

# The Franklin Press

and

## The Highlands Maconian

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WEIMAR JONES	Editor
BOB S. SLOAN	Advertising Manager
J. P. BRADY	News Editor-Photographer
MRS. ALLEN SILER	Society Editor-Office Manager
MRS. MARION BRYSON	Proofreader
CARL P. CABE	Operator-Machinist
FRANK A. STARRETTE	Compositor
G. E. CRAWFORD	Stereotyper
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON	Pressman
DAVID H. SUTTON	Commercial Printer

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JUNE 21, 1956

## For (Young) Men Only

In the spring, we're told, a young man's fancy turns to thoughts of love. And since June comes on the heels of spring, June is quite likely to be not only the month of weddings, but of engagements as well.

And what does a young Macon County man in love give his betrothed — whether it be June or December? Well, ninety-nine times out of a hundred, he is highly original and gives her a ring set with a diamond — exactly what nearly every other young man in America gives his sweetheart!

Macon County young men may not have thought of it, but there's no law that says the engagement ring stone **must** be a diamond. And right here in Macon County we have a wide variety of choices in other gems — the red rubies we are hearing so much about just now, the green emerald, the white or blue sapphire, the pink or purple rhodolite, and many others.

Such a stone would be more appropriate; first of all, because a stone from a young man's native area would have far more sentimental value than one from South Africa. And more appropriate because it would show some thought and discrimination by the giver.

Too, when a young man gives his girl a corsage, if he is thoughtful, he selects one that will go with her costume. Why not the same thing in the choice of an engagement ring stone, something to go with her eyes, or her hair, or her complexion?

And what would the young woman say? Well, if she really were in love with her John or her Bill, chances are she'd think just about anything he did was O. K. Beyond that, she'd probably be thrilled that he had thought of her as somebody special, and so had given her something special.

We suspect, in fact, the kiss he'd get would have a warmth in sharp contrast to the coldness of a diamond.

## More School Progress

Three important indications of educational progress, county-wide, were cited in this column last week.

Well, they were only three of many; improvements are being made at every school in Macon County; and at Franklin High School, which serves the entire county, except for the Highlands and Nantahala areas, there has been an impressive series of developments.

Coming one at a time, they may not, individually, have attracted wide attention; but when it is taken into account that all of them have taken place in a period of four years, the progress at the high school here becomes notable. That they have all come about in a short four years was pointed out by a student, Tommy Gnuse, in his 1956 valedictory address.

Here are a few of them:

Completion of the new gymnasium, construction of the present high school building, and, more recently, the building of an annex, with additional classrooms and an equipped science department.

At the football field, the bleachers, the press box, and the electric scoreboard are all less than four years old. More recently, the field has been grassed. Courses added include automobile driver education, mechanical drawing, government, advanced mathematics, business law, economics, sociology, and more science. And for the first time, the school has a full-time librarian.

These are impressive; not impressive enough to

make us complacent, because there's a lot left to do, but surely impressive enough to be encouraging.

And the most encouraging thing of all is that school progress throughout the county has been brought about by everybody — the county commissioners, representing the taxpayers; county school authorities; teachers; students; P. T. A.'s; and civic organizations — working together.

## The Tabernacle Meetings

The annual series of evangelistic services at Friendship Tabernacle here is something out of the ordinary.

These services are unusual, first of all, because of the calibre of the visiting ministers who do the preaching; and they are unusual because the program is county-wide, with churches from all Protestant denominations cooperating.

They deserve support, by attendance. More to the point, those who attend the remaining services (tonight and Friday night) because it is a contribution they feel they owe the community are likely to find, when they return home, that they have received much more than they have given.

## Mountain Staple

Sometime ago, Governor Hodges received an inquiry from outside the state about what are the favorite foods of Tar Heels. The inquiry was referred to the advertising division of the Department of Conservation and Development for research and a reply.

Well, we wouldn't attempt to pin-point the favorite foods of North Carolinians, or even of us mountaineers. But we could have told the Governor and his inquirer what is the **staple** food in this end of the state, the food item served more often than any other, except bread.

It's green beans! Whether it's a meal for the family, a "company" dinner, or a church or community event, you'll find them on most tables every day, the year 'round; sometimes twice every day.

## Others' Opinions

(Opinions expressed in this space are not necessarily those of The Press. Editorials selected for reprinting here, in fact, are chosen with a view to presenting a variety of viewpoints. They are, that is, just what the caption says — **OTHERS' Opinions.**)

### Elect School Boards

(Smithfield Herald)

Public education ought to be free from the damaging influences of both partisan and factional politics.

