

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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SEPTEMBER 13, 1956

Now Let's Make It Work!

The editor of this newspaper was one of a minority of more than a hundred thousand North Carolina voters who opposed the Pearsall Plan constitutional amendment.

For most of us making up that minority, the issue was not as simple as some people thought, and said: "If you oppose integration in the schools, you vote for the amendment; if you favor mixing the races, you vote against it." It was, instead, a question of judgment; of whether, under all the circumstances at this time, the Pearsall Plan was the best way to meet the situation. It was not, in other words, primarily a matter of principle, but one of method.

Whether the majority or the minority was right, only time will tell. It would be our guess, though, that we who made up that hundred thousand opposed to the amendment will be the ones proved wrong. Because when the people speak, and speak so emphatically, they usually are right—we must believe that, if we are to believe in democratic rule.

And they spoke with extraordinary emphasis. State-wide, the margin was about 4½ to 1, and that in an election in which the vote was unexpectedly heavy. And incomplete and unofficial returns indicated the amendment carried in every one of the state's 100 counties. (In our own county, the margin was more than 10 to 1.) However the result may be discounted, nobody can explain away figures like that.

In any case, the Pearsall Plan is now law. And it has become law in the most fundamental of all ways—not by legislative enactment or judicial interpretation, but by the expressed will of the people.

Now that it is law, it is up to all of us, of all shades of opinion, to try to make it work. That does not mean we must close our eyes and assume everything will turn out for the best. As a matter of fact, it probably can be made to work only if we keep our critical faculties alert; and the proponents of the plan should be the ones most ardent in seeing to it that it is not abused. We who opposed it, on the other hand, have the duty not only to make sure the plan has a fair trial, but to go a step farther, and, bowing to the judgment of the majority, do our share toward making it work.

The debate is over. The amendment has been adopted. Now, as Governor Hodges has so well put it, it's the job of every good citizen to "close ranks in support of our public schools and the continuance of good race relations".

For however we may have differed as to method, in this matter those are the two ultimate objectives of all men of intelligence and good will.

Short And Long Views

Congratulations to the Town Board for moving to do something about the critical traffic situation in downtown Franklin!

A problem that has long been with us, it has become more acute in recent months—so acute that something must be done, now.

The problem should be looked at from both the immediate and the long-range views; for it is much too serious already to wait on a long-range solution.

What steps, or combination of steps, will give the quickest and most effective relief is a matter for the board to decide—perhaps on the advice of competent engineers. To the suggestions already advanced, we would add one: It would help a lot if trucks and vans delivering to business establishments were required to do so at the rear, instead of the front, of the stores.

We wish the board luck as it seeks to find a temporary remedy; and we are sure most citizens

Fatal Fallacies by Ted Key



"That won't be necessary now!"

will give any reasonable plan a fair trial. But we suggest that any temporary measures will prove equally temporary solutions.

For the situation is this: Franklin's Main Street (where the situation is worst) is the same width it was when this was a tiny hamlet, and when a traffic jam consisted of a dozen ox-carts. We're trying to funnel many hundreds of automobiles—and trucks—a day through a traffic artery meant for the ox-cart age.

The only real solution must be a long-range one—widening the streets. And the only practical way to do that is to begin getting ready for that now. We can do it by setting a building line back, say, 10 feet from the present one. That is to say, whenever a new building went up, its front would be required to be set 10 feet farther back than the fronts of the present buildings.

With as many old buildings as there are on Main Street, the chances are most of them will be replaced in a decade or so. If all of them were set 10 feet back from the present building line, it would then be a fairly simple and economical thing to widen Main Street 20 feet—10 on each side.

Gooddoers vs. Dogooders

What's wrong about being a "do-gooder"?

Harry Golden raised, and discussed, that question recently in his Carolina Israelite:

America is great and free, and Mr. Henry Luce is within his rights to write editorials on any subject he pleases to reach his vast audience of some fifteen million, but there is an undercurrent of propaganda which even Mr. Luce could not possibly call legitimate controversy. The undercurrent is against "do-gooders." Can you imagine a society reaching the point where being a "do-gooder" is bad? "Do-gooder" means—one who does good. But then someone comes along and says to "do good" is to "do bad." He says "we do not mean to attack 'doing good'; we are only against 'do-gooders.'" But what happens to the English language in the process? Recently at one of the \$100 per plate Eisenhower dinners the chairman shouted to a closed television audience of about a half million Americans: "For twenty years we have had nothing but 'do-gooders' in Washington and now we have DOERS instead of 'do-gooders.'"

Henny-penny, run home and tell the King the sky is falling.

We read that with mixed reactions. Mr. Golden had said, and said well, something we often had vaguely felt. We think the best of the often-reviled New Deal was long past due. And, goodness knows, we always agree when somebody takes a swipe at the Luce publications (Time, Life, Fortune, etc.) for the way they write opinion into fact and carelessly fail to tell the reader which is which.

Yet Mr. Golden's more or less casual dismissal of the question left us a little perplexed and uneasy. Somehow it didn't quite dismiss it; we weren't sure why.

It stuck in the back of our mind for days. Then we read what seems to us an excellent distinction; says T. V. Smith, the philosopher:

"The doer of good does something with people; the do-gooder does something to people."

All play and no work makes Jack a spoiled brat.

