

# The Franklin Press

and

## The Highlands Maconian

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## Road To Poverty

We're hearing a lot about legislative appropriations for the public schools. But that isn't the only education problem facing the General Assembly. It also must provide for the University of North Carolina and other state institutions of higher learning.

Exactly what proportion of the funds set aside for education should go to the public schools and what proportion to the colleges is a somewhat technical question that the legislators must settle. But any layman knows that there must be adequate funds for both. For why train citizens for a democracy if you fail to train someone to lead them?

It is worth noting, too, that there should be appropriations for capital improvements, such as buildings and equipment, at the colleges. The last Legislature provided little or no money for this purpose. No private enterprise can stay in business unless it makes improvements; and the same is true of education.

As a matter of fact, there is no good reason why this should be a question of either or. For all this talk about North Carolina being such a poor state is pure bunk. By comparison with Aycock's day, when it really required sacrifice to provide educational opportunity, we are a rich state, a very rich state.

We can become a poor one, though; and the surest way to start down that road is by being niggardly with money for education.

## Evidence Of Faith

That's a fine new store Belk's is formally opening this week.

Spacious, efficiently arranged, the latest in comfort and convenience, and pleasing to the eye, it is a credit to this community; it would, indeed, be a credit to any community.

Its completion surely must be the fulfillment of a dream, for the Belk Company and especially for Manager Troup Callahan and his staff. To the latter, it also must come as something in the nature of a reward for hard work and intelligent merchandising during the decade since the opening of a Belk store here.

Beyond all this, though, there is a significance about the handsome new building and the modern store it houses. For it stands as tangible evidence of the faith of hard-headed businessmen in the future of Franklin and Macon County. Mr. W. C. Burrell, who built the structure, and the Belk Company have gambled dollars, a lot of dollars, that this community is on its way.

## Jordan's Suggestion

Representative J. Y. Jordan, Jr., who was a member of the Tax Study Commission that recommended lopping some 8 million dollars off the taxes paid by corporations, has a suggestion on how to get the money to raise teachers' salaries.

Eliminate all sales tax exemptions, Mr. Jordan suggests. That would mean putting a 3 per cent sales tax on all food bought for household con-

## Modern Definitions

- Progress**—motion.
- Time**—what we have less and less of as we get more and more things to save it.
- Objective**—what the fellow who disagrees with you isn't.
- Organizations**—what we have too many of.

sumption, on every prescription, and on medical aids, such as spectacles, hearing aids, crutches, etc.

Now either of those programs might make sense, by itself.

If we had the money to spare, it might be all right to reduce corporation taxes. And if we couldn't get the money for schools anywhere else, it would be worth-while to tax food, medicine, and medical aid.

But to propose both . . .

## Tar Heel Greats

For a recent special edition, The Washington Post asked the noted biographer and historian, Claude G. Bowers, to name the Presidents he considered greatest, and to give his reasons for selecting them.

Of the 11 he chose, North Carolina lays claim to three — Andrew Jackson (who was President from 1829 to 1837), James K. Polk (1845-1849), and Andrew Johnson (1865-1869).

While there is dispute about whether Jackson was born in this state or South Carolina, there is no question about the other two; Polk was born in Mecklenburg County, and Johnson first saw the light of day in Raleigh. The three are honored by a monument on Capitol Square in Raleigh.

Interestingly, all three "went west" to Tennessee as young men, and were elected to the Presidency from that state.

Here are Mr. Bowers' reasons for selecting these as among the few really great Presidents:

I

Andrew Jackson's presidency was great in that he gave actuality to Jeffersonian democracy, against a trend toward plutocracy, toward the subordination of men to money.

The National Bank, holding the people's money, was using it to corrupt the press and the public service. Its power was so great that, when Jackson and the head of the bank gave a reception at the same hour, members of Congress snubbed the President of the United States in deference to the president of the bank.

Fearing a future awakening of the people, the bank demanded a new charter long before the old one expired. Congress obliged, and Jackson met it head-on with a veto message that smote it hip and thigh, and the chips were down.

The bank's one hope was to defeat Jackson's re-election. It was using the people's money on deposit in its vaults to confuse and corrupt the electorate. With daring, Jackson removed the deposits, and the most ferocious struggle in our history began. Jackson emerged triumphant, and the man in the shop and at the plow became factors in our political life. Jackson's greatness was in making democracy a reality at a critical hour.

