

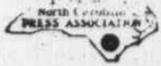
The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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AN OPEN LETTER

to
MR. C. GORDON MOORE, Chairman
Macon County Board of Education

Dear Mr. Moore:

It is no secret that there is widespread and growing dissatisfaction with our Macon County schools.

How much of the criticism is justified I do not pretend to know. No doubt some of it is based upon prejudice and ignorance of the true situation. It seems highly improbable, however, that such a chorus of criticism is entirely groundless.

But whatever the facts may be about the quality of our schools, it certainly is true that the attitude of a large section of the Macon County public is highly critical. And that is extremely unfortunate—tragic for the children; because the schools can do their best work only when they have the respect and whole-hearted support of the public, and particularly of the parents.

I am convinced that the situation, whatever the cause, can be remedied, and I believe the members of the board of education are the ones to remedy it. This letter is addressed to you, therefore, in your capacity as chairman of that board, to suggest that what we need is facts.

If the dissatisfaction is unwarranted, facts, and facts alone, will prove the point; convince the public; and thus make possible the vitally necessary cooperation of the schools and the people. If there is basis for the criticism, facts will show us what and where the trouble is, so that something can be done about it.

My suggestion is that you and the other members of the school board learn, first-hand, what our schools are like; that you then compare them with the schools elsewhere; and, finally, that you report your findings to the people.

I suggest that you visit—as a board or individually—every school in this county, and—

1. See for yourselves what the physical facilities are—whether the rooms are crowded, and how badly; what the playground conditions are; whether there are lunchrooms, and what kind of lunches they serve; whether there are enough toilets, and if they are kept clean; etc.

2. Learn, by visiting the classrooms, something about the quality of the instruction our children are receiving.

3. Talk to school patrons in the various school communities and find out if they are pleased with their schools—and if not, why not.

Since all intelligent appraisal is based largely upon comparison, such a survey would be of little value unless you took the second step and compared our schools with others. Parents who recently have moved to Macon County undoubtedly could offer some worth-while comparisons, criticisms, and suggestions, and interviews with them would prove helpful. But there is nothing like seeing for yourselves, and surely visits to schools of similar size in other counties would prove invaluable to you.

After such a study, you would be in position to make an authoritative, detailed report—preferably a school-by-school report—to the people of this county. (The columns of this newspaper will be open to you, as a matter of course, for any reports, comments, and recommendations you may wish to make.)

You and other members of the board are busy men, and I appreciate the further fact that your pay as board members is nominal and that your work all too often is thankless. But I am sure that each of you accepted membership on the board solely in order to serve, and that you are keenly conscious of the heavy responsibility that is yours.

And I am convinced that a serious, careful study by the board, followed by a report to the people, is an essential first step toward the better schools the people of Macon County are demanding.

Respectfully,
WEIMAR JONES

Th' unconquerable Mind, and Freedom's holy flame.—Gray.

Behind the clouds is the sun still shining.—Longfellow.

To admit poverty is no disgrace to a man, but to make no effort to escape it is indeed disgraceful.—Thucydides.

LETTERS

BATHTUBS AND CULTURE

Dear Sir:

It was heartening to note that your issue of September 19th reported the findings of the North Carolina State Planning Board with reference to the percentage of homes without running water, without private toilets, without private bath facilities and without electricity—for Macon County and the State as a whole.

However, your editorial, which admits that "the figures have value and are worth considering", generally pooh-poohs the relationship between bathtubs and culture.

What is culture? "The word 'culture' properly includes . . . both the material culture and also such parts of culture as knowledge, beliefs, morals, law, and custom." (Ogburn, William F., Social Change, p. 4. New York: B. W. Huebsch, 1922.)

Another definition: "Culture contains the following essential elements: (1) It is man made, as distinct from creations of nature, unmodified by the hand of man. (2) It includes the products of the mind which are intangible and non-material as well as those material forms which are made by his hands. (3) It is preservable and accumulative, and increases in complexity and quality through the building up of new accretions. (4) It is psychically transmissible from person to person, from group to group and from generation to generation." (Eubank, Earl E. The Concepts of Sociology, p. 339, New York: D. C. Heath and Co. 1932).

Hence by definition bathtubs, miles of paved highways, telephones, etc., constitute culture. They are the material aspects of culture, it is true, but they are nevertheless aspects. If they are not often responsible for the non-material components of culture, at least they influence them.

I do not mean to place the material phases of culture on a pedestal and bow down to them in holy worship. But a social heritage worthy of America in the 20th century cannot be developed until minimum levels of health, decency, communication, etc., are established for all.

SEYMOUR ETKIN.

Highlands, N. C.
September 23, 1946.

