decision in any case. It isn't made any easier by the Republicans' campaign cry, back in 1952, that the fighting in Korea, under almost identical circumstances, was "Truman's war".

American troops may be fighting in Indochina within a few months. If that possibility were not under serious consideration in Washington, Vice-President Nixon never would have said, as he did the other day, that that was a possibility.

And Nobody's Voted On It

Nobody has voted to do it, but it is entirely possible we have adopted universal military training as permanent U. S. policy.

Such a policy has not been approved by Congress, and certainly it has not been submitted, directly or indirectly, to the voters. But whether it actually is called universal military training or goes under some other name, it is a fact that we are fast accustoming ourselves to the idea that most young men must serve a stint in the armed forces.

That matter of gradually coming to take something for granted can be very effective in fixing policy. Add to that the spreading sense of fatalism in America, and it is obvious that not just military service for young men, but many other policies may be fixed without anybody's voting on it.

This sense of fatalism, this feeling that the individual is impotent to influence his own future, seems especially marked among young people, and The Daily Tar Heel, University of North Carolina

student newspaper, the other day commented on "how conditioned we have become to accepting the Government's word: about Korea, Indochina, Communism, atomic energy—in other words, those vital areas that mean our lives. Accepted it not because we agree with it (we often don't), but because we feel compelled to. How little we express ourselves in our democracy. Some of us, silent because we are incapable of articulation, more of us silent because we have become accustomed to feeling that the Government, in matters of war or national emergency, is all wise; when not wise, at least invincible."

The remedy? The Daily Tar Heel suggests:

"Protest. Challenge. Question. Accept nothing solely on the basis of its genesis."

That attitude once was commonplace. The strange sound those phrases have today suggests how far we have gone toward letting the government make all the decisions — often without even our knowledge.

Others' Opinions

AT LEAST CURTAINS FIT

(Richmond Times-Dispatch)

One thing about moving frequently—you may not have many friends, but you end up with curtains that will fit almost any kind of window.

JUST GOING ISN'T ENOUGH

(Lexington Dispatch)

"Every year of schooling increases adult income," says Forrest H. Shuford, state commissioner of labor, who bases this statement on comparative "figures of income and education. Mr. Shuford uses these figures as an argument for better enforcement of the compulsory attendance law than the state has ever had as a whole.

The commissioner quotes 1950 census figures as showing that men high school graduates 25 years old and over averaged \$753 more income in 1949 than did eighth grade graduates, and the difference in women was \$675 in favor of the high school graduates.

A good many eighth graders reach 16 during or before the first high school year and do drop out of school and go to work. The four years of high school therefore appear to be the most profitable public school years of all as measured by future income.

Of course, there are some who drop out of school in or after the eighth grade who really never graduated from anything. Some of these were just pushed along to make room, in keeping with a general public school policy in North Carolina.

There are also high school students who are going to school only because their parents insist, or simply because it seems the thing to do. Surely Commissioner Shuford would find that even the census figures hold little promise for those who choose to drift through these golden years.

Not many high school diplomas are awarded to those who merely "stayed" in school. These are supposed to go only to those who work enough to deserve them, and the drones usually fall out ere their due commencement day arrives. But the census figures do show that working in school really pays.

CALL FOR DETAILS

(Greensboro Daily News)

The SBI should release the full evidence on which it concludes that the suicide of George Henry Smith justifies the writing of "closed" after the case of the booby-trap bomb murder of William Homer Cochrane, Jr., at Mount Airy in 1951 and a similar attempt upon the life of his widow at Edenton last week.

SBI spokesmen had previously revealed that they had a lead on these cases and intimated that an arrest was about to be made. They subsequently announced that Smith had been under suspicion ever since the Mount Airy blast, that two agents had questioned him for the first time Thursday and that he disappeared shortly thereafter. It was next morning that his body was found in a thicket near his home. The suicide, following this series of events, must necessarily enter the picture and have decisive bearing in the SBI's final conclusion.

But at that it is only circumstantial evidence. As far as we have noted, the SBI has not as this is written revealed sufficient evidence, in our thinking, to win a jury verdict. SBI Chief James Powell, however, seems quite positive. The bureau has "sufficient evidence," he told reporters, to support its contention that Smith was responsible for both the Mount Airy and Edenton bombings. Then why not go ahead and release it?

