

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
At Franklin, North Carolina
Telephone No. 24

VOL. LVI Number 20

Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson and W. S. Johnson, Publishers

Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year	\$1.50
Eight Months	\$1.00
Six Months	.75
Single Copy	.05

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

BIBLE THOUGHT

I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.
—Philippians 4:13.

Doing what can't be done is the glory of living.
—Samuel C. Armstrong.

Home Front Politics

INTEREST in politics this year is bound to be affected by war conditions. If this is in the direction of awakening a sense of responsibility for good government in many citizens who have been careless about registering and voting in the past, then we will have a part in building a better nation after the war is over.

That many of the young men who will not be here to vote because they have to fight in this war would like for homefolks to look after democracy at home, goes without saying. Many of them will find out for the first time what democracy is all about. Others will die without even knowing what they are fighting for, because they never had a chance to learn about their country or the world they live in. Nearly 50 percent of one quota of draftees from Macon county were sent back as unfit not so very long ago, because they could neither read nor write and were below par in their health. These two disabilities are closely related, by the way. And this in a state where there has existed since before these young men were born a compulsory education law with duly appointed and paid officers with responsibility to enforce the law!

Nothing is to be gained by blaming any individual or group of individuals for anything that has happened in the past to defeat a democratic form of government and to encourage unsatisfactory conditions which may exist at this or other county seats. The fault arises out of the vicious circle of ignorance and indifference. Allowing children to grow up without knowing how to read is an excellent way to foster little totalitarian county governments. In fact, the success of this system has been demonstrated in a big way in other parts of the world. Incidentally, that is why our forefathers braved the Atlantic and the wilderness of America to start something they hoped would be different. But there are still a lot of citizens in Macon county — and some of them vote — who have never had a chance to learn that Columbus discovered America.

The registration books show that there are a lot of others who have enjoyed advantages of education and privilege who do not care enough for their government or their neighbors to exercise their right to vote.

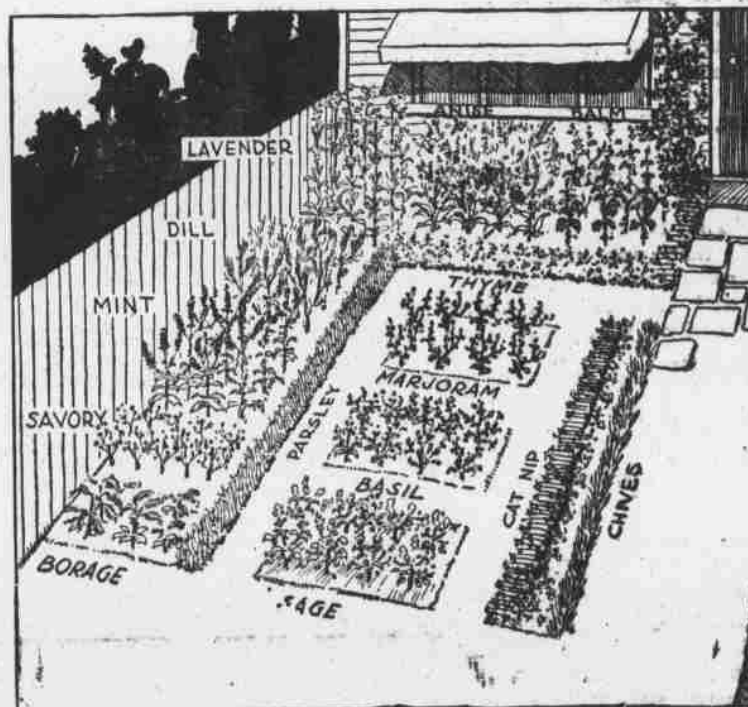
In the coming primary there are many good citizens who are running for the nomination of their party and for election to the various offices and committees necessary to conduct the county's business and to promote the general welfare for the next two years. Taken by and large, they are good citizens who would rather do their duty than not do it. But voting for, nominating and electing a man to office and then forgetting the whole business is not the way to have a good, efficient local government. The people decide to a considerable extent whether officials do their duty. If they make it their business to be intelligent about their public affairs, they can help their representatives to be intelligent too. They can demand to know how their funds are expended. This does not imply that they have not been expended honestly. But it is required of every business where one man is entrusted with another man's money and welfare that an accounting be made.

