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Table with 4 columns: Rate, Frequency, Outside Macon County, Inside Macon County. Includes rates for One Year, Six Months, Three Months, Two Years, and Three Years.

JANUARY 17, 1957

About Water

Three practicable types of public water supply seem to be possible for Franklin. The town can sink wells; it can pump the water out of a creek; or it can go to one or more watersheds and let the water flow by gravity into the mains.

Wells have been in use here for half a century. In the view of many persons, they do not and will not provide an adequate supply. That leaves the so-called "surface" supply (such as Cartoogechaye Creek) or one or more watersheds.

At his recent conference with Franklin and Burlington Industries officials, Mr. T. T. Dawson, representing the engineering firm of Harwood Beebe Company, declared that no town in Western North Carolina using a watershed has found it satisfactory.

Well, that is not exactly in agreement with the testimony of officials and citizens of half a dozen neighboring towns that get water from watersheds. Where an adequate supply is available, the watershed is the most satisfactory of all sources, they say.

Nobody on this newspaper has had engineering training; so we are in no position to say whether one or more available watersheds would provide an adequate supply for Franklin.

In the light of the testimony of people in neighboring towns, however, we question the validity of Mr. Dawson's pronouncement that a watershed is going to be unsatisfactory, period.

And since other towns have found watershed water so highly satisfactory, quality-wise, it seems reasonable to suggest that the possibility of Franklin's obtaining all or a part of its supply from a watershed be fully explored before a final decision is reached.

1876 and 1957

As the time approaches for the 1957 North Carolina General Assembly to convene, more and more hard problems pop up for the legislators to wrestle with. Frankly, we do not envy Macon's Representative Guy L. Houk and this 33rd district's Senator Kelly E. Bennett the responsibilities that lie ahead of them.

Among the problems is one that has nothing to do with taxes, appropriations, attracting industry to the state, or other such purely practical matters. But, in a sense, it is more important than any of them; because it has to do with the basic question of the form of government we are to have in North Carolina. And without representative government, we cannot properly solve any of the so-called practical problems.

In one branch of our state government are twin situations that are neither right nor healthy.

The first is the repeated failure of the legislators, who make laws the rest of us must obey, themselves to obey the basic law of North Carolina, the state constitution.

The second grows out of the first.

The state constitution provides that each county shall have one representative in the General Assembly, and that 20 additional representatives shall be divided among the larger counties on a basis of population. It provides that all the 50 members of the senate shall be allotted on a basis of population alone.

Then the constitution says the General Assembly "shall" reapportion house memberships and redraw senatorial district lines after each decennial census, to conform with population changes. That

plain mandate of the constitution the General Assembly has ignored, time after time.

Here are two typical results:

(a) One group of senatorial districts, containing only 1/10th of the state's population, now elects 1/4th of the senators.

(b) Another group of senatorial districts, containing nearly 4/10ths of the state's population, elects only 1/7th of the senators.

In other words, the people who live in one set of senatorial districts, though they make up only 1/10th of the population, through their senators can out-vote another group of people who make up 4/10ths of the population. And that in the legislative chamber the constitution says shall represent population alone!

Maybe that is unimportant. But if it is, then we fought a war, about 175 years ago, about something that wasn't important. Because the only difference between taxation without representation and taxation without fair and honest representation is a difference of degree.

This problem is basic to good government. We hope Senator Bennett and Representative Houk will so recognize it, and will devote their thinking, their energies, and their influence to seeing to it that something is done about it.

A Great 'Crusade'

In Washington, there is great pother about civil rights legislation. The Eisenhower administration and so-called liberals in both parties are shouting from the housetops about it.

Prior to 1954, there may have been a need for such legislation. But that year the U. S. Supreme Court ruled that discrimination is unconstitutional, and that segregation is discrimination, per se. And, as these same liberals have been telling us from that day to this, what the Supreme Court says is "the law of the land".

In short, we've had civil rights legislation for nearly three years. Moreover, the court's rule is being enforced, by the federal courts themselves.

