

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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WEIMAR JONES

Editor-Publisher



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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.

Who Is Guilty?

WINSTON-SALEM is one of the South's wealthiest cities, yet out of the Forsyth county seat comes a news story of shocking neglect by the community of one of its needy. Not in need, perhaps, of food and clothing, but of guidance and sympathy; for none of us lives by bread alone.

A 16-year old boy is told by his sweetheart that she is about to have a child. He determines to marry her. There is an argument with his parents. He kills both. He and the girl flee to a South Carolina Gretna Green, but are promptly apprehended by North Carolina officers.

A shocking crime? Of course. Yet who can fail to pity this youth, really a child! Caught in a web of circumstance, his frantic struggles only served to tighten the tangles about him. No wonder the jurors prayed and cried as they deliberated the case last week!

* * *

Somewhere along the line something went wrong in this child's life.

What happened before he was caught in the web? Was his home life at fault? Was there no one to offer him a guiding hand? Did society fail to provide him an environment that would create within him a wholesome attitude toward life and right ideas of conduct? And if society failed—and it did—is the boy to blame for that failure?

But what amends does society make? It sentences this child to a prison term of 50 to 60 years!

Society says, in effect:

It is unpleasant to contemplate your crime. It is unpleasant to be reminded of our responsibility for that crime. It is most unpleasant of all to admit we have no solution to offer. So we will put you out of sight for a lifetime, so that we may forget, and life may be pleasant again.

Another Step Forward

Highlands and Franklin continue to grow; not rapidly—for which we may all be thankful—but steadily.

What is better, they and other Macon County communities are gradually improving living conditions, and the facilities for a better cultural, social, and commercial life.

An instance in point is the opening in Highlands of a branch bank, to be known as the Jackson County Bank of Highlands.

A branch bank offers many advantages over a depository, such as Highlands has had for the past 14 years, and the people of Macon County and all Western North Carolina are pleased and proud that these improved commercial facilities are now available to Highlanders.

It's Spring Again

This week-end the sun, on its annual march northward, will cross the equator, an event that marks the end of one season and the beginning of another. Whatever the weather may be, by the calendar it will be spring.

It will be spring in minds and hearts, too. For, whether the mountains be gilded by sunshine or the earth be white and icicles hang from caves, all of us will know that there can't be much more winter—that spring, in fact, is just around the corner.

And just around the corner with it are existing, and contradictory, things: the beauty of the first spring flowers—and the disillusionment of icy rains; the delights—and backaches—of gardening; the thrills—and harmless lies—of the fishing season.

And who hasn't experienced the mental and physical contradictions of spring! It stimulates our minds to ambitious plans for what we'll grow—and paralyzes our bodies with that most pleasant of all diseases, spring fever; the fellow who thought nothing was so rare as a day in June surely never had tried just being lazy on a day in late April or early May.

He is all fault, who hath no fault at all.—Tennyson.

A fool must now and then be right by chance.—Cowper.

LETTERS

ROADS, SCHOOLS, CITIZENSHIP

Dear Mr. Jones:

Please find enclosed check for \$2.00 for renewal to The Press. I like your editorials better all the time, but I do not like the town board decision about another well. I had hoped the board would act more progressively.

Yes, and I think the county board of commissioners should try to make those folks in the western part of the county better roads and better schools. I remember very well horse-back riding over those old roads 25 to 30 years ago, looking for some of the fellows for not sending their children to school.

Good roads, good schools, and you will have better citizens. Best wishes,

Sincerely,

CHAS. A. SHOOK.

Tiger, Ga.,
March 8, 1948.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In making his suggestion that something needs doing about roads and schools, Mr. Shook inadvertently called on the wrong agency for action. Generally speaking, the county commissioners no longer are directly responsible for either roads or schools.)

THE GNAT AND THE CAMEL

Dear Mr. Editor:

We are asked to write more letters, I suppose to express our feelings. Here are mine:

Macon County one time was wet, and the Democrats controlled the county. Then the Republicans won and the people got to vote on booze and voted dry. We sure had a dry county, for a person would have to cross over the state line into Georgia or the county line into Swain to get a bottle of sweet mash whiskey.

But the Republicans were turned out and the Democrats gave us drink, so I believe the Republicans would be justified not to vote on this question.

Does the Good Book not say be temperate in all things? and a little drink for stomach's sake? Is it a bigger sin for me to drink a glass of beer (not two) than for a lawyer to smoke a cigar, or a preacher to chew tobacco, or for a woman Sunday school worker to smoke a cigarette? To deprive these people of their tobacco isn't it taking their privilege away from them.

The most damnable wart we have on body politic is the absentee voters' law. I have heard only one preacher denounce it from the pulpit.

No, Mr. Editor, let's not strain at a gnat and swallow the camel.

J. H. Dean.

Franklin, N. C.
Route 4,
March 10, 1948.

ABOUT BEER AND WINE

Dear Mr. Editor:

Will you give me space for a few words on the beer and wine subject.

It is not only beer and wine, it is a ruin to our girls and boys of today. Even the high school girls are seen in the beer joints drinking, when the parents think they are in school. What are fathers and mothers thinking when they claim to be Christians, and then let a few of the beer and wine suckers tell the citizens of North Carolina what to do? Have we not got men with backbone enough about them to step up and fight it to a finish. The reason why they don't is because they are afraid they will get knocked out of a job. If the people don't wake up and do something about it our teen-agers are doomed with the rotten stuff. It is standing steadfast betwixt right and wrong. Which side are we on? Are we going to let it go till it is too late to do anything about it?

