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Good Sense

The Otto school situation had all the possibilities of a long-drawn-out, community-splitting row. And it probably would have developed into just such a row had not the county superintendent, the county board of education, and Mr. J. J. Mann himself shown admirable good sense.

It would have been understandable had the superintendent and the board taken the attitude that, for reasons of policy, they must reappoint Mr. Mann as principal at Otto. And certainly it would have been understandable had Mr. Mann insisted upon his reappointment as a matter of justification.

Fortunately, however, all three recognized that the public schools are a community project; that they require the whole-hearted support and cooperation of the general public; and that no one connected with the schools can do an effective job working against any considerable opposition.

For a Free Choice

It has always seemed to this newspaper that the North Carolina election law and the rulings of the state board of elections deliberately seek to make it hard—virtually impossible, in fact—for a third or fourth party to get its nominees' names on the ticket in a general election.

This newspaper has little sympathy with Mr. Wallace's third party, or the Dixiecrats' fourth, but it doesn't believe they should be barred from the election. There undoubtedly are voters who want to cast their ballots for Henry Wallace, and some others who want to vote for the Thurmond-Wright ticket, and they have just as much right to vote for their favorites as you and I have to vote for Mr. Truman or Mr. Dewey. In a democracy, there should be the least possible interference with the citizen's opportunity to freely express his convictions at the polls.

That is why we were pleased to see that Judge W. C. Harris, in Raleigh last week, held that the latest ruling of the board of elections is "unreasonable", and that the Dixiecrats are entitled to a place on the ballot. Whether the supreme court will agree remained to be seen at the time this was written.

Bring Along Some Cash

After September 19, when you visit your favorite store to buy a cook stove, a washing machine, a refrigerator, a radio (or phonograph or television set), a sewing machine, furniture rugs, a vacuum cleaner, a dishwasher, an ironer, or a (room unit) air conditioner, you'd better carry along some cash. For you'll have to pay not less than one-fifth down, and you can carry the balance only 15 months.

If it's an automobile you want, you'll have to plank down one-third in cash, and be prepared to pay off the remainder in 15 months.

Don't blame your merchant or automobile dealer, because that is the regulation put into effect by the Federal Reserve board, under authority given it by the special session of congress. The law and the regulations are designed to curb inflation.

How far they'll go toward halting the ever-rising level of prices remains to be seen, but they will prove of value to the individual buyer, in any case. Because the man who wants one of these gadgets and can't pay a reasonable amount in cash, and then pay the balance in 15 months, usually is better off without one; to make such a purchase without a cash payment and on three or four or five years' time is considerably like jumping in the river with your hands tied behind your back.

Some Tourist Values

There is a question in the minds of many of us as to how profitable tourists are. A good many persons, in fact, seek to discredit the tourist business, and to substitute industrialization. And "substitute", of course, is the right word, for we can't have both—tourist dollars just don't go to factory-town.

We have figures on how many dollars a day the average tourist spends, but in appraising the importance of the tourist to the community, it is easy to overlook two factors. The first is the intangible

cultural values the right type of tourist brings into a community. The second is the dollar crop the community harvests not this season, but years hence.

A case in point is that of Mr. and Mrs. George Noetel, of Chicago.

Two years ago Mrs. Noetel came here as a visitor. She learned of Franklin through friends, now adopted Cartoogechaye-ites, who themselves had come here as visitors.

Mrs. Noetel was so struck with the beauty of this country that she promptly bought a two-acre tract, to be sure she had a "toehold" in Macon County. Later, she brought Mr. Noetel, a heating contractor, here to see what she had discovered. As a result, they have added about 78 acres to their future homesite and have invested some \$50,000 in Franklin real estate.

Eighteen months hence they plan to come here to live—and will serve as yet another magnet to attract their friends to this community.

LETTERS

ENJOYED TRIP HOME

Editor, The Press:

I have just returned from five weeks in Western North Carolina, Georgia, and Tennessee, and let me say Franklin is keeping pace with neighboring towns. But we need a new courthouse; it is the drawing card that Macon needs most.

Second, let me say I have never met business men in general to equal Franklin's. They really mean to see that visitors and tourist are welcome. We appreciate your kindness.

I have driven better than 8,000 miles since June 18, spent lots of my time exploring the mountains and enjoying the good roads. Do you know 40 years ago we walked the trails there?

I will never forget both kin and friends; your hospitality and every act of kindness made my vacation more than I had expected.

Kindest regards to you all.