Why, then, the hue and cry for Congressional enactment of what is already law?

The answer is all too obvious: What we are witnessing in Washington is not a great crusade to preserve the civil rights of all citizens; what we are witnessing is a great crusade to buy the Negro vote, en masse.

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.

Needed: Thrift Incentive

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

It's the season again to hear and read gripes about high taxes, and sometimes we wonder if we haven't created a monster bureaucracy in Washington which will eventually devour all the nation's capital.

If someone could just devise a means whereby unspent tax money was returned to the taxpayer, along with an explanation of where the money was saved and by whom, our problems of government waste would be over.

Instead, almost any department does its utmost to spend all the money it can obtain—if they don't spend it, it'll go into a

IN RETROSPECT

WOODROW WILSON SEEN AS A PROPHET

Ralph McGill in Atlanta Constitution

At a quarter to 1 o'clock on the Sunday morning of Dec. 28, 1856, in the manse of the Presbyterian Church at Staunton, Va., a son was born to Dr. and Mrs. Joseph R. Wilson.

He was christened Thomas Woodrow, after his mother's father. On both sides there was a long line of Presbyterian Covenanters to whom the word "covenant" meant a religious pledge, not merely a promise.

It comes as something of a shock to many Americans to realize that had this child, born on that December day, lived into our time he would be 100 years old.

"Why, I knew him. . . ."

"I saw him many times. . . ."

"I recall my father taking me to hear him speak. . . ."

Many persons remember Woodrow Wilson because they saw him or knew him. But in a very real sense he has been a part of all our lives, the young and the old. He is our modern symbol of the travail and agony of a world seeking a mechanism for peace.

us . . . those who saw him and those who know him merely as a name. It was the tragic betrayal of his League of Nations by politicians who put themselves first and their country last which made Woodrow Wilson a brooding, accusing figure in the consciousness of all peoples everywhere who believed world peace possible. That those who wrought "The Great Betrayal" were so partisan and blind they did not know they were committing their country and their children's children to war does not lessen the condemnation which rests upon them.

We will never know, of course, but there is valid reason to believe that had this country supported the League in the elections of 1920 the balance of power might well have been maintained in Europe. The German Republic would have survived. Hitler would not, therefore, have risen out of its ruins. World trade would have flourished and the great depression would have been avoided. The trail of the League meant that all the evil forces of economics and international politics were unleashed.

He is in the conscience of all of For a book commemorating this

general fund and some less-deserving department will get it next year.

It's only natural that each elected representative try to give his own constituents their fair share of the loot, and among politicians we hear remarks like: "We have the best highway engineers in the state—they never have to turn any money back in, at the end of the year."

So, until there's some system through which our government employes can receive recognition and thanks for practicing thrift, we'll always have enormous waste in government spending—and enormous taxes.

Letters

School Needs And Evaluation

Dear Mr. Jones:

The Highlands Parent-Teacher Association, at their regular meeting on January 3, requested that an open letter be sent to The Franklin Press and the Commissioners of Macon County stating our position on certain matters regarding school support.

Some months ago a committee of Macon County citizens drafted a list of written proposals to the Board of County Commissioners in which they pointed out the pressing need for more funds for the maintenance of our local schools. In some cases, there is not even enough money for soap, towels, and cleaning supplies, to say nothing of money needed for necessary repairs. As an example, the Highlands School has been unable to make use of certain classrooms because of a roof which is leaking badly. Severe damage has already resulted from this condition.

In the Highlands community a number of children under sixteen years of age are not even enrolled in school. There are reports of similar conditions in other parts of the county. A county truancy officer is necessary before much can be done to remedy this problem.

The high school curriculum at both of the county high schools outside of Franklin is trimmed to the barest essentials. Nantahala and Highlands Schools are in desperate need of home economics and vocational courses. Although the enrollment at both these high schools is much smaller than at the Franklin High School, this does not mean that we do not have an obligation to these children to provide an opportunity for high school education equal to that which other children in the county have. We could list many other needs, but these serve to point out the problem.

