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Flies, Noise, and The Future

Congratulations are due Franklin's governing authorities for last week's decision to spray with DDT for flies and mosquitoes. If done consistently, spraying will go a long way toward ridding us of both pests.

Neither can be eliminated entirely, however, until we eliminate their breeding places. Tin cans and bottles left to catch and hold water will breed mosquitoes; garbage that is put in open cans, or simply dumped on the ground, will breed flies. And neither breeding ground is necessary, or even excusable.

The point is that a big part of the job is up to the average individual, though careless individuals might be given, perhaps, a little more "encouragement" by strict rules, strictly enforced.

Mavor Cabe's announcement was that "back alleys and barns" were to be sprayed for flies. That raises the question of whether barns and hogpens should be permitted in a town the size of Franklin.

It would be difficult, and possibly would work an injustice in certain cases, to outlaw them overnight. It would be a simple matter, however, to forbid construction of new barns or hog pens within the city limits or additions to them. Such a course would work a hardship on nobody, and would rid the town of these fly-breeding places within a relatively short time.

And this question raises another: For which is worse, a hog pen next door to one's home or a business that is offensive—an automobile body shop, for example, where the noise necessary in the operation of such a business destroys the peace and quiet of the whole neighborhood?

The answer, of course, is some zoning. Zoning won't solve our problem overnight, but it will tend to solve it over a period of years. And in communities that are growing as rapidly as Franklin and Highlands, the longer we wait to start zoning, the harder it will be to do; on the other hand the quicker we start zoning, the quicker, and the less expensively, we'll start getting results.

In short, our communities need to do some planning. They need to do it now.

We can't plan too well, however, until we get some of the dirt and debris out of the way, and we can't do the thinking that planning requires until we stop the flies from biting.

Speaking Of Pharisees

Any organization has a right to choose its meeting places, and of course it is accountable to nobody but its own members for the logic or the illogic of its reasoning in selecting or rejecting any particular city for a convention.

In view of the background of the action, however, it is a little surprising to have the National Education Association blacklist St. Louis for next year's convention on the ground that racial segregation is practiced in that city.

It is a trifle amusing, in the first place, that the most vigorous and holier-than-thou protest against St. Louis should have come from Philadelphia delegates. Philadelphia, it will be recalled, has been notorious for many years as having one of the most graft-ridden city governments in the world.

What is strangest, though, is for the teachers to meet peacefully in Boston and get hot and bothered about racial segregation in St. Louis. For no group is supposed to be more interested in any single freedom than teachers are in the freedom of the mind; yet Boston is the city that, every year of two, gets itself in the headlines by limiting the reading of its citizens. Every so often a small group in Boston decides what literature its citizens may read, and what they may not read. Boston, if memory serves, banned "Ulysses", generally regarded as first-rate literature.

Nobody expects the average man to be either consistent or logical, but we'd been led to believe teachers were above average.

American culture too often is "spectator" culture. To be really educated, really cultured, we must participate in activities. And that, of course, means work—though it need not be unpleasant work.

Tourists And Youth

In his letter that appears elsewhere on this page, Mr. Neil Mooney says well something that long has needed saying.

While some of his forceful remarks have to do with the need of recreation here for the community's own young people, his letter deals primarily with Franklin and the tourist business.

If Franklin wants tourists, he says, it must provide its visitors with something to do; that is particularly true of the young people; and the young people are the key to the whole situation.

What Mr. Mooney says is particularly significant for the reasons that he himself is in the youth age-group, and that he has had an excellent opportunity, in his work as chamber of commerce secretary this summer, to learn first-hand just what visitors want.

His letter is well worth reading. It warrants thoughtful consideration. Then there should be some action.

Bouquets

Flowers to the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars for its sponsorship of last week's July Fourth celebration. The birthday of the nation deserves observance; especially so in this day when freedom is in danger on so many fronts. Yet all the evidence is that, but for the V. F. W., there would have been no 1949 observance in Franklin.

Planning and executing an all-day program takes a lot of time and a lot of hard work, and the V. F. W. did a good job, despite the handicap of a late start. Given more time for planning, the organization can—if it will accept the assignment again—do an even better job next year.

* * *

A big bouquet, too, to the management of the Nantahala creamery. In construction of its new plant, the creamery made provision for something that has no connection with milk and little to do with profits, yet is important to every passerby. For the creamery has a sort of windowbox (except it's on the ground) along its whole front, filled with flowers. And it was no after-thought, mind you. The management deliberately planned for flowers!

It is touches like that that make the difference between a community and a mere collection of buildings.

Let's Speak Out

Procrastination is the thief of time, and with this in mind we would like to remind the people of Macon County of an ever-pressing need which is growing more urgent each day.

