

The Franklin Press

and The Highlands Maconian

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BIBLE THOUGHT

Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye break every yoke? Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry, and that thou bring the poor that are cast out to thy house? when thou seest the naked, that thou cover him; and that thou hide not thyself from thine own flesh?—Isaiah 58:6, 7.

Politics—the art of discerning what is good for mankind.
—Aristotle.

Wings Over North Carolina

THE christening of the big Pennsylvania Central Airlines ship "Miss Land of the Sky" at the Asheville-Hendersonville airport last Saturday marked a new link for Western North Carolina with the great population centers.

This "place in the sun" for Asheville has been the dream of her air-minded citizens for many years, and the placing of Asheville on the air routes is now a happy reality with far-reaching benefits foreseen. Besides bringing the advantage of air travel to this whole section, the air connections with other parts of the country should be a great stimulus to the tourist business.

This airline route connects Norfolk, the eastern terminus and a populous sea side resort, with the mountains of North Carolina and Tennessee as far as Knoxville, the western terminus. The route crosses the state with stops at Raleigh and other airports.

The counties in the west are thus linked more closely with the state capital, and facilities for air travel in every direction opened up through connection with the main airlines of the country.

Reporting his trip on the liner on her "proving flight" over the Smokies, which took 40 minutes each way between Knoxville and Asheville, Weimar Jones of the Asheville Citizen describes vividly the impressions of a first flight over this mountainous terrain.

"Occasionally a mark like that of a white or blue pencil on a map showed a stream; the party got a glimpse of what was believed the lake at Tapoco; the Little Tennessee was plainly visible once; and what appeared, at first, to be smoke of a forest fire lessened altitude, showed itself to be a plant at Bryson City."

"God Bless America"

SURELY, this is the strangest, and perhaps, the most exciting campaign that has ever been waged for the presidency. It is, without doubt, the most momentous in view of world conditions and the future of many millions. For the cruelest, most destructive war in the history of the race is threatening the world.

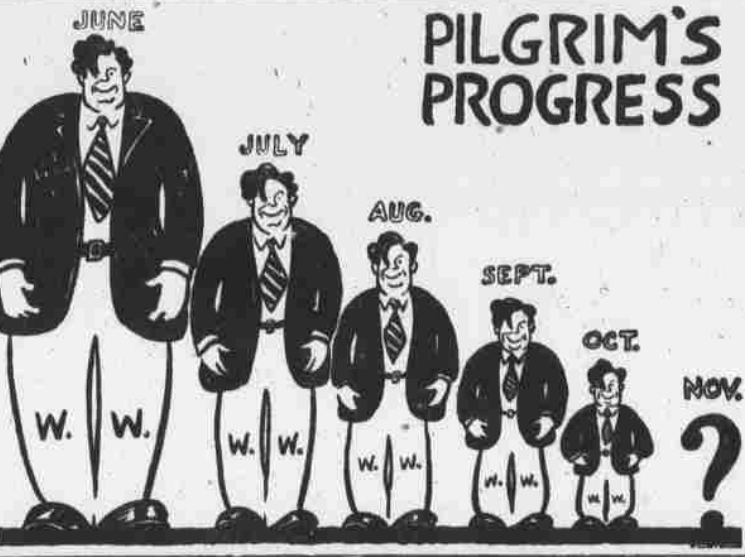
Is it any wonder people are changing their minds or standing strongly for their ancient loyalties, according to what they think in their minds or what they desire for themselves or for others?

Next Tuesday will register the votes of a free people for two men. Every shade of political philosophy, supposedly not fascist or communist, will be expressed by individual citizens voting for one or the other. Traditional party lines have been scrapped by many. There are "Democrats for Willie" and "Republicans for Roosevelt" organizations as well as the regular Democrats and Republicans.