(Editor's Note: Webster defines "culture": "The state of being cultivated; especially the enlightenment and refinement of taste acquired by intellectual and aesthetic training; the intellectual content of civilization; refinement in manners, taste, thought, etc. . . . A particular state or stage of advancement in civilization or the characteristic features of such a stage or state.")

Others' Opinions

GI HOUSING

The government's housing program has been a miserable flop. Its failure was predicted by Senator O'Daniel and by The W. Lee O'Daniel News months ago. Now comes the National Home and Property Owners foundation demanding abolishment of the bureau and the immediate removal of Wilson W. Wyatt, expeditor, from office. The demand is made by the trustees of the foundation composed of citizens from every state of the Union, who met in Washington last week.

While Housing Administrator Wilson Wyatt, say foundation trustees, is telling Americans the Veterans' emergency housing program has shown results "that only the most optimistic have dared to hope for," actual figures prove that construction is bogging down because of the failure of government "expeditors" to assure a flow of materials.

Mr. Wyatt has pointed to the 2,700,000 units scheduled to be started by the end of 1947 as evidence of the success of his program. He ignored the fact that regardless of how many houses are started, the rate of completion is becoming critically small. An investigation by the National foundation indicates that construction time has increased from the normal of three months to nine months or more. A survey made among builders in dozens of cities shows a little more than 10 per cent of the veterans' houses begun have actually been completed.

These figures are confirmed by Mr. Wyatt himself. In a recent report, he claimed only 12 per cent of the units begun this year as actually completed. He admitted also that of the 225,000 units made available for occupancy since January 1, only 163,000 were permanent homes and apartments, and more than 50 per cent were started before his housing program began.

Further evidence of the bungled housing situation comes from another government office, the bureau of labor statistics, which reports that housing for which permits were issued in March shows a completion rate of about 8 per cent. The bureau also found that 45 per cent of the unfinished housing units have been under construction for seven months or more, with one third of this group in such an uncertain state that completion is designated as "indefinite."

To make matters more serious, the rate at which new housing is being started is declining because of the natural reluctance of home builders to begin new construction which they cannot possibly complete. Joseph M. Stack, commander in chief of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, described the situation as "almost a complete breakdown in the veterans' housing program." The magazine "Nation's Business" points out that "material shortages have slowed emergency housing program to a creeping pace."—The W. Lee O'Daniel News, organ of Senator Lee (D., Texas).

EDITORIAL 15 YEARS AGO

Last week we carried an editorial relative to the pollution of the water of the Tuckaseegee River, one of the prettiest streams in Western North Carolina. Since we are heartily in favor of doing something to force the owners of the manufacturing establishments responsible for this outrageous practice of emptying their refuse into the river, to do something to correct this, we feel that we should carry out our policy of bringing the facts before the public.

We have found that the refuse, allowed to flow into this river, is deposited on rocks, logs and the vegetation in and on the water's edge, causing scum, and that the waters dashing upon these rocks and logs, causes a dirty and unsightly foam. The deposits kill all the vegetation near the water's edge, and this vegetation harbors the bugs and other insects, that the fish depend on for their food, and they are driven to cover, and the fish die or go to another stream that is free from this pollution. We have also found that the greatest harm is done to fish beds where the fish lay their eggs during the spawning season. The refuse is deposited on these beds, consequently killing the eggs before they have had time to hatch into small fish.

Many people passing through our town have made remarks about the unsightly appearance of our beautiful stream, and have wondered why the people tolerate such a thing. They know that in most of the other manufacturing centers, both large and small, this practice has long been obliterated and streams have been cleaned up and made pure, at a very small cost. In fact, operating expenses are derived from the by-products that come from this refuse.

Copper Hill, Tenn. is a good example of this. Several years ago sulphuric fumes from the smelting plants there were allowed to float out over the country-side, as a result all the vegetation for miles around was killed and Copper Hill was made a desolate looking place. Pressure was brought to bear upon the owners of these plants; filters were installed and the fumes were changed into by-products that are almost paying for the entire operation.

Even as far back as 40 years ago, the rivers flowing through the principal manufacturing centers in Germany were clear and free from pollution. The water could be used for drinking purposes, made this way because the laws governing pollution

—Continued on Page Five

Smokey Says:

WHEN! THERE GOES THAT WILDFIRE—NO RESPECTER OF ANYBODY'S PROPERTY OR RIGHTS!



Wild fire is a trespasser and thief that steals growing timber and keeps young trees from being born. Unrestrained fire robs the woodland owner of his forest income.

With the Churches

BAPTIST
First Church, Franklin
The Rev. Charles E. Parker,
Pastor

Sunday:
9:45 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship.
6:30 p. m.—Training union.
7:30 p. m.—Worship.
Wednesday:
7:30 p. m.—Prayer meeting.

