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Fontana Shows The Way

The people over at Fontana Village are making a success of two ideas that Franklin and Highlands and other communities in Macon County would do well to adopt.

First of all, Fontana Village has set out to be a tourist resort, and the folk there have set themselves to do a good job of being just that. They have, just as we have here, great natural opportunities, and they've made the most of those opportunities. Everybody knows the result.

Second, Fontana this year has gone on a year-round basis. Tourists will find facilities at Fontana, whether it's July or January, and they'll find a welcome, and something going on.

There are two facts that we here in Macon County should recognize: As long as we have a tourist business that lasts only a few weeks in mid-summer, we'll have a precarious income from tourists; and the time has passed when touring was confined to the summer, and when whole families came to the mountains to spend the entire season at one place.

Touring has become a year-round custom with Americans, and they will go wherever there is beauty, something interesting to do, and a welcome.

If Fontana can have a 12-months tourist business, so can we. We should set out to bring tourists—all we can take care of—to Macon County at least from April 1 through November 30.

Like Deep-Rooted Trees

"A native of Macon county . . ."

"Born and reared here . . ."

"Life-long resident . . ."

Those and similar phrases constantly recur in accounts of the deaths of members of a Macon County generation that rapidly is passing.

These men and women lacked much that we have today. Not only did they spend most of their lives in complete ignorance of the conveniences that are taken for granted by us today; many of them also had scant education, and most of them did not benefit by the broadening influence of travel. Their mental horizons were limited, and sometimes we say they were narrow in their views. Perhaps they were.

Yet they possessed and passed along a quality that is badly needed in today's confused and confusing world. They had **stability**.

Perhaps it grew out of character begotten by hardship; perhaps living in the same spot year after year and decade after decade gave it to them. Whatever the explanation, there was an easily recognized strength and stability—like a tree that is firmly rooted—about them.

Today's parents give their children more in educational advantages and far more in material comforts and pleasures. But are they giving their children a sense of stability such as their parents passed on to them? And are all these other advantages worth much without this basic one of stability?

Exempt Whom, From What?

Haven't we maybe got the cart before the horse on this draft business?

Nowadays the man in uniform is well paid, and he doesn't have to worry about losing his job. Allowances are provided for his family. He can buy cheap insurance, and if he should be disabled, he'll get a pension. He has comparatively little responsibility, somebody higher up usually making most of the decisions for him. And the armed forces, of which he is a part, are given the best of everything, whether it's food, equipment, or medical care.

The poor civilian, on the other hand, has a tough row to hoe. He has to worry about how to make his salary check go around. In time of emergency, he is expected to buy bonds and to contribute to a hundred and one good causes. And all the time he has the job of keeping the national economy running—he must produce at full blast, in the face of every kind of shortage. And for all of that, he gets no glory.

Yes, sir, we think the time is coming when we no longer will exempt folks from military service, but, as a special favor, will exempt them from civilian service!

Others' Opinions

ALL THAT'S LACKING

About all that's lacking with the Republican Party is a strong will to resell the people that this was originally the workers and farmers political party and not the voice of big corporations.—Stellacoom (Wash.) Lakewood Log.

STOP THIS DANGER AND NUISANCE

One of the blots on Easley's good reputation is that the growing body has confounded the public nuisance of firecrackers for the Christmas festival of Christmas. Both the sale and the shooting of firecrackers are prohibited in Greenville, Anderson, Pickens, Liberty and practically every town of the state. We understand the excuse of a former council which revoked an ordinance procured at long last to abolish the nuisance, was that fireworks could be bought out of town and it was unfair to merchants in town to deny them the sale. The truth is that established stores do not want the nuisance and that the sales are usually made by peddlers or little stores around the fringe of town. Church leaders in our area seem never to have been shocked at the desecration which is peculiar to the Bible Belt, being unknown in the north and west. The general revulsion to the practice that has now nearly eliminated it from the South is based on its senseless annoyance and the danger of fire and of injury from the explosions. Since both Pickens and Liberty have abolished the Christmas firecracker nuisance, on behalf of at least ninety per cent of our citizens we ask our council to put an end to it here, both by ordinance and by enforcement.—Easley (S. C.) Progress.

HIGHER FARM PRICES SEEN

Most farmers in this area will receive moderately higher prices and somewhat larger net profits next year.

The favorable outlook for farm prices and incomes stems from the high level of urban employment and business activity and prospects for a good export demand.

Larger supplies of meat and most other foods will be available for consumers in 1951. Retail food prices are likely to increase moderately because of a stronger demand.

Employment and consumer incomes are currently at record highs and are expected to rise further next year as the full impact of the current defense program is felt. Restrictions on consumer credit and reduced production of consumer durable goods will increase the demand for food and food prices.

Farmers can expect to pay higher prices for goods used in production and family living next year. Taxes and farm wages will rise, but profits will be higher because farm income should rise faster than costs.