The greatest single factor that will decide this election is, we believe, the radio. The people—high and low, rich and poor, in town and country—know better what it is all about, than any race ever run. We all know, from the sound of people's voices and what they say to us over the air, a lot more than it was ever possible for us to know before. There have been a lot of speeches and voices, and, in spite of much demogogy, there have been also some magnificent speeches and convincing facts. Far from being a babel of voices, there have been gloriously illuminating addresses by some of the clearest, sincerest minds that have ever given dynamic leadership in crises.

To cite one example, the rich voice of Dorothy Thompson has immeasurably strengthened her keen, analytical words. For seventeen years in magazine and newspaper column with a gift of clarity, sincerity and vigor in presenting cold facts and their significance, she has told the American people what was happening in Germany and Europe. Her championship of President Roosevelt is perhaps one of the most brilliant and effective examples of journalism ever seen. Born a privileged New Englander and Republican, at times a severe critic of President Roosevelt's domestic policies, her whole-souled advocacy for his re-election and answer to

Along the Concrete



Press Comment

(The Bryson City Times)
MACON GETS IT TOO

Over in the prosperous and progressive county of Macon the citizens are all riled up, and well might they be. Swain county is still trying to live down just such publicity as Macon is about to get. The only trouble Swain's plight, so called, was blazed across the state and nation in Sunday papers before anyone here knew what was coming.

Macon is more fortunate in having been given a chance to see the two reel picture, "Mountain Folk", which was produced from scenes taken in that county and shown in Franklin for the first time last Saturday night before it was shown elsewhere. They protest because it is labeled typical by the producer—WPA. Of course, it isn't typical. Macon has splendid educational institutions, one of the finest creameries in the state, fine highways, fine farms and many beautiful homes. Just such a picture as WPA made there can be made any where in the United States. All this primitive stuff can be found, or as much of it manufactured for purpose wanted anywhere.

THE MOUNTAINEERS

(Catawba News-Enterprise)

A dispatch from the mountain town of Franklin, in Macon county, tells us that the natives of that town became very incensed last week when a two-reel film, showing the "so-called" scenes of mountain life, was shown there.

In fact, the people were so enraged that a deputy sheriff confiscated the film to prevent a further demonstration.

This incident brings to mind the fact that our North Carolina mountaineers have long been pictured as something that they actually are not, and it is high time that something be done.

such men as General Hugh Johnson and John L. Lewis cannot fail to be convincing to many unable to state so well a reason for the faith that is within them.

On the other hand, the bitter, malevolent words of John L. Lewis or the wisecracking of Al Smith—two men nursing personal grievances and wounded vanity—can swing few votes and lose many by their championship. There is something in the voice that wins or repels, that adds to or subtracts from the words spoken.

Many of our own people will vote for Mr. Roosevelt as the president who has done more for every man, woman and child in Macon county and many another county than all the other presidents put together in their life time, but this should not be the only reason.

Many will vote for Mr. Willie because they do not believe in a third term, but that should not be the only reason.

God has richly blessed America, and a God-fearing people, with all the blessings they command, have it in their collective power to select a president and then to strengthen his efforts for them and a stricken world. A unity of thinking and purpose is the overwhelming necessity as well as blessing that must come to America in the days and months ahead.

Letter to Editor

The Franklin Press,
Dear Sir:
I was much impressed by a front page news article in the last issue of The Press concerning the indignant attitude of my fellow citizens against the showing of the picture, "Mountain Folk."

I heartily agree with these people for it is time that something should be done to correct the impression in the minds of many people that mountain folks are ignorant, stupid, and "back-woodsey."

When I was in school at N. C. State some of the boys used to call me a "hill billy" and I didn't mind either because I was proud that I came from where the purest race of Americans exist today—the mountains of Western North Carolina—and more particularly Macon county. Many of my school-mates from up state New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, etc., really believe that we mountain folks were heathen, and that we were so ignorant that we needed

the services of missionaries.