The people of Macon county do not know how much money they have or how it is expended by either the county Board of Commissioners or by the County Board of Education. This is because they have not demanded to know.

Whoever becomes responsible for these important duties for the coming two years would win the approval and confidence of all the people by voluntarily seeing that these undemocratic practises are reformed. Only by such reform within our local body politic will we keep faith with those who have to die to defend the kind of government we ought to have.

THE POCKETBOOK OF KNOWLEDGE

The Herb Garden Comes Back



RUBBER is not the only commodity which is curtailed by war in the Far East. Many spices, seasoning and medicinal herbs are becoming increasingly scarce along with other war shortages.

A revival of herb growing in North Carolina is being urged by State College specialists, not only because the war has shut off supplies of many culinary and medicinal herbs, but as a new money crop which can be developed with small expenditure in a limited space.

Herb gardens should appeal especially to our section. The climate is particularly favorable to the growing of foreign herbs, and many are already indigenous and growing wild. It has not been long since herbs were brought in by people living back in the mountains and sold in Franklin. Ten years ago it was not an uncommon sight to see people on the streets with their herbs which they had brought to town to sell or trade. Much of the knowledge of native herbs has been handed down by the Indians, and many of our older citizens know the curative and alleviative powers of certain herbs which have been handed down from pioneer days when there was no drug store or doctor.

Early settlers in this country are said to have brought with them a wide variety of herbs from Europe, and used the plants extensively in flavoring and for medicinal purposes. Every garden in the old South had a protected corner where the sweet and savory herbs, like lavender and fennel, grew in abundance to supply a delicate aroma to the linen closet; and mint to add the necessary flavor to a julep.

The State College horticulturist predicts a growing market for seasoning and medicinal herbs and urges housewives to make this addition to their war gardens as a promising potential money crop. He mentions such plants as coriander, fennel, caraway, sage, anise, sunflower, mustard, angelica, dill and pyrethum—a list that summons old memories of whiffs from grandmother's pantry and kitchen garden. Sage, that necessity for good poultry dressing and homemade sausage, costs now 13 times more than it did last year.

There is one timely warning given would-be herb gardeners. The shortage of seed appears as a real handicap. The producing of herb crops for seed by those fortunate enough to have already a supply of herbs in their gardens is seen as a definite service. This should appeal to many women in Macon county who could potter around in their herbs after they are too old to dig rows and weed larger crops.

Invitation to the Nantahalas

THE chambers of commerce of both Franklin and Highlands are going out after the tourist business, according to this week's news articles. Both report cooperation with the town boards of these resort towns. This is as it should be. Town boards represent the entire population in the promotion of any movement which makes for the benefit of all. It is gratifying to know that the town boards of both towns are helping support the efforts of interested citizens to advertise the advantages of this section.

Members of chambers of commerce are not limited to representatives of business interests of the community. There are many who join and pay dues who do not expect to reap any material benefit, but who have the general welfare of their town at heart.

Since the tire and gasoline shortage will affect private automobile travel, there is every necessity for those resorts easily accessible by bus to advertise the fact widely. People working in the heat farther south and in big cities will need a vacation and must go somewhere. The resorts that are enterprising enough to go out and tell them where to come and advertise the attractions they can offer, will get the vacationists. Incidentally, a lot of people are getting more pay this summer and will be willing to spend it freely for a restful, refreshing vacation.

It is part of this nation's spirit of resourcefulness to find new ways to meet changed conditions and to overcome difficult problems. Sitting down and getting ready for a poor season is a good way to invite a poor season. Getting a move on ourselves, individually and collectively, to tell the hot-and-bothered office workers in the war-worried centers that there is a heavenly place out here in the Nantahalas where a comfortable bus will bring them, is bound to produce results.

