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Subscription Rates table with columns for Outside Macon County and Inside Macon County, listing rates for One Year, Six Months, Three Months, Two Years, and Three Years.

JULY 26, 1956

Who's Being Fooled?

A dispatch from Washington quotes Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, as saying it is now possible to set off a great nuclear blast with "maximum effect in the immediate area of the target" but "with minimum widespread fall-out hazards".

What is the purpose of that statement? Is it to give reassurance to Americans? or is it to convince the leaders in the Kremlin that we have found means to set off a blast in Russian territory without at the same time destroying Europe?

The question is pertinent since virtually every admission of the great hazards from atomic energy has had to be forced out of the AEC; it has a record of failure to inform the American public even on matters that obviously need not be kept secret for security reasons.

And it is underlined by the consideration that not one fact was cited to support the statement; and by the added comment, "there won't be any further comment or amplification".

It is the same old line: "Mother knows best; children must not ask questions."

Well, on a matter of life and death, both to this nation and to civilization, it is high time their government stopped treating American citizens like children.

John Edwin Potts

J. E. Potts served the Town of Highlands, either as a member of the Board of Commissioners or as town clerk, for 18 years.

That was only one phase of his many-sided life. But that single statistic speaks eloquently of Mr. Potts' devotion to his community, and of his community's respect and confidence.

Men like Ed Potts rarely become famous. But it is men like him, rather than the few who win fame, who give character and stability to America.

Welcome

The Press will welcome the proposed radio station for Franklin.

That statement is no mere polite gesture. In fact, before someone, asking how we can welcome an advertising competitor, questions our sincerity, we hasten to say that not only do we believe in competition; we do not believe a radio station in Franklin will seriously threaten the existence of The Franklin Press. We do not, for several reasons:

In the first place, this newspaper already has competitors for advertising, many of them — the motion picture theatres, the sign boards, the school annuals and newspapers, the county fair catalogue, and almost every worth-while cause that seeks to raise money by selling advertising space, whether on a school stage curtain or in a cook book.

Second, in advertising, experience has proved there is no substitute for the printed word and picture; no other advertising medium offers the same permanence. That is especially true of the home-county weekly newspaper, because it stays on the living room table, ready-to-hand for reference, for rarely less than a week; some times longer.

Finally, our observation is that the more people are selling advertising, the more advertising-conscious business men become, and thus the more advertising there is. What happened, decades ago, in the daily field illustrates the point. When radio first became popular, the faces of most newspaper publishers got longer and longer; how disturbed they were is illustrated by the action of an ostrich-like North Carolina publisher who gave strict

It's Your AMERICA

Advertisement for 'It's Your America' featuring a portrait of Oliver Wendell Holmes and text about his dissenting views on the Supreme Court. Includes a quote: 'I DO NOT AGREE WITH A WORD YOU SAY, BUT I WILL DEFEND SAY IT'.

orders that even the word "radio" should never appear anywhere in his paper! Well, what happened? Not only is there no record of a radio station's ever driving a newspaper out of business; the amount of advertising in American newspapers today is the greatest in history!

This newspaper several times has considered establishing a radio station here, to be operated in connection with the paper. Each time, the decision has been "no". And the major reason was not the problems of operating a radio station in a small town; the major reason was we consider a monopoly in communications, and thus in the dissemination of information and the exchange of ideas, both dangerous and wrong. We wanted no such monopoly.

For nearly eleven years, the present management of The Press has sought — not without success, we hope — to keep the people of this county informed about their local affairs and to stimulate them to do their own thinking. There is no such thing, though, as people's being too well informed or doing too much thinking. So we always have had the welcome mat out for any medium that would help with the job.

We predict that at the rate we are going, we will, in a relatively short time, have an annual drive for every known disease, meantime continuing to pay taxes for the support of a benevolent government with its many health and welfare services.

—Englewood (Colo.) Press

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.)

West's Leadership Weak

(New York Herald Tribune)

It may well turn into a tragedy of historic proportions that in none of the capitals of the big powers of the Western world is there a government with the vision to see and the

TWO GIANT TASKS:

Preserving American Freedom And Preserving The Human Species

The Saturday Review

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is reprinted from The Saturday Review by special permission from the editors.)

By HARRISON BROWN

Governor Harold Stassen, who has been given the job by the President of furthering disarmament, said in London recently that about one year remained before "the secret of making the hydrogen bomb" spread around the world. According to The New York Times, Governor Stassen contended that "if the secret, which is believed to be held only by the United States, the Soviet Union, and Britain, is gradually acquired by other countries before an international disarmament treaty can be attained the world will be increasingly in danger as this knowledge spreads."

