

# The Franklin Press

and

## The Highlands Maconian

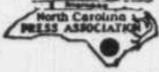
Published every Thursday by the Franklin Press  
At Franklin, North Carolina

VOL. LXIII

Number Forty-five

WEIMAR JONES

Editor-Publisher



Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter

Telephone No. 24

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

One Year	\$2.00
Six Months	\$1.25
Three Months	.75
Single Copy	.06

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.

### Legal Responsibility

**T**HIRTY-THREE young men of draft age who cannot even sign their names! and many more who can write nothing else, and cannot read at all!

Why are so many Macon County adults illiterate? The answer is obvious: Because they did not attend school.

For that situation, each one of us must assume a share of the moral blame. Legally, however, the responsibility is not general, but specific. The law says that children must attend school, and clearly fixes responsibility for observance and enforcement of the compulsory attendance statute.

It places the first responsibility upon the parents, and provides a penalty for their failure to meet that responsibility. It reads:

Every parent, guardian or other person in the state having charge or control of a child between the ages of seven and sixteen years of age shall cause such child to attend school continuously for a period equal to the time which the public school in the district in which the child resides shall be in session . . . Any parent, guardian, or other person violating the provisions of this article shall be guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction shall be liable to a fine not less than five dollars nor more than twenty-five dollars, and upon failure or refusal to pay such fine, the said parent, guardian or other person shall be imprisoned not exceeding thirty days in the county jail.

Responsibility for enforcement of the compulsory attendance law is placed upon the chief attendance officer, and (unless otherwise provided) the chief attendance officer is the county superintendent of public welfare. That official, says the law, "shall investigate and prosecute all violators of the provisions of this article".

And while most persons would agree that compliance, rather than prosecution, is the purpose of the law, the county superintendent of public welfare appears to be given little discretion about which cases are to be prosecuted. Because, even in cases of poverty, the law directs the county superintendent of public welfare to "inquire diligently into the matter" and then bring the case into the juvenile court. And, if that court

shall find, after careful investigation that the parents have made or are making a bona fide effort to comply with the compulsory attendance act, and by reason of illness, lack of earning capacity, or any other cause which the court may deem valid and sufficient, are unable to send said child to school, then the court shall find and state what help is needed by the family to enable the attendance law to be complied with. The court shall transmit its findings to the county board of education . . . (and) the county board of education shall in its discretion order aid to be given the family from the current expense fund of the county school budget to an extent not to exceed ten dollars per month for such child during the continuance of the compulsory term . . . And the county board of education is hereby authorized in making out the county budget to provide a sum to meet the provisions of this article.

That is to say, the county superintendent of public welfare is responsible for enforcing the law, and the juvenile court and the county board of education are required to so act as to prevent enforcement from working an undue hardship in specific cases.

But before a case is placed before the county superintendent of public welfare in that official's capacity as chief attendance officer, a responsibility rests upon the school authorities.

"Reports of unlawful absence (are) required to be made by teachers and principals to the chief attendance officer" and "the state superintendent of public instruction shall prepare such rules and procedure and furnish such blanks for teachers and other school officials as may be necessary for reporting each case of truancy or lack of attendance to the chief attendance officer."

Prior to reporting nonattendance as truancy, however, "the principal, superintendent or teacher" is given discretionary power "to excuse the child temporarily on account of sickness or distance of residence from the school, or other unavoidable cause which does not constitute truancy". Furthermore, the law specifically directs that before parents of children not attending school are re-

ported to the chief attendance officer they shall be notified "in writing . . . that the case is to be reported to the chief attendance officer unless the law is immediately complied with".

The school authorities, in other words, are responsible for knowing which children are not in school, for knowing something about why, and for warning the parents before actually reporting the case as truancy. The spirit of those provisions would seem to suggest that the schools are responsible for doing everything possible to get the child into school, short of taking the case into court.

Finally, the school authorities in any county have ample authority to act for themselves, should the county superintendent of public welfare of that county be unable or unwilling to enforce the compulsory school attendance law:

The county board of education . . . may employ special attendance officers to be paid from funds, derived from fines, forfeitures and penalties, or other local funds, and said officers shall have full authority to prosecute for violations of this article: Provided that . . . where a special attendance officer is employed, the duties of the chief attendance officer or truant officer as provided by law, shall . . . be transferred from the county superintendent of public welfare to the special attendance officer.

### How Do You Know You Don't?

It is small counties like Macon that are benefited most by the fact that North Carolina has its own Symphony Orchestra; because the larger towns in the state can occasionally attract a music event, but a privately sponsored first class musical group or artist rarely if ever would come to a town as small as Franklin, no matter how high the admission charge might be.

