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SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
OUTSIDE MACON COUNTY	INSIDE MACON COUNTY
One Year \$3.00	One Year \$2.50
Six Months 1.75	Six Months 1.75
Three Months 1.00	Three Months 1.00
Two Years 5.25	Two Years 4.25
Three Years 7.50	Three Years 6.00

FEBRUARY 21, 1957

Matter Of Desire

Asheville, a city of 50,000 persons, has exactly two more classrooms in its public schools than it had 20 years ago.

Macon County, with about a third of Asheville's population, has done seven times as well in half the time. This county now has 14 more classrooms than it had 10 years ago.

Who says Macon County isn't moving forward, educationally!

The figures seem to illustrate something else, too. Since a large proportion of our new classrooms were built from local funds, the comparison suggests something this newspaper repeatedly has pointed out: The problem of providing good schools isn't primarily one of financial ability. It is primarily a matter of desire.

2 Reasons

In one of those unique advertisements of his, Paul Swafford last week put his finger on the most important reason of all for trading at home.

"I wonder", he remarked, "if trading at home wouldn't have much to do with keeping our young men and women from leaving this county to find employment. How many of them are going into business for themselves—at home?"

In other words, if all our trade stayed at home, there would be openings for more businesses here. Too, those in business would have openings for more employes.

Another reason, one that makes it appeal to purely selfish motives and to common sense, is explained by The Cleveland Times, published at Shelby:

A merchant in a nearby large city told us the other day he would not be able to make a living if the "suckers" within a 100 mile radius were not gullible enough to travel 50 miles to save a dollar.

People tend to consider it fashionable to shop in larger cities. People in Shelby shop in Charlotte. Charlotte shoppers go to Richmond. The people of Richmond go to New York. And where do the New Yorkers go? They migrate out to the suburban shopping centers.

We have a vicious cycle with no one profiting except the gasoline companies.

Metropolitan merchants depend more on volume than service. Our local stores have built up reputations of dependability over the years. If you are dissatisfied with a purchase, it is not necessary to travel 100 miles round trip to "take it back".

Many times, by looking around, shoppers can find bargains right here in Macon County. This week end (today, Friday, and Saturday) almost certainly will be one of those times. On those three "dollar days" local merchants, in an effort to stimulate trade here in Macon County, are seeking to give their customers the most possible for the money. At the least, what is to be offered here this week end is worth looking at and pricing—before taking the time and buying the gasoline to make a trip to Asheville or Atlanta.

A Columbia Broadcasting System Radio Analysis

ANOTHER 'NEW EISENHOWER'

Periodically, over the last three years, Washington columnists have discovered what they always called "a new Eisenhower." Sometimes they meant his personal behavior—he was going to boss his team in no certain terms; sometimes they meant his policies—he was through compromising and was going to put the right wing of his party in its place and keep it there.

But events never fully bore out these predictions; the President continued to let others make many decisions, even on vital appointments such as the national chairmanship or the vice presidential nomination; he continued to try to conciliate the Republican right wing rather than to subdue it. Personal manner and public policy remained much the same.

But today—or so it seemed to this reporter—something new was revealed. Both as to manner and policy. For the first time in two months, the President held

a news conference. The difference in the man was subtle, but unmistakable. This was a man calmly, confidently aware that he is the boss. There was a whiff of Harry Truman in that crowded room; the word often used with Truman was "cockiness." It almost applied today. Mr. Eisenhower has ignored the reporters this fall and winter to an extraordinary degree; today he marched in and snapped out, "Any questions you'd like to ask me?" Partly in fun, but also in challenge.

His replies were, on the whole, much sharper, crisper; little circumlocution this time; less concern about saying something that might offend somebody, somewhere. Less impluse to painfully qualify everything he said, to leave an out, to cover all bases. Yesterday, he acted like the boss with the National Committee and picked his own new chairman; today he acted like the boss with the

reporters; he seemed freer, in his own mind; like a man through with constant placation, a man finally able to say "that's it—take it or leave it."

