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and
The Highlands Maconian

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FEBRUARY 7, 1957

We Point With Pride

Do you like the editorial cartoons that are now appearing on this page as a regular feature?

They are bought by The Press from the Greensboro Daily News, which publishes one daily, and gives us the choice of the week's offerings.

The drawings are by Hugh Haynie, cartoonist for the Daily News, who possesses to a remarkable degree the cartoonist's gift — the ability to grasp the heart of a situation and put it into a single picture and a few words. In fact, Governor Hodges last week called him the "best cartoonist in the country."

We have long wanted a cartoon for our editorial page, but have waited until we could get a good one. We take pride in being able to offer the Haynie cartoons, and we hope our readers will enjoy them.

Boorish And Childish

King Saud, of Saudi-Arabia, is anti-Jewish and anti-Catholic. So when he landed in New York on a state visit to this country, that heavily Jewish and heavily Catholic city was frigid in its welcome. Mayor Wagner flatly refused even to greet the visitor.

Whether it made sense for us to invite Saud—whether we have any business dealing with the absolute monarch of a country that still practices human slavery—is one thing. But how we should treat an invited guest is quite another. We don't always agree 100 per cent with guests we have in our homes, but none of us would use that as an excuse to be discourteous.

The New Yorkers' actions were both boorish and childish.

Busses And Public Policy

Some interesting things were brought out at last Friday's bus hearing in Asheville, held by Mr. Edward H. McMahan, of the State Utilities Commission.

There is the question of whether it is going to continue possible for Macon County people to go by bus to Asheville, have any time to transact business or see a doctor, and be able to return the same day. It won't be possible if the Commission grants the bus company's request for authority to discontinue the early morning bus to Asheville and the night bus back to Franklin.

The hearing brought out pretty conclusively that the bus company is on a treadmill. Several years ago it began to reduce service in order to cut expenses; the result was a big loss in revenue; now it proposes to further reduce service—with still further loss in revenue almost inevitable.

Also developed was a rather chikish dog-in-the-manger attitude. Admittedly, Smoky Mountain Stages is losing money, system-wide—but it wants to hold on to its franchise. Admittedly, it has discontinued all service from Franklin to Highlands, to Bryson City, to Murphy—but it wants to hold on to its franchise over those routes. It can't or won't give service—but it is unwilling to let somebody else try.

The issues involved, though, in this and similar cases all over the state, go deeper than these things; involved are questions of public policy.

Among the questions facing the Utilities Commission, it seems to us, are these:

1. Is the commission to reverse the time-honored theory that a public service corporation, operating under a state-granted monopoly, must give service wherever there is a reasonable need, letting the profitable lines make up the deficit from the unprofitable ones—is it to reverse that policy and let the bus companies operate only those runs that are

individually profitable? If so, why grant the monopoly?

2. Is the Commission going to go a step farther and allow the bus companies to discontinue all except main lines, between the larger cities? If so, what effect is that going to have on the already hard-pressed railroads? That is important, because there is serious question whether this country can get along without its railroads.

3. With fewer and fewer communities served by railroad passenger trains, it is important that bus service be maintained. Thousands of people are too old or otherwise physically unable to drive an automobile; others are not financially able to own an automobile. If we have no rail or bus passenger service except along main lines, what is going to happen to the thousands of such people who live off the beaten path?

Those questions suggest that, instead of driving the bus companies to keener and keener competition with the mainline railroads and at the same time leaving thousands of people without any means of transportation, it might make sense to give the bus companies an increase in rates and then require them to give service — to the little towns as well as the big.

Whether the economic plight of the bus companies is as sad as they paint it we are in no position to find out. But the Utilities Commission is. We suggest it should find out — and act accordingly.

Letters

'Keep It Coming'

Editor, The Press:

Enclosed please find \$3 for my renewal to The Press. I wouldn't want to miss a copy of it. Even though I have been away from Franklin for nine years, I still get a lot of interesting news from the paper that I would be unable to get any other way. So please keep it coming my way.

HOMER H. LEDBETTER.

Canton, Ohio.

Water For Franklin

Dear Weimar:

I was very much interested in reading the comments in The Press dealing with the water problem at Franklin, my old home town. It was really surprising to me to note the statements made by officials of Sylva, Andrews and Robbinsville to the effect that each of those towns had the best water "in North Carolina, the world, or anywhere". I had thought that perhaps Burnsville had the best water.

But aside from the "Chamber of Commerce Spirit", I know that your town is faced with a serious situation. The watershed has proved very satisfactory here but one difficulty we have in very cold weather is the fact that the intakes sometimes freeze, being at an altitude of five thousand feet.

I used to have the idea that Franklin should have utilized what I knew of as Mill Creek which flows down near the residence where Mr. Lenoir lived. Many years ago I was rambling around under Trimont with some other boys and went down that stream. It has occurred to me that if the stream flow was sufficient, water from a reservoir above the falls could be carried by gravity. It may be, there is not sufficient water. Cartoogechaye Creek should be a safe, adequate, and satisfactory source of water supply for many years to come.

DOVER R. FOUTS.

Burnsville, N. C.

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.)

Opportunity vs. Security

(Rocky Mount Telegram)

Security is the big thing today.

It has come to be the will-of-the-wisp goal of all too many Americans.

People no longer seem willing to risk much, if anything, for opportunity. Most people may rationalize it but when they can choose between a whole lot of risky opportunity and a little bit of security, they jump for the security.