Letters to Editor

470 Arbor Road
Cleveland, Ohio
May 11, 1942

The Franklin Press,
Franklin, N. C.
Dear Sirs:
Please renew my subscription to your paper for I don't want to miss a copy.
I always look forward to Monday morning when I can get up and read the news from home.
Thank you very much.
Very truly yours,
Blake Roland.

Press Comment

FOREST SERVICE "UNDER ARMS"

(Christian Science Monitor)
Without fanfare the United States forest service is contributing its not inconsequential bit to the war effort, and the average citizen who pays the bills of his government may well be proud of this group of public servants. Over the years, the forest service has fought steadily and often at great odds against public indifference to the conservation program. Long before Pearl Harbor, the officials began to prepare for their part in the war effort.

The recent report of the chief of the forest service gives concrete evidence of the work under way. The Wisconsin forests product laboratory is showing private manufacturers how to substitute wood for key materials such as aluminum, in making airplane wings, fuselages, and propellers. Types of wood have been developed for plugs for naval shells and for charcoal in gas masks. The laboratory has discovered a method to convert wood into nitrate pulps and chemicals. It has secured an anti-knock compound for gasoline, thus releasing tons of vital chemical compounds for other essentials of war. As metals become scarcer, the laboratory will lead the way in experimenting with wood plastics to serve civilian needs.

Because of the war, the war department has taken title to 384,564 acres of what was formerly national forest land, and the valuable spruce and other woods needed for airplane manufacture will be harvested under the direction of the forest service officials. This spring large crews are building roads to tap new sources of both woods and minerals needed by the armed forces. All this is in addition to the regular year-in, year-out work to preserve the nation's 615,000,000 acres of forest. Because of emergency conditions, the forest service has increased its fire protection organization to 3,200 lookout stations, has installed 3,000 radio sets and built up its telephone service to 63,000 miles of wire. The forest service is in the front line in the nation's war effort.

Poet's Corner

THE FIGHTING 99th

We're in the Air Corps, buddy
it's true,
We're not the pilots, we're only
the crew,
When ever it's time to shine,
You will hear from the cool old 99,
When things get hot, we're on the
spot,
The fighting 99th.

We have no rifles, they gave us
a wrench,
A roaring bomber will be our
trench,
If any one wants to fight,
We'll pound them to a bloody
sight,
We'll bomb Berlin and walk right
in,
The fighting 99th.

We'll laugh and sing, we'll fight
and work,
Our duty we will never shirk,
We've got a job to do,
And we won't stop until it's thru,
Then when it's over the world
will be free,
We'll pack up our barracks bags,
And mark "U.S." upon the tags,
We'll ride the foam right for home,
The fighting 99th!

Willard B. Sanders
Trinidad, B.W.I.

This and That

By FRANKIE MACON

Wartime restrictions may cut down on our social activities, but during the coming year every motorist can count on having an occasional blow-out.

If, as Hitler says, Russia is already beat, England is powerless and the United States unable to help, then what's going to make the war last so long?

A rich man is one who has plenty of tubes—both inner and footpaste.

On account of the rubber situation some of the authorities are warning of a possible shortage of heels. They evidently don't realize how many heels there are in the world.

Anyhow, the tire shortage is going to provide a good excuse for not going a lot of places you don't want to go.

Residents of Berlin seem very indignant at the idea that a Nazi

Births

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Hughes of Aquone, announce the birth of a daughter, Willma Rebecca, on Sunday May 3.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Arch Dills, of the Camp Branch section, May 8.

A daughter, Virginia, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Cole Phillips of Aquone, on May 4.

can be a bombee as well as a bomber.

A nudist is a person who goes coatless and vestless and wears trousers to match.

Since the WPB's authorization of the dis-continued production of juke boxes, why not smuggle the old ones into Japan and drive the Japs crazy?