

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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Why It's 'Battle' Branch

MACON COUNTY has a colorful history, and many incidents and customs of that history are preserved in the language of its people, and particularly in some of its place names. Many of us, however, use the names without the background knowledge of how those names came into use.

The Press is indebted to Mrs. F. E. Mashburn for two interesting bits of that history.

The word "Ellijay", she points out, is the Indian for "green earth", and she remarks that a view of crops grown in that community is proof enough that the Indians had good reason for selection of the name.

The second place name is of white origin. In pioneer days, Mrs. Mashburn relates, "away back before electric washing machines, or even tin tubs, women put garments that were wet and soapy on blocks of wood that were smooth. Then they had heavy wooden paddles about 15 inches long, four inches wide at one end and the other end small enough to grasp in the hand, and about one inch through. These sticks were used to beat the garments to get them clean, and were called 'beetlin' or 'battling' sticks."

"Well, two women at their washing had a quarrel, which developed into a fight. They fought with their 'battling' sticks, and the stream (in the southeastern section of the county) where the fight took place has been called Battle Branch ever since".

Scores of other places in the county bear names that have interesting origins, and of course there are hundreds of incidents—some significant, some merely amusing—that are not generally known, but are well worth preserving.

The Press would be glad to publish material of this nature, and will welcome letters, if not too long, relating incidents in the county's history and explaining how we got some of our strange names for places and how some of our unusual mountain expressions started.

Petrillo, Great Humanitarian

Nobody ever would picture James C. Petrillo, boss of the musicians' union, as a great humanitarian; he himself probably would be quick to say that his sole interest is the advancement of his musicians—and of Mr. Petrillo.

But quite without intent, he may have done all humanity a great boon when he ordered all union musicians to discontinue the making of recordings and transcriptions after December 31.

Fortunately, Mr. Petrillo does not control all musicians; many of the great in the world of music are not members of the union.

But, even if the ban on union musicians' recordings meant the end of all recorded music, the world probably would be greatly in the debt of the little dictator of the musicians. For imagine—if you can!—what a peaceful world it would be without the squawks and squeals and dying-calf moans that blare from radios and juke boxes some 25 or 26 hours a day.

And by the way, why hasn't some enterprising juke box manufacturer put in an extra slot where a coin could be dropped that would buy—silence? Such a silence slot not only might save many of us from early admission to an institution; it would prove golden indeed for the makers of juke boxes.

Create Own Opportunities

In its own interest, this county should make an organized, sustained effort to induce as many as possible of its veterans to make their homes here in Macon.

That has been said numbers of times in this column. No doubt it will be said again; because it is obvious that, without some community-wide planning and action, a large part of our much-needed youth will be forced to go elsewhere in order to earn a living.

A considerable number of veterans, however, have not waited for any special encouragement or opportunity; many G. I.'s are seeking to create their own opportunities.

Typical of this group—and cited here as illustrating the self-reliance and resourcefulness of so many young mountain people—is the case of Walter Lee

LETTERS

SUGGESTS 'BILLINGS SCHOOL'

Dear Mr. Jones:
In memory of one who planned and labored so many years for our educational leader, let us name the Franklin school "Billings Consolidated School".

I wonder how many people in our county would like that name? Will the people of the county have a chance to vote on the choice of name?

Respectfully yours,
MRS. F. E. MASHBURN.

Gneiss, N. C.
October 15, 1947.

Others' Opinions

FIT WORDS APTLY SPOKEN

Speaking yesterday before the Board of the State Department of Conservation and Development, Governor Cherry made an observation which can not be repeated too often. He declared that North Carolina resort areas "must pay increasing attention to appearances, service, food, fair prices and recreational facilities" if they are to "hold and expand" their patronage.

The travel industry is becoming increasingly competitive. Virtually every state in the Union is undertaking to develop its own tourist and recreational advantages. All regions are after their share of the travel dollar which is very considerable.

If Western North Carolina is to meet this aggressive competition, it must provide at fair prices the services which the visitor seeks. Mere scenery, however spectacular, is not sufficient in itself to attract and to hold the visitor. He demands conveniences and pleasure facilities. If he fails to find them, he passes on to the section that furnishes them.

Western North Carolina has every right to look forward to increased tourist patronage. The completion of the Blue Ridge Parkway will bring incalculable thousands of people to this section. The state road to Mount Mitchell which has just been finished will draw visitors to this section in increasing numbers. The further development of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will add to the travel appeal of this region. It is difficult to overestimate what the national forests with their varied uses mean to this area.

But Western North Carolina will not reap the fullest advantage from these assets unless it equips itself to take care more adequately of the increasing numbers of visitors who can be drawn here. We must provide more accommodations and services. Governor Cherry has offered sage advice.

—Asheville Times.

PLEA FOR SCHOOL CHILDREN

When a manufacturer buys a page ad in a magazine of national circulation to present a message to the people about a matter not even remotely associated with his business, we may safely infer that he is greatly concerned over that matter. And the language he employs in that message confirms our assumption.

In one magazine we read last week—the same ad likely appeared in others—A. N. Spanel, president of the International Latex corporation, presented in a very vigorous and convincing way the crisis that faces our schools as a result of the departure from the classrooms since 1939 of 350,000 school teachers, or more than a third of them.

Worse still, young people are not being attracted to teaching on account of the low wages while enrollment is increasing and will continue to rise until 1952, he says.

The national income, he points out, has trebled since the beginning of the war while teachers' salaries have upped a mere 12 per cent, a condition which he describes as being "as crazy as it is shameful."