The implication here—and it is of profound significance—is that H-bombs may be far easier to manufacture than the public has thus far been given reason to suppose.

Until now the public has been led to believe that atomic bombs are required to "trigger" the explosions of H-bombs. This would

mean that no nation would be able to manufacture H-bombs unless it first created a highly developed atomic-energy technology, resting on a fairly high level of industrialization. Clearly, on this basis it would be quite a while before industrially undeveloped countries could produce H-bombs. And even a relatively highly developed industrial country such as Japan would probably require several years to make an H-bomb starting from her present level of atomic technology.

But now Governor Stassen states that a "secret" of some sort will be spread around the world within the course of another year and this worries him. (Most of us, including Governor Stassen, are already worried considerably about H-bombs in the hands of the present owners.) Is it possible that what worries him is that H-bombs are easy to make—possibly even easier to make than A-bombs? Is it possible, based on the implications of Stassen's remarks, that a way has been found to bypass entirely the atomic-bomb development requirement? In this case nations which possess only a modest degree of technological sophistication may be able to manufacture H-bombs for themselves. In our time we have been witness

to the ease with which madmen could acquire control of governments and wage war. Now we can contemplate the prospect of a weapon powerful enough to kill a billion human beings in the hands of such men.

In any case the American people have a right to know what the facts are. Certainly, and quite apart from the Soviet Union, the fact of H-bombs in the possession of certain nations and in the midst of international anarchy affects the entire world picture.

We have before us today the gigantic task of preserving freedom and of preserving the human species. In approaching that dual task, we are confronted by world anarchy, by strong totalitarian powers, and by horrible weapons of destruction. It would appear axiomatic under these circumstances that the single overwhelming issue in the coming election should be our foreign policy—including the question of what to do about H-bombs.

Complete secrecy can lead to complete insecurity. Naturally, the Government should not disclose the intricate technical details concerning the design and construction of atomic or hydrogen bombs. But it seems axiomatic that the

American people should be "told enough about modern developments in military technology that affect our vulnerability. Again and again our Government has solicited the approval of the American people, yet the people themselves have an appallingly small amount of information concerning the biggest issue of all.

We have not been told how destructive H-bombs explosions really can be. We have not been told whether these bombs are easy or difficult to make. We have not been told how easy or difficult they are to deliver. We have been told practically nothing concerning our vulnerability to ordinary air attack, let alone to the approaching intercontinental missiles. Yet we hear of internal struggles between the armed services concerning these matters, and we are supposed to decide, on the basis of the most meager information imaginable, who is right and who is wrong.

There ought to be something of a political explosion in this country over the fact that the leaders of the Soviet Union are probably far better informed concerning both American military strength and weakness than the American people themselves.

energy to act — that the leadership of the West is in the hands of preoccupied and harried men in London, of weak and distracted men in Paris, of a very old man in Bonn, and of a sick man in Washington.

Mistaken Identity

(High Point Enterprise)

Two men with identical names—one a clergyman and the other a businessman lived in the same city. The clergyman died at about the same time as the businessman left on a business trip to Arizona. On reaching his destination the businessman sent his wife a telegram telling of his safe arrival. Unfortunately, the message was delivered to the clergyman's widow. It was with understandable astonishment that she read: "Arrived safely—heat terrific."

Henhouse Society

(A. M. Guhl, in Scientific American)

During the last 30 years the social organization and behavior of chickens has interested many investigators, and its study has produced a great deal of fascinating information. The main theme of the investigation has been the trait of dominance, or bossism.

It was a Norwegian psychologist who discovered the "peck order" among chickens. He found that in any flock, one hen usually dominated all the others; she could peck any without being pecked in return. Second came a hen which pecked all but the top hen, and the rest were arranged in a descending hierarchy ending in a hapless hen which was pecked by all and could peck none.

Roosters have their own peck order, so a breeding flock usually has two hierarchies, one for each sex.

Once the peck order has been determined, pecking begins to decline. However, a chicken's memory is short, and hens that have been separated for two weeks or more will fight the battle for dominance all over again when they are brought together.

If a strange bird enters the flock, it has to fight each of the residents to establish its status.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

This is a great and wonderful country; there are few of us who aren't proud to be Americans. Yet, if we are honest with ourselves, we must confess there are a lot of things about our boasted "American way" that are pretty cock-eyed.

And you don't have to dig into American foreign policy or re-hash the segregation issue to find them. There are plenty of examples much closer home.

