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Our Next School Board

FRIENDS of education in Macon County are pleased to note that Mr. Tillery T. Love has filed for the county board of education, thus "breaking the ice" as regards that particular public office.

In past years places on the five-member board too often have gone by default; it has even happened that a candidate was "fled" by his friends, just at the filing deadline.

It is to be hoped that Mr. Love's announcement will be followed by others, so that there may be a wide choice in the selection of board members; for no job in the county is more important than that of the five members of the county board of education.

As friends of education in this county look over the county for possible candidates, and later look over the field of candidates in selecting five to vote for, it will be worth their while to consider what the responsibilities of the next school board will be. It should be remembered that the school board to be nominated in the May primary will not be appointed until the 1951 general assembly convenes, and will not take office until April, 1951—more than a year from now.

By that time, the school building program probably will be completed, or virtually completed. The men to be nominated in the May primary, therefore, will not face the problems of construction; their problems will have to do with what goes on inside the buildings we then will have constructed. Their task will not be the building of physical structures, but the building of a school system.

It is not for this newspaper to attempt to suggest to the voters what individuals should be selected to serve on the school board. It seems proper, however, to make some general observations on the KIND of men and women we should choose.

The suggestions that follow are offered in no sense as personal criticism of the members of the present board—they probably would be the first to agree with these suggestions.

It seems obvious, in the first place, that at least one member of the county board of education should have a child or children in school—no member of the present board has.

Since women have far more to do with children than men, and since the great majority of our teachers are women, it also seems obvious that at least one member of the board should be a woman.

And it would seem desirable to have the membership distributed geographically. Three of the five members on the board immediately preceding the present one came from the northern end of the county; three of the five on the present board live in Franklin township. A better distribution would seem desirable; of course, however, the quality of the membership is of first importance.

But more vital than any of those considerations are the character and the attitude of the members. They should be men and women who command county-wide respect. They should be persons genuinely interested in education, and who have informed, or will inform, themselves about present-day educational problems and trends, as well as the purely local situation.

And they should be men and women who are pre-eminently fair-minded.

For their first and most important job will be the election of a county superintendent, and in discharging that responsibility their one and only object should be to employ the best superintendent to be found.

We will not get the best superintendent available if the board is made up of men and women who are pledged, even in their own minds, to elect any particular person, or not to elect any particular person.

The only way to get the best superintendent available is to put on the board men and women who will go into office with open minds; who will deliberately set out to get applications from far and near; and who will carefully study the list of applicants, and then employ the man—whether it be the present superintendent or someone else—best fitted to give us here in Macon County a school system second to none.

Let's Have A Fair

A county fair, with its peculiar odors and strange sounds, with its dust and its carnival air, is typical of rural America. It is a pleasant and fitting climax to a summer's work. And it does things to a community that nothing else can quite do.

We ought to have an annual fair in Macon County.

It would be an eye-opener for us all. The men in town would learn, first-hand, something about the remarkable progress that is being made on Macon County farms, and the farmers—and the rest of us—would be amazed at the variety of wealth and of industrial and commercial development that such an event would demonstrate.

Furthermore, a fair would make neighbors of the man on Cullasaja and the man on Cartoogehaye, of the man in Horse Cove and the man in Cowee; and of the man in town and the man on the farm.

Let's have a fair! And right now is the time to start planning for one next fall.

Hendricks Ramsey

In the death of Hendricks Ramsey in Asheville last week, Western North Carolina lost a remarkable personality.

Mr. Ramsey was well known among "old timers" in railroading in this region, but in more recent years was proof reader on The Asheville Times. In that position he did an unusual job; for Mr. Ramsey knew Western North Carolina and its people, and he was not content merely with eliminating typographical errors—he wanted the facts right, too. It was not unusual for him to leave his work to go to the city room to explain to a city editor or a reporter that "this can't be right, because so-and-so married so-and-so, and this is their son-in-law". His keen memory and helpful attitude saved reporters and city editors from many blunders.

To his friends, however, Hendricks Ramsey was more than a man who did his job well; it was as a man that they loved him. He probably was as completely lacking in the foibles of human vanity as anyone in North Carolina. His keen sense of humor was never better than when he was laughing at himself. And while his humor usually was kindly, where others were involved, he had the faculty, as few men have, of revealing the false. He could destroy an artificial distinction, or demolish a holier-than-thou attitude, with a single simple comment, or a direct question.

He was an amazingly genuine human being.

The 51st State

The national house of representatives has passed a bill to grant statehood to Alaska. A similar bill for Hawaii is pending.

Under this legislation, Alaska would become the 49th state, and Hawaii the 50th.

We suggest for the 51st Southern Appalachia.