The Board of County Commissioners has been unable to grant additional funds for such needs in the past, because the money was not available. It would seem that we have reached the time when it is necessary for us to thoroughly review present property evaluations throughout the county. There are many instances of inequitable valuations on the present tax books. Although the standard is supposed to be 35 per cent of the actual value of the property, there are many instances where the valuation is far below this figure. It may well be that there are other instances where the valuation is too high and needs to be adjusted downward. All we ask is that the present assessors do a fair and honest job in evaluating properties throughout the county, and we wish to assure them of our support in this undertaking. It is our belief that through adjustment of present values will produce sufficient revenue on the present tax rate of \$1.40 to meet some of our most pressing needs.

It is only natural for us to avoid a higher tax if possible. However, if we have a sense of responsibility toward the future citizens of Macon County, we will be anxious to do everything within our power to see that they are given an opportunity to receive the best education possible. It is our conviction that the overwhelming majority of our citizens are interested in providing such an opportunity and are willing to carry their fair share of the responsibility.

Sincerely yours,

HIGHLANDS PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

R. T. Houts, Jr., Vice President.

Highlands.

VIEWES

By BOB SLOAN



Each year in this column, we have expressed hope of some gains that would be made in our town, Franklin, during the coming year. Usually, we have listed some eight or ten aims or desires. This year, we hope that the people of the town will unite to bring about one accomplishment, the obtaining of a sufficient supply of satisfactory water for the town.

By a sufficient supply of water, I mean that we should have enough water available so that no industrial user, whether it be a filling station operator or our largest manufacturer, be prohibited from engaging in his normal business at any time. With our present system, I can not remember a summer when filling stations have not been asked either to stop or curtail their car washing. Furthermore, I think that fire protection is a prime consideration in the amount of water supply that we should have available. There has not been a summer in recent years when the water supply did not reach dangerously low levels from a fire protection standpoint, according to Carl Tysinger, local fire department head.

By satisfactory water, I think, that it should be drinkable. It should be free enough from sediment so that it will not damage water meters or eliminate it for any other industrial use. It should not contain any mineral element to a degree that would make it unsatisfactory for industrial use, and it should meet health department standards.

To me, it seems, that entirely too much emphasis is placed on the taste of water. It should be drinkable and should be nothing disagreeable about the taste, and regardless of where we get the water here, there will be little difference in taste.

Town Board members should set up the following priority in meeting the water needs: 1. sufficient reserve for adequate fire protection; 2. sufficient supply for commercial and industrial users; 3. freedom from sedimentation; 4. taste, drinkable.

I think we should all back the town officials in whatever way they find is the cheapest way to meet the above requirements.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Married Sunday morning, Jan. 10, 1897, John Gribble to Miss Annie Davis, all of Franklin, N. C., N. P. Rankin, Esq., officiating.

The locust pin factory started up again Monday after a three weeks' shut down.

Kope Elias went to Hayesville last week and returned Sunday.

25 YEARS AGO

G. T. Stiles has returned to his home here after a visit with his son, N. H. Stiles, at Haines City, Fla. He brought back with him a lemon weighing two pounds and five ounces.

About 500 signatures of Macon County people were placed on a petition for world peace and disarmament by all nations which was circulated recently by a committee of women under the chairmanship of Mrs. F. L. Siler.

E. B. Byrd is remodeling his house.—Stiles item.

10 YEARS AGO

Patrons have been asked to contribute funds to pay the electric light bill of the Franklin school because state funds have been exhausted.

Births out-numbered deaths by three to one during 1946, Lake V. Shope, register, reported in year-end figures.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie W. Miller announce the birth of an eight and a half pound son, Virgil Ingram.—Scaly item.

Benefit Box Supper Set Saturday Night

A benefit box supper is scheduled Saturday night at 7:30 at the Holly Springs Community Building, under the sponsorship of the community organization.

A drawing for prizes is planned. Proceeds are earmarked for community work. The public is invited.