Mr. Editor, we know that some preachers of today use wine for the Lord's supper, but God said wine was a mocker, we should use nothing stronger than grape juice. Jesus said in Mark 14:25 "Verily, I say unto you, I will drink no more of the fruit of the wine until that day that I drink it anew in the Kingdom of God."

Yours truly,

LYMAN LEDBETTER.

Route 1,
Franklin, N. C.,
March 8, 1948.

Others' Opinions

NEW MONEY

It had never occurred to us but that the business of making money at the U. S. mint was almost all clear profit. Of course, we knew that the government couldn't just run its money presses and pay its expenses. That has been tried from time to time in some other countries and it has never worked. But we had never thought making money as costing some of the same stuff.

We were brought up short on the lack of reflection by the request of President Truman for about \$2,000,000 for making two billions of dollars in new currency.

The special paper which the government uses for making money has risen 7½ cents a pound and it will take \$361,000 to buy the necessary supply. In addition it will take \$1,650,000 to pay for the printing costs. This, too, involves higher costs of plates, presses and pressmen.

So it goes. The old high cost of living grinds on us from every angle.

Uncle Sam cannot even make us a new dollar bill without billing us, for a few extra charges.—Shelby Daily Star.

POLL TAX QUERY ANSWERED

A recent editorial in The Raleigh News and Observer gives what we feel is a timely explanation of North Carolina's poll tax as compared with other Southern states. The Raleigh newspaper's article was prompted by a number of inquiries as to why North Carolinians have to pay poll tax when the state is not a "poll tax state."

Here is what the Raleigh paper has to say:

North Carolina, along with approximately 20 other States, does have a poll tax, sometimes called a capitation tax. North Carolina is not one of the seven states still having a poll tax as a prerequisite to voting. Prior to 1920 there were 11 such states, all of them in the South. North Carolina was the first of the 11 to repeal the requirement. In addition to removing the poll tax from any connection with voting, the constitutional amendment adopted in 1920 limits the state poll tax to two dollars and that of cities or towns to one dollar. The state tax, under a statute, actually goes to the counties.

Since 1920 the poll tax as a requirement to voting has been repealed by Louisiana, Florida and Georgia. Payment of the tax (usually for a period of six months or more before the election) is still a requirement for voting in Alabama, Arkansas, Mississippi, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.

—Morganton News-Herald.

AUTOS AND THE PRINTED WORD

The number of automobiles on America's modern highways today is one sign of our high standard of living. The amount of printed material circulated in this country is another.

You sense the relationship between the two when the pages of your magazine or newspaper or a beautifully printed booklet or catalog reveal an automobile whose sleek lines inspire the feeling "I'm going to have a car like that!" Multiply that feeling billions of times—yes, apply it to the thousands of products of American industry . . . and you have the spirit of America. America's progress stems from always wanting something better, and at no time was this more clearly revealed than during the last half century. It showed a continuous record of new developments founded on energy and resourcefulness.—Advertisement of International Paper Company.

ADMINISTRATRIX' NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix, c.t.a. of George W. McGee, 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 10th day of February, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 10th day of February, 1948.
KATE McGEE, Administratrix.
F19-6tc-M25

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as executor of Sallie Cansler Welch, 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 12 day of February, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 12th day of February, 1948.

Goldie and George Southards
Executors.
F19-6tp-M25

ADMINISTRATRIX' NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of Henry D. West, 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 10th day of February, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 10th day of February, 1948.

ELINOR C. WEST,
Administratrix.
F12-6tc-M18

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of C. Frank Moody, 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 18 day of February, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 18 day of February, 1948

MRS FRANK MOODY,
Administratrix
F26-6tp-A1

NORTH CAROLINA

MACON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the power of sale vested in the undersigned trustee by a deed of trust executed by John Ledford and wife dated June 19, 1947, and recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book No. 41, page 220, said deed of trust having been executed to secure certain indebtedness therein set forth, and default in the payment of said indebtedness having been made, I will on Saturday, the 10th day of April, 1948, at 12 o'clock noon, at the Courthouse door in Franklin, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described land:

All the lands described in a deed from Jim Burston and wife, Mary Burston, to John Ledford and wife, said deed bearing date of 24 April, 1943, and registered in the office of the Reg-

ister of Deeds for Macon County in Deed Book T-5, at page 188.

This the 9th day of March, 1948.

GILMER A. JONES,
Trustee.

M18-4tc-JJ-A8

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY

E. T. ELLIOTT

vs.

LEARA ELIZABETH ELLIOTT
The defendant, Leara Elizabeth Elliott, will take notice that 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, E. T. Elliott.

Said defendant will further take notice that she is required to appear at the office of the Clerk of Superior Court for Macon County, North Carolina, at the Courthouse in Franklin, North Carolina, on the 8th day of April, 1948, 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 8th day of March, 1948.

J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE,
Clerk Superior Court
M11-4tc-JJ-A1

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. April 5, 1948 and opened immediately thereafter for all the merchantable live and dead timber designated for cutting on an area embracing about 500 acres within the Brush Creek Unit, Cullasaja River watershed, Macon County, Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, estimated to be 2000 cords (128 cubic feet) of chestnut extract-wood, more or less. No bid of less than 50 cents per cord will be considered. In addition to price bid for stumpage, a deposit of 10c per cord for all wood cut will be required for sale area betterment work. \$300 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.
M4-2tc-M18

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