

## The Franklin Press

and

## The Highlands Maconian

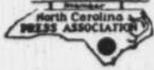
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## A Plan

SUPPOSE representatives of the City of Asheville should come into Macon County and propose to divert the water from most of our streams . . . or Chicago should come in with a view to hauling away the bulk of our cattle . . . or Grand Rapids should seek to cut and carry away all our best timber.

If any of these things should happen, the people of this county would, and should, be ready to fight.

Yet Macon County today is facing a more serious threat. Macon County is in danger of having other communities take from it something more valuable than any or all of these. For, unless something is done to prevent it, Macon County stands to lose a large proportion of its finest youth, as represented by this county's returning war veterans.

Considerable has been said, in these columns and by the public, about the importance of attracting our servicemen back home to live. Considerable has been said—but nothing has happened.

What appears to be needed is a plan, and somebody to carry it out.

Because that seems to be the case, the program outlined below is submitted.

It should be pointed out first, however, that any plan, if it is to work, must be broad enough to take into account at least three factors. Something must be done quickly before we lose the approximately 1,000 Macon County veterans already discharged. There must be some planning for the future, if anything of permanent value is to be accomplished, and such a plan will take time to perfect. And, finally, both for the present and the future, provision must be made not only to make Macon County a place in which these men can earn a living, but also a place so attractive they will want to live here.

\* \* \*

This newspaper proposes:

That the governing authorities of Macon County and of the towns of Franklin and Highlands take the initiative.

That each of these boards appoint one member of a planning commission—better still, that the three boards meet jointly to make the appointments.

That they give careful consideration to their choices, making sure they select persons who command the unqualified respect of the people of this county, persons who are at once broad-minded and practical, and persons who can and will unselfishly devote thought and time to their duties.

That the commission be given assurance that funds will be provided for such reasonable expense as it may be necessary for it to incur.

And that this commission be charged with the responsibility of:

1. Making, at once, a canvass of every business establishment in Macon County to see how many Macon veterans can be given employment. The idea, of course, should be not to displace non-veterans in order to make room for veterans, but to increase the number employed.

And just here the G. I. Bill of Rights offers a helping hand. It provides for the approval of business establishments—and farms—for apprenticeship training of veterans, with the government paying the veteran—\$65 a month, if single; \$90 a month, if married—while he is learning the trade or business. This undoubtedly will make it possible for many establishments which need new blood, but which are unable to start an inexperienced man at more than a nominal salary, to take on and train young men so they will be ready, in a few years, to step into the shoes of older employes when the latter retire. The government's apprentice training program won't solve the whole immediate problem, but, if taken advantage of, will make a good start toward it.

2. Making a survey of the recreational needs of this county—in both town and county—and how best to meet them. This is basic. You can't attract youth today without providing opportunity for wholesome play.

3. Making a survey of the housing needs and how

## LETTERS

## ENJOYS PRESS

Dear Cousin Weimar:

The Press is read from cover to cover each week at 2721 Hillview in Dayton and very much enjoyed. The column of 10 and 25 years ago always brings chuckles, as well as happy memories.

It especially pleases me to hear that the old Town Clock is being put into order by Charlie Nolan and Earl Harrison.

Warmest greeting and best wishes for continued success in your good work.

Cordially and sincerely,

JAMES PORTER.

## WOULD TEAR DOWN COURTHOUSE

Dear Sir:

I wish to congratulate you on the fine job you are doing with The Press and from here I say, keep up the good work.

In the February 21st edition there was one item that caught my attention more than any other. It was the letter under heading—"Needed: Some Planning". A truer statement has never been spoken about Franklin, but I wish to differ with some of the ideas in that letter. The first item it discussed, and an old one, concerned the court house, and it expressed desires of keeping the present building.

Why, if we are going to beautify our little town, keep that old barn in the center of town? True it has its architectural distinction and historical interest. But it is becoming more every day just a relic of the past.

For this time and age the old must make way for the new. Do we plan to continue to hold our county courts and keep our county officers in a museum? If it were possible, keep the county building as a keep sake of the past, but not as a place of county offices or courts.

In due time a new court building must be erected—then why put money on fixing up the old? I know very little about Macon County's financial situation but I'm sure we have none to spare to erect such an expensive monument to the past. For other than the new court house, the county in the near future will also have to erect a new school building and above all a gymnasium at Franklin, and so many, many other things must come before we can afford to keep an old building for a keep sake.

There seems to be but one thing to do—tear down the old building and erect a new. One which instead of being a relic of the past, will be a monument to the future.

