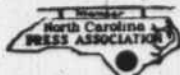


The Franklin Press

AND

The Highlands Maconian



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Obituary notices, cards of thanks, tributes of respect, by individuals, lodges, churches, organizations or societies, will be regarded as advertising and inserted at regular classified advertising rates. Such notices will be marked "adv." in compliance with the postal regulations.

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BONDS, SCHOOL, PEOPLE

HAD anyone suggested, in December, 1941, that three million dollars worth of bonds would be sold in Macon County in the next four years, he would have been thought a fool. For three million dollars is a lot of money, anywhere. It is an almost unbelievable amount of bonds to be bought by the people of a county that has neither a large population nor great wealth.

Yet the final figures, published elsewhere in this issue of The Press, reveal that total purchases in this county fell only a few thousand dollars short of three millions.

The size of the total, of course, reflects great credit upon the men and women who conducted the bond drives here. But it is tangible evidence, too, of the patriotism of the average man, woman, and child in this community—more than half of the sum was made up of bonds of small denominations.

The job was done, of course, not by Franklin, working alone; nor by Highlands, alone; nor by the rural communities, alone. It was done, like all the other big homefront jobs of the war, by everybody, working together.

The people of the entire county have every right to be proud of the record.

* * *

Another bit of news in this week's Press that will bring a sense of gratification is the announcement that 35 Macon County veterans are now in college, taking advantage of the provisions of the G. I. Bill of Rights, while approximately 50 others have applications pending.

These young people, matured and broadened by their experiences, will add college training—either liberal or in the technical fields—to the remarkable education they already have received through travel, through mingling with people from many states and lands, and through the facing of reality in the raw. They will come out of school exceedingly well prepared. And each of them will be in position to contribute greatly to the community in which he decides to make his home.

* * *

Nor can Macon County people read the figures on this county's wartime loss of population without some feeling of pride.

Up to November, 1943, one-eighth of the people of the county had gone elsewhere—either to enter the armed forces or to work in war plants. The total at that time was 2,161. By the end of the war, both the number and the proportion undoubtedly were much greater; it is quite possible we had lost one-sixth, or even one-fifth, of our population by that time.

A county that has contributed that heavily of its young men and women can well feel that it has done its share in the winning of a great war.

As we look to the future, however, the figures are cause for apprehension. Our births exceed our deaths by only about 325 per year. Thus, if we rely upon the normal population increase, it will take us about 10 years to get back to where we were in 1940.

Barring a great influx of new people, we cannot go forward unless we attract our service folks back home.

THE SYMPHONY CONCERT

Anything that tends to raise the cultural level of a community is well worth while. Every community needs organizations and events that will stimulate appreciation of such things as good books and good music. Such an event is the scheduled appearance in Franklin of the North Carolina Symphony orchestra.

Those persons who, with their memberships, are making the concert here possible, even though they may not be music lovers themselves, are contributing toward the building of a better community, now. Even more, they are doing something for the future by contributing to the education of the community's children. The children will have an opportunity to hear the orchestra without charge.

Others' Opinions

ANOTHER BOOST

MOUNTAIN farming, so rapidly coming into its own, finds another helping hand in the decision of the State Department of Agriculture to establish a crop reporting station in Asheville.

The road from farm to market in a progressive agricultural region is now lined—figuratively, of course—with telegraph wires. Information is essential to the farmer. He must have daily news about prices, about weather, about markets, about the volume of crops elsewhere. This is one function of the crop reporting station, which will be connected by teletype with Raleigh and with the United States Department of Agriculture crop reporting outlets in the State Capital. Other functions are market inspection and, as a memorandum of the program presented to Buncombe County commissioners set forth, "to organize and assist in the operation of marketing facilities, central pack sheds and cold storage processing plants."

Western North Carolina has suffered for its comparative remoteness from the center of State Agriculture Department activities, which is Raleigh. The new station, opening April 1, will bring mountain farming in full contact with all the services which North Carolina provides for its primary industry. It is recognition, too, of the enormous strides which this region has made, notably in truck farming and beef cattle production, in recent years.—Asheville Citizen.

TAXES

TAXES are one of the few ways in which every citizen can participate in the government.

Taxes are a contribution every free born man and woman can make to the freedom which has given him and her an opportunity to earn a living.

Taxes are an insurance against slavery. They keep the brutal heel of the conqueror from pressing against the neck of any man or woman in this country.

Taxes are a tangible expression of our faith in the democratic processes, in equal justice for all before the law, in the way of life which is evolving for the first time on earth equal opportunity for every man and woman according to his or her talents.

Taxes are every citizen's obligation—laid as fairly as is possible upon every person able and willing to earn his way. Tax-shirking and tax dodging aren't American. It's like cheating yourself—because you, too, are American.

Taxes are the price of liberty. To pay taxes is a privilege, not a penalty. It is proof of fitness. You should take pride in your ability to earn enough to pay a man's sized tax. Slaves do not pay taxes. Only free men pay them.—Ruth Taylor in The West Asheville News.

WHAT PRICE PEACE?

NOTHING worth having can be had for nothing. Lasting peace, as the thing most worth having in all the world, cannot be won without paying its price. That is the most important thing of all to get into the heads of all who are concerned with public affairs.—Sir William Beveridge, British economist and author of the "Beveridge Plan," writing in a recent issue of The Rotarian.

YOUTH AT HOME

IT is an encouraging and hopeful sign that we detect in the news published in this newspaper last week that two young veterans recently discharged from service have teamed up to start a new industrial enterprise in their home town of Ahsokie. It is encouraging and pleasing to know that these young men, who have had opportunity to see much of this nation and other nations as well, have come to the conclusion that the future is as good for them here in a small town in rural Northeastern North Carolina as it would be anywhere. It is good that after they have seen life in many other sections they have decided the opportunities for success in business are as great for them here at home as elsewhere.

We trust that other young men and women will follow their lead and, as these two young men have done, discover the opportunities for service and personal success here in this section of North Carolina. We believe none of them will be disappointed in their choice of location, for we believe this section offers as great opportunities for personal success in the development of its natural resources and in service to human kind as are to be found anywhere and in much greater amount than most others, including the big cities that attract many. We know the energy and vision of these young men will mean much to us. Every encouragement should be given them to remain with us and take places of leadership in all phases of community life and development. Upon such the progress and development of our section depends.—Hertford County Herald.

Worry is interest paid on trouble before it is due.—Dean Inge.

If there be no royalty there can be no great friendship.
—Black.

"... and cabbages and kings"—

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THE FRANKLIN PRESS

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Franklin, N. C.

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