Since finishing school I have traveled considerable in the southern states and have seen, at first hand, worse poverty than has ever come to my attention in Western North Carolina. Every day I see women of 75 and 80 years of age just as bare footed as it is possible to be and apparently without a foot washing for the last week or 10 days. Half starved and practically naked children are an every day occurrence in my travels—and I don't travel in Western North Carolina or in any part of the mountains, I've talked to people who can't read nor write, haven't been to a show nor ridden a train, and they don't live in Western North Carolina. Yes, some people handle rattlesnakes besides those who do in Western North Carolina. Only today I heard a South Georgia judge charge the jury to report any persons who were known to be handling these reptiles. I've seen huts made of logs and chimneys made of nothing more than mud and sticks—and it was 500 miles from Western North Carolina.

Every place has its faults, and the people who inhabit these places also have their shortcomings, but, taking everything into consideration, I am positive from experience that the people of the mountains are more honest, hard working, progressive, intelligent, and enlightened than people of some other locations of these United States, even if their feet are bare—sometimes a fellow has a "corn," or is going fishing.

To me it would seem much more profitable and certainly more correct for the University and WPA to picture the better side and thus bring more tourists, enlighten the people, and educate them as to how other people do things.

The Blue Ridge mountaineer is a man for whom the nation should be proud.

HARRY R. WRIGHT
Douglas, Ga.
Oct. 28, 1940

Letter From State WPA Head Regarding Movie

(The following letter was received by Gilmer Jones, local attorney, from C. C. McGinnis, state administrator, Works Projects Administration, in answer to a letter protesting the further showing the film, "Mountain Folk".)

Dear Mr. Jones:
This will acknowledge your communication of October 21, concerning the exhibition of a movie film entitled "Mountain Folk" at the Macon county courthouse Saturday night, October 19, 1940.

A public exhibition of this film came as a complete surprise to this office, as well as the state directors of the division having charge of the visual education project, sponsored by the University of North Carolina.

Upon reading the press dispatches concerning this film, orders were issued that no other public showing be made until such time as the ownership of the film was proven and in the meantime, the film was ordered brought to Raleigh so that this Administrator might review them.

In addition to the private showing of the film in the state office of the Works Projects Administration, attended only by those persons having a direct interest in same, the Governor of North Carolina, Honorable Clyde R. Hoey, witnessed a showing in his office Wednesday, October 23, 1940.

Conferences have been held with the producer of this film and others are being arranged with the University officials so that complete ownership and responsibility may be established. In the meantime, I shall appreciate greatly if the good people of Macon county and officials of Franklin will withhold judgment against the Works Project Administration for what appears to be its part in the production of the film.

I am highly appreciative of your

Cullasaja

By MRS. VERNON BRYSON
Mr. and Mrs. James L. McCall and children attended the birthday dinner of Mr. McCall's grandmother last Sunday in South Carolina.

Mrs. Josephine Leopard has returned to her home at Gneiss after spending the past few weeks with Mr. and Mrs. John Potts.

Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Mitchell and children of Highlands and Mars Hill spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Bryson.

Miss Otella Bryson, who is attending Cecil's Business college at Asheville spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Bryson.

Mrs. Irada Russell and sons, Carrel and J. D., returned to their home here Sunday from White Plains, N. Y.

We are sorry to report Mrs. D. M. Sellers has been on the sick list for the last few weeks.

Fred Sorrells and Gordon Gibson made a business trip to Asheville Tuesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Pritchard Russell made a business trip to Nantahala Tuesday.

Mrs. Annie Richards of Highlands is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Ray Bryson, here.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Bryson and son, Alton, and Mr. and Mrs. Wiley Bryson and son, Bruce, were visiting relatives in Glenville Sunday.

fine letter on this subject, and wish to thank you for the many courtesies shown this Administration during the past.

Sincerely yours,
C. C. McGinnis, State
Administrator Works Projects
Administration

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7:30 P. M.
AMERICAN LEGION HALL
Franklin, N. C.

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