A good illustration is the occupation of Gus Summers. A winter resident of Palm Beach, Fla., Mr. Summers summers (no pun intended) in Highlands. His business—an entirely legitimate and honorable business, one that must bring joy to thousands of youthful hearts—is the manufacture of Indian tom toms and tommyhawks. He sells them wholesale.

And where does this Caucasian maker of "old Indian relics" (my phrase, not his) have his best market? You guessed it — at Cherokee, the home of the Indians!

And you'd think we'd pay a higher price for an article that takes more work to produce and that's harder to get. But often we don't.

Take that favorite of mine, country buttermilk. For real, honest-to-goodness country buttermilk, nothing but the cream off the whole milk is used. Then the cream has to be "turned"; then churned, and

the butter — all but the golden flecks that refuse to "gather" — taken out.

Furthermore, you can buy bottled whole milk in any grocery store, but country buttermilk is something hard to come by.

Yet whole milk retails for 25 cents a quart, while the going price of country buttermilk is 10 cents!

Then there's our attitude toward "free enterprise". Most Americans are its vociferous advocates; and since we, here in this region, are such individualists, we probably place an even higher premium on "free enterprise" than people elsewhere in this country.

Yet when the retail prices of restaurant coffee, haircuts, and tire re-treading went up here, they went up by general agreement among the retailers offering those services. In each case, in fact, the increase was announced in a joint public statement.

This is not to say the increases were not justified—they probably were. It is not to suggest there was anything morally wrong with the agreements. I am not well enough versed in the law even to be sure these agreements were in violation of the law against combinations in restraint of trade.

But when everybody in a certain line of business raises

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VIEWS

By

BOB SLOAN



This past Monday members of the state Legislature met to begin consideration of the public school integration-segregation problem. At least, it has been announced, that all sides of the picture would be considered. In actuality, the legislature is being called together to put their stamp of approval somewhat of a rubber stamp, in this case, I think, on a program drawn up by the administration of Governor Luther Hodges.

One thing about this program has seemed a little funny to me. Despite the fact that the program was discussed and drawn up at private meetings with state troopers standing guard outside, there has been no criticism from the press of such meetings.

Previous to this, when a subcommittee of the state legislature wanted to meet in private to discuss matters pertaining to the state budget, the newspapers could hardly find enough newsprint on which to print all the terrible things the editors felt would befall us as a result of meeting behind closed doors.

Consistency thou art a jewel; or in this case should we use the word inconsistency instead.

I will always believe that had North Carolina and other Southern states carried out the idea, first mentioned, but later deserted by Governor Luther Hodges, of allowing each school district to determine whether it wanted to have segregated or integrated schools we would have had a workable solution to the problem. In nearly all Southern states a few school districts would have voted to integrate. I feel that a slow gradual process of individual school district self determination was what the Court had in mind when they did not put a limit on the time required to carry its first decision into effect. Had there been a self-determining district policy at the first I think the Supreme Court would have judged it sufficient.

We of the South, goaded the Supreme Court into a more stern stand, I feel. I, for one, was critical of the fact that the court was generous and gave us time. Now I feel that we have ill used the time and that we should have been grateful for it rather than critical.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Dr. C. D. Baird, of Asheville, arrived Saturday to spend a month's vacation with relatives here. He is practicing dentistry with Dr. Smathers of Asheville.

Rains have continued to fall daily through another week, and farm work has been very much hindered. A heavy rainfall occurred Monday evening after five o'clock, accompanied by heavy wind that prostrated growing corn crops, doing much damage.

Want Ad: Wanted: 25 house and bridge carpenters. Wages from \$2.00 to \$2.50 per day.

25 YEARS AGO

With kinsmen present, some of them from distant points, the annual reunion of the Crawford family was held at the Black Place Sunday, July 12.

Lester Gillard and his Chocolate Boys orchestra, will play for a dance on the roof garden of the Scott-Griffin Hotel Friday night, July 24. Dancing will be from 9 to 1.

10 YEARS AGO

Ensign Alex Moore, Jr., is on terminal leave, after 3 1/2 years in Naval aviation and has arrived for a visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Moore.

Mrs. A. L. McLean, of Asheville, is spending several days visiting her brothers, A. L. and W. L. Ramsey and their families at their homes, Franklin, Route 3.

Col. and Mrs. W. H. Nollman and daughter, Miss Katherine Nollman, of Sebring, Fla., and Asheville, are at "Springdale", their summer cottage on Chestnut Street. — Highlands item.