# The Branklin Press

# The Highlands Maconian

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One Year.

Six Months.

#### Election Postscript

GOOD citizens of the county generally will join in offering congratulations to the Macon County candidates who won in last week's general election—congratulations, and best wishes for success in meeting the responsibility the voters have given the victors.

Congratulations are due, too, to those who were unsuccessful. Usually it takes both courage and patriotism to stand for a local political office; and that is particularly true of members of the minority party. The Republican candidates in this county are entitled to the thanks of the citizenship for providing the first essential in a democracy, a choice for the voters as between parties and men.

To partisans of both parties, the result may seem of first importance. But the really significant thing about last week's election in Macon County is not that one party won and the other lost, or that some candidates were victorious and others defeated.

To all who are interested in good government, and in the democratic way of attaining it, the really significant thing is that last week, in an "off-year" election, the biggest vote in the county's history was cast. It is axiomatic that a democracy is healthy, and that its government will be generally good, in direct ratio to the proportion of the citizens who take part in elections.

One of this newspaper's ambitions for Macon County is for this county to win the distinction of casting the largest proportionate vote of any area in the United States. Last week we made a good start.

The results here no doubt came as a shock to Republicans, but the Democrats had a rude awakening as the returns came in over the nation; in the country as a who'e, the Republicans made phenomenal gains, leaving the Democrats with only a paper majority—and a slim paper majority, at that—in congress.

While they did not win control of either the house or the senate, the Republicans gained five senate members and 33 in the house of representatives. Furthermore, practically all Republican party leaders, such as Taft, Dewey, Duff, Warren, and Millikin, were reelected, while such Democratic stalwarts as Tydings, Lucas, Myers, and Thomas were defeated.

As always, some of the results in the congressional races strain thoughtful people's faith in the wisdom of the people.

The choice, by California voters, of Mr. Nixon for their senator is one such case. Mr. Nixon, as a member of the house, was co-author of a so-called security bill that betrayed a cynical contempt for both the letter and the spirit of the Bill of Rights.

Even more depressing was the result in Maryland, where Democratic Senator Tydings, veteran law-maker, was defeated. Because Senator Tydings is perhaps more conservative than many right wing Republicans, the result in Maryland could not be attributed to an anti-Fair Deal trend. All the evidence is that Tydings' defeat was the work of the McCarthy-ites—of those hysterical little men who practice a form of lynch law in the capitol itself. If the time ever comes that America is controlled by the McCarthys, we might as well just give the country to the Russians.

But there were a lot of encouraging results. For one thing, the vote, nation-wide as well as

here, was heavy.

And the election shows that we still have something Americans have always considered essential—two strong parties. The Democrats have held the Presidency for 18 years; and after the Democratic sweep in 1948, there was a question in many minds as to whether the Republican party ever would recover. That question was answered last week. The Administration is to have opposition; that is desirable—provided it is patriotic and constructive, rather than mere partisan, opposition.

There were some individual results that stand out, too. The senatorial race in Ohio is an example; many Democrats, many persons who do not admire Mr. Taft, welcomed his overwhelming reelection to the senate.

For Mr. Taft's election seems to indicate that while the labor unions might be able to "lead the horse to water", by getting out the vote, they could

not "make him drink", by telling people how to vote. In view of the seemingly increasing danger of political control by some powerful pressure group, the Ohio result is a good sign.

Thinking members of both parties will look at the heavy vote, indicating, as it does, an increasing sense of responsibility on the part of the voters. Then they will ask themselves this question: What course will the Republican party now follow?

Will the Republican leaders exploit the beach-head they have established by aggressive action in the form of a concrete program of positive action to solve both our domestic and foreign problems? Failure to do this may lead them to much the same fate they suffered in 1948. In 1946, the people of this country, dissatisfied with the actions of their leaders, elected a heavily Republican congress. However, the Republicans, who had been elected after waging a strong campaign based on criticism of the Democratic party's leadership, failed to do anything to correct these mistakes, and the people turned back to the Democrats in 1948, when Harry Truman went to the people and offered them a program of positive action.