In terms of policy, the change is even more unmistakable and startling; at one place in the questioning he said his basic attitude toward government has not changed; but other statements completely contradicted this. He uttered, in fact, the most fundamental, far-reaching acceptance of the New Deal, welfare state philosophy any President has ever uttered. I quote him, "as long as the American people demand, and, in my opinion, deserve, the kind of services that this budget provides, we have got to spend this kind of money." Unquote. "This is a hundred and eighty-degree turn. The old Eisenhower had been passionately opposed to such things as federal aid to schools—the specific subject that produced this statement; the old Eisenhower

had talked about a smaller role for the federal government; the old Eisenhower had said that people who wanted complete security could find it in jail.

In spite of the attempts to rationalize the split, he is now in fundamental disagreement with his Secretary of the Treasury. Mr. Humphrey believes a severe depression could happen; Mr. Eisenhower made it clear today he does not so believe; Mr. Humphrey would avoid federal deficit spending to cure a depression, would, in fact, keep government out of the picture; Mr. Eisenhower, I quote him again, "would do everything that was Constitutional and the federal government could do . . . there would be no limit. . . ."

Mr. Eisenhower has finally cast the die; he has taken his party across its inevitable Rubicon; the old Taft wing, as represented by Humphrey, Weeks, Wilson and

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Another Answer

We are reminded daily that one of the nation's greatest needs is more scientists. Well, what can Macon County do about that?

Most of us would answer, "nothing". But there are people of imagination who have another answer.

They are the trustees of the Highlands Biological Station. In an effort to more fully utilize the vast biological resources of the Highlands plateau, they have in mind expansion of the present research facilities and inauguration of a teaching program on the graduate level.

Such a program undoubtedly would prove of value to science itself. The results would have practical value to research and industry, throughout the Southeast. And a graduate school, even on a small scale, would be a great boon to Highlands and Macon County.

Bouquets . . .

. . . To the Bank of Franklin for its recent improvements. The revamped lobby is not only attractive, but gives evidence of being much more efficiently arranged. . . . To Franklin's girls' basketballers. Twenty straight wins! Who isn't proud of these youngsters? . . . Belatedly, to Franklin Masons on their fine new home. The Masonic Hall on Church Street is a delight to the eye. . . . To the Macon County Building and Loan Association for its deserved growth. After 35 years of increasing usefulness, it now has more than a million dollars on loan. . . . To the Franklin Board of Aldermen for its promptness in starting to dig another well. The discouraging failure of the first effort did not blind the board to the fact it is essential for Franklin to have more water before the next summer season arrives.

We Don't Mean Sausage

When we received Mr. Evans' letter, published on this page, it gave us a bad start. Without waiting to finish reading it, we dashed across the office for an almanac or encyclopedia. For we never can remember when "mountain groundhog day" is; whether February 2 or 14. We get so confused, in fact, that one year we actually celebrated the wrong date—and had to eat humble pie in the next issue of The Press.

We go to the almanacs and encyclopedias not because we think they know what they're talking about, at least on this subject, but the reverse. We know the date they say is right, is wrong; hence, whichever of the dates they give, the other is the correct one, according to mountain tradition.

Well, all the books say groundhog day is February 2; so, obviously, it's February 14.

Trouble with Mr. Evans, he's been reading the almanacs and encyclopedias—seriously. And he ought to know better; he ought to know the men who write such books not only are damn Yankees, but high-brows who, we bet, never even saw a groundhog! who don't know the difference between these weather forecasters and sausage!

Letters

Says It's February 2nd

Editor, The Press:

Well, in your issue of February 7, you sounded again your firm belief that the 14th (Valentine Day) is "Groundhog Day".

We are of the opinion, as shown by books and records, that February 2 is the only and traditional Groundhog Day. We have begun to believe that you belong to that group that thinks F. D. R. changed this date, too.

Some are always claiming that the "old folks" said it was the 14th. What old folks? We have been around about as long as the most of them, and can truthfully say that never was such an assertion made until about thirty years ago.

