# The Franklin Press

The Highlands Maconian

WEIMAR JONES Editorial Page Editor

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WHOSE MONEY?

### Spending A Billion

North Carolina's state government has a budget of more than a billion dollars for the next two years. And legislators in Raleigh now are deciding, in secret, how that billion dollars shall be spent.

As The Smithfield Herald so clearly points out, in the article reprinted at the bottom of this page, it is the people who are taking a licking at the hands of their legislators in such a case.

After all, it is the people's tax money-though legislators sometimes seem to forget that-that is to be spent; and, after all, the legislators-though they sometimes seem to forget that, too-are merely the representatives of the people.

Secrecy in a legislative committee, always bad, is doubly wrong in an appropriations committee: because an appropriations bill is so complex, it is not physically possible for other legislators-in the short time after the sub-committee reports-to examine, much less debate, its provisions. Usually, the other 145 legislators just go through the form of ratifying what the 25 on the subcommittee have.

Thus we have the spectacle of a handful of men spending a billion dollars of somebody's money, and demanding that the owners of the money be kept in the dark about the details of how and why it is so spent.

### Study And Style

"Ever'body talk about Heab'n ain't goin'

And everybody who talks about the need to put more emphasis on scholarship in the schools isn't doing anything about it. Last week, the Franklin Rotary Club tried to do something.

It's Scholarship Recognition Banquet, at which the ten top students, scholastically, from each of the four classes of the Franklin High School were honor guests, was based on the Biblical thought that "where your treasure is, there will your heart be, also". That is, what a person treasures he will, put his heart into. And of course it is generally recognized that what a nation or a community or a family sets store by, exalts, its children will seek and attain. All of us try to get the things we want and prize; and usually, what we want and prize depends to a great extent on what other people

The Rotarians' effort was not to downgrade other important things emphasized in the schools, but to upgrade study, good scholarship, to its proper place as the primary, the central thing in

Why is there need for such emphasis? Why have American schools more and more stressed other important, but secondary things, and put less and less stress on scholarship? Guest speaker Roy Armstrong answered the question when he asked the students to "pledge to yourself that you will make scholarship at Franklin High School stylish". All over America, scholarship has ceased to be stylish; it's high time we put it back where it belongs, at the top of the heap.

Mr. Armstrong struck a true note, too, when he reminded the students of something many adultsand that's where the trouble starts-have forgotten: "Education is the greatest adventure we can experience".

The Rotary Club's gesture is only the beginning of what we can do, if we will, toward creating schools here that are scholastically great. And, as the speaker pointed out, when we do, "you will see this fine community lift itself by its own boot-

### No Good Reason

In her letter on this page, Mrs. Walter Hall puts her finger squarely on the reason for mosquitoes in Franklin-standing water. Whether it's at the airport or in a tin can on a vacant fot, it's in standing water that the mosquito breeds.

And of all the places where there is no need for mosquitoes, it is here, where water, unless man interferes, always runs off. The proof of that is the fact that, until a few years ago, nobody ever saw



a mosquito in Franklin.

Other towns and cities, not so blessed topographically, either eliminate or minimize this nuisance. There is no good reason why Franklin should be plagued with mosquitoes. With a little forethought, a little care, a little effort, we need have none.

### ... Or We Die

What would happen should all the earth's soil be washed into the sea? should the entire surface of this globe be covered with bare rock or with

Any school child knows the first and most obvious answer: There would be no vegetation: hence men would have nothing to eat. They'd have neither edible vegetables nor meat; because animal life depends on vegetation.

A second result, which makes the soil even more immediately urgent to life, is often forgotten. Without vegetation, we would all die of poisoning; because vegetation absorbs and uses the poisons we exhale when we breathe.

Those facts suggest the importance of the observance, May 3 to 10, of Soil Stewardship week. Either we save the soil, or we die.

### Miss McDowell

Miss May McDowell represented the mountain people at their best.