There is a mandate in this election, although perhaps difficult to uncover, because of the many different issues. It is a mandate which calls for action. There is little doubt that the Republican party made its gains because of the uneasiness of the people. If they support a program which will convince the people that progress is being made toward meeting the current problems, they will expand their beachhead and increase their power. But this will not be done by a policy based on "do nothing to rock the boat" or solely on criticism. For criticism may find the trouble, but it will not heal the wound.

#### We Respectfully Suggest

To those political leaders, Democratic as well as Republican, who are shouting themselves hoarse that "Acheson must resign", we would respectfully suggest a moment's pause—time enough for them to outline the foreign policy they would substitute for Mr. Acheson's.

And to those ordinary citizens whose thinking makes up American public opinion, we suggest a question: Which of the men who are demanding Acheson's scalp would you want for Secretary of State? Senator McCarthy, perhaps?

#### They Did

We constantly hear the question, "Can Democracy and Communism live in the same world?" and the tone usually suggests that the answer is "no".

Maybe they can't.

But it is an historical fact that, for a quarter of a century, they did.

#### Letters

## SAYS ELECTION BACKFIRED Editor. The Press:

The national election last Tuesday reminds me of a little funny story I heard about a man who operated a corn mill powered by an old-fashioned gasoline engine. One cold morning he went to start up. He cranked and he cranked and he cranked. Finally, the thing back-fired and unground about a bushel and a half of his corn before he could get it stopped.

So it was with Harry Truman. He cranked and he cranked and he cranked, and last Tuesday his machine back-fired and unlaid a lot of his plans.

What I think happened was that the good people of America became aware of the danger of Communism and decided to stop being led around by Harry Truman and driven by his buddies, the labor bosses, and so went to the polls as free American citizens and voted their convictions.

And if had the financial means, I would employ a nationwide radio hookup just to say "thank you, and God bless you!"

T. C. McCALL

Highlands, N. C. November 10, 1950.

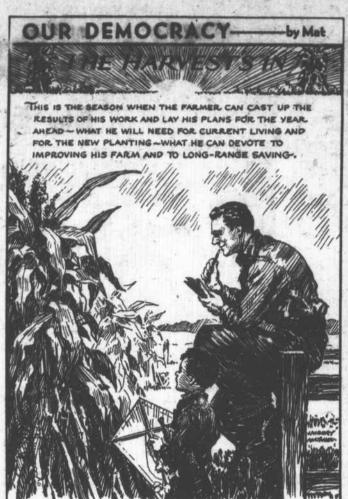
#### Others' Opinions

#### LEAVE IT UNSOLVED

People like mysteries of various kinds (but let me explain that I am not referring to murder mysteries). They seem to enjoy nothing more than arguing about the possible causes and solutions for them. I have often said that I hoped the mystery of the Brown Mountain lights would never be solved—people have such a grand time discussing the whys and wherefores of the lights. If some one should produce an absolutely indisputable solution for what has been our big mystery for the past twenty-five years or more, I would get little satisfaction out of hearing the explanation. For a long time the Brown Mountain lights have been as attractive an advertising feature for the county, particularly Jonas Ridge section of Burke County, as anything in the mountains, their value increased since Highway 181 made more accessible the "grand stand" for viewing them. Let's try to continue to keep the mystery of our Brown Mountain lights mysterious.—Miss Beatrice Cobb in Morganton News-Herald.

#### LETHAL WEAPON

Have you ever been the first to arrive at the scene of a serious automobile accident? Have you ever rushed down a highway embankment to find an overturned sedan, crumpled like an accordion, the smell of hot rubber still strong in the air . . . the wheels crazily pawing at the sky? Have you ever hurtled an embankment wondering what sort of bloody carnage would greet your eyes, while at the same time through your mind raced the elements of army first aid training . . "stop the bleeding . . be careful of moving folks with fractured bones . . treat them for shock? And have you ever searched through a mangled automobile, wondering whether you'd find one human or six . . whether they'd be dead or alive? And have you ever experienced the shock of seeing a gray-haired mother, her married son, his wife and their three-year old boy, all grotesquely wedged in the back end of the car . . . one upon the other . . mangled and bleeding with cuts, abrasions, and multiple fractures of bones; still alive, moaning with extreme pain, but completely helpless . . unable to shift the weight of their own crumpled bodies as much as one inch from their suffering loved ones? Well, we did . . . last Satur-



