

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by the Franklin Press
At Franklin, North Carolina

VOL. LXII

Number forty-five

WEIMAR JONES

Editor-Publisher

Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter
Telephone No. 24

A Community Responsibility

HALLOWEEN here passed without tragedy. But it easily might have been otherwise.

Someone, for example, Friday night placed a shock of corn, upright, in the highway on the east side of Cowee mountain. A motorist, coming this way, suddenly saw an object ahead and quickly swerved to avoid it. Just then another vehicle, headed in the opposite direction, came around a curve. Only quick thinking on the part of these drivers and of those behind them—plus good brakes all around—prevented what might have been a serious accident.

Yet the youngster who put that corn in the highway was merely following the usual Halloween pattern of putting things in the least expected of places; it probably did not occur to him that he was endangering the lives of others. For youngsters, with rare exceptions, lack the judgment to distinguish between the prank that is harmless and the one that is dangerous.

The solution, of course, lies with the community. Provide the youngsters wholesome ways to enjoy themselves and harmless ways to expend their tremendous energy and there will be neither time nor occasion for them to do questionable things.

As The Asheville Citizen, commenting on the quiet celebration in that city, sensibly remarks:

Of course, this peaceful and undestructive observance of Halloween did not just happen. There is an explanation and this explanation points a moral as well as adorns a tale. This year much wholesome entertainment was provided for the youthful celebrants. There were a circus and a football game. Most of the city and county schools held carnivals for their pupils. In short, the young people were given an opportunity to observe Halloween in a wholesome and orderly manner. . . . Planned recreation is the solution to many of the problems of juvenile delinquency.

Education—and You (Contributed)

Do we as citizens of Macon County know what our schools are teaching, or how they teach it? Do we know what they **ought** to teach?

It would be difficult for us as individuals to set up a curriculum for our schools. Who then should determine what our schools teach—Mr. Houk, our county superintendent? Mr. Finley, our principal? a local committee of teachers and business men? Or should it be a committee of experts who have made a study of our social, political and economic trends and conditions, aided by all the others mentioned?

A committee of experts probably could best determine what is needed by all children—those in California as well as North Carolina, in the mountains of our state as well as on the coast. It could outline courses of study and suggest procedures and leave the adaptation to local groups.

As a matter of fact, the Educational Policies Commission has done just that. It has divided the curriculum into the following nine groups: Language arts, mathematics, social studies, science, health and physical education, art, music, industrial arts, and vocational education.

The commission also has analyzed the general aims of education. In listing those aims it suggests, among other things, that the educated person—

Has an appetite for learning; puts human relationships and welfare first in his scale of values; knows the satisfaction of good workmanship; has standards for spending his money; and acts to correct undesirable conditions in his community.

An educated person, the commission adds, also—

Speaks, reads, and writes the mother tongue efficiently and clearly; solves his problems of calculation; is skilled in listening and observing; understands the facts of health and works to improve his own health and that of the community; is participant and spectator in many sports; has mental resources for the use of leisure through many arts and pastimes; seeks, enjoys, and treasures beauty; and gives responsible direction to his own life.

But there is still the factor of local conditions.

Do you know or care how well the Macon County schools carry out this general curriculum, or attain these general aims in education? Are we in any way carrying out that part of the social studies division, family relations, stressed by Dr. Mildred Morgan in her recent talk to the P. T. A. here? Are we doing anything about vocational education which will keep our youth happily in our community. What are we doing about education for health and for civic responsibility?

Commissions can suggest and revise programs for our schools, but it is up to us, business men, parents, teachers, school boards and administrators, to see that such programs are carried out to meet our local needs.

National Education week begins tomorrow, November 7. The schools are yours! Visit them and see what **you** think.

... LETTERS ...

MORE MACON HISTORY

Dear Editor:

According to tradition (and to authentic history, too, perhaps) the first Christian worship service to be offered in Macon County was held near the Indian Mound in Franklin.

A priest who came over with the De Soto expedition to look after the spiritual welfare of the party, and to preach to the Indians as well, celebrated Holy Mass there in 1540.

CORA TALLEY.

Franklin, Route 2,
October 28, 1947.

NAME IT 'BILLINGS SCHOOL'

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am enclosing a check for \$2.00 for the renewal of my subscription to The Press. I enjoy the paper very much and have been impressed with its improvement under your management.

Mrs. Mashburn's suggestion of naming the county school for Mr. Billings seemed to me to be excellent. I believe that "Professor" Billings was one of the greatest educators our county has ever known, so why not honor his memory by naming the county school for him?

Sincerely yours,

Winston-Salem, N. C.
October 29, 1947.

MRS. I. B. SOUTHERLAND.

A WHOLESOME HALLOWE'EN

Dear Weimar:

The Cartoogechaye community is to be commended on the way it handled the Halloween situation. At the Slagle school on Friday night were gathered young people, parents, friends and neighbors to attend a carnival of home talent.

There were various booths with a small fee each, games, a beauty contest, a cake sale and soft drinks and cookies.

About \$250 was realized for play ground equipment and the young people and older ones alike had an enjoyable time.

Sincerely,

Franklin,
Nov. 3, 1947.

MRS. H. E. FREAS.