The mountain region of the South, stretching from West Virginia into Georgia and South Carolina, is distinctive. It has little in common with the Piedmont and Coastal Plain areas of the six or seven states in which it lies. It's topography, its soil, its industries, its social custom, and even the way its people think and speak and act are different. The 51st state should be Southern Appalachia.

Letters

FOR ALL OF MACON

Editor, The Press:

After our victory for the school bonds I feel that Macon County will be a much better place to live. I wish to thank everyone who worked in this campaign, and I assure you that within the next ten years we will be reaping a reward for our work.

Nantahala No. 2 is now, and will continue to be, in favor of anything that is good for Macon County.

If the people of this county will continue to vote for the things that are good for all of Macon County, never again will progress drag in the dust.

Yours,

WEIMAR COCHRAN.

Flats, N. C.

Others' Opinions

NO. 1 TEST FOR CANDIDATES

We have now passed from the Atomic Age to the Super-Atomic Age. The destruction of civilization, if not of the human race, is a very real danger.

In this situation the No. 1 test for every candidate for the United States Senate or Congress should be, "Does he or does he not favor such international action and cooperation as will save humanity from World War III?" If he does not favor such international action, but instead urges America to "go it alone"—"go it alone" over the precipice of war—then no other quality he possesses should make any right-thinking patriot or parent vote for such a man. Fortunately, both our present North Carolina Senators have come out strongly for such international action. We hope all who blindly oppose such action will have their eyes opened.—Progressive Farmer.

RAINFALL

Sometime ago when the Georgia Power company made their report of the rainfall for 1949 showing that Rabun county had a rainfall of 93.67 inches, some of us began to wonder if the report would not show that Rabun was the wettest county in the United States. It has been reported here for many years that only one county in the states had a heavier rainfall and that county was in the State of Washington. In order to settle the matter I sent an inquiry to the Weather Bureau, in Washington, for information. I have just heard from them and they have given the average rainfall for the State of Washington and the average for Georgia. According to their bulletin, the average for Rabun county is 70.96 over a period of 38 years. In the State of Washington there are 37 counties with an average above that of Rabun county. There are eleven counties out

OUR DEMOCRACY

THE WILD WEST

THE STORY OF THE OPENING OF THE WEST—OF THE TAMING OF A WILD COUNTRY AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF LAW AND ORDER BY THE COURAGE, DETERMINATION AND SKILLS OF A COMPARATIVELY FEW MEN—LIVES TODAY AS ONE OF AMERICA'S MOST VITAL TRADITIONS.



EARLIER GENERATIONS LEARNED PART OF THE STORY THROUGH TRAVELING "WILD WEST" SHOWS.

TODAY, WE RELIVE THIS EXCITING PERIOD THROUGH RADIO, MOTION PICTURES AND TELEVISION. THE REENACTMENT OF THE OPENING OF THE WEST SERVES NOT ONLY AS ENTERTAINMENT BUT AS A REMINDER OF THE PART PLAYED BY MEN WITH VISION, COURAGE AND SELF-RELIANCE IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR COUNTRY.

POETRY CORNER

Conducted by

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, N. C.

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

MISTY MORNING

Mountain, oh Mountain, where have you gone?
I saw you last night and all day—
Your top was so fuzzy with hemlocks and pines,
Your sides were soft velvet and gray.

This morning I looked and I only saw mist
As dense as a wall yet I know
Behind that thick veil you hide and are kissed
By the sun—but he's everyone's beau!

MIRIAM WHITEHEAD.

Black Mountain, N. C.

there that have an average of more than 100 inches annual rainfall. Of course Rabun has the highest rainfall of any county in Georgia.—L. P. Cross in Clayton Tribune.

(EDITOR'S NOTE—At Coweeta, in Macon County, the total last year was 145 inches.)

WHERE DEMOCRACY NEEDS STRENGTH

Maybe there's no such thing as a non-political public office. But there are some governmental positions which, in the name of safeguarding public rights, ought to be kept as far from partnership or factionalism or any form of petty politics as humanly possible. And heading the list of these offices which should not be mixed up with what we commonly refer to as "politics" are the positions on a county election board.

The sad story is that traditionally throughout North Carolina local election board members have been selected more on the basis of political alignment than on integrity and ability.

The trouble lies in the method of selection.

While county election board members are appointed by the State Board of Elections, the state agency with few exceptions names men recommended by party executive committees in the counties. For example, Johnston County's election board is composed of two Democratic members appointed upon recommendation of the county's Democratic Executive Committee and a Republican member appointed after recommendation by his party's executive committee.