NOT ALL OF US HAVE A HARVEST SO CLEARLY MARKED AS THE FARMER'S, BUT ALL OF US CAN BENEFIT BY PERIODIC PLANNING OF HOW WE WILL USE OUR INCOME — WHAT WE WILL SPEND AND HOW WE WILL SPEND IT — WHAT WE WILL SAVE THROUGH LIFE INSURANCE AND IN OTHER WAYS. THUS WE ARE ASSURED MAXIMUM BENEFITS OF OUR HARVEST."

day afternoon on Highway 70, about halfway between Black Mountain and Asheville. It was the product of a sudden head-on collision between two cars. It has left an impression upon us that will last forever . . . an automobile is a lethal weapon and must be handled accordingly! It makes us shudder to think that it might have been us, or . . . It could have been you!—U. S. Forest Ranger George Vitas in McDowell News.

#### 'THIS MEANS YOU'

That means you. So what are you going to do about it?

A land owner has perfect legal right to post his own land against trespass. Too often he has good reason for doing so.

Of course you wouldn't do it, but somebody broke down his fence, left his gates open, let his livestock stray. Somebody tramped down his hay, drove through his bottomiand and cut up the meadow. Somebody—some other fellow, sure—carelessly set fire to his woods or pasture. Somebody shot toward his house, or through his water tank, or killed his Thanksgiving turkey. Somebody left a dirty camp, polluted his spring.

You wouldn't do these things, but somebody did. The land owner doesn't know who because nobody even asked permission to use his land. You didn't do it; but, if you carry a red or a gun, you look to him just like the fellow who did.

So, what can you do about it?

There are two things I'd suggest.

First, get acquainted with the owner, cultivate his friend-ship, and behave like a gentleman. Do your best to make other hunters conform to the rules of decency and sportsmanship. Respect the owner's rights just as you would want yours respected. You might even give him a hand with haying, sometime, or help him fix fences in the spring. Least you could do is take an extra box of shells along—save him a trip to town, perhaps.

Maybe that will work. Again, maybe it won't.

So, if you have access to some public land—like a state forest, a national forest, or federal grazing lands—see that it stays in public ownership. You have an interest in it; it's partly yours. There you can hunt and fish. See that this public land is managed so you'll always have good hunting and fishing; you, and your children, and theirs; and so that selfish interests don't monopolize its values.

Treat that land with respect Don't burn it, pollute it, deface or destroy it.

But above all, hang on to it. It may be your only escape from the private land owner's "NO TRESPASSING—THIS MEANS YOU!"—Outdoor American.

#### FRENZY OVER FOOTBALL

Most Americans have a fine sense of sportsmanship on the playing field. More often than not they're for the underdog. And they seldom fail to applaud good performance regardless of their partisan leanings.

But in recent years determined little bands of poor sports have turned up here and there about the country to mar the general good record. These people, it seems, are satisfied with nothing less than an almost unbroken string of victories, especially on the college football gridiron.

Past performance counts for naught. It's the current year that's important. A few losses in a row constitute a great tragedy. The cry goes up: "Get a new coach!" What follows is frequently biutal, callous and destructive of the very ideals sports are designed to serve.

A few examples: at the University of Minnesota, now in the footba'l doldrums, signs begin appearing which read: "Goodby, Bernie." This is a not-so-gentle way of notifying Coach Bernie

Bierman that the victory-lovers want him out of the way.

Minnesota has a long and illustrious record of success in football. And Bierman has contributed mightly to it. But all that matters to these unsportsmanlike citizens is that the

Gophers haven't won a Big Ten title since 1941.