U. S. Highway 23, running from Franklin to Dillsboro and on to Asheville, is this section's main direct, connecting link with the rest of North Carolina.

Each day food, building materials, farm supplies and many other commodities are carried IN and OUT of Macon County over this route.

The last link of this chain—the road from Franklin to Dillsboro—is an out-of-date, inadequate primary highway. Furthermore the pavement surface is broken and patched in so many places that it is becoming increasingly difficult and expensive for the State Highway Commission to maintain.

Both North Carolina and Macon County would benefit if this highway were made into a modern, well-engineered road of sufficient width to carry its present transportation load. Local merchants and business men are oftentimes forced to buy out of state merchandise that could be purchased in Charlotte or other cities in this state. If U. S. Highway 23 were improved, better transportation and quicker communication would help to unite this state's economy more closely.

Since this highway is on the most direct route between Atlanta and Asheville, improvements to it would promote interstate commerce and be of great value to both tourists and truckers who, in many cases, travel a longer route in order to use better roads.

The way our government operates, whether it be local, state, or federal, it takes a cry from the people to bring action. If we started tomorrow urging the improvement of this situation, we would be late. Meanwhile, our business men will continue to have to ask you and me to pay the extra increased transportation cost, hundreds of tourist dollars will ride on better roads, and our economic life will continue to be fed through a clogged life-line.

Youth and age are the really honest periods of life. Youth hasn't learned the penalties of complete honesty; age has become indifferent to them.

POETRY CORNER

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

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, N. C.

HAND IN HAND

I saw two foot-prints made in sand,
Twin stars, where souls but newly shod
Had walked as lovers, hand in hand,
First steps that lead to God.

LENA MEARLE SHULL
Asheville, N. C.

Letters

THE BRANNAN FARM PLAN

Editor, Franklin Press:

Sometime ago I noticed where Marquis Childs said the critics of Secretary Brannan's farm plan should offer a substitute. I am in favor of helping the farmer, but I would suggest honesty first.

Since the price of farm products is the farmer's wages, why not place a minimum on the price of farm products and let the consumers pay the price at the store, so they would know what they were paying?

Under the Brannan plan, no one would know what a ham of meat or a pall of lard cost.

Highlands, N. C.

T. C. McCALL

... AND FACING THOSE BENCHES

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have thought a lot about the editorial you wrote last week about the Sidewalk Benches. I have been wondering if there isn't another thing that needs correction that you passed up.

If you had just cast your eyes on the other side of the sidewalk from the benches, you would have seen the Confederate monument in the center of Rankin Square. This monument is in memory of those who lost their lives fighting for the South. It seems to me their courage and sacrifice deserve that the monument in their memory should at least be clean and neat.

But the monument itself is terribly dirty—needs a face-washing, if you please; the grounds around it are littered with paper and trash; and the fence that surrounds the square is badly in need of help. The whole thing is a picture of neglect.

For many years the fence has been the support of many living bodies, and today it is showing signs of becoming as dilapidated as the benches that face it. This is something right in the center of town that should be taken care of when the benches are replaced.

Franklin, N. C.

DONALD CARR.

P. S. Just in case somebody should mistake my feeling about this matter as the sentimentality of an "unreconstructed rebel", let me say that the writer of this letter is a New York State Yankee.

WHY THE TOURISTS DON'T STOP

Dear Mr. Jones:

I have often been asked the question: Why doesn't the tourist stop in Franklin?

I can answer that question very easily and very frankly: There is nothing here to hold the young people's interest. I am a young person, and I know.

This is a fast-moving world, and the young folks are taking it over more every day; and in progress, there must be change.

I have heard many people say—and I am in a very good spot to hear firsthand, and from people who know what they want: "I would love to stay here, but my children want to go somewhere where they can swim, play tennis, and horseback ride." (Wake up, folks! We have none of those, for the tourist, or for OUR OWN young people.)

The young folks here in Franklin have already shown, by organizing their Teen Age Club and Co-Ed Club, that they are interested in Franklin and willing to work. Those clubs were formed so that there would be some place to go in the evenings for good, clean recreation. The young people have rented the roof garden of Hotel Hearn, for which they are paying \$30 a month rent. They have organized to pay their way.

Franklin needs a community center large enough to take care of its own folks, and the tourist will come later. We have to have those things—swimming pool, tennis courts, a bowling alley, and a skating rink—if we expect the tourist trade to grow.

I have heard people say, time and again, that Franklin is the "garden spot" of North Carolina, and it is. We could build our town so that it would surpass all others in the state, if only we would wake up.

You will say: "All those things cost money!"

