

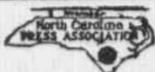
The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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WEIMAR JONES Editor-Publisher



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The Beer Election

III

MACON COUNTY'S share of the state taxes on beer and wine is about \$32,000 a year—approximately one-fourth of the total budget of our county government.

If Macon County continues to permit the legal sale of beer, that revenue will be collected by the state and turned over to the county and its two towns. If, on the other hand, the majority of those who ballot in the election February 14 vote to outlaw beer and wine within the confines of Macon County, the county will lose this \$32,000. It will be divided among North Carolina counties that do permit the sale of beer and wine.

If conditions in Macon County can be materially improved by outlawing the sale of beer, this newspaper believes it should be outlawed—regardless of the revenue.

But, **other things being equal**, the people of this county would be foolish indeed to refuse \$32,000 a year in taxes—taxes that are going to be collected by the state, regardless of the outcome of the election here.

Are other things equal?

* * *

The drier advance, among other arguments, two that are hard to answer. Both are so sound that they require no elaboration.

The first is that they do not want the moral responsibility of sanctioning, by law, the sale of any beverage that contains alcohol. Many wets—certainly the more moderate wets—will agree that that position is sound in principal.

Their second argument is that there will be less drinking if alcoholic beverages are less convenient to get; that every time a man passes a beer or wine or liquor store, it reminds him that here is an opportunity to get a drink. The moderates will agree that that argument seems based upon a knowledge of human nature.

The logic of those arguments is unassailable—rather, it would be unanswerable if we lived in a world ruled by logic.

* * *

The wets counter with these questions, among others:

With beer legal, and whiskey illegal, isn't it reasonable to suppose that many persons will be satisfied with beer, a beverage of relatively low alcoholic content—in other words, won't there be less alcohol consumed if beer may legally be bought?

Will not prohibition of beer tend to increase the evil of bootlegging by offering the bootlegger yet another market—that of beer?

And isn't a community in which beer, or even whiskey, is legally sold a better community in which to bring up a child than one in which the law is openly flaunted by people of all classes and conditions? Better than a community in which a man can become rich—and thus powerful and respected—by bootlegging? They add that prohibition, like any other law, can be enforced only when an overwhelming majority not only favors the law in principle, but favors its actual enforcement.

* * *

This newspaper's guess would be that a majority of the citizens of Macon County would like to see a dry county—"the drier, the better", many of them would say.

But, regardless of the principle involved or of the arguments, pro and con, it believes the people of this county face a very practical question:

Is it possible to make it a dry county?

Under the present state law, a Macon County person may go to Asheville, or to South Carolina, and bring back with him five fifths (one gallon) of whiskey; and, if there are five persons in an automobile, a judge recently ruled, they have a legal right to bring back five gallons. Each may take his gallon home with him and drink it when and as he pleases; or he may give it to his friends. The legal prohibition in this county is against the sale of whiskey.

And if the sale of beer and wine are outlawed here, it also will be legal to bring them in in quantity.

That may not be a good law. The Press thinks

it is a bad law; it believes we should have had, and still should have, a state-wide referendum.

But the practical fact is that it is the law.

And the question is: Under that law, can we have a dry county?

That is the question that faces the voters February 14.

Reasons Enough

Attention is called to the interesting letter, "A Neglected Spot", that appears elsewhere on this page.

First of all, it presents an opportunity to remind readers of The Press of certain matters of newspaper policy: Every letter to the editor and every news item sent to The Press by mail must be accompanied by the real name of the writer—otherwise the letter or news item goes in the wastebasket. Furthermore, this newspaper prefers that letters to the editor appear over the real names of the writers; and letters so signed are more effective. Exceptions, as in the case of the letter on this page, occasionally are made to this second rule; but never, unless the editor of the paper has on file the real name of the author.

The chief reason, however, for commenting on the letter from "A Citizen" is to call attention to its merit. The writer has said, and said well, what has long needed saying, and what should continue to be said until something is done about the situation.

"A Citizen" suggests several convincing reasons why the people of this county should bestir themselves, from purely selfish motives, to see that the beautiful and potentially rich trans-Nantahala country should be provided with roads and the other developments which most of us take for granted. To the selfish reasons cited, this newspaper would add another:

Macon County needs the Nantahala section's greatest resource of all—the potential wealth of citizenship that lies in western Macon. The Anglo-Saxon peoples have shown themselves the world's greatest masters of self-government, and probably nowhere in the world today is there purer Anglo-Saxon blood than in the region that lies west of the Nantahalas' crests. (The Press is quite conscious that it has become unfashionable to suggest that any particular race or strain has special merits; but, so long as scientists repeatedly prove the importance of blood and breeding in livestock, we shall continue to believe that blood counts among humans, too.)