Not long ago Harry Stuhldreher, one of the famed Notre Dame "Four Horsemen," was getting the same treatment at Wisconsin. But the win-or elsers didn't stop with criticizing Stuhldreher. They harassed his family. His wife received anonymous threating letters and telephone cal's. His children were taunted in school. The Stuhldrehers were nearly ostracized socially. Eventually, he quit as coach.

Last year, despite a generally successful season that extended with winning a tie for the Big Ten title, Coach Wesley Fesler of Ohio State experienced what Stuhldreher had. When his wife and children felt the barbs of unfriendly fans, he wanted to quit, but when his team won the Rose Bowl game, he was persuaded to stay on.

Now Fesler has a powerhouse winner. But he still has no peace of mind. He's being pestered by irate gamblers who are angered because from week to week his team scores either too much or too little to suit them.

Perhaps all this unreasoning frenzy is an inevitable result of commercializing college football in our major schools. Cast on such a huge scale, the game seems to attract bettors and many others whose only thought is for results—not for the ideals of a sport.

Football is indeed a fascinating game. But it will be a real danger as a genuine sport unless those who love it can somehow protect it from the selfish people who, one way or another, prey upon it.—Asheville Times.

### BUSINESS Making NEWS

By BOB SLOAN

More than 130 members of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce missed a very good "No holds barred" discussion of some of Franklin's business problems last Thursday night at the regular quarterly meeting of the organization. Letters were sent to 150 but less than 20 attended.

The discussion was precipitated by remarks by Frank L. Henry, Jr., during which he made the observations that Franklin had very little to offer to tourists in both accommodations and the recreational field. He pointed out that one reason for this was to develop both 'arge sums of capital, which the peoole of Macon County don't have are needed. He suggested that me way to obtain this would e to attract several small iniustries here. Mr. Henry observed that these industries industries would in turn furnish capital o develop recreational facilities.

Following these remarks, a lively discussion followed during which Ed McNish, Ed Purdom, and Donald Smith, emphasized the point that Macon County had much more to offer than we realized for the tourists and that our main need was to se'l it to the public. Following the expression of the idea by several of those present that there was no conflict and that we should strive to develop both industrially and as a tourist center a motion was made by Horner Stockton that committees be appointed by the president to promote and develop both the tourist and industrial possibilities of Macon County. The motion passed.

The moral of this story is that it pays to speak your mind. Mr. Henry, by saying what he thought, where others might might have withheld criticism, started a good lively discussion which if it is followed up can contribute greatly to the growth of this county.

How many Franklin merchants this week lost a sale to an Andrews merchant because there is no paved road from Nantahala to Franklin?

Auto dealers must be doing well. We notice that Macon Motor company is expanding its business to include a new modern 18 x 32 dust proof paint shop.

The saying is, "In time of peace prepare for war", a'so a farmer mends fences for Spring and Summer pasture in the Winter. With this in mind, we suggest that the time to start thinking about a fair next fall is NOW.

#### Livestock Quotations

Figures are taken from Nov. 8 sale at Franklin Livestock auction. Prices quoted are per Turn to back page, First Section

# Do You Remember . . . ?

the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
The mercury stood at 24 degrees yesterday morning before sunrise, and there was a heavy frost.

Atty. Dean Sisk and Mr. H. H. Raby went to Asheville last week to attend Federal court. Raby is on the grand jury and Sisk is trying to pull a few moonshiners out of a hole.

For underwear and hose, call at the little red house. Florence Curtis. Adv.

#### 25 YEARS AGO

A few representative farmers met at the office of County Agent Arrendale last Friday morning and perfected an organization to be known as the Macon County Farm Board.

The Dillsboro-Frank'in telephone line is being held up by a dispute as to right-of-way with Mrs. Lum Higdon who lives just across the line in Jackson county.

#### 10 YEARS AGO

A \$75,000 fire of undetermined origin, which threatened at times to spread to the entire downtown business district, completely gutted the Bank of Franklin building on Main street here late Sunday afternoon.

Under the leadership of the Rev. Philip L. Green, several of the more musically-inclined members of the community recently organized the Franklin Glee club, composed of 16 voices which met last week for its first rehersal.