F. H. BRYSON.

August 16, 1948.
Lyman, Washington.

ROAD-LESS NANTAHALA

Editor, Franklin Press:

As a native and former resident of the Nantahala section of Macon County, I have followed with intense interest the tireless—and seemingly hopeless—effort of Mr. Cochran, Mr. Shields, and others to get more consideration toward establishment of "all-weather" roads through that section.

I know from personal experience the poor condition of roads found on Nantahala. During the first years of World War II, I was living in the Choga section. Transportation on the Aquone-Andrews mail truck was being furnished for the 10 or 12 children of compulsory school age to attend school in Andrews. As winter approached, the roads into the Choga section were becoming impassable. Repeated appeals were made to the school authorities in Franklin, but were ignored. This means of transportation had to be discontinued until spring. A new excuse was found—"there's a war on", they said.

Of course, as usual, nothing was done about this situation. It was necessary for me to leave home and board in Andrews at my own expense in order to finish my last year of high school. The younger children were not so fortunate. They were denied any means of attending school. This is merely one example of the continued neglect of one of the finer sections of Macon County. This continued disregard seems inexcusable.

I close with the hope that Nantahala soon will be provided roads, which are so vital to a functioning community.

Yours very truly,

Swannanoa, N. C.,
August 17, 1948.

R. L. RUSSELL, JR.

THE BEER ELECTION

Editor, The Press:

You have already given me far more than my share of space in The Press, but if you have room for this, I shall appreciate it very much, and I promise you I won't bother you again soon (if I can help it).

I just want to say that I am glad we are having the beer election Saturday. The question of whether or not we shall have beer is a serious question, a matter of life or death perhaps, and as I see it, the responsibility of the whole thing should rest where it belongs—with the majority of the people, or at least with the majority of the voters.

Doubtless many people are in my position—just don't know what is best for the county. However, we can't steer away from the responsibility by not voting. As my father would say, "we must do something, even if it is the wrong thing".

Personally speaking, I believe that Christianity is the only real remedy for the evils of alcohol, and of course a man cannot be forced to become a Christian. He can no more be forced to give up drink for Christ's sake than he can be marched into the river at the point of a gun in order to be baptized for the same reason, or at least that is how I see it.

However, it may be that prohibiting beer will lessen somewhat drinking here in Macon County. It may be that by closing up the beer joints somebody's life will be saved.

On the other hand, it may make bad matters much worse. It may cause more white liquor to be consumed and we all know from experience of the past just what that means.

CORA TALLEY.

Franklin, N. C., Route 2,
August 20, 1948.

Others' Opinions

5,000,000 CHILDREN NEED OUR HELP

The bumper wartime crop of babies, about 5,000,000 larger than the population experts expected, is reaching school age.

At school these youngsters should find a good education awaiting them. That is their most cherished American birthright.

But unless something is done quickly, millions of these children will be cheated. They will crowd into classrooms already run on double shifts. They will move in with children who are now sitting two in a single seat. They will read germ-loaded books mangled by a generation of use by grimy hands.

So the continuing crisis in American education is given a new twist by unexpected pressure on school plant and equipment.

The U. S. birthrate has jumped by leaps and bounds. Instead of declining in the '40s, as the experts expected it would, the rate climbed from 17.9 per thousand in 1940 to 21.5 in 1943. It jumped to 25.9 in 1947, an increase of 45 per cent since 1940. Result—by 1956 elementary school attendance in the United States is expected to jump from 18,200,000 to more than 23,400,000, an increase of about 5,200,000, or more than one-fourth.

The rush has already begun. It will pick up speed next fall. Now, while this pressure has been building up, our public schools and their equipment have been running down—first through inevitable wartime neglect, then because inflation and material and labor shortages made it difficult to catch up.

If we are to give this bumper crop of youngsters the break they deserve—and reach the educational standards the nation needs—we must speedily do a major job of educational rehabilitation and expansion.

Some headway has been made in overcoming the teacher's

salary crisis.

Teachers' salaries are improving. Pay problems were driving good teachers away from their posts in droves not long ago. But in the year since the 57th editorial in this series emphasized that crisis, the average teacher's annual salary has increased about \$300—from \$2250 to \$2550.

True, increases vary enormously from state to state and from town to town. In a few states the average increase has been \$500; in some less than \$100. But, for the nation as a whole, last year's increase put teachers about even in the race with the cost of living. After taxes, their salaries have risen 68%, and the cost of living 67%, since 1939. In terms of pay increases, however, they are not nearly as well off as are industrial workers, whose average weekly wages after taxes have risen 108% since 1939. They are far behind farmers, whose net income is now four times what it was in 1939. And teachers had notoriously low salaries to start with.