Mr. Spanel considers it "miraculous" that we still have "good teachers who sacrifice themselves and their substance to remain in the profession" and he asks if the people are going to do nothing until they strike "for a living wage."

American children, he contends, are being cheated of a fair start in life and juvenile crime is on the increase. "The situation," he declares, "is completely out of hand, and what has developed into a serious condition is becoming a national catastrophe."

Mr. Spanel calls on all citizens to exert themselves to remove this threat by working through their parent-teacher associations and offering their assistance to school officials, mayors and others for such joint efforts as would tend to overcome it.—Transylvania Times.

SOUTH STANDS TO LOSE

North Carolina doesn't welcome the prospect that it will lose one of its 12 memberships in the house of representatives after the 1950 census, but nobody except politicians and political aspirants will do much worrying about it.

The state got along very well until recent years with only 11, and most of the present voting generation can remember when we had only 10.

But the change will make redistricting of the state necessary, and it will reduce North Carolina's voting strength in the national party convention by two.

The prospective shifts of congressional memberships apparently will reduce the voting strength of the South somewhat in both the house of representatives and the national conventions.

Although New York stands to lose three seats in the house and six in the conventions, Pennsylvania two in the house and four in the conventions, the other northern states smaller numbers, most of the 13 house memberships involved in the shift will go to Midwestern and Pacific states—Michigan, Indiana, California, Oregon, and Washington. One additional house membership and two convention votes each would go to Florida and Maryland, according to present prospects.

On the basis of present estimated population, Southern states will lose five seats in the house and gain only two, counting Maryland as a Southern state, a net loss of three.

That will mean a net loss of six votes in the Democratic national convention for the South and an equal gain for the North and West, which at some critical juncture could be very important, as the shift of three votes in the house from the South to the North and West might sometimes affect important legislation.—Charlotte Observer.

A woman who succeeds in rearing several normal, well-adjusted youngsters to maturity is actually accomplishing a feat of much greater difficulty, intricacy and importance than most men accomplish in their lifetimes.—Dr. Marynia F. Farnham.

Henry, back from a long service in Europe.

Mr. Henry lacks the advantages a town location gives a business. But he must have figured there also are advantages—such as low rents—of a business out of town; so he took over a garage and filling station on the Highlands road. There he must depend to a considerable extent on transient trade. Yet he has made a reputation for courtesy, promptness, and service (he thinks nothing of jumping in his car and driving to Franklin for a part needed for a rush repair job) that already is bringing him repeat business and business resulting from word-of-mouth advertising that passes from motorist to motorist.

All of which illustrates, too, what Emerson said about making a better mouse-trap.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

National Forest Timber For Sale

Sealed bids will be received by the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina, up to and not later than 2:00 p. m. November 10, 1947 and opened immediately thereafter for all live timber marked or designated for cutting and all merchantable dead timber located on an area embracing about 1000 acres within the Poplar Cove and Turkey Pen Creek Unit, Nantahala River watershed, Macon County, Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, estimated to be 1,000,000 feet B. M. more or less of hardwoods and softwoods. No bid of less than \$20.00 per M for yellow poplar; \$19.00 per M for black cherry and maple; \$16.00 per M for ash, basswood, cucumber, northern red oak and white oak; \$7.00 per M for birch; black oak and chestnut oak; \$6.00 per M for yellow pine; \$5.00 per M for beech, black locust, scarlet oak and southern red oak; \$3.00 per M for butternut, hickory and hemlock; \$1.00 per M for buckeye, silverbell and black gum will be considered. In addition to prices bid for stumpage, a deposit of \$1.00 per M feet for all timber cut will be required for sale area betterment. \$1000 must be deposited with each bid, to be applied on the purchase price, refunded, or retained in part as liquidated damages, according to conditions of sale. The right to reject any and all bids reserved. Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the timber, the conditions of sale and the submission of bids should be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina. O9 and O23—2tc

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY ETHEL MARTIN

vs. DAN MARTIN
The defendant, Dan Martin, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County for the purpose of securing a divorce from bed and board by the plaintiff, Ethel Martin, and for the purpose of securing the custody of the infant child, John Martin. Said defendant will further take notice that he is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, on the 7th day of November, 1947, and answer or demur to the complaint in the said action or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in said complaint.

The defendant will further take notice that the plaintiff will, in the December term, 1947, request the Court to enter an order awarding the custody of John Martin to the plaintiff.
This the 3rd day of October, 1947.
J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE, Clerk of Superior Court, Macon County, North Carolina O9-4tc-O30

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY CHARLIE WILLIAM PAUL

vs. MARY JOYCE PAUL
The defendant, Mary Joyce Paul, will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, for the purpose of securing an absolute divorce for the plaintiff, Charlie William Paul. Said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, at the Courthouse in Franklin, North Carolina, on the 10th day of November, 1947, and answer or demur to the complaint in said action, or the plaintiff will apply to the Court for the relief demanded in the complaint.
This 10th day of October, 1947.
CLINTON BROOKSHIRE, Clerk of Superior Court O16-4tc-J&J-N6

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Mrs. Emma Childers, 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 13th day of September, 1948 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.
This 13th day of September, 1947.
J. R. CHILDERS, Administrator S25-6tc-O30

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of A. F. Brown, 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 25th day of September, 1948 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.
This 25th day of September, 1947.
MRS. GRACE BROWN, Administratrix. O2-6tc-N6

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