EPISCOPAL
St. Agnes Church, Franklin
The Rev. A. Rufus Morgan,
Pastor

Sunday:
10 a. m.—Church school.
11 a. m.—First Sunday, Holy communion.
Third Sunday,
Morning prayer.
8 p. m.—Second and fourth Sundays, evening prayer.

METHODIST
Franklin Church
The Rev. W. Jackson Huneycutt,
Pastor

10 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship.
6:30 p. m.—Senior Youth fellowship.
7 p. m.—Intermediate Youth Fellowship.
Maiden's Chapel
Pastor

The Rev. R. L. Poindexter,
Sunday:
10 a. m.—Sunday school,
E. A. Roper, supt.
11 a. m.—Preaching, third Sunday.

2 p. m.—Singing.
3 p. m.—Preaching, first Sunday.

Franklin Circuit
The Rev. D. P. Grant, pastor
Preaching services as follows:
First Sunday:

11 a. m.—Bethel church.
3 p. m.—Salem church.
7:30 p. m.—Clark's chapel.

Second Sunday:
11 a. m.—Snow Hill church.
3 p. m.—Louisa chapel.
7:30 p. m.—Iotla church.

Third Sunday:
11 a. m.—Clark's chapel.
3 p. m.—Salem.
7:30 p. m.—Bethel.

Fourth Sunday:
11 a. m.—Iotla.
3 p. m.—Louisa chapel.
7:30 p. m.—Snow Hill.

PRESBYTERIAN
Franklin Church
The Rev. B. Hoyt Evans, pastor.

Sunday:
10 a. m.—Sunday school.
11 a. m.—Worship.

CATHOLIC
Franklin
(In American Legion Hall)
The Rev. A. F. Rohrbacher,
Pastor

Every Sunday:
7:45 a. m.—Confessions.
8:00 a. m.—Mass and communion.

INTER-DENOMINATIONAL
Sloan's Chapel

Sunday:
2 p. m.—Sunday school on the first, second, third, and fifth Sundays.

2 p. m.—Preaching on the fourth Sunday.
3 p. m.—Preaching on the days.

Tuesday:
7:30 p. m.—Prayer meeting.

Friendship (Angel) Tabernacle
Sunday:
2:30 p. m.—Sunday school.

Second Sunday:
3:30 p. m.—Preaching service, conducted by the Rev. V. C. Ramey.

NEGRO
St. Cyprian's Episcopal
The Rev. James T. Kennedy,
Pastor

Sunday:
11 a. m.—Third Sunday, Holy communion.
2 p. m.—First and second Sundays, evening prayer.
3 p. m.—Church school.

Friday:
5 p. m.—Litany.

Franklin Methodist Circuit
(A. M. E. Zion)
The Rev. John G. Williams,
Pastor

Preaching services as follows:
First and third Sundays:
11 a. m.—Green Street church.
2:30 p. m.—Cowee church.
8 p. m.—Green Street church.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

NOTICE OF SERVING SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY
FRED STEWART

vs
VICTORIA STEWART
The defendant, Victoria Stewart, will take notice that an action entitled as above, has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, to obtain an absolute divorce from the defendant on the grounds of two years separation.

Said defendant will take notice that she is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, within twenty (20) days after the 9th day of October, 1946, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 9th day of September, 1946.

A. R. HIGDON,
Clerk, Superior Court,
Macon County, N. C.

S12-4tc-O3

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE
Having qualified as administratrix of Lillie Matlock, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of September, 1947, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 14th day of September, 1946.

VINNIE McGAHA
KATY MOORE,
Administratrix.

S19-6tp-O24

NOTICE IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY
CALLIE ETHERIDGE vs

L. M. ETHERIDGE
The defendant above named will take notice that an action entitled above, has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County for absolute divorce; and that said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said County at the courthouse in Franklin on or before the 23rd day of October, 1946 and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the court for relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 16th day of September, 1946.

A. R. HIGDON,
Clerk Superior Court
Macon County.

S26-4tc-O17

NOTICE IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY
BONNIE MARIE WILBURN vs

WILLIAM ODELL WILBURN
The defendant above named will take Notice that an action entitled above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County for absolute divorce; and that said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the Office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said County at the courthouse in Franklin on or before the 23rd day of October, 1946 and answer or demur to the complaint in said action or the plaintiff will apply to the court for relief demanded in said complaint.

This the 16th day of September, 1946.

A. R. HIGDON,
Clerk Superior Court
Macon County.

S26-4tc-O17

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE
Having qualified as administratrix of J. B. Matlock, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 14th day of September, 1947, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 14th day of September, 1946.

A. R. HIGDON,
Clerk Superior Court
Macon County.

S26-4tc-O17

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE
Having qualified as administrator of M. E. (Mark) Cochran, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 23rd day of September, 1947, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 23rd day of September, 1946.

WEAVER COCHRAN,
Administrator.

S36-6tp-O31