

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

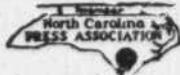
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Obituary notices, cards of thanks, tributes of respect, by individuals, lodges, churches, organizations or societies, will be regarded as advertising and inserted at regular classified advertising rates. Such notices will be marked "adv." in compliance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

The Beer Election

I

MACON County voters, in the election called for February 14, will ballot on one phase of the ever-recurring question of how best to handle the problem created by the existence of alcoholic beverages.

Technically, the question before the voters is whether or not to permit the legal sale of both beer and wine in this county. For all practical purposes, however, it appears to be a question of the legal sale of beer, because no applicant for license in this county has met the qualifications set up by state law for legal sale of wine.

The issue, then, is: Shall we continue the present arrangement, whereby dealers are licensed to sell beer, under conditions outlined in the North Carolina statute (and whereby wine, theoretically, legally may be sold, but actually isn't)? or shall we change the present situation to one under which it is illegal to sell any kind of alcoholic beverage in Macon County?

What sort of a problem is it?

It is a social one, certainly. It also is an economic one, though there may be disagreement on the importance of the dollars-and-cents factor. There is disagreement, too, as to whether or not it is a moral problem.

But there is one kind of problem it emphatically is not. It is not a political question. And anyone who attempts to make political capital of the issue is a poor sort of citizen—and events probably will prove him a fool, as well.

As the election draws nearer, interest undoubtedly will, and should, increase. It is to be hoped, however, that it will be a thoughtful interest, leavened with tolerance.

This newspaper has little patience with those who say, every time the question of alcohol arises, that the so-called dry group is made up exclusively of bootleggers and fanatics. And equally uncalled for is the often-heard suggestion that all the so-called wets either are drunkards or have a financial interest in the manufacture or sale of alcoholic beverages.

There are, of course, a few persons on each side whose votes may be dictated by selfishness. And there undoubtedly is prejudice and fanaticism on both sides. But the vast majority of the people in this county, whether they be classed as dries or wets, are honest, and intent upon doing what they think is right. Their convictions deserve the respect of those who disagree.

There is a third group—and it is likely to grow larger—made up of persons who are finding it hard to decide how they shall vote in the election February 14. For them, the question is not one through which it is possible to draw a line, and say that "everything on this side of the line is white, and everything on that side is black". It isn't as simple as that; they see the whole thing, not as black and white, but as a sort of gray, on both sides of the line.

For they recognize that prohibition was not an unqualified success, and that prohibition, to say the least, aggravated bootlegging and related evils. On the other hand, they are not convinced that the mere legalizing of alcohol, without other measures, is a final solution either.

To them, the issue to be decided February 14 is not whether we shall, or shall not, solve the problem. It is not even a question of right and wrong. It is simply a question of which alternative is the lesser of two evils.

The March of Dimes

Whatever one may think of his politics and his policies, Franklin D. Roosevelt will always stand out as an amazing example of what a man may achieve, despite a terrible physical handicap. Stricken with infantile paralysis in middle life, he never regained the use of his legs. But he so far overcame the handicap that people usually forgot that he was crippled.

And when you or I look upon a crippled child today, it is well for us to remember that here may be a future President of the United States, a future Florence Nightingale, or, at the least, a future use-

ful citizen. All that these youngsters need is a little help.

It was for that purpose that the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis was set up. And once again it is appealing to the public for support, through the annual March of Dimes.

Macon County's quota in this year's campaign is \$1,620. But quotas don't mean much here, when there is an appeal for children in need. For the people of this county always generously overscribe the quota assigned them. No one doubts that they will again this year.

A Great American

A great man died in Raleigh the other day. Though he was the confidante of Presidents, he never lost the common touch. Though he kept his sanity on the race question, Negroes were his friends—eight of them bore his body to its last resting place. Though he was a crusader, he possessed—and, through the years, developed—tolerance and a kindly sense of humor; he was one of the few who could hate evil without hating the evil-doer.

And though he lived to be an old man, he never lost his youthful zest for life. Only a few weeks ago, in a conversation with the writer, he remarked that he had hoped to get up to Franklin last summer. But, he explained, "I stay busy; I have a job to do." That from a man of 85!

* * *

He had friends among the great and the small, and he was beloved by thousands who never had met him. But probably his most ardent admirers were working newspapermen in his own North Carolina; for it was they who were in position best to know his journalistic honesty and courage—and how they gloried in it! They will not soon forget that, in an age when most newspapers had become primarily money-making establishments, he kept his News and Observer a NEWSpaper, first, last, and all the time.