'FUNNY' PAPERS AND YOUTH

Editor, The Press:

Why do we mess up the minds of our youth with what we call "funny papers"? They are products of distorted minds.

We put them before our babies and begin to stretch their imaginations and tell them they are people and things.

We want our children to know and tell the truth, and now these young minds are pure and clean, and early impressions are lasting, yet we stamp them with these ugly things. I ask, is it reasonable to think we can feed our little ones on trash and make strong bodies?

I think, between the "funny sheet" and the immoral shows, our young people have a hard time to know just what is right. They see people who are supposed to know what is right accepting these things.

We cannot think evil and live pure. Why don't writers and picture makers go to nature and get useful lessons where the supply is inexhaustible, and begin to see what God has given us—where everything good and beautiful comes from—and say God made it?

Sincerely,

Franklin, Route 1,
October 24, 1947.

MRS. HENRY SLAGLE

Others' Opinions

IT HAPPENED IN N. C.

It Happened Here—or so the man, Robert P. Little, said:

"The worst enemies of the tourist business are those who stand most to profit by it, viz, some of the people themselves. Thousands of dollars may be spent on publicity to attract tourists to a section, and **SOME** of the people will antagonize those visitors who come to spend their money. . . . I visited N. C. this Summer and observed that many tourist homes and camps charged high prices (Ed. Note: Several mountain towns are listed). . . . In (a specific town) I was overcharged in my opinion and objected and paid what I thought very liberally for the insignificant amount of work done. A few days later a knife was stuck into the tire of my car (by whom I do not know). Thereafter I was afraid to park my car on the street. . . . Some rural people regard every stranger as a potential enemy and greet him with suspicion and dirty looks. They should greet him with confidence and smiles and not to be on the defensive. His dollar is worth being amiable for. . . . I have a vivid memory for all those places where I have been exploited, given poor meals, and overcharged. I don't go back to such places. . . . in Canada now. . . . the autumn colors are beautiful and my car is quite safe."

That's what the man said, he said that . . . in a letter on file in this office.—State News Bureau.

AN AUTOMOBILE AGE

We live in an automobile age! Our grandfathers did not.

In 1895 there were four gasoline automobiles in the United States—a Haynes, a Ford, a Duryea and an imported Benz. People were shocked because these cars could be driven at "the ungodly speed of 11 miles an hour."

Today there are approximately 37,164,405 motor vehicles in the United States. In 1935 Sir Malcolm Campbell attained his goal of 300 miles an hour! On August 23, 1939, John Cobb, another Englishman, broke the former record of 357.5 miles per hour by attaining the unprecedented speed of 368.9 m.p.h. The automobile has had a phenomenal development in 45 years.

In 1900 there was an automobile for every 9,500 inhabitants in the United States. Today there is a registered car for approximately every fifth person. In fact, there are so many cars, with so many drivers, that every man, woman and child in the country could be riding in an automobile at the same time.

Because of the automobile, greater changes have occurred in transportation in the last three decades than have occurred in the entire previous history of the world. We have come to depend on the automobile for a large percentage of our transportation. One half of the families of our country look upon the car as a necessity. There are approximately two and one-third times as many cars in the United States as there are in the rest of the world put together.

No other single invention has so speeded up the tempo of American civilization as the automobile. For business and for pleasure, we have accepted it as a necessary part of our daily life. Our streets and highways are becoming increasingly loaded with cars of every description.

But this Automobile Age has brought us pressing problems. In 1946, 33,500 persons lost their lives in motor accidents, and thousands of others were injured. This means that, in a year's time, in our use of motor cars we are wiping out the equivalent of the entire population of a fairly large city.

Our most pressing motoring problem has become: "Can we learn to manage and control our motor vehicles?"

The responsibility for solving this urgent problem lies with the individual driver. There are a lot of drivers to shoulder this responsibility. Approximately every third person in the United States drives a car. Our total population runs over 140,000,000. We have more than 45,000,000 drivers of automobiles.

The automobile is a remarkable machine. It moves by itself because of the power produced by combustion within. It is self-moving, self-propelled. It is a mechanism which is constantly being improved. But it is never complete until the driver is added. With a poor, inefficient driver at the wheel, the automobile can be one of the most destructive mechanisms known to man. Statistics prove that the human element in driving causes 70 per cent of our fatal accidents; yet with a good driver, one who is courteous toward other motorists, watches his speed, and remains ever safety-conscious, the automobile proves that it is what it was intended to be—a safe instrument of general good, rather than a weapon of destruction.

—The N. C. Motor Vehicle.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NOTICE

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY
FREDRICK E. STILLWELL
vs.

ESTELLE STILLWELL.

The defendant, Estelle Stillwell, will take notice that an action as above entitled has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina, for the purpose of obtaining an absolute divorce on the part of the plaintiff from the defendant, on the grounds of two years separation; and the defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court of said County in the Courthouse in Franklin, North Carolina, on the 22nd 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 said complaint.

This the 2nd day of October 1947.

J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE,
Clerk Superior Court,
O30-4tcB-N20

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

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

ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of E. M. Fox, 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 20th day of October, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 20th day of October, 1947.

FRED FOX,
Administrator.
O23-6tp-N27

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