There is no use to explain how that got its start in West-

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"Must You Stand There And Drool?"



STRICTLY

Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

Recently, my work has put me in touch to an unusual extent with Macon County educators. In addition to individual contacts, I was present at two meetings—one of principals, the other of representative teachers and P.-T.A. workers—at which school problems were discussed.

The result was to confirm a previous impression about the folks who teach our children.

Now I know there's plenty wrong with our schools. Many classrooms are crowded and we

lack materials and equipment. The discipline isn't always what it might be; and I wonder sometimes if the schools put sufficient emphasis on the truth that the price of achievement always is hard work.

I think, too, we may have too many Macon County persons teaching in our schools. Not that there's anything wrong with Macon County people who teach; but I think it makes no better sense to hire a teacher just because he is a Maconian than it would to refuse to hire him for that reason. Furthermore, I have the feeling that we use too large a proportion of the products of Western Carolina College. Again, there is nothing wrong with W. C. C.; but we need graduates of many institutions if we are to have a variety of viewpoints and the breadth that is basic to any real educational effort.

Well, check those off and see how many of them can be blamed on the teachers. Even the problem of school discipline is a national, not just a local, situation; and it starts not in the school, but in the home.

Sure, there's plenty wrong with the schools. But there's also plenty right.

And in listing the things that are right, I'd begin and end my list with the teachers. For in the final analysis, it isn't the buildings or the organization or the method of teaching that make the schools good or bad, but the

individual teacher. I suspect they'd be the first to agree that there's a lot of truth in that old saw about "Mark Hopkins". Somebody (was it Mark Twain?) once said that the school where he learned most was "sitting on one end of a log with Mark Hopkins (a fine teacher) on the other".

Nobody, I am sure, has a harder job than the teachers. Imagine, you who find yourself exhausted at the end of the day with one or two or three, trying to teach 30 or 40 eager but squirming youngsters!

When you consider that children are soft clay, easily moulded, and when you take into account that what little Johnny becomes may depend on whether, sometime during his school days, some teacher can light the fire that is latent within each of us, surely nobody has a more responsible job.

And now to come back to that impression. My recent contacts have confirmed what I've long thought: There isn't a more dedicated group of people anywhere in Macon County than our teachers.

Aren't there some poor ones? Undoubtedly. But, taken as a whole, they have a sense of mission, a patience, a faith in the youth, a devotion to the job, that stirs my admiration and renews my confidence that Macon County will become the great and rare place to live it can become.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Cornaro Baird will soon be looking down in the mouth. He is studying dentistry.

Mr. Josiah Raby, of Cowee township, reports that on Tuesday of last week he was held up in broad daylight by a man with a Winchester rifle in his hands, and a veil over his face, and robbed of \$133. On the day of the robbery, Mr. Raby's horse was stolen and concealed in the woods and while searching for it, he was met by the masked man and ordered to give up the money. Mr. Raby told him he had no money with him. The robber made him stand in an open field near the house until he went to the house and forced Mrs. Raby to get the money.

Mr. J. P. Bradley, of Smithbridge township, was in town Saturday looking cheerful over the arrival of a new boy at his house. He named him after Sheriff Roane.

25 YEARS AGO

Miss Nannie Roper, who has been a student at Kyle for the past six months, returned home last Friday.—Rainbow Springs item.

Mr. Manson Stiles left this week for Lawrenceville, Ga., where he has a job as logsetter at a sawmill.

Mrs. Will Cleaveland and daughter, Miss Evelyn Cleaveland, of Highlands, were here Friday shopping.

10 YEARS AGO

Sanders' store, operated by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sanders for the past 20 years, has been sold to Bower's, a mercantile organization with stores in three states. T. Y. Angell, of Brevard, who has been with the Bower's company since his discharge from the armed forces about a year ago, will be the new manager.

A. C. (Claude) Patterson, of Tesenta, has been elected general manager of the recently organized Macon County Farmers Cooperative. Robert Fulton, of Cullasaja, took over the job of president, which Mr. Patterson resigned to become general manager.

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