The new dial system will be like having your mother-in-law move in with you—you may not like the idea, but pretty soon you find out she is a pretty wonderful person.

—Berthoud (Colo.) Bulletin

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.)

Kind Of Post

(Campbellsville, Ky., News Journal)

Past experiences should be a guide post, not a hitching post.

Delicate Garden Crop

(Frederick, Colo., Farmer & Miner)

One of the most difficult things to raise in a garden is your aching back.

Should Promise

(Campbellsville, Fla., News Journal)

Some of these so-called promising musicians should promise not to play any more.

Accommodating

(Douglas County, Colo., News)

Any mistakes in this paper are made intentionally. We try to have something in the paper for everyone and some people are always looking for mistakes.

Could Be

(Greeley, Colo., Booster)

A drive up and down Eighth Avenue leaves me keenly interested in the city's plan to make some adjustments in the stop light system. It ought not to be an exceptionally difficult problem. With just a little more planning, ALL of the traffic could be stopped ALL of the time.

Hand Crafts Coming Back

(Avery County News)

It is heartening news to many residents of the Toe Valley counties, Mitchell, Avery and Yancey, that the matter of production and distinction of handicrafts was included in a survey just completed for Governor Hodges' Small Industries Plan Inc.

Valley residents will await with interest reports which may be released in the future as to present conditions and potentialities connected with all types of small industry in this area.

But of special interest will be the findings and recommendations of the investigators concerning the handicraft "industry." Here in the Toe Valley the old-time handicrafts were being revived and expanded, largely through the efforts of Miss Lucy C. Morgan and her brother, the Rev. A. Rufus Morgan, when the ancient skills were elsewhere being neglected to the point of oblivion.

In this region, which so long remained practically isolated until the coming of the automobile finally brought a network of paved highways, handicrafts were still being produced for home use and for occasional sale.

Miss Morgan, first through the Penland Weavers and Potters, which still functions, and later through the Penland School of Handicrafts, which she was instrumental in founding back in 1929, helped not only to see that the "know-how" did not leave the minds and hands of weavers, potters, basket weavers, furniture makers and dozens of other craftsmen, but she sought and obtained outlets for their work.

Further, Miss Morgan was helped win for the Penland School of Handicrafts recognition not only throughout the United States but acclaim in some half a hundred foreign countries.

A market for handicrafts already exists, and it can be greatly expanded. It merely remains to find, or to develop, the workers; then connect output with distribution.



BEFORE YOU LEAVE, DISCONNECT ALL APPLIANCES AND CLEAR YOUR HOUSE AND PREMISES OF COMBUSTIBLE RUBBISH. DON'T GIVE FIRE A CHANCE!

VIEW

By

BOB SLOAN



The two projects, one way traffic on Main street and improvement of the water supply for the town, which the Town Board are considering are certainly good news.

Naturally the best way to find out how well the one-way street business will work is to give it about six months trial period and see. The sooner we get at it the better, I think.

I, for one, hope that we strain every financial muscle to put in an adequate water supply for the town, and I hope that we don't throw anymore money "down a well."

Undoubtedly, a pumping station and filter plant for Cartoogchaye Creek will cost more initially than the digging of another well. But by having engineers to conduct a survey we can tell with reasonable certainty the amount of water we will have, but a well is just a chance and seemingly to me one of the most uncertain sources of a permanent water supply.

Well for both, here is hoping the best.

I am often accused, and I am sure, justly so, of being partisan in any remarks that I make concerning politics.

Well, for the record I would like for it to be known that I have a fault to find with the Democrats.

They present themselves, and I feel that for the most part they are, among other things, as the friend of the little businessmen. However, one thing being advocated by Mr. Stevenson, Democratic presidential nominee, will not help the little businessman. In fact, I doubt that it will help anyone in the long run—that is an increase in the minimum wage law. Past experience leads me to believe that even the worker who receives the increase in wage would lose in the long run because prices would rise more than the wage increase.

As for the little businessmen it will just be an increased tightening of the economic noose which is slowly strangling him to death.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Sunday morning was cool enough to require fires for comfort.

A great many business men are now flocking to Franklin looking after business investments and enterprises.

Mr. J. D. Howard, late of Texas, is opening up a barber shop in town.

Mr. T. B. Higdon, Jr., a graduate of the University of North Carolina, who has been studying law under Hon. J. S. Henderson, of Salisbury, during the past year, has located here and hangs out his shingle this week.

25 YEARS AGO

The Higdon family held its annual reunion at the home of Mrs. Harriett Higdon Monday. There were about 175 descendants of the late Major Higdon present.

Mr. George Anderson has recently returned from American Falls, Idaho, where he spent the summer with his brother, Hugh Anderson.

Miss Katherine Hunnicutt, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Hunnicutt, left last Monday for Albuquerque, N. Mex., where she will teach in the Government Indian Reservation school this winter.

10 YEARS AGO

Homer Nichols, Jr., who is visiting his grandmother, Mrs. Charles McClure, at her home on Franklin, Route 2, will leave next week to enter Davidson College.

Miss Barbara Zoellner has returned to Mars Hill College for her second year's and has been made one of the laboratory assistants in the Zoology Department.—Highlands item.

The Hearn Hotel building has been sold by Dr. Furman Angel to Sol Schulman and wife, of Sylva and B. Schulman and wife, of Waynesville.