Having said that, we must go on to say specifically that the present system of choosing members of the County Board of Education is not an ideal system. What is the present system? County school board members are nominated in Democratic primaries. The nominees do not run as candidates in the general election. The Legislature elects county school board members. Under this system, Democratic control of the schools in every county is assured since the Legislature always is almost 100 per cent Democratic in its makeup.

The editors of this newspaper, who are consistent supporters of the Democratic party, believe that the system of electing county school board members is unfair because the system in effect deprives North Carolina Republicans of a voice in the management of the public schools. Republicans have as much right to a voice in school matters as Democrats.

If North Carolina wishes to be fair about the election of county school board members and if North Carolina wishes to encourage divorcement of schools from factional or partisan politics, North Carolina will take steps to change the present law and establish a system of electing county school board members in independent or non-partisan county elections.

The idea of choosing school board members in non-partisan elections is supported by the best thinking in educational circles. The report of the State Education Commission, authorized by the 1947 Legislature recommended: "The local board of education should be composed of five or seven lay members to be selected at large in terms of their fitness for the position, preferably in an independent election, and for overlapping terms of six years." The report added this comment: "A separate election is not only desirable but necessary if educational interest rather than partisan politics is to dominate." Earlier in the report, the

## Poetry

Editor  
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE  
Weaverville, North Carolina

### TRUCK-RHYTHM

Below me rolls  
The rhythm of sound—  
Trucks entoning round and round,  
Music thundering on concrete roads  
Bearing to people their thrumming loads.

ELIZABETH FIELD

Asheville, N. C.



Commission had said: "At no time should the political situation enter into the method of selection of board members or into the action of these members." The Commission (which made its report in 1948) was composed of some of the foremost citizens of the state, among them R. Grady Rankin, Jule B. Warren, Carlyle Campbell, C. F. Carroll, Brandon P. Hodges and John W. Umstead.

The recommendation of that Commission ought to be adopted. The non-partisan elections should be held in the "off years" when there is no party primary or general election. Admittedly the non-partisan elections would not be an ironclad guarantee against applying the political "spoils system" to public education, but such elections would go far in safeguarding the schools from the encroachments of factional or partisan politics.

The Legislature has shown no inclination toward changing the present Democratic control of the schools. And we may be sure the non-partisan plan will not be adopted unless the people of the state in large numbers demand the fair play that is now shamefully lacking.

## Had A Southerner Said It

(Greensboro Daily News)

If a Southerner had said it, he would have been accused of impeding integration. But it came from a New York newspaper which through its history has fought for equality of rights among Americans.

For advocating abolition the New York Herald Tribune was indicted in Virginia, a mob threatened its offices in the New York Draft Riots, and on August 23, 1862, President Abraham Lincoln himself rebuked Horace Greeley for the "impatient" tone of his plea, "The Prayer of Twenty Millions," which said that "every hour of deference to slavery is an hour of added and deepened peril to the Union."

Yet here is what the Herald Tribune had to say recently about the "growing crisis" in the South:

The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, having won so much and confident of winning more, can set an example of restraint in word and deed while this complex tangle is reduced to order.

The New York newspaper did not single out the NAACP for advice but also expressed alarm at the dangerous growth of organizations in the South to consolidate white resistance to desegregation. With equal fervor it lashed at extremists on both sides: If it is folly for the South to talk of "mongrelization," it is wrong for the North to speak of using "the Army, the Navy and the F.B.I."

The Herald Tribune has come to realize what reasonable Southerners have known all along:

... a social system, whatever ills may be imbedded in it, cannot be struck down overnight without a kind of chaos that must be avoided. The Supreme Court recognized this practical fact; it did not call for immediate desegregation in the schools, but a "transition to a racially non-discriminatory school system." The nation as a whole must cling to both the goal and the spirit of the method which the court advanced.

This statement is all the more impressive coming as it does from a Northern journal. The NAACP, on the verge of filing school suits in eight "recalcitrant" states, might well pause to consider this good advice.

### STRICTLY

## PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Someone, I am told, has written an article, or maybe a book, entitled "Thank God for My Heart Attack!"

I haven't read it; but having had a minor bout with my own ticker, a couple of months back, I can readily see why such a piece could, and should, have been written. For just offhand, I myself can think of half a dozen reasons for gratitude.

First of all, of course, a heart attack provides the attackee with a perfect alibi. He has a ready-made excuse for never again, as long as he lives, doing anything he doesn't want to do!