A lady in the truest sense of the word, she had none of the weaknesses and artificialities that sometimes erroneously have come to be associated with that term. Hers was an unquenchable intellectual curiosity; yet there was nothing of the pedant about her. She was a person of culture; yet she was practical to her finger-tips. (While we do not know it to be a fact, we feel sure she could do an expert job on a milking-stool or at many another farm chore when there was need.) The gentleness that always marks the person of good breeding was hers in full measure; yet there was a rock-like quality about her character. She was possessed of an innate dignity that commanded respect; yet she was "plain as an old shoe", so unassuming was she.

Beyond all that, "Miss May" was a lovable human being; made so by the fact that she loved, (and spent her life thinking of and doing for)

## Not A New Thing

Back in 1924, The Franklin Press was a little publication of eight pages, five columns to the

The Press' advertising volume in those days was

small, as an examination of the old files quickly discloses; and we'd guess the rates for advertising were extremely low. The evidence suggests, in short, that the owner of stock in this business received no handsome dividends on his investmentthe chances are, he received none at all.

Yet, as noted in this week's "Do You Remember?", 35 years ago, the paper was owned by a "baker's dozen" Macon County persons. That almost certainly means those persons invested money in the paper not for profit, but to make sure Macon County had a newspaper.

Public spirit is not a new thing here.

### Definition

(Ogden, Ltah, Seagull)

Heredity-Something you believe in when your child's re-

### Genius

(American Salesman)

Genius is the ability to evade work by doing something right the first time it has to be done.

### **LETTERS**

### Mosquitoes In Franklin

While the Clean-Up Campaign is under way, I would like to see something done about the mosquitoes in the swampy, unused parts of the airport.

Last year they were horrible, as anyone living in this section well knows. Since the filling in of the new runway, there is even more standing swamp water between the new runway and the highway.

Since draining these swamps would be a very expensive undertaking, shouldn't the responsible parties be required to keep a film of oil on these mosquito-breeding places? If this were done, and every individual would check his own premises for similar mosquito-breeding places, we could rid our town and county of many of these unwelcome pests.

East Franklin.

MRS. WALTER L. HALL

### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



#### 65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1894)

The bicycle fever has not struck Franklin.

The County Commissioners appropriated money and em ployed Mr. Mc Gillespie to work the road across Nantahala

Miss Nannie Trotter left Friday morning for Atlanta, Ga., where she will spend a month visiting friends and taking lessons in re-touching photographic negatives.

#### 35 YEARS AGO (1924)

Franklin-Dillsboro bus line. Price: \$1.50 for passengers, \$2 for trunks, T. W. Angel.—Adv.

The Franklin Press is owned by a corporation composed of the following stockholders: Mrs. Estena Bidwell, Dr. S. H. Lyle, E. H. Franks, J. A. Porter, Jno. E. Rickman, J. S. Trotter, R. M. Ledford, Lee Crawford, D. W. Blaine, W. L. Higdon, G. L. Jones, Miss Lassie Kelly, all of Franklin, N. C.; H. D. Dean, of Etna, N. C.-From published Statement of Owner-

#### 15 YEARS AGO (1944)

Miss Myra Slagle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Slagle, has been named valedictorian of the graduation class of Franklin High School, and Miss Marie Waters, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. H. Waters, has been chosen salutatorian.

> 5 YEARS AGO (1954)

"Mrs. Home Demonstration Club Woman of Macon County" was the title pinned on Mrs. Jack Cabe, of Holly Springs, by her fellow club members last Thursday.

SECRECY IN RALEIGH

# It's The People Who've Taken A Licking From Their Legislators

will be determined largely by a votes.

work in an atmosphere of secrecy. It laid down a rule which forbids the appropriations subcommittee. reporters from reporting the, The press? names of legislators in news ac-

Onslow County was quite frant; at the people. It is an assault mittee rooms, for the great des representatives are denied the er doesn't. Without complaint, he about his reason for supporting upon democracy, a system found-the "no names" rule. He said he ed on the right of the people to didn't want some folks to know know the attitudes and actions of how he votes in the subcommittheir elected representatives.

How much money this General committee members to be sub- the attitudes and actions of the ercise of democratic rights.

The subcommittee hasn't harmof the subcommittee's ed the press.

tee's meetings. He didn't want the Freedom of the press to report if there is to be responsible ex and general elections.