It is only natural to expect a party committee to give a preponderance of weight to one's fitness politically, in making a choice for an election board position. This doesn't mean that ability and integrity are wholly ignored, but too often these qualifications are regulated to the background.

In counties like Johnston, where there is intense intra-party rivalry, the faction in control of the party executive committee usually sees to it that the enemy faction has no representation on the election board.—Smithfield Herald.

THE MOTORMAN AND THE MORTARMAN

Why raise a lot of commotion about a mere 29 persons killed in a train wreck on Long Island, while we're plotting the method to slay thousands of thousands with a single instrument of death?

Oh! say some—those were civilians and Americans who suffered and died in the train wreck. Well, what kind of blood is going to run out of the Russians or Chinese or Germans or Frenchmen or Englishmen who die under the first H-bomb?

Maybe it will be human blood. The same kind and the same color that ran out of those few pitiful people who died on Long Island Friday.

Sunday was the anniversary of Iwo Jima. Ask any Marine who came off that landing alive if death is any different for an American and a Jap. Ask him how horrible it is for 29 persons to die at one time.

The train motorman who steered the living to the dead on Long Island will be tried for manslaughter.

Why shouldn't the motorman who lobbed the shell into the huddle of a dozen Japs on Iwo Jima be tried for manslaughter? We don't expect an answer. The way the world is there is no answer.

You've got to say, "The Japs threatened our democracy. They bombed Pearl Harbor. They would have landed on the coast of California."

All that is true. But wouldn't it be possible to organize the world on a plan whereby murder would be murder and manslaughter would be manslaughter either in uniform or out of uniform. . . . After all, maybe a uniform doesn't change a man's conscience and death is an intimate tragedy wherever it occurs.

Maybe a man doesn't die any more comfortably in a uniform than he does in a passenger train.—Cleveland (County) Times.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

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 Ellis C. Cleaveland and wife Minnie S. Cleaveland, to Ralph C. Price, Trustee, and Jefferson Standard Life Insurance Company, dated June 17, 1949, and recorded in Book 43, at page 60 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina; and under and by virtue of the authority vested in the undersigned as substitute trustee by an instrument of writing, dated the 15th day of January, 1950, and recorded in Book X-5, page 285 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the indebtedness thereby secured and the said deed of trust being by the terms thereof subject to foreclosure thereof for the purpose of satisfying said indebtedness, the undersigned substituted trustee will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the courthouse door in Franklin, North Carolina, at twelve o'clock noon, on the 13th day of March, 1950, the land 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 North bank of Mill Creek in the Town of Highlands, North Carolina, said stake being the Southwest corner of a tract of land deeded this day to Maurice Cleaveland by Bessie A. Cleaveland, et al. and runs with West line of said tract N 14 degrees E 225 feet to a stake on the South bank of Foreman Road; thence with said road as follows: S 88 degrees 20 minutes W 10 feet; N 76 degrees 35 minutes W 71 feet; N 64 degrees 15 minutes W 214 feet; N 46 degrees 30 minutes W 39 feet to a stake; thence S 78 degrees 05 minutes W 579 feet to the center of Mill Creek; thence up center of said creek, with its meanders, to a point directly opposite the beginning corner; thence N 14 degrees E to the point of BEGINNING. Being a portion of a tract of land deeded to W. M. Cleaveland by Highlands Land Company, known as Lots Nos. 97 and 98. Lot No. 97 described in deed dated December 3, 1925 and registered in Deed Book L-4, page 497. Lot No. 98 described in deed dated August 1, 1925 and registered in Book L14, page 200, Macon County Records. This the 8th day of February, 1950.

G. L. HOUK,
Substituted Trustee.

F16-4tc-M9

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY

Under and by virtue of the power of sale vested in the undersigned trustee by deed of trust executed by James W. Beck and wife Beulah E. Beck, dated May 17, 1947, and recorded in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Book of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust B. & L. No. 2, page 167, 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 Monday, the 13th day of March, 1950, at 12:00 o'clock noon, at the Courthouse door in Franklin, North Carolina, sell to the highest bidder for cash the following described land:

All the land described in a deed from George Wilson and wife Louise Wilson, to James W. Beck and wife Beulah E. Beck, dated April 24, 1941, and recorded in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, in Deed Book G-5, at page 53; and being all of Lot No. 312 and part of lot No. 310 and 314 in the Town of Highlands, North Carolina, on the South side of Chestnut Street. This the 8th day of February, 1950.

GILMER A. JONES, Trustee.
F16-4tc-M9

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of Joe Webb, 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 15th day of February, 1950, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 17th day of February, 1950.

GERTRUDE WEBB,
Administratrix.

F23-6tp-M30

Say: "I saw it advertised in the Press"