II

The next great President was James K. Polk, whose almost incredible achievements have been ignored by many partisan historians.

On his inauguration, Polk outlined a program that seemed fantastic. He would settle the northeastern boundary dispute, where his predecessors had failed. He would settle the explosive Oregon dispute, and he dared to modify his party's platform declaration of the "54-40 or fight" to reach a compromise.

He moderated the tariff controversy so well that the tariff act of his administration was untouched until the Civil War. He ended the confusion in federal finances which had baffled Van Buren and Tyler.

He promised to and did end the controversy over Texas by acting decisively on the Texan petition for admission to the Union. When negotiations failed, he fought a successful war, and brought Arizona and New Mexico under the American flag. Through negotiations and purchases, he then added California.

The man who brought Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, California, Oregon and Washington into the national domain was a great President. When he took office, this country had no unquestioned foothold on the Pacific Coast, and when he retired after four years of herculean labors, the entire coast from Mexico to Canada was secured. . . .

III

When the banner fell from Lincoln's hand and Andrew Johnson took it up, Johnson was besplattered with filth from the gutter, but he waged the most heroic battles any President has ever fought for the preservation of constitutional government.

Threatened and indecently assailed, Johnson fought every inch of the way for Lincoln's goals. His messages vetoing despotic measures are among the classics of Americanism.

Johnson's supremely heroic fight for the Constitution makes him one of the great Presidents.

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

### 60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Dr. Brabson's old horse, Alec, is 28 years old and now on the superannuated list. The Dr. has ridden him for 25 years in practice.

Mr. N. E. Littlefield left last Wednesday for Washington to attend the inauguration of President McKinley. He will be gone about a month.

A petition was being circulated and numerously signed by our citizens last week against the establishment of a dispensary in Franklin. The sentiment of our citizens is almost unanimously against the legalizing of the sale of spirituous liquors in any form in Franklin, and the legislator who would champion such a bill would receive the just condemnation of our community.

### 25 YEARS AGO

"Uncle Johnny" Crawford, who was 102 on Christmas Day and one of the oldest men in the United States, is a man of unusual character and many qualities. He was born on Wayah Creek, Macon County, but has spent the greater part of his life in Clay County.

The 26th still broken up by officers in the last eight months was destroyed in the Rose Creek section last Thursday. Four barrels of mash and two boxes of beer felt the weight of the law.

Angel's Drug Store is making room in the balcony of its store for the soda booths, etc., which have become increasingly popular.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Lewis Penland, 10th grade student at Franklin High School, won first place at a public speaking contest held last week at Waynesville by the western district of F. F. A.

Construction of the Nantahala Power and Light Company's proposed hydro-electric project on Queen's Creek will begin as soon as materials can be assembled.

"Oh, It's Very Pretty, Sire—But Those Foundations—?"



STRICTLY

## Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

Down at Cowee school, the other night, it was the parents who did the learning.

The school has a new cafeteria that the folks down there are justifiably proud of, so they planned to inspect it, following the meeting of the P.-T. A. Then they went a step farther, and really did the thing up brown; they opened the classrooms for the parents' inspection.

The teachers were on hand to greet the parents as they visited their children's rooms, and to answer questions. Much more important, the children's work was on display — on blackboards, in cabinets, in wall displays, and on their desks.

So parents not only saw what little Johnny is learning, but how he is being taught; and on his desk they saw, clipped together, the work he has done in recent weeks or months.

In too many schools, the parents are expected to send their children, assure them the teacher is always right, and pay the taxes to keep the schools running — and do and know nothing else. No wonder there often is apathy among parents!

Well, my guess is there won't be (if there has been) any apathy at Cowee for a while. For, taken into the teacher's confidence about what is being done, and how and why it is being done,

most parents appeared pleasantly surprised.

And if they had the experience that I, present as a visitor, had, they learned a lot.

I'd never heard, for example, of "finger painting", for small children. And I could hardly believe my eyes when I saw what these youngsters, with a dab of paint, a piece of paper, and their fingers, hands, and arms as "brushes", had done in creating pictures.

I was impressed, too, by the way, in learning art, the children learn other things.

I didn't know that small children, as a rule, read books, much less report on what they have read. But, even in some of the lower grades, there were neat racks in which was placed each child's record of the books he had reported on. And some of them listed as many as 14 books read this year!

