

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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Let's Keep This Custom

FOR generations it has been a widespread custom in Macon County for families to leave home, for an hour or a day, without troubling to lock, or even close, their front doors. They were quite secure in the knowledge that, if anyone entered, it would be a friend, to leave a fresh-baked pie on the kitchen table, or a neighbor, to borrow some article, perhaps scribbling a note on a scrap of paper that the borrowed article would be returned soon.

A situation that makes possible such a custom not only is unusual, but is well worth while. Economically, honesty in a community permits a tremendous saving, in locks and keys, policemen, insurance, etc. From the human viewpoint, it creates a pleasant feeling of security that money cannot buy. And, most important, the custom of leaving doors unlocked has emphasized as nothing else could Macon County's high type of citizenship.

Let's keep Macon County a place where locks and keys are not the first essentials to security. We can do it only if we see to it that every crime of dishonesty is followed up, and the guilty party arrested and convicted and severely punished.

For, even if the recent breakings and enterings here were perpetrated by "outside talent", if it's made plain enough that crime definitely does not pay in Macon County, it won't be long till that "outside talent" will give us a wide berth.

Some Interesting Questions

When a municipality decides to install parking meters, the meter manufacturer recommends an ordinance relating to parking and use of the meters. The ordinances recommended by different manufacturers vary, but they are identical in one respect: They all contain the flat statement that the sole purpose of the meters is the regulation of parking and traffic. The statement is inserted, presumably, to make the ordinance comply with provision of a general statute.

This solemn assurance to the contrary notwithstanding, it is well known that the hope of realizing sorely needed revenue has been the chief factor in inducing one hard-pressed board of aldermen after another to vote to install parking meters. Nine times out of ten, the parking meters are bought primarily to raise revenue; the regulation of parking and traffic are distinctly secondary.

Now comes the attorney general of North Carolina with a ruling that spoils many an alderman's dream of doing extra paving, putting in water and sewer lines, creating parks, etc., with funds collected in parking meters. North Carolina towns lack the authority to use any revenue from parking meters for any purpose other than regulation of traffic and parking, says the attorney general.

Which raises some interesting questions: What shall North Carolina towns do with the profits from parking meters? Must they go on hiring additional traffic officers in order to pay the money out in salaries? And what about a town like Franklin, in which the town officers have both traffic and other police duties—can their full salaries be paid from parking meter funds? And if a municipality must spend all its parking meter profits on traffic and parking regulation, would it be permitted to use a part of these funds to buy public parking lots?

Refreshing Frankness

For complete honesty and refreshing frankness, hats off to The Hertford County Herald at Ahoskie, edited by Jack Rider.

At the top of its editorial column, The Herald each week carries the words:

"Never forget that the editorials in The Herald represent the ideas of only one man and he may be wrong."

Except for the larger papers (on which editorial policy is determined by one or more stockholders), that is true of all newspapers. Every newspaper editor knows it. But The Herald is possibly the only paper in the United States with the honesty and the courage consistently to remind its readers that it is true.

Millions of words have been written about American aid to Europe. Millions more undoubtedly will be written. But it all boils down to this: We can feed 'em now, or we can fight 'em later.

LETTERS

"SWING LICK GAP"

Dear Mr. Jones:

In a recent issue of The Press was an article concerning historical places and names of creeks, branches, and the like.

Which reminded me of the Nantahalas, where there are many gaps, knobs and creeks named, such as Snowbird Gap, Big Stomp, Rattlesnake Gap, Jennie Stomp, and many others which I learned when I was but a lad from my father, the late W. A. Setser.

But the one that impressed me most was Swing Lick Gap. I was told it got the name by a tall tree, which had blown down, or almost down. The tree turned back up, leaving an almost flat space about two feet where the people would put salt for the cattle and sheep to lick. When the wind blew, the tree would swing and sway. Therefore it became "Swing Lick" Gap.

Another thing that always has interested me was the way the old timers helped each other about finding their cattle. When I was a boy, we had free range in the Nantahalas, and nearly everybody took their stock to the mountains in the summers. Every so often, they would go out and look for them to give them salt, and in the fall, of course, they had to round them up to bring them home.

Usually a number of men would go at the same time, and gather at night to camp. And often one man would tell another—who maybe had hunted his stock all day—that he had seen them at such and such a stomp, and the owner would go out next morning and find them without any trouble.

Very truly,

JOE F. SETSER

Franklin, Route 1,
November 7, 1947.

Others' Opinions

REHABILITATE EUROPE

Every individual who eats in America is paying heavily for relief, merely relief, of Europe. We pay in increasing prices of every bit of food we buy. High prices of food are due largely to the withdrawal from the domestic market of food for Europe. Yet, we will have to pay heavier than we are now paying because this relief (merely keeping the hog alive) business leads nowhere except to more and more relief. If we ever get them "off our hip," we must help get them self-sustaining. Those folks must be rehabilitated so that they can take care of themselves and America has got to do more in the future than in the past.