Assembly provides for public edu-jected to "terrific pressure" by people's representatives is not a cation and other state services people who might object to their right that belongs to newspapers. 25-member Joint Appropriations
Subcommittee which began work!

Representative Watts Hill, Jr., of people. The news media act only as agencies

Durham made a motion to permit news media act only as agencies

Change his votes.

Mr. Venters didn't say so, but the for conveying public information to the public. Citizens are busy the fact is that some of his conmittee. The motion was quick their daily jobs. They do not stituents might not wish to return the regislature or otherby rejected. The public citizens are busy the fact is that some of his conpercent was adequate in 1940, profit on every tip he bestowed. So the press took a licking from find it convenient to sit in on him to the Legislature or other. It ought to be just as adequate Maybe the profit was as much of the legislators vitally affect portance. the lives of all who live in North

The fact is also that "repretry to buck the north subcommittee's practice of Carolina. Citizens want to know sentative democracy" becomes a pansion of tipping? Representative Carl Venters of secrecy in government is a slap what goes on in legislative com- farce when the people who elect

It is a right that belongs to the wight belong to the wight to be able to see that in the wight belong to the wight to Representative Watts Hill, Jr., of people. The newspapers and other change his votes.

It is a right that belongs to the might bring pressure on him to flation inflates the size of the self more than a guinea or two

committee rooms. Citizens depend and actions of their representa- meal but also a little bit to his upon reporters for the informa-tives. Such knowledge is essential problem in mental arithmetic tion they want and must have to responsible voting in primaries when he pays the check. Possibly

#### STRICTLY

### PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES



I like the good-humored jesting in without a trace of a smile.

pathetic people anywhere, many or a quarter than to discuss the mountain folk joke especially about matter; he may give without even

Two recent cases come to mind. piker, a cheapskate. Street, meeting a friend who re- And, after all, a done cently had suffered a heart at posed to be voluntary. tack, could have resorted to the I guess it's the very fact that usual cliche: "Glad to see you out the road-block doesn't give you again". Instead, he joshed:

a heart to have a heart attack". even if the cause were the bring-The other incident occurred in ing of the kingdom of heaven to a doctor's waiting room.

A man who was suffering from poison oak or some such infection on his hands was telling me about his trouble, how long he'd had it, etc. When I got ready to leave, I said: "Well, I hope the doctor

gets your hands fixed up" His reply came without an instant's hesitation: "Well, if he doesn't, I'll have to

scratch the rest of my life." This opinion is strictly personal, Maybe it's all wrong, Maybe no-

body else feels as I do. And, to tell the truth, I'm a little shame-faced that I feel the way I do. But I do feel that way.

that are being set up, oftener and oftener, to raise money.

Well, it seems I am not alone in that feeling. Since that piece appeared many received.

caus-s. I know it's a relatively ward to a trip to the post office. It easy way to collect some money was put most emphatically. for a good cause. And I know the though, the other day by Mrs. fellows who man these road-blocks Frank L. Henry. are unselfishly donating their time and effort.

the reason is, it smacks of a hold- have an excuse to go again, next

In the first place, if the people here, usually indulged motorist is in a hurry - and who isn't, these days? — it's much Though there are no more sym- easier and quicker to give a dime illness. It's their way — and a stopping to find out what the good way — to make the other cause is, just so he can get on fellow, if it's he who's ill, or the his way. In the second place, he's one speaking, if it's his own ill-publicly embarrassed if he reness, feel better. fuses; it makes him appear a

A man on Franklin's Main So he really hasn't much choice. treet, meeting a friend who re. And, after all, a donation is sup-

gain". Instead, he joshed: much choice — and the fact that "Heard you'd had a heart at I'm stubborn — that makes me tack. I knew, though, that consistently refuse to give money at a road-block. I think I'd refuse, even if the cause were the bring-

I just don't like to be pressured.

In this space some weeks ago I mentioned that we are not getting our mail delivered at home, because I like to go to the post office for it. There's an aura of adventure about watching your mail box as the mail is being put up; at any instant, a letter may be put in the box. And that letter may contain anything!