Today's graduate seeks the security and the anonymity of the big corporation. The bigger the better for the greater safety and security. The brightest young minds are falling all over each other these days, scrambling for the protection and guaranteed benefits they believe await them only in the sheltering arms of General Motors or General Electric or some other such mammoth economic organism.

There are two big things wrong with this modern phobia. In the first place security is unrealistic. In the second place it's un-American. There is in this world no more security than there is peace.

And, if our forefathers had placed as much premium on security as we do, they never would have forsaken the shelter of the Old World for the opportunities of the New.

A small opportunity is more often than not worth more than a whole lot of security.

'Now The Aircraft Is About To Enter Its Acid Test'



VIEWS...

By BOB SLOAN

I have often heard it said that, in years gone by, Macon County had the highest percentage of college graduates in proportion to the population of any county in the United States. This is true no longer.

In the past our people have been willing to make extreme sacrifices to see that their children received a good education. They were willing to sacrifice to a degree far beyond what the average parent today is willing to make.

Why? Because the lives of those of an earlier generation were hard and their pleasures few.

And because they saw a different purpose behind education from many persons today. To them, education was a preparation to enable a person to render service, to give. To most of us, today, education is a preparation to enable persons to take what they can from life.

Today, a young boy or girl is told to study this or that; it pays better. I can remember both my mother and father urging me to study in the field that I felt that I could do the best work, regardless of the pay. Enjoyment of work was considered a greater reward than monetary pay.

When and if desire for money becomes our sole motivating force, our living will change to a mere material existence.

On the other hand, we should not expect people to teach and train our children for less than a living wage. In effect we, today are asking the public school teachers to make sacrifices that we should make to see that our children are educated.

It takes the same amount of work and time to graduate from college for a chemistry teacher that it does for a chemical engineer. But the teacher will have to work twelve years and go to Summer school at least two Summers before he makes the wage the engineer receives when he starts to work.

Granted that love of their work and satisfaction from teaching young children may compensate, the difference is still too great.

With this one-sided and unrealistic attitude, we may so warp the minds of our teachers that out of cynicism they, perhaps unknowingly, will tell the children, "Go for the money, Son." In fact, that is what is happening, and by our niggardly attitude in teacher pay we have helped bring it about.

Dr. Current Leaves Clinic; Dr. Chase Returning Soon

Dr. R. W. Current, who has been associated with Dr. G. R. McSween at the McSween Chiropractic Clinic in Franklin since last September, has returned to his home at High Point, preparatory to entering the U. S. Army.

Dr. Daniel A. Chase, who was with Dr. McSween for several months in 1956, will rejoin the clinic in a week or two, according to Dr. McSween. The Chases and their two children will come here from Flat Rock, Mich.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

The past week's best wise-crack came from W. E. (Gene) Baldwin. It was last Thursday morning, and Mr. Baldwin had just read the account in The Press of how the town, digging a well, had gone down 450 feet and still hadn't struck water.

It had rained unceasingly for days, and at the moment the sodden earth was getting an unusually heavy downpour. Casting his eye toward skies still so leaden it looked as though it never would stop raining, Mr. Baldwin remarked:

"They dug the wrong way. To get water, they should have gone up."

That recalled a question that always has puzzled me: How did men ever get the idea that, if they dug deep into the earth, they would find water?

How did we get the first well? Was it by accident? Had men, perhaps, learned to mine for metals before they learned to

mine for water — and thus discovered there are rivers beneath the surface of the earth?

Or did some ancient work out the theory of underground waters, and dig to prove it? That seems unlikely, since wells antedate modern scientific theory by thousands of years. We know that, for we read of wells in the Old Testament. And probably women were going to wells to draw water long before even the oldest books of the Old Testament were written.

Recently, in this space, I listed a few things I thought local businessmen could do to encourage Macon County people to trade at home. Specifically, I suggested that first-of-the-month statements should be itemized.

I thought then, and I think now, that suggestion makes sense. If I say to another man he owes me money (and that's exactly what a statement does say), he's entitled to a bill of particulars — (See Back Page, 1st Section)

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

DO YOU REMEMBER?

60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Sleighting was enjoyed by many on Thursday, Friday, and Saturday as several inches of snow covered the ground.

Mr. John T. Henry, of Ellijay, reported the mercury as 8 below zero at his place Friday morning.

To those who are disposed to criticize the spelling in the poem printed in The Press last week, we will say that our spring poet is subject to bad somnambulistic spells after eating pickled cow-cumbers for supper.

25 YEARS AGO

The public school at Otto, a three-room frame structure, was destroyed by fire Friday night. The building was insured for \$1,200.

Appreciation to G. L. Houk, principal of the Franklin schools, for the conducting of religious exercises in the schools, was expressed in a resolution adopted Monday by the Franklin Ministerial Association.

Mrs. Nellie Brendle, of West's Mill, and Raymond Sanders, of North Skeenah, were married in Clayton, Ga., Sunday, Jan. 31. Mrs. Sanders was formerly Miss Nellie Rickman.

10 YEARS AGO

C. D. Baird was named chief of police of Franklin and Tom Phillips was appointed night policeman at Monday night's meeting of the Board of Aldermen. Mr. Baird, who has been serving as night policeman, will succeed Homer Cochran as chief.

Prelo Dryman and E. W. Long left Thursday morning for Washington to attend a conference of Western North Carolina civic leaders with Secretary of the Interior King.

Eighty-two persons in Macon County are receiving Social Security benefits amounting to \$968.18 a month, according to the Asheville office.