And to the purely selfish reasons why we should do something about the long neglect of the Nantahala country might well be added this fact: Those people are entitled to roads, etc., even if it weren't financially profitable to the rest of us to help them get these things.

••• LETTERS •••

A NEGLECTED SPOT

Editor, The Press:

Few people stop to think or even realize that approximately half of Macon County lies back of the majestic blue Nantahala Mountains or that nearly a tenth of the population of this mountain county resides in this area; nor do many realize what a huge slice of the taxes of our county are derived from the hydro-electric plant and the property of the Southern Railway which lie in this community.

Well, during these snowy days when most of us are hosed up, trying to keep from freezing, we have had time to think of these things, and lots more. We have reached the conclusion that there are few spots in our state worse neglected than this.

Our greatest need at present is roads. To gain access to our community, you must climb one or the other of the steep winding roads which are usually washboards in summer and quagmires in winter—or, even worse, so covered with snow and ice or blocked by slides until it is a feat to go to the nearest town.

I feel that certain side roads here need immediate attention. For instance, the school bus is supposed to serve the patrons of Camp Branch to transport their children to the Otter Creek school. However, due to two steep grades, at times it is impossible to get the bus in and out of there, let alone the children. There are three side roads that should be graveled at the earliest possible moment. They are: The road from the Queen's Creek church to the Swain county line; the road from the Kyle church through the Bateman-Solesbee community, which includes the Long Branch road; and the road to the Briartown Baptist church.

I honestly believe that if the good people of Macon County could realize how much of the trade of this area is going to Swain and Cherokee counties that they would not rest easy until something was done to divert more of this lucrative business into their own cash registers. For instance, to show you what I mean, more cars and trucks are bought from out of county dealers than from local dealers. The Andrews physicians are getting as much or more of the practice of this community than the Franklin doctors. (I'll bet there are Franklin physicians who have never been in this section on a call). The young people of this area look to Andrews, Murphy, and Bryson City for amusement. We could go on and on pointing out specific cases of where our county is losing trade and services to neighboring counties, but I feel that it would be useless—what we want is roads—roads at home, and roads connecting us with the outside world.

Will you lend your support in helping us get these roads?
A CITIZEN.

Flats, N. C.

SUNDAY SCHOOLS AND 'BEER JOINTS'

Dear Editor:

In behalf of the people of Macon County who confess Christ Jesus as their Savior, let me urge everyone to take their children to Sunday school. Just think what it would mean if there were no Sunday schools in the land! If we have Sunday schools, they will have to be attended, maintained, and supported by the God-fearing people.

The brewers, distillers, and beer-joint operators won't maintain them. Many people today stay away from church on Sunday because they spend Saturday night in a beer joint and don't feel like attending a place of worship because of that "night-after" hang-over. I'll admit that there are many other reasons why people fail to attend services on the Sabbath, but this is one.

I want to give the people of this county something to mull over. My subject is "Sunday Schools and Beer Joints". Both are turning out products in this county, both are shaping and moulding the ideals, habits, and lives of the youth of this

county. I want the good citizens to compare these two organizations and the fruits each yields and decide which they will support.

Don't be swayed or disillusioned by the idea that legalized drink will keep out the bootlegger. Do we ever notice in the papers any account of where the sheriff or patrolman has caught some bootlegger? Sure we have, and legalized beer has not driven him out. "How can Satan cast out Satan?" Legal booze and bootleg booze serve the same purpose, they have the same thing in common, and both stem from the same Satanic powers of this world.

CLYDE O. MORGAN.

Nantahala, N. C.
January 31, 1948.

Others' Opinions

STASSEN HAD FACTS

Edwin Pauley has several times challenged Harold E. Stassen, Republican Presidential hopeful, to put up his facts in the charges against Pauley's commodity dealings.

Mr. Stassen has done just that, and the picture is not a pretty one. Say all you please about the partisan element in any attack that Mr. Stassen might make on Mr. Pauley, it can be counted on that Mr. Stassen would not be so careless as to make bold and frank statements that couldn't be supported.

It is good that Mr. Pauley is getting out. Let him say that Mr. Stassen didn't smoke him out, but the end result is the same, and that's what counts.—Durham Morning Herald.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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.

J15-6tc-F19

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. BORRELS,
Executor.

J22-6tp-F26

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of J. E. Palmer, 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 21st 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 21st day of January, 1948.

ELSIE E. PALMER,
Executrix.