Well, you can't buy anything unless you pay for it. Those things can be paid for if the people of this town and county will organize and work together for them. Don't think that you won't have the young folks helping, either, because every one will be right in, with their sleeves rolled up, pitching right along beside you. And after those things once are built, they will maintain themselves.

A single large community center building could house nearly all these things, and cut down on the cost of building each one separately. And it should have an auditorium large enough to take care of stage plays that would come here if we had a place for them.

We have no auditorium even for the things we do have. Every year when the N. C. Little Symphony comes to Franklin, there is no place large enough for its concerts. The Franklin high school graduating class always has a hard time finding room for its graduating exercises—and then half of their parents can't find seats. And the high school students are faced with the problem of finding a place for their junior-senior banquet and prom.

It is true we have the Slagle Memorial, and it is doing a wonderful job, trying to handle all the various meetings. But it just isn't large enough for all the events here. There also is a parking problem at the Memorial building. Don't misunderstand me: I am not running down the Memorial building; it is the nicest thing we have, or I should say, the only thing we have. But it is not enough.

To increase our tourist trade, the key to the whole situation is the YOUNG PEOPLE. Until we get something here to hold their interest, our tourist business will not be worth a "hoot".

Let's call a town meeting and invite everyone in the whole county—for the county will benefit as much, in the long run, as Franklin. Let's get the ball rolling. We can't have developments until we make a start, and the time to start is now.

Franklin, N. C.

Yours very truly,
NEIL MOONEY.

Others' Opinions

BLACKBERRIES

A bumper crop of blackberries is a prospect that cheers wherever the discerning palate yearns for cobbler, jelly and jam. And that makes it practically universal—barring only those unfortunates whose misfortune consists of non-acquaintance with this gustatory delight, Southern style.

All over Middle Tennessee, the berries are ripening—their red taking on a splash of ebony, forerunners of a harvest large and luscious. They are early, hastened and enriched by abundance of rain. In plentiful supply they will invite in the next few weeks, the heavy picking that will avert waste of one of Nature's finest crops—a contribution (for the picking) to humanity's larder.

Blackberries must be picked when ripe, before deterioration sets in on the vine. So it's a good idea to watch them. There's many a good day of picking for volunteers immediately ahead—foretelling many a highlight for the sumptuous repast; Jam or jelly on hot biscuits; cobbler fresh out of the oven, dripping juice and human happiness.—Nashville Banner.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of Dwight Hollman, 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 1 day of June, 1950, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 1 day of June, 1949.

MRS. DWIGHT HOLLMAN,
Administratrix.

J9-6tp-Jly14

EXECUTOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as executor of Mrs. Laura (W. G.) Wilkie, 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 June, 1950, 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 June, 1949.

J. H. STOCKTON,
Executor.

J16-6tc-Jly20

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT

NOTICE OF SUMMONS

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY
G. W. (BUCK) HOLT

vs.

CARRIE HOLT

The defendant, Carrie Holt, 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, G. W. (Buck) Holt.

Said defendant will further take notice that she 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 28th day of July, 1949, 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 the 27th day of June, 1949.

J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE,
Clerk Superior Court.

J30-4tc-JJ-Jly 21

NOTICE OF SALE

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain deed of trust executed by E. C. Wood and his wife, Mamie Wood, dated the 7th day of June, 1947, and recorded in Book No. 40 at page 191, in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Macon County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured, and said deed of trust being by the terms thereof subject to foreclosure, and the holder of the indebtedness thereby secured having requested foreclosure thereof, the undersigned Trustee will offer for sale and sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the Courthouse door in Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina, at 12:00 o'clock noon, on Monday, the 1st day of August, 1949, the property conveyed in said deed of trust, the same lying and being in Highlands Township, Macon County, North Carolina, and more particularly described as follows:

BEGINNING at a stake on the East bank of the Shortoff Road in the South line of C. L. Wood's property, said stake being situated South 74 deg. 30 min. West 352 feet from the Southeast corner of C. L. Wood's property; runs thence, with the East bank of said Shortoff Road, North 35 deg. 15 min. West 152 feet to a hemlock; thence North 74 deg. 30 min. East 290 feet to a stake; thence South 35 deg. 15 min. East 152 feet to a stone in the South line of C. L. Wood's property; thence, with said line, South 74 deg. 30 min. West 290 feet to the BEGINNING, containing one (1) acre, more or less. This being the same land described in the deed from C. L. Wood and wife, Sarah Wood, to E. C. Wood and wife, Mamie Wood, dated 1 June, 1940, and recorded in Deed Book E-5, page 366, Records of Macon County, North Carolina.

This sale will be made subject to all outstanding unpaid taxes. This the 28th day of June, 1949.

J. H. STOCKTON,
Trustee

Jly7-4tc-Jas8-Jly28