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This newspaper invites its readers to express their opinions on matters of public interest through its columns. The Press-Maconian is independent in its policies and is glad to print both sides of any question. Letters to the editor should be written legibly on only one side of the paper and should be of reasonable length. The editor reserves the right to reject letters which are too long, are of small general interest or which would violate the sensibilities of our readers.

Unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall much be required.
Luke 12:48

"The strength of a nation," consists in the vitality of her principles. Policy, foreign as well as domestic, is for every nation ultimately determined by the character of her people and the inspiration of her leaders; by the acceptance in their lives and in their policy of honesty, faith, and love as the foundations on which a new world may be built. Without these qualities, the strongest armaments, the most elaborate pacts, only postpone the hour of reckoning.—Stanley Baldwin

The Rome-Berlin Axis

AXIS: A line around which something rotates—Standard Dictionary.

A year ago Hitler and his troops arrived in Munich and took over the government of Austria. Dorothy Thompson in her column, "On The Record" commented at the time: "Write it down, on March 12, 1938, Germany won the World War."

Mussolini sent this message to Hitler: "My attitude is determined by the friendship between the two countries, consecrated by the axis."

In October the British Empire and The Republic of France consented unto the death of Czechoslovakia. Again Mussolini approved.

On March 15, 1939, press and radio reported Adolf Hitler's triumphant entry into Prague—with a helmeted army and tanks.

In his radio speech Sunday morning Mussolini made the following reference to "the axis:"

"The attempts to crack and break the Rome-Berlin axis are childish. . . . The axis is not only a relationship between two states—it is a meeting between two revolutions which have shown themselves as opposed to all other conceptions of contemporary civilization."

Mussolini's speech, however vague as to his future course of conquest, does not leave the world in doubt as to the character of the "axis" or his "conception of contemporary civilization."

A few quotations will suffice: "What happened in central Europe was fated to happen."

"We consider a perpetual peace as a catastrophe for human civilization. We also consider a long period of peace necessary to safeguard Europe."

"We wish to hear no more about brotherhood . . . because relationships between states are relations of force and these relations of force are the determining elements of their policy."

"We must arm. The watchword is this: More cannon, more ships, more airplanes, at whatever cost, with whatever means, even if it should mean wiping out all that is called civil life . . . one shout has come down on the waves of centuries . . . Woe to the weak!"

The world outside the axis stands aghast at the kind of conquerors these two have been. The persecutions and driving out of the Jews, pogroms, concentration camps, cowardly, stealthy cruelties, tyrannies and hatreds—crimes against their own. What crimes would they not commit against their enemies?

Those within and without the axis know that the "something which rotates" around the line between Rome and Berlin is something insane and terrible. Will collapse come in the mad whirl of its own momentum?

Will that other "contemporary civilization" that still exists for the free peoples outside "the axis" have strength to survive?



SENIORS RANK HIGH IN STATE-WIDE TESTS

In the University state-wide tests recently conducted, and which included 4,000 students, in the upper group the average for the state was 9.4 per cent, while Franklin seniors had 26 per cent. Approximately 76 per cent of the Franklin students were above the state average.

DEBATES FRIDAY AT FRANKLIN AND ANDREWS

The state triangular debates in which the Franklin high school is entering are to be given Friday, March 31.

The affirmative team upheld by Wilson Ledford and Jack Tessier will debate Robbinsville's negative Friday morning at 10:30 a. m. at the Franklin high school. The public is invited.

The negative side upheld by Eugene Furr and John Wasilik will debate Andrews' affirmative team at Andrews Friday morning at the same time.

The students of the Franklin high school have been working on the debate for the past seven weeks.

Judges are Dr. Bramlett, Miss Ketchin, and Mr. Bitzer, instructors at W. C. T. C.

The subject for debate is: "Resolved, that the United States Form an Alliance With Great Britain."

If Franklin wins two sides of the triangle, which is composed of the schools at Franklin, Andrews and Robbinsville, the team will enter the state finals at Chapel Hill.

JUNIOR-SENIOR PLAY ATTRACTS CAPACITY CROWD

The junior-senior play, "Heart Trouble," which was given at the high school auditorium Saturday night attracted a capacity crowd. The performance was exceptionally good and was highly praised by those who saw it.

The play was directed by Mr. Wells assisted by Miss Sophia Albert, Mrs. Macon, Mrs. Wells, Mrs. Stewart, and Miss Weaver.

The furniture was loaned by Bryant's Furniture company, and the scenery was made by the WPA assisted by the high school boys and under the direction of Mr. Wells.

The players were Eugene Furr, Dorothy Lee Morrison, Doris Corbin, Virginia Tessier, Harry Higgins, George Patton, Dorothy Sloan, J. C. Cunningham, Lillian Jones, and Wilson Ledford. The leading roles, taken by Dorothy Lee Morrison and Eugene Furr were portrayed exceptionally well.