Rehabilitation is a long word but it has a short meaning—getting the fellow on his feet, helping him up so that he can walk alone, so to speak.

You can not convert a hungry German to some form of anti-Hitler philosophy. He is human and he will remember that, during Hitler's regime, he had a full belly, a comfortable home and plenty of warm clothing. It is but natural for the German of today to look back to Hitler's regime as the golden era, just as the people of the Old South looked back to the pre-Civil War days as their golden era.

Give a man a full belly, a comfortable home and abundant clothing and he will let the politicians worry about the form of government.

A lot of folks did not like the New Deal and Roosevelt, yet to millions of people whose lot in life Roosevelt's New Deal elevated, Roosevelt will always be a national hero and the New Deal era, a golden era. He fed the hungry, housed the homeless, employed the idle, so, the beneficiaries say to hell with politics of the matter. Likewise Hitler created conditions where most people in Germany lived well, so to hell with the politics of the matter, they naturally say.

A hungry fellow is far more interested in food than he is in the form of government. If his belly is full he will put up with almost any kind of government. And the hungry fellow will follow off after almost any leader who even promises better conditions and more food, and therein lies the danger in these hungry nations. They will follow (and so would you, if you were hungry) off after communism, fascism, or any other ism that promises food and creature comforts.

Most of us fondly thought that, with the war won, everything would be lovely. Unhappily, everything is not lovely, far from it. Now the peace must be won if possible.

It seems to me that the only alternative to the Marshall plan, which will cost scores of billions, is another war which may cost hundreds of billions and, perhaps, destroy civilization itself. Even Marshall's plan may not succeed, but it should be tried.—Grenada (Miss.) County Weekly.

SPEED

A recent study of the speeds of motor vehicles operating on North Carolina's highways, compiled by Statistics and Planning Engineer James S. Burch, throws some interesting light on one of the State's more pressing problems.

The speed study, since it was conducted by engineers of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, was not for enforcement purposes but for the purpose of ascertaining certain facts vital to highway designers. The survey showed, however, that the average speed on North Carolina highways was 45 miles per hour for all vehicles, trucks and busses included. The logical assumption is that highway engineers will have to take today's increased speeds into account in the planning of modern highways. But even more important than figuring the speed factor into highway construction is the importance of getting across to the public the effect of speed on safety.

As few people know, despite the fact that it often has been repeated, excessive speed is the major factor which causes automobile accidents. Try as they may, highway engineers cannot build a road to an absolute standard of safety so long as excessive speeds on the part of the motorist nullify all the safety precautions which the engineers have taken.

At first glance, 45 miles per hour does not seem to be an unreasonable speed but, considering that it represents the average now prevailing on the highways, it is sufficiently high to indicate that many motorists are traveling faster than the law allows. Before he cries out for safer highways, as he has often done in the past, the motorist should look to his own speed. Highway engineers, for their part, will do all that is humanly possible in keeping with funds available and the present stage of technical advancement, to keep the highways safe.

—N. C. Highways and Public Works.

GREENS AND POT-LIKKER

What's the best diet to defeat the high cost of living without nutritional loss?

The United States Department of Agriculture has the answer, determined by strictly scientific means. But it seems the solution has been waiting for a long time right under the upturned noses of many federal experts who have scorned Southern foods as hard on the physical system.

The Department of Agriculture suggests that one way to fight the high cost of living without sacrificing adequate nutrition is to eat leafy greens and pot-likker. "A rich and inexpensive source of minerals and vitamins," say the experts. And they add, "The old Southern practice of serving potlikker as well as the greens insures against loss of soluble nutrients."

—Portsmouth Star.

SHE SAVED THE EGGS

As the story comes to me, a lady wrote in to the County Agent for advice about setting some eggs. I don't know whether it was Mr. Cooper or not. Anyway, the Agent wrote back to the lady that it took three weeks to hatch chicken eggs and four weeks to hatch duck eggs. Not hearing any thing more from the lady he forgot the matter, but at the end of the three weeks received another letter from the lady saying that the eggs had been setting three weeks and had not hatched chickens and that she did not want any ducks, so she just took the eggs out from under the hen and sold them.

—L. P. Cross in Clayton Tribune.

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. December 1 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 75 acres within the Hogans Creek Unit, Nantahala River watershed, Clay County, Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, estimated to be 35,000 feet B. M. more or less of hardwoods. No bid of less than \$14.00 per M for white oak and northern red oak; \$13.00 per M for basswood, ash and cucumber; \$10.00 per M for maple; \$8.00 per M for birch, \$4.00 per M for buckeye will be considered. \$300 must be deposited with each bid, to be applied on the purchase price, refunded, or returned 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. O30 and N13—2tc

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 2nd day of October, 1947.

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

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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