If the SBI did not consider the case closed or had any idea that there might be an accessory, then its withholding of evidence which might be used to complete its investigation and bring any other guilty party to justice would be imperative. But if the SBI considers the case closed, why suppress any of the evidence which led it to brand a dead man a murderer and end its own responsibility in a long-standing mystery?

There is one other question which is likely to stick in the public mind: If the SBI felt so strongly about Smith, had damaging evidence against him and believed his arrest imminent, why did it not go ahead and take him in custody for further and prolonged questioning or at least place him under the sort of surveillance which would have prevented his disappearance and suicide? Thus whether solution was far or near, the SBI in its public accounting still appears to have some details to fill in.

Letters

THE HULLS REMEMBER

(Editor's Note: The Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Hull were American Sunday School rural workers in this area for 15 years. Mrs. Hull served as pastor of the Methodist West Macon Circuit from 1947 to 1952. The couple left here in February for Missouri, where Mr. Hull is serving as acting superintendent of the A.S.S.U. south-central district.)

Dear Friends of Macon County:

Should we remind you how beautiful are your mountains, how enjoyable your climate, and of the blessing of abundant rainfall? No, we are not homesick, but if we can remind you of your blessings and help you to be more thankful for the garden-spot you live in—we are glad to do that.

We are liking Springfield, Missouri—the people are friendly, and the country interesting. We really have the wide open spaces, although a few miles north brings us into rolling country, and to the south, the Ozark Mountains, and the Shepherd of the Hills Country, made famous by Harold Bell Wright's book by that name. There has been a drought in this area; for over two years the rainfall has been very scant, not sufficient for garden, pastures, or crops. There has been a few inches since we came, and everyone is hoping the drought is over, but still at this season they say there should be more. We have some garden stuff planted—hoping.

* Soon after coming, we met a retired minister who told us of a closed church about fifty miles north of Springfield. In his early ministry he served there, but for about a year now there has been no Sunday School or regular service. We called in the homes, announced a service, and started a Sunday School with eight that first Sunday. Now our enrollment is 25, and we believe interest will continue to increase. This is a rural community centered around a Post Office, two stores, filling station, school and church. Farming and cattle are the chief means of livelihood both of which have been greatly affected by the drought.

Our work here includes the supervision of nine men working in Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, and Oklahoma. Most of these are located in the Ozark Mountain area, but we believe there is a need for many more, in the other areas of our district. We shall be speaking in churches, seeking to secure support for the maintenance and expansion of the work. Last year there were 174 active Sunday Schools with around 9,000 teachers and scholars under the ministry of our Sunday School workers.

It is difficult to say just what you friends in Macon County have meant to us. We came to Franklin in 1938, as strangers, not knowing a soul. You received us into your churches, welcomed us, became interested in our efforts to organize Sunday Schools where they were needed, willing for us to have chapel devotional services with your children in the schools and in many other ways encouraged us. Many times we felt the poorer by not being able to participate in town and county activities for our work took us over eight counties, and some of the time we were working in 30 or more communities. But we appreciated your willingness to overlook our absences, and to excuse our failure to contribute to the local community life, and to be the personal friend, we would have liked to have been.

The Franklin Press will continue to be on our reading table, but personal letters are so much better. So if you will write us, we would be so glad to hear.

Your friends in the land of "Show Me",

RONALD AND ISABELLE HULL

Box 2155, National Station
Springfield, Missouri.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

CHAPEL HILL. — Perhaps the most revolutionary change that has ever taken place in America is the change in farm methods and farm living during the last half-century. It has gathered momentum as it has gone along, and today appears to be moving faster than ever before—certainly so, in Western North Carolina.

To cite only a few of the scores of illustrations that could be cited: Plowing no longer must be done with horse at one end of the plow and a man at the other — we use a fuel-driven tractor instead. The farm women folks no longer must turn cream into home-made butter to be taken to town and there turned into money—instead, the farmers sell cream wholesale to the milk processors. And the family cow no longer is an animal pet, almost a member of the family—she is, instead, one of a flock of milk machines: You put in so much protein, fat, roughage, etc., at a cost of such-and-such and you get so much butterfat, to be marketed at such-and-such a price, with a net profit of such-and-such.