LETTERS

A BLOOD BANK FOR FRANKLIN

Dear Mr. Jones:

It has been brought to my attention that numerous cities are starting blood banks again. This time the blood is to be for the use of the public instead of members of the armed forces.

Why can't Franklin have a blood bank? I am sure that there are many ex-servicemen who have drawn from the armed forces' supply who would be more than glad to give regularly, as they know how much this can mean to a life.

Let's be the first city in North Carolina to have a full and overflowing bank.

Yours truly,

DONALD C. CARR.

Franklin, N. C.

January 19, 1948.

Others' Opinions

GO SOUTH, YOUNG MAN

This new South of ours is a land of opportunities, fuller of promise than the goldfields of California or the black loam of the Cimarron. The opportunities lie in not one or two or a dozen fields, but in all fields; they lie not in the exploitation of quickly dissipated natural riches but in the full development of the good. Southern soil and the industry and agriculture that evolve from it. They are opportunities not for the carpet-bagger or the opportunist, but for the young men of serious purpose who want homes and families and the chance to develop the talents the good Lord gave them. They are opportunities that are open to all men of honest ambition and willingness to labor for a full and just reward.

—Savannah (Ga.) News.

DIVORCES FALL OFF

A sharp decline in the national divorce rate during 1947 should be reassuring to many thoughtful people who have been concerned in recent years with this problem of society and have found little for consolation in the trend.

While over-all figures are not yet available, a United Press survey has gathered figures from a number of localities which show a very definite drop in the number of divorces or annulments and on which basis we can be certain that statistics will reveal a general improvement in the marital situation over the country.

A year ago, religious leaders and others who feel responsibility for the nation's moral outlook and social propriety were genuinely alarmed at the tremendous increase in broken homes and shocked by the seeming indifference of many to the meaning of marriage vows and the accompanying obligations to society.

They were stirred to increased activity in many instances in an attempt to reawaken a sense of understanding and responsibility which would serve to prevent as many further breakdowns as possible. Evidently there has been some success for them in this commendable move.

We can also attribute the falling off in divorces to the fact that with the war over we have returned to more stable times and this has tended to increase the seriousness of attitude toward marriage and the dependence of those making a home on each other.

Whatever the reasons, the reduction in divorces as recorded during 1947 is a welcome development in our social scheme.

—Greenville (S. C.) Piedmont.

A REFORMED PRINCIPLE

When the Protestant Reformation, was born the Reformers were united in one conviction, namely, the centrality of the Bible. The sequel to this conviction was the erection of the pulpit in the center of the Church. It bore a silent testimony to the centrality of the Word of God, in all matters pertaining to the soul of man. It reminded the audience that the most essential part of the worship was the voice of the living God emanating from the living Word.

Recently a fad has come into the Protestant Church which advocates the division of the pulpit. Some ministers desiring to emphasize liturgy in the Church have supported this change. Laymen are asking, "Why the change?" Some are wondering if it is to give the minister more exercise. Some have thought that it might be to exhibit the minister's architectural ability. Some have felt that it might be the fulfillment of the dreams of seminary days. Regardless of the motive, this division is certainly out of place in churches built for a center pulpit. From an architectural standpoint it stands condemned. But even in churches where this division might be architecturally correct, it is a departure from the Reformed principle that places the emphasis on the centrality of the pulpit. Let us keep this revered principle intact and transmit it to future generations.—Southern Presbyterian Journal.

I shall try to correct errors where shown to be errors; and I shall adopt new views as fast as they shall appear to be true views.—Abraham Lincoln.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of Elmer A. Day, 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 9th day of December, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 9th day of December, 1947.

MRS. FRANCES W. PAGE,
Executrix

D18-6tcCC-J22

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of John H. Thomas, 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 7th day of January, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 7th day of January, 1948.

LILLIE A. THOMAS,
Executrix.

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as executor of Virgil T. Potts, 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 January, 1949 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 January, 1948.

J. C. SORRELS,
Executor.

J22-6tp-F26

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ATTENTION TOURIST PROPERTY OWNERS

We are receiving numerous inquiries for Tourist Courts, Hotels, and Tourist Homes located in Western North Carolina. If you are interested in selling this type of property consult:

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