And I was interested in a method used to teach reading. Each child tells the class a story. The teacher carefully prints the story in a few simple words. Then they learn to read these stories. Little Johnny might take a long time to learn to read a story out of a book, but his own story — of course he's eager to learn to read that!

And I admired the way the school library is operated. Each

year two sixth grade students are selected to learn to be library assistants. By the time they are seventh graders, they really can help, and when they get to the eighth grade, they have become something like professionals. Of course the next year, they have been promoted to high school — but two others, started a couple of years earlier, are ready to take their places.

For this adult, at least, these and scores of other things made the evening a real educational experience.

The approaching membership campaign of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce makes this story, told by E. C. Kingsbery, timely. It's about a man who really expected advertising to get results.

It was back in 1926, Mr. Kingsbery recalls, that a chamber of commerce was organized here, chiefly for the purpose of advertising for tourists. Since many farm homes took paying guests during the summer months, people throughout the county were invited to join the new organization and help bring tourists to Macon County.

One rural resident, with a big house, accepted the invitation, sending this note with his contribution:

"I am sending you 4 dollars. Please send me 6 summer board-ers."

IS IT TRUE. . .

## WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT NORTH CAROLINA?

Greensboro Daily News

Is it true what they say about North Carolina—what they have said in all the romantic, sentimental, ornamental, sometimes hard-bitten portraits of a state from the time of William Byrd down through the latest ode by Ovid Pierce in Holiday?

Sometimes it is. Even a patrician Byrd gazing haughtily across the border, seeing only shiftless pioneer outcasts from a noble society of Cavaliers, provides an insight. The first North Carolinians (after the ill-fated Lost Colony) were no better or worse than most American immigrants; they came to the wilderness between Virginia and South Carolina for the usual reasons—for religious freedom, for more room, for adventure's sake, to escape debtor's prison. They were not all from the Mayflower, neither were they all renegades.

It is established, as W. J. Cash told us two decades ago, that they had no extensive moonlight and magnolia tradition. A bit of the Old South as dreamed up in movies on the coastal rivers, yes; but mostly they were good pioneer-stock. A really successful man rarely departed European shores for the mysteries and hardships of a new continent.

In the beginning they were mostly plain, unpretentious people. They had their spats with Governor Tryon and the royalists who tried to reimpose Old World ways.

They spoke up lustily when George III proposed an outrageous tyranny.

One peculiar tradition came of their fierce love of freedom: All through history they feared the strong executive. North Carolina would not ratify the U. S. Constitution because it contained no bill of rights; North Carolina reluctantly broke with the Union in Lincoln's time, but once it broke, sent more foot soldiers to civil slaughter than any other Southern state.

Out of the tragedies of Civil War and Reconstruction, as Arnold Toynbee noted, North Carolina recovered faster than its sisters; unlike Virginia and South Carolina it was not frozen in worship of the Old; it had fewer losses to mourn, and so it turned more readily to straightening up its wrecked house. It strode forth more hopefully into the 20th Century, more unencumbered by the shattered image of "godheads of heroes rising through the misty mists of hero worship".

The distinctive myth of individualism and independence prevailed. Even in its 20th Century growth, North Carolina did not suffer domination by any single large metropolis; it built a dozen smaller cities, and a hundred villages; many of its people stayed near the land—in cabins hugging the ancient mountains, in pleasant

groves of the Piedmont, beside furrowed fields of the Piedmont in tiny houses overlooking the coastal rivers and ocean.

Would this North Carolina, once called the "Rip Van Winkle State," make something of itself after all? Surely it would. Pervading its contrasting coastlands, foothills and mountains was a curious kind of unity. Jonathan Daniels, one of its troubadour sons, observed this spirit of togetherness in his book of portraits, "Tar Heels". The people, different as they seemed to be, had a unifying spirit, a love of the down-home place called North Carolina.

But what have they achieved? They gave the nation three homespun Presidents—Jackson, Polk and Johnson—alike and yet vastly different. On a gentle hilltop in Orange County they built a great state university, devoted to the fires of freedom and receptive of the love of the people; they saw sprung up in their midst a company of entrepreneurs—Duke, Cannon, Reynolds—who transformed the old agricultural fabric of the Piedmont into the industrial main street of the South; they produced an Aycock who saw a vision of universal education for a people, white and black; they looked at the stars with a Frank Graham and went home again to Tom Wolfe's lovely mountains.

At the mid-point of a century Continued On Page Seven—