While we are planning for a better future, there are some things which can be done now which will aid in making "home town" a better one. The one big thing is Main street; some day it may have to be widened, but Main is very capable of handling the traffic providing certain steps are taken.

The one important step would be a limited amount of parking space at all times; the second, heavy hauling trucks banned from downtown's Main. If these two ideas were carried out, it would prove to add more color, safety and convenience to our town. We all have seen Main on Saturdays; did we ever think what would happen if one of the buildings caught fire? It would be a disaster. While on the subject of fire, that, too, is something which needs immediate attention. There is already a town ordinance pertaining to unauthorized persons going to fires; this should be enforced. Franklin has a splendid fire department for a town of its size, in fact one of the best. But how can we expect it to function properly if the fire truck, itself, has to follow some eager onlooker to the fire or have to move them to make it possible to reach the fire? Too many cooks spoil the broth.

In this letter I have expressed my frank opinion as a member of the younger generation, and I feel sure there are many of us with the same. Regardless of how Franklin or Macon County are run or built, I still think it is the best home-town a guy could have.

Respectfully yours,

F. I. MURRAY, JR.

Naval Personnel Separation Center,  
Great Lakes, Ill.,  
March 1, 1946.

to meet them. Again the federal government may offer aid that is just what we want. But we must know first what we need, and which, if any, government program best fits our local needs.

4. Making a complete study of Macon County as a unit—its resources, its needs, its possibilities, and how best to attain a well balanced economy and at the same time make this a constantly better place to live. Such a survey, if properly made, would require a lot of time and the services of an expert. Such an expert should collect complete data and make recommendations; but it should be for our own Macon County authorities to adopt, reject, or modify those recommendations so that they will fit our local needs and be in line with the character and aspirations of the people of Macon County.

\* \* \*

The Press lays no claim to perfection for this program. It is not necessarily wedded to this particular plan. It would be happy to publicize an other plan.

But, until and unless a better plan is devised, it offers this one in the conviction that some plan is needed, and that any plan, whatever its shortcomings, is better than no plan at all.

In that conviction, it respectfully submits the suggestions above for the consideration of the board of county commissioners, the boards of aldermen of Franklin and Highlands, and the people of Macon County.

## Good Work

This community is in the debt of Jos. Ashear and Bob S. Sloan. Never, in his own store, did Jos. Ashear work harder than he has in recent weeks as head of the Victory Clothing collection. And Bob Sloan has gone from one end of this county to the other, working day and night, organizing for the Red Cross fund campaign. In these campaigns both Mr. Ashear and Mr. Sloan and their associates have found their tasks made hard by the anticlimactic reaction that always follows a war.

Despite this handicap, however, the Victory Clothing collection campaign was completed in a manner creditable to the county. The Red Cross drive still is under way, but nobody who knows Macon County people can doubt that they will respond to the call for funds for the American Red Cross. For never yet have the people of this county turned a deaf ear to a plea for the relief of human suffering.

## Others' Opinions

## ONLY REASONABLE ANSWER

IF mention of the 1946 Red Cross Fund Campaign causes you to say, "I'm tired of these drives," then just remember that the veteran who is heading up this drive in Macon County fought in eight campaigns from Africa to Germany. Answer that one with a gift—the only reasonable answer there is.

—Franklin Methodist Church Bulletin.

"All things excellent are as difficult as they are rare."  
—Spinoza.

Each of several boys who amused themselves by deflating automobile tires was required to pump one up by hand. That's learning about inflation the hard way.

—Christian Science Monitor.

## JOIN

Bryant Mutual  
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in the County

## NOTICE

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Moose meets regularly  
on the first and  
third Thursday nights  
of each month at 7:30.  
LAKE V. SHOPE, Sec.

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urged to attend the

AMERICAN LEGION MEETINGS

First and Third Mondays of Each Month

7:30 p. m.

LEGION HALL

American Legion Post No. 108

## FRESH JUICE

From

## FRESH ORANGES

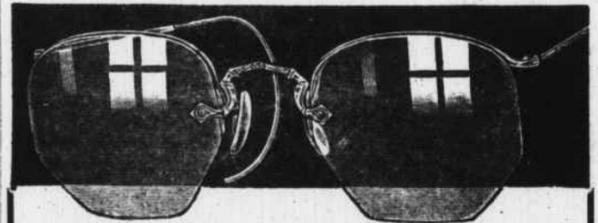
EAT MORE FRESH FLORIDA FRUIT

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