Furthermore, tickets to the concerts of most symphony orchestras are about three times as much as the cost of a general membership in the North Carolina Symphony Society, the organization that makes possible the N. C. Symphony Orchestra, and the concerts it gives through this state. And when a person joins the society, he or she is doing much more than buying admission to a concert—for these memberships also make possible free concerts given for school children.

These are a few of the facts that deserve careful consideration as the local Symphone organization prepares to launce the annual membership campaign in Macon County next week.

"I'll join the Society", you may be saying to yourself, "but it will be purely so we can have the free concert for Macon County's children. I don't care for 'highbrow' music."

That determination to provide good music for the school children is highly commendable; of course; and the free concert for the children would be well worth while, even if there were no evening performance for adults.

But are you sure you don't like good music? What makes you think you don't?

Grown people are much like children, and children always like the familiar—ever notice how they want the same story, over and over? So most of us adults like music with which we are familiar.

And while there was a time when most of us were not familiar with classical and semi-classical music, that isn't so true today.

Thousands of records have made good music familiar to millions of Americans. The radio has had perhaps an even wider influence. And a large proportion of the movies you and I see (and the radio dramas we hear) have a background of classical music.

Most of us have become familiar with a lot of good music without realizing it. And many of us, when we say we don't like good music, are simply repeating, from habit, something we heard someone say years ago, and something we haven't stopped, since, to examine to see if it is true.

## LETTERS

### INDEX TO GROWING COMMUNITY

Editor, The Press:  
Please allow me to compliment you on the improvement of The Press. I use it, besides keeping a check on my old friends and folks, as an index to a prosperous and growing community.

Respectfully,  
LOUIN BERRY

Fort Worth, Texas  
October 18, 1948

### Others' Opinions

#### A CALL TO EVERY PARENT

When little Johnnie or little Janey trots off to school, the parents' responsibility is far from ended.

In fact, through the Parent-Teacher Association, it may be just beginning.

The P-TA has passed the half-century mark now. More than 50 years of service to American young 'uns.

There are almost 6,000,000 American parents in the association—more than 26,000 of them in San Diego County.

The P-TA is our biggest national and our biggest local private organization. The size is significant. It tells the story of able leadership and worthwhile activities.

Does a child need clothe, milk or other food, The P-TA cuts through red tape and provides it.

Does a school need better traffic safety, or improved physical facilities? The P-TA has helpful ideas about those things, too.

Perhaps more important is the way that local, state and national groups fight for better schools. Good pay for teachers, good buildings, smaller classes, better opportunities for the kids in low income areas.

And now the time of year has come for enrollment in

the P-TA. The fall membership campaign is under way this week. No parents are so busy that they can't find time to join.

San Diego (Calif) Journal

## POETRY CORNER

Conducted by

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE

Weaverville, N. C.

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen-Women

### SONG FOR SUSAN

(From "Versecraft")

If I could sing the song of summer slumber,  
A song with silken swish of scented pine,  
(Or hum with bees in drowsy, droning number,  
The slumber song of nature's anodyne;  
Or sing the song of palms in rippling rhythm  
And roll the drum beats of the waves on sand,  
Drowned in the scented warmth of lotus land,  
You'd dream, caressed by pine and palm and wavelets,  
FRANCES STRAWN LIVINGSTON

Asheville, N. C.

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

#### EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as executor of Zeb McClure, 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 21 day of September, 1949, of this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 21 day of September, 1948.

RANSOM LEDFORD,

Executor.

S30-6tp-N4

#### ADMINISTRATORS NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Mary Gaston Curtis 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 5 day of October, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 5 day of October, 1948.

GILMER A. JONES,

Administratrix

O14-6tp-N18

#### IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

NORTH CAROLINA

MACON COUNTY

NOTICE

W. B. DOBSON, JR.

vs.

R. J. DOBSON, LILLIAN A.

DOBSON, MARY LEE and

husband . . . Lee,

MARY ELIZABETH DOBSON

and ETHEL ANN DOBSON

The defendants, R. J. Dobson,

Lillian A. Dobson, Mary Lee and

husband . . . Lee, will

take notice that an action en-

titled as above has been com-

menced in the Superior Court

of Macon County, North Caro-

lina, for the foreclosure of a

mortgage; and the said defend-

ants will further take notice

that they are required to ap-

pear at the office of the Clerk

of the Superior Court of said

County in the Courthouse in

Franklin, North Carolina, on

the 15th day of November, 1948,

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 12th day of October, 1948.

J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE,

Clerk of the Superior Court

Macon County, N. C.

O21-4tc-JJ-N11

#### EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of J. E. Calloway, deceased, late Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said de-

ceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 26 day of October, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 26 day of October, 1948.

JULIA E. CALLOWAY

Executrix

O28-6tp-D2

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Nannie J. Mincey 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 11th day of October, 1949 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 11th day of October, 1948.

L. L. MINCEY,

Administrator

O21-6tp-N25

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