J29-6tp-F26

NOTICE OF SALE

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of an order of the Superior Court of Macon County, made in the special proceeding entitled, "Glimer A. Jones, Administrator of Will Browning, deceased, vs. Newton Browning, et al." the undersigned commissioner will, on the 1st day of March, 1948, at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Courthouse door in Franklin, North Carolina, offer for sale to the highest bidder for cash that certain tract or parcel of land in Macon County, North Carolina, more particularly described as follows:

FIRST TRACT: Being the same lands described in a deed from Andy Baxter to William Crump, dated August 1st, 1911 and registered in Book S-3 of Deeds, page 113, office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, N. C., excepting the lands adjudged to belong to William Crump by judgment of the Superior Court of Macon County, N. C., August Term, 1914, copy of which judgment is recorded in Book W-3 of Deeds at page 181. Register's office, Macon County, N. C., to which deed and judgment reference is hereby made for a more definite description of said lands, containing 32 acres more or less, being the land described in a deed from Lawrence Hyatt (unmarried) to William Browning, dated 12 November, 1921, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book G-4 of Deeds, page 427.

SECOND TRACT: On the waters of Tennessee River, BEGINNING on a pine, J. C. West's corner, and runs North 90 poles to a white oak; then S 58 deg. West 13 poles to a chestnut oak; then South 85 deg. W 42 poles to a stake and pointers; then S 12 deg. W 80 poles to a black oak; then East 20 poles to the BEGINNING, containing 32 3/4 acres, more or less, being the same land granted by the State

to Berry Johnson by State Grant No. 13519, recorded in Book G G of Deeds at page 411-412 in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, being the land described in a deed from Harvey Johnson and wife to William Browning, dated 10 December, 1922, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book I-4 of Deeds; page 139.

THIRD TRACT: Being Lot No. 3 on mountain tract and Lots Nos. 1 and 2 of the lower tract of Carter lands of Macon County, as divided:

Lot No. 3 on mountain, BEGINNING at a stake or rock on the mountain, Roxie Burgess' S. W. corner and runs with old line W 19 poles to a stake; then N 3 E 40 poles to a stake in back line; then with old line E 19 poles to Roxie Burgess' N. W. corner; then with her line South 40 poles to the BEGINNING, containing 4 3/4 acres, more or less.

Lots Nos. 1 and 2 of the lower tract, BEGINNING at a black oak and persimmon in the old Tippet line and Andy Baxter's corner and runs S 87 E 40 poles to a rock; then S 1 1/2 W 25 poles to a Spanish oak corner of the Dan Carter Lot No. 2; then N 87 W 40 poles to a rock and pointer on a ridge; then N with Tippet line 25 poles to the BEGINNING, containing 6 1/2 acres more or less, the above two tracts being all the land described in a deed from R. D. Sisk, Commissioner, to Will Browning, dated 27 December, 1934, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book Y-4 of Deeds, page 28.

FOURTH TRACT: BEGINNING at a pine stump 25 poles North of a B oak sappling, corner of the Andrew Baxter place, and runs East 80 poles to a stake; then N 40 poles to a pine; then W 80 poles to a chestnut oak; then S 740 poles to the BEGINNING, also the following tract BEGINNING in the first line of the tract above mentioned 30 poles East of the pine stump and runs S 10 poles to a stake; then W 10 poles to a stake; then N 10 poles to a stake, the aforesaid line; then with said line W 10 poles to the BEGINNING and including Crump's garden, containing 20 acres more or less, being the land described in a deed from Charles Morrison to Will Browning, dated 10 September, 1935, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book X-4 of Deeds, page 409.

FIFTH TRACT: Lot No. 2 of Mountain Tract, BEGINNING at a stake or rock or black gum, Mary Love's corner in the old line, runs West with old line 19 poles to a stake or rock and chestnut oak pointers; then North 3 degrees East 40 poles to a stake in a hollow; then East with old line 19 poles to a stake, Mary Love's corner; then South with said line to the BEGINNING, containing 4 1/4 acres.

Lot No. 4 in Lower Tract, BEGINNING on an old hickory and chestnut stump and runs North 87 deg. West 40 poles to a Spanish oak, the Dan Carter corner; then North 1 1/2 deg. East 12 1/2 poles to a rock, Dan Carter and Emils Siler corner; then South 87 deg. East 40 poles to a rock; then South 1 1/2 deg. West 12 1/2 poles to the BEGINNING, containing 3 1/8 acres, the above described two tracts being the land described in a deed from J. T. Burston and wife to Will Browning, dated 27 November, 1937, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, in Book C-5 of Deeds, page 1.

Any and all other lands, interests in lands, minerals and easements owned by Browning in Macon County, North Carolina, at the time of his death.

This 26th day of January, 1948.

GILMER A. JONES,
Commissioner

J30-4tc-JJ-F19