A great deal more needs to be done in raising salary standards to put our school system on a firm footing. There are still about 100,000 teachers, nearly 12% of all public school teachers, who hold temporary or emergency credentials. They cannot meet prevailing standards, and not very severe standards at that, for persons holding their posts.

The salary crisis, however, is easing.

But now comes the new crisis in school buildings and equipment.

We would have been hard put to get our schools back into shape after years of wartime neglect—even without a booming birthrate complicating the problem. Right now, 85% of all public school buildings need major remodeling to remove neath and safety hazards.

And we aren't building enough new schools to keep up with current needs, to say nothing of catching up on those we were not able to build during the war years. School construction expenditures for 1948 are estimated at \$375 million—which is less than what was spent in 1939. With building costs twice as high as they were in 1939, that means we aren't even hold-health and safety hazards.

And now comes the rush of war babies.

We must spend at least 11 billion dollars on new schools and equipment in the next decade.

Public and elementary schools must have 6.6 billion. Equally important, another 4.4 billion must be invested in buildings and equipment in our private schools, colleges and universities if they are to meet the demands which will be made upon them. The private school and privately endowed university are doing their full share and doing it well. The need for them is increasing.

These figures cover only rockbottom needs for educational plant and equipment. But statistics are a very restricted recorder of this crisis.

You can see it better, I'm sure, in schools not very far from your home. There are schools with leaking roofs and outdoor toilets in our greatest cities. There are schools where students still use histories and geographies copyrighted before 1920—books with no mention of World War I, the depression of the 1930's, the Russian Revolution or the rise the dictators. There are countless schools where modern methods of visual education are completely unknown.

All of these conditions promise to get worse—promptly—as that scheduled 5 million increase in the school population gets rolling.

The Metropolitan Life Insurance company does not indulge in lurid prose. It says after painstaking study of the educational crisis that:

"Unless definite measures are taken immediately . . . large numbers of American boys and girls will be deprived of an adequate education."

Currently we are deeply concerned about our military defenses. We are taking, and I think rightly, emergency measures to strengthen them. But we must regard our schools as a part of our national defense as vital as are our armed forces. This is particularly true in these times of fifth columns and ideological warfare.

If we are wise, we will raise our sights. We will give the continuing crisis in education the same urgent attention being given the more obvious but no more real crisis in national defense.

Go to the school house in your neighborhood and discover what needs to be done to provide for the rising tide of young Americans. Ask your school board and your school administrators and teachers how you can help them.

That is good citizenship.

That is patriotism.

That is our duty to the oncoming generation.—James H. McGraw, Jr., President, McGraw Hill Publishing Company.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT BEFORE THE CLERK NOTICE OF SERVICE OF SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY GILMER A. JONES, Administrator of the Estate of ROBERT SCRUGGS, deceased

vs. ADDIE SCRUGGS, et al. The defendants, Harley Scruggs, Claudia Scruggs, Charles B. Scruggs, Alice Scruggs, Dora Woodward, Richard Woodward, Sally Keith, Laura Jean Jackson, Thelma Jackson and Robert Scruggs will take notice that an action entitled as above has been commenced in the Superior Court of Macon County, North Carolina to sell lands of the deceased to make assets to pay debts and the said defendants will further take notice that they are required to appear at the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court in the courthouse in Franklin, North Carolina on the sixth day of September, 1948 to 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 5th day of August, 1948. J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE, Clerk of the Superior Court A12-4tc-JJ-82

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF SUMMONS NORTH CAROLINA MACON COUNTY FLORA ELLIS vs. JOHN ELLIS

The defendant, John Ellis, 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, Flora

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Ellis. Said defendant will further take notice that he 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 15th day of September, 1948, and to 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 13th day of August, 1948. J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE, Clerk Superior Court. A19-4tcJJ-89

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE Having qualified as administrator, C. T. A. of T. B. Crunkleton, 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 13 day of August, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 13 day of August, 1948. EARL CRUNKLETON, Administrator, C. T. A. A19-6tp-S23

EXECUTRIX NOTICE Having qualified as executrix of Mary Esther Huger, III, 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 19th day of July, 1949, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 19th day of July, 1948. Charlotte Barnwell Elliott, Executrix Jly22-6tp-Aug26