Besides, and this is probably an even more compelling reason, from the time I was a boy in Franklin, the post office lobby has been a social gathering place, a sort of thoroughly democratic club, open to anybody.

Now I know they're for good marked that they too, look for-

"When I go to the post office". she told me, "I never buy more But I don't like 'em. I suspect than one or two stamps - so I'll time I have a letter to mail."

### 'Beginning With The Pilgrims'

RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH

The fact that Pocahontas was Times that "the Puerto Ricans ... depicted as a bosom pal of the are like a great many other im-Pilgrim Fathers on a recent na-migrants who came to this countion-wide TV program was noted try, beginning with the Pilgrim in this place. Unfortunately, the Fathers in 1620." daughter of the mighty Powhatan had died three years before in this country began with the the Pilgrims landed on these landing at Plymouth Rock.

### HERE'S HOW THEY GOT YOUR NAME

that piece of junk mail?

think I know

put out by the W. S. Ponton company of Englewood, N. J. It lists of them, all types of specialized addresses.

For instance, you can get the THIS IS KIND names of 28 egg case filler manufacturers for \$5, or 26,692 electric OF WEATHER . . . refrigerator and freezer dealers for \$18 per thousand. You can get my name, plus 999 other weekly editors, for \$16. (I guess (at the moment we write this, it they figure this list would be less is) that makes us want to get out profitable than the freezer sales- in the fresh air and watch

addresses of 366 teeth manufac- glad to be alive, although we can't turers, eight toboggan manufac- recollect ever experiencing any turers, and in case you need a kind of weather which made us suspender buckle, they know five want to be dead. This is also the companies which make 'em. (But kind of weather which makes it the list costs you \$5, of course.) nice to put the top of our car

Here we go again. Everything had always been given to under We are now informed by noth- stand that a couple of other feling less than the New York lows landed at Jamestown slightly in advance of 1620. Apparently the august Times never heard of Jamestown.

Maybe Capt. John Smith, in that newspaper's lexicon, was one of the Smith brothers of Ever wonder how you got on a cough drop fame. Modern tobacco culture, founded by John Rolfe, sucker list? How they ever got husband of Pocahontas, presum your correct name and address for ably originated in the Connecticut valley

Well, so have I — and now I We've long since abandoned hope of getting the historical facts of life across to the average We got a magazine in the mail American, but it's a bit disillusionthis week entitled "List o' Trades" ing to find the New York Times dropping the ball with the rest

This is the kind of weather one else plant a garden. It's the Ponton also has the names and kind of weather which makes one The Pied Typer, in Windsor, down.-Alan Browning, Jr., in

### Way To Avoid Ulcers?

(Louisville Courier-Journal)

In a scholarly editorial treatise

Smithfield Herald the vicious myth has grown up that "because of inflation" the tra- er - and the thought of being But Mr. Venters doesn't want ditional 10 per cent is no longer cursed and damned from Dan to some folks to know how he votes an adequate tip. Any schoolboy Beersheba - rather obviously tip just as much as it does the in doctor's bills, and indeed in price of the food, and that if 10 this way may have cleared a nice legislative deliberations. But they wise support him if they know now-what was 15 cents on a \$1.50 as 15 per cent. are interested in those delibera. what he really thinks and does meal becomes 30 cents on a \$3 tions, for the attitudes and actions about public matters of great immeal now. But does any customer ONE WAY TO MAKE try to buck the nonsensical ex- DAY LAST LONGER

Apparently the average customhis philosophy is the same as Sir

Walter Scott's a century ago:

"I like to pay postilions and waiters rather more liberally than on tipping. The New York Herald perhaps is right. I hate grumbling Tribune touches upon a mystery and sour faces; and the whole which has also confounded us: saving will not exceed a guinea As for restaurant tipping, or two for being cursed and damned from Dan to Beersheba."

Since a dirty look from a wait-Maybe the profit was as much

The so-called daylight savings cisions are often made in the right to know the true attitudes adds not only to the cost of his idea of cutting off one end of the time is founded on the old Indian blanket and sewing it on the other end, to make it longer.

-Sunshine Magazine