Mow the lawn? Pull a weed out of the flower bed? Even pick up the newspapers that are likely to be piled high on the floor around my chair, come bedtime? Certainly not! My heart, you know. (How poor Dagwood must envy me!)

Two other, more serious compensations are equally apparent. Which of us does not hope, when his time comes, that the end will be mercifully swift? Well, a heart ailment increases the chances of that. More important, a heart attack, by forcing a man to give his body the reasonably good care he should have had sense enough to give it without waiting for the warning, may lengthen, rather than shorten, his life.

I do not minimize the restrictions such a situation imposes. I know I won't climb any mountains next week or next month, or maybe even next year — and I like to climb mountains. But, after all, isn't life always a matter of adapting ourselves to restrictions — and ever-changing restrictions, at that? To live, the newborn babe must adapt himself to the necessity of breathing — something his mother did for him before. Almost immediately, come

the restrictions of parental regulation. School imposes even more severe limitations on what he may and may not do. Later, there are the restrictions necessary to hold a job, then those that go with marriage and parenthood. Finally, from the time we are 30 or so, we must adjust to the slow deterioration of the body.

Which brings up the matter of handicaps. The man suddenly faced with one is likely to think of his case as unique. It isn't. He is one of the vast company that makes up most of the human race. For how few of us are perfect, even physically! The great number, old and young, who must wear glasses illustrates the point. And even those few whose bodies are without flaw often suffer from some mental handicap, ranging from the narrow lack of sympathy so characteristic of the always-well to the feeling of inferiority almost none of us escapes.

Handicaps vary in degree, of course. But the achievements of Miss Helen Keller, who has been both blind and deaf from infancy, are proof that there is no such thing as a serious handicap — except in the mind; that the only person who really is handicapped is the person who **thinks** he is.

I spoke a moment ago about having acquired an alibi for dodging unpleasant chores. I said it in fun, and I hope I meant it that way; because the greatest danger of any illness or handicap is not the thing itself, but the temptation it offers to slump.

Well, if I ever use this alibi, I'll deserve — and need — a swift kick. Yet how few of us have a friend with the brains and the courage to administer such sanity-restorer! Since I came home from the hospital, Mrs. Jones has proved not only loyal but wise; she's made it far easier for me by never once nagging, "you mustn't do that" or "you must do this." Never once! So I am encouraged to hope that, if I ever need that kick, she'll still be loyal and wise enough to see that I get it, hard. That's an extra special way in which I am fortunate.

Clint (Mayor W. C.) Burrell several years ago was reported to have told, with a perfectly straight face, how one day he started up Main Street in his car, only to have me pass him, walking. Well, I'd hardly vouch for that one; but I confess I've been a man-in-a-hurry for a long time. And for one who has spent most of his life running like the devil was after him to suddenly find himself facing a "go slow" sign is something of a shock. (I save my pride by telling myself, and sometimes others, that "I want it distinctly understood I can take

Continued on Page Three—

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

County School Superintendent T. J. Johnston went to Raleigh last week to attend the state teachers convention.

Mrs. M. E. Gaston and Miss Addie Gaston, of Buncombe County, mother and sister of Mrs. C. L. Ingram, came over on a visit last week to Mr. C. L. Ingram's family.

Misses Nina Gibson and Exie Reeves, two handsome young ladies of Bryson City, arrived Saturday and are guests of the Misses Zachary for a few days.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Mrs. G. W. Maret and Miss Stella Maret were in Westminster Wednesday on a visit to Mrs. Maret's sister, Mrs. Austin—Highlands item.

The marriage of Miss Frances Gertrude Nolen, of Franklin, and Mr. Harry Allen Wilhide, of Andrews, took place Sunday morning at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Frank H. Nolen, on Cartoogechaye.

The Tallulah Falls baseball team defeated Franklin's Nine 16 to 4 Saturday afternoon.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The Rev. B. Hoyt Evans, of Weaverville, a graduate of Princeton Theological Seminary, who for several weeks has been serving the Franklin Presbyterian Church as supply, has been called to become pastor of the church and has accepted the call.

Mrs. Florence S. Sherrill is spending this week in Philadelphia, Pa., attending the National Red Cross Convention as a representative of the Macon County Red Cross Chapter, of which she is secretary. She was accompanied on the trip by her husband, B. L. Sherrill.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom McKinney and baby, who have been residing in Columbia, S. C., have returned to Highlands to make their future home.—Highlands item.