Farm prices in 1951 are likely to average about 10 per cent over 1950 and net farm income for the United States may be 15 per cent higher, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Probably over half of this expected price rise has already occurred, and further farm price increases, on the average, should be moderate.—Agricultural Items, publication of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond.

'THE STORY OF GERRY MANDER'

In a right good rage Republican State Headquarters in Statesville has issued a booklet, "Buzzard Nest Methods," with the subtitle, "The Story of Gerry Mander Buzzard and How He Grew." It is aimed, naturally, at the Democrats.

The New Dictionary of American Politics defines "gerrymander" (which got its name in 1812 from Governor Elbridge Gerry of Massachusetts) as: "A redistricting of a state for the election of congressional or legislative representatives which violates the principles of compactness, homogeneity of popular interests, and often equality of population in order to secure the further advantage of the party or group in control of a state legislature."

That is what the Republicans charge the Democrats have done. And for all their top-blowing rage, they are dead right.

The gerrymandering of North Carolina election districts, notably in the West, is a disgrace to any principled political party. Here are some examples from "Buzzard Nest Methods":

The 8th congressional district, as defined by the General Assembly, sprawls across Piedmont-mountain North Carolina from the South Carolina border to the northwest. The counties at some points are barely contiguous. The strong Republican counties of Wilkes, Yadkin, Davie and the close (now Republican) county of Davidson have been welded to counties farther east and south. The latter of course are strong Democratic counties with a heavier voting population. The result: The "gerrymandered" counties in the northwest have little chance at congressional representation.

The 17th judicial district includes Wilkes, Yadkin, and Davie and then overlaps Watauga to take in Avery and Mitchell. This district elects a Republican solicitor. Twice since 1930 it has been juggled around by the legislature. It may or may not be a coincidence that this juggling followed the effort of a solicitor, whose country subsequently was juggled out of the 17th district, to prosecute alleged Democratic election frauds.

Something even a little worse is boards, even in Republican counties, are in fact "elected" by the legislature. The school board members chosen are of course Democrats. Under somewhat similar restrictions, judges are elected by Statewide vote and not by districts. Though the Republican party normally casts about one-third of the votes in North Carolina, it has no representation on important State boards and commissions, such as the State Highway Commission and the board of the Department of Conservation and Development.

You may draw any moral you like from "The Story of Gerry Mander." One we would like to point out is that through palpable injustices the Democratic party is stunting its own growth and defeating its own ends. Thoughtful people of whatever party do not like this arrangement.—Asheville Citizen.

PROBLEMS OF YOUTH TODAY

If we older people think we are having a hard time these days and times, what with the threat of war and other disturbing influences, think how much more so the younger generation, especially the young men just leaving high school and on up through college age, are affected.

Unfortunately, war demands young men at a time in their lives when, in normal times, they would just be entering into a life of their own. War seeks out young men who, in normal times, would be planning their future. But with war and the constant threat of a spreading of the conflict, young men just cannot make any plans.

And looking back in history, especially recent history, it would appear that a war crops up just in time to involve each new generation. Let a new crop of boys reach military service age and there you have it. The draft is always beckoning.

Several weeks ago the war in Korea looked as if it might be over. The enemy was fleeing in confusion toward the border of Manchuria, and United Nations forces were hard pressed to even keep up. But then, almost overnight, Chinese Reds entered the fray, and as things now stand it looks as if, eventually, not only young single men will be called into service, but young married men of non-veteran status, and veterans of the last war, too.

This corner knows absolutely nothing about conducting a war. We do not even know the status of our military forces now in existence or in the potential stage. But we do know that we feel sometimes, that it would be a most excellent idea to apply the atomic bomb to Russia, and anywhere else it might be needed, if such an action would end the continuing confusion and uncertainty which keeps every peace-loving nation on the brink.

It takes no astute observer to see that Russia is behind all the confusion which plagues the world today. And it is a proven

OUR DEMOCRACY by Mat

"The first requisite of a good citizen is that he shall be able and willing to pull his weight."

THEODORE ROOSEVELT



GOOD CITIZENS PULL THEIR WEIGHT WHEN THEY GIVE THEIR BEST TO THEIR WORK AND WHEN THEY DO THEIR INDIVIDUAL SHARE IN NEIGHBORHOOD AND FAMILY ACTIVITIES.



THEY PULL THEIR WEIGHT WHEN THEY SPEAK AND ACT FOR THEIR CONVICTIONS.



AND THE GOOD CITIZEN'S ACCEPTANCE OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR 'PULLING HIS WEIGHT' IN PROVIDING FINANCIAL SECURITY FOR HIMSELF AND HIS FAMILY IS THE GREATEST FACTOR IN THE STRENGTH AND STAMINA OF OUR DEMOCRACY.

fact that but for Russia arms and tanks and jet planes and motorized artillery, the North Koreans and now the Red Chinese wouldn't stand a Chinaