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and
The Highlands Maconian

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Pride And Shame

Attention is called to the letter on this page from the staff of the Mountain Echo, Franklin High School newspaper.

It will be read by most citizens, surely, with mixed emotions — pride and shame. Pride at the attitude of most of the students, as voiced by the newspaper staff. And shame that adults must be reminded by children what is good sportsmanship.

Perhaps the humiliation of having the school put on probation will serve to remind us adults that our own entertainment and our own selfish desire for victory are not the primary reasons for high school athletics.

3 That Are Basic

As the North Carolina General Assembly this week gets into full swing, the legislators face many important and complex problems. Three of those problems, it seems to us, are basic.

Those three are taxes, education, and legislative representation.

TAXES

North Carolina's tax structure is a patchwork, with many injustices written into it. It needs revising. And there can be no doubt of the ability and sincerity of the men who made up the Tax Study Commission that has recommended a program of revision.

Few laymen have either the time or the know-how to dissect the program and pass on individual items. Most laymen, though, are in position to pass intelligent judgment on the approach to the problem.

In levying taxes, the only right approach, it would seem, is to put first emphasis on fairness to all. Well, this commission frankly put its first emphasis on something else; its first objective is a tax law that will prove attractive to industry.

No fair-minded person believes a corporation should be "soaked" just because it is a corporation; nor will anybody argue with the desirability of making this state attractive to the right kind of industries.

On the other hand, does it make sense to use taxes to encourage and reward a particular group?

Remember! once you start that, it is easy to reverse the process and use taxes to discourage and penalize a particular group—even to destroy it.

How far the commission went in over-emphasizing an industry-attractive tax structure at the expense of equity is illustrated by a single instance:

For years, North Carolina state officials and legislators have admitted a tax injustice that hits most of us. North Carolina levies an income tax on that portion of your income and mine that we pay to the federal government in income tax. In the case of an employe, the federal tax is deducted from his pay check. In other words, North Carolina citizens must pay a state income tax on money they have never seen.

Everybody agrees it isn't right. The only excuse, all these years, has been that the State needed the money. Yet the commission plan would make industries a gift of 8 million in tax dollars—and leave this injustice to individual citizens on the books!

EDUCATION

How much can North Carolina afford to spend on education? The details of the answer to that question must be worked out in Raleigh — frankly, we don't know. But we do know that North Carolina can't afford to be stingy with education.

If we are to have a successful democratic gov-

ernment, we must provide the best possible public schools, so that every citizen can be educated for his responsibilities as a citizen. And if we are going to have leaders worthy of the name, we must have the finest possible institutions of higher learning.

That has always been true. Every advance, economic or otherwise, that this state has made has followed an advance in education. And each time we lagged in education, we have gone backward in other fields — as we are now.

Today, there is another reason why we cannot afford to have less than the best in education. The free world is engaged in a life-and-death struggle with totalitarianism. Our leaders tell us the struggle may last for decades or even generations.

In that struggle, there is only one field in which the totalitarian world never can overtake us. The one thing that has made America what it is, the one resource that ultimately will decide the struggle is the fruits of the free mind, taught to inquire.

LEGISLATIVE REPRESENTATION

Fair and honest representation in the legislative branch of our state government is essential if we are to solve any of our problems under our present form of government. Representation either is fair and honest or it is unfair and dishonest.

And surely it is anything but fair and honest, when, in the state senate—the legislative chamber that the North Carolina constitution says shall represent population alone—1/10 of the people easily can out-vote 25 per cent.

How can the legislators, until they have cleaned up this festering mess, expect the people to have any confidence in either their judgment or their honesty as they seek to solve other problems?

Letters

Keeps Him Up To Date

Editor, The Press:

We enjoy The Press very much. You folks are doing an excellent job on keeping us up to date with the home town news.

EDGAR QUILLIAMS.

Norfolk, Va.

Students Appeal To Adults

Dear Mr. Jones:

As representatives for the students of Franklin High School, we wish to make a few comments concerning the behavior of the adult fans at previous ball games.

Many people do not realize what the new gym and our reputation mean to us. Although a few students have been at fault, the majority have shown commendable sportsmanship.

The referees call the games to the best of their ability and their decision is final. They, like us, are human and make mistakes. Booing and demonstrations on the floor will not favorably change the decision, but could influence the referee to call a technical foul or to forfeit the game to our opponent.

Because of the behavior Tuesday night, January 29, we have been placed on a twelve months' probation by the Smoky Mountain Conference Referee Association. As a result of this, any other disorderly conduct will bring drastic measures against the school.

Respectfully yours,
MOUNTAIN ECHO STAFF,
Franklin High School

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.)

It Works Every Time

(Amarillo, Globe-Times)

If you want to roll up the window in your car, it's easy to tell which way to turn the crank. Just figure which way you think you ought to turn it, then crank it in the opposite direction. It works every time.

Life Begins At 60

(Shreveport, La., Times)

An analysis of the achievements of 400 famous men throughout history, including statesmen, painters, soldiers, poets and writers and a few other categories, comes up with some rather surprising information as to the age at which great people have achieved their greatness.

According to this study, 35 per cent of the group's greatest achievements came when those concerned were between the ages of 60 and 70; 23 per cent came between the ages of 70 and 80, and 8 per cent at an age greater than 80.

Putting it another way, 66 per cent of the world's greatest work by individuals was done by men past 60 in age!

"Okay, Say 'Uncle', Bud"



VIEWES...

By BOB SLOAN

Education is one of the two greatest problems facing the world today. The other being the war-peace problem, and the solution to it lies in the proper education of the peoples of the earth.

In America, certainly, the public schools are the heart of our educational system. And the heart of our school system is the individual school teacher.

Considering the importance of our public school teachers in the future of our country, why don't we pay them more?

It is partly because, they, being for the most part a dedicated group, have let us take advantage of them.

Certainly a person whom we expect to be mother, father, doctor, nurse, friend, and advisor as well as teacher for our children should belong in one of the most important and highly paid professions.

We seem to realize the importance because we expect the teacher to fill all the above roles, but we pay much higher for any other type of professional services rendered.

Perhaps you agree with my view, but are saying to yourself, "What can I do to see that teachers get more pay?"

Here is one suggestion.

WRITE

Write a letter to your state representative, G. L. Houk; your state senator, Kelly Bennett; your U. S. governor, Luther Barnhardt, who presides over the state senate; or even your governor, Luther Hodges. Tell them how you feel about this problem of education. Perhaps you agree with me that it is a shame that North Carolina has dropped from 29th place in 1950 to 38th place in 1956 in the amount of average teacher salary paid by the state. Tell the lawmakers of this state that you are willing to pay whatever is necessary to see that your children have as good an opportunity, from an educational viewpoint, as the children of any other state.

We can't expect trained teachers to continue to make the sacrifices necessary under our present pay scale to see that our children get a good education.

If teachers' salaries in North Carolina aren't raised, young people in this state are not going to select teaching as a career, simply because, while it may be the field of their choice, they can't make a living at it. And many who have spent considerable money preparing themselves, are going to be forced to leave their home state and go to a state that is willing to pay at least a living wage. The result will be that our children will be taught, in the future, by teachers with less training, but who have more pupils to teach, because there won't be enough trained teachers in North Carolina.

Let's write our people in Raleigh and tell them we want to pay our teachers for our children's education and not beg it off them.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Well, I've been flyin' high. Mrs. Jones and I had the pleasure Saturday night of being guests at the annual banquet of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. And it really was a push affair . . . the sort of thing a country man gets in on only once or twice in a lifetime.

But, despite the size of the crowd in the city auditorium; despite the elaborateness of everything, including out-of-this-world evergreen decorations all over the place and mountains of florist flowers; despite the swallow tail coats (I never even owned, much less wore, one) and evening dresses; despite even the candle-lighting (there were three times I know of that I shook hands with the same woman, each time holding out my hand before I realized I had spoken to her only a moment before) — despite all these things, I felt at home.

I did, first of all, because of the friendliness of the group. It's good to go back, after 11 years, to a place you once lived and find you still have friends there, who seem genuinely glad to see you.

And, second, because, twice before the evening was over, there were allusions to Macon County.

The highlight wasn't the atmosphere of pleasant formality or the excellent dinner, but the speaker, C. E. Woolman, President and general manager of the Delta Air Lines, he has a big job, has been almost everywhere, and has

friends in high place in every corner of the world. But, with his long drawl and his homespun expressions, he talks like a country boy who never has got the country out of him.

The central theme of the meeting was how to get a modern, all-weather airport, and Mr. Woolman drove home the need when he drawlingly told the group: "I drove from Atlanta, because I didn't want to miss being here."

He won the sympathy of his audience of mountain folk, too, when he quoted the oft-repeated remark of his father: "A man ought to have two lives: one to make a livin' in, and one to look at the mountains."

But about Macon County:

Commenting on the good fortune of the people who live in the mountains, he told of sitting on a porch in Highlands with a Florida man (must have been a Florida real estate man). The Floridian said: "If we only had one mountain in Florida like that one over there."

"If you had", Mr. Woolman interrupted, "you'd sell it for \$800 a square inch."

The other was a reference to Angel Falls, in Venezuela. The highest waterfall in the world, it was discovered by Jimmie Angel, who had a Macon County background.

The speaker told of flying to (See Back Page, 1st Section)

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The grip has struck Macon County and the victims find the old fellow very uncomfortable.

Mr. J. Lee Barnard has purchased one acre of land from Solicitor G. A. Jones on the corner of West Main and Georgia streets, and has commenced laying down brick on it in preparation to building a handsome brick residence. The price paid for the lot, we learn, was \$300. Wm. Shanks is contracting the brick work.

We regret to learn that Mr. George McGaha, a good citizen of Cowee, died Sunday morning. He had an attack of grip that terminated in pneumonia. He joined the Cowee Baptist Church in September, 1870, and was a liberal member.

25 YEARS AGO

There is another 12-headed potato in the window of The Press office. This one was brought in by J. M. Corbin, of Ellijay. The first one was owned by Turner Enloe, of Cartoogchaye.

I. T. Peek has leased the Franklin Hotel and Restaurant, operated until recently by C. W. Hames, and is planning to re-open it Saturday under the name of Peek Hotel-Cafe.

Brother James Ammons, of Millshoal Council No. 246, who recently joined the Marines, is stationed at Parris Island, S. C.—J. O. U. A. M. item.

10 YEARS AGO

George B. Patton, 49-year-old Franklin attorney, Tuesday was sworn in as a special superior court judge. He was appointed by Governor Cherry.

Col. F. W. Kernan, of Highlands, opened the large French doors of his home on Mirror Lake last week, cranked up his Jeep, and drove across the terrace and into the living room for the night. Mrs. Kernan, not relishing the idea of being cut off from the village by a frozen vehicle, conceived the idea. The temperature was 15 degrees below zero there.

Quick action on the part of Fred Sorrells saved the home of Bill Horsley from serious damage by fire Wednesday afternoon. Mr. Horsley lives in the Cullasaja community.