Farming is fast becoming a scientific operation, an industry, much like the manufacture and marketing of any item made in a factory. Along with that have come modern conveniences; electric lights in the home and the barn, mechanical refrigerators, washing machines, vacuum cleaners, and a host of other gadgets.

And gone is the old isolation in which the farm family lived. The farmer and his family ride in motor-driven vehicles, over good roads, to visit the neighbors, or to town on business or pleasure. And, when they stay home, they are in constant touch with the whole world via radio and television.

Industrialization of farming, plus good roads and modern inventions, have changed — in truth, they have just about destroyed—a way of life. There is very little difference in the way the person on the modern farm lives from the way his cousin in the city lives. Compare life on the farm today with rural life even twenty-five years ago, and it is easy to see that a way of life — and a way that, in many respects, was a good way — is gone.

Don't get me wrong! I'm all for the farmer's making a handsome profit on his labors. I'm all for the farmer's wife having every modern convenience possible. I'm all for an easier farm life, for, goodness knows, farm life in the past could stand some easing.

The point is we are losing a way of life out of which have come some of the finest values we have in America, some of the sturdiest character this nation has had. Gone are many of the difficulties the family shared in common—youth peopled in the old days on the farm

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

I can't decide which I think is the more out of place, the McCarthy - Schine - Stevenson - Army affair or the overlap it is being given by the press-radio- and television. I can't see why the various publicity mediums don't realize that in so publicizing McCarthy that they are helping to build something which in turn may destroy them. How long does anyone think this three ring circus now going on in Washington would be continued if the affair were given only normal coverage or underplayed a little. I believe that McCarthy would fold his tents and steal away.

Speaking of McCarthy, before Senator Lennon spoke at the dedication the other day over at Sylva it was announced in the paper that he would have something to say concerning his position and views toward McCarthy. So far as I have been able to learn he made no mention of it. Why did he change his mind? It seems strange to me that the newspapers would say before hand that he was going to comment on it and then fail to mention it, if he had stated clearly his position on McCarthy.

* * * * *
If there is dissatisfaction in the school system here there are generally a large number of candidates to file for the Board of Education. Judging by the small number that filed this year the public must be better satisfied with the way the schools have been operated than they have been in a good many years. Congratulations to all officials concerned.

* * * * *
There is a strong probability that work on the road through Wayah Gap will be begun this fall. Everyone here should sure insist that this project is started as soon as possible and also that as soon as the money can be obtained that the project which now stops at Fiery branch be completed on to Nantahala station. Also let's be alert to see that the funds now set up are not shifted to some other project.

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

We had snow and sleet last Wednesday.

Mr. Charlie Roper, of Burnington, killed a 22½ pound turkey gobbler Thursday and sent it to Mr. H. G. Trotter Friday.

Mr. Harve Mashburn is building on his lot on the ridge between Mr. A. W. Horn's place and Mr. J. T. Moore's. He has the frame of his dwelling up.

The Monument Fund restaurant seems to be well patronized this week, and will add a neat little sum of cash to the monument fund.

25 YEARS AGO

The late George Carson, grandfather of Mrs. J. P. Conley, is said to have driven the first wagon brought to the county by white men. His descendants do not know the route over which the wagon was driven, but from all reports, Mr. Conley experienced considerable difficulty in getting the wagon across the mountains. In those days only Indian trails crossed the Co-wees and the Nantahalas.

Plans for the Centennial are progressing nicely. Among the interesting features of the celebration will be a general roll call of the old Confederate Veterans, who will be the guests of Attorney and Mrs. T. J. Johnston.

It is said the road up the Cullasaja to Highlands will be opened to the public early in June. We predict many tourists will travel this section of road. From the scenic standpoint, it perhaps has no equal in the South.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Charles Hunter and two small daughters, Jean and Joan, have returned to their home in Knoxville, Tenn., after visiting Mrs. Hunter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Zickgraf.

The Rev. H. M. Alley announced his resignation as pastor of the Highlands Baptist Church Sunday morning. Mr. Alley has accepted a call to the pastorate of the Baptist church in Burnsville.

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