PREPARATIONS BEING MADE FOR JUNIOR-SENIOR BANQUET

Preparations are being made for the annual junior-senior banquet to be given Friday night at the country club.

Attractive invitations to a "Windmill Frolic" have been received by the seniors with anticipation of a joyous and eventful evening. The motif to be carried out is Dutch, and the program, the decorations, and entertainment will be in accordance with this theme. The juniors are preparing unusually attractive booklets and are busy trying to make this a happy affair for the seniors.

An added feature of the evening will be music furnished by Vinson Wright and his orchestra which will play appropriate numbers for the occasion.

The members of the board of education and their wives and the members of the high school faculty will be guests at the entertainment.

The menu for the evening has been carefully planned by the ladies of Mount Zion Methodist church.

MRS HUNTER'S ROOM STUDYING ABOUT HOLLAND

This month the children in Mrs. Hunter's room are studying about a little country of Holland across the sea. They are learning customs and habits of people who are said to be the cleanest people in the

world. They also think of examples of health from thinking about the rosy-cheeked children because they eat so much nice rich cheese, eggs, cream and fresh vegetables. The students are enjoying drawing windmills, dikes, dog carts, and tulips.
Ann Lyle, Reporter.

GIRLS' TEAM TO GET LETTERS

Miss Madge Henson, captain of the girls' basketball team, has ordered the girls' letters. In order to obtain letters girls must attend all the games played during the season.

The earning letters are: Penland, Justice, (E.) Moore, (M.) Moore, Barnard, Jones, Henson.

Baptists Plan Easter Services

The Rev. C. F. Rogers, pastor of Franklin Baptist church, announces a week of "Christian Life Services" beginning next Sunday morning, April 2, and continuing through Friday night, April 7.

During these services the pastor will give a brief message of the Seven Sayings of Jesus from the Cross, as follows:

Sunday morning, 11 a. m.—"Father forgive them; for they know not what they do." Lu. 23:34.

Sunday night, 8 p. m.—"Today shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Lu. 23:43.

Monday night, 8 p. m.—"Woman, behold thy Son, behold thy Mother." Jno. 19:26, 27.

Tuesday, 8 p. m.—"My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me." Mat. 27:46.

Wednesday night—"I Thirst." Jno. 19:28.

Thursday night—"It is Finished." Jno. 19:30.

Friday night—"Father, into Thy hands I commend my Spirit." Lu. 23:46.

The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Next Monday, April 3, the ministerial association will meet for the regular monthly business meeting.

The missionary society will hold its inspirational meeting at the church Thursday at 3 p. m.

FREE LIMESTONE
H. B. Ditmore of Madison county recently purchased a carload of limestone which cost him \$1.62 a ton and said the Triple-A would pay him \$1.50 a ton as a soil improving practice. The limestone will be used to renovate an old pasture.

Macon Theatre
Matinees 3:30 P. M.
Night Show 7:30 and 9:30
SHOWING FROM 1:30 TO 11 P. M. SATURDAYS

PROGRAM FOR WEEK

FRIDAY, MARCH 31
Its The Maternal Triangle!
PAT O'BRIEN,
JOAN BLONDELL IN
"OFF THE RECORD"
With: BOBBY JORDAN

SATURDAY, APRIL 1
Double Feature Program
CHARLES STARRETT IN
"WEST OF THE SANTA FE"
Action-Packed, Song-Studded Western Thrills!

And
Here's a new Tamiroff you've never seen before in a new kind of picture thrill!

"RIDE A CROOKED MILE"
AKIM TAMIROFF
LEIF ERIKSON
FRANCES FARMER
LYNNE OVERMAN

MON.-TUES., APRIL 3-4
You'll get a —REWARD— of thrilling entertainment if you see
JAMES CAGNEY IN
"THE OKLAHOMA KID"
With: HUMPHREY BOGART,
ROSEMARY LANE
DONALD CRISP

Tues., 11 P. M. and Wed., April 5
"WINGS OF THE NAVY"
With: GEORGE BRENT
OLIVIA DE HAVILLAND
JOHN PAYNE
FRANK McHUGH
JOHN LITEL

A good love story merged with the fascinating pictorial details of the naval air service!

If you want our weekly program mailed to you, please leave name at Box Office.

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Your Hair THIS EASTER
Your hair has the crinoline spirit of Scarlet O'Hara and the sleek modernity of Hollywood glamor girls. Or has it?
If it has you're ready for a stylish Easter. If it hasn't you'd better come right to Esther's Beauty Shop today and let us make you look your best.
Esther's Beauty Shop
Phone 152
Franklin, N. C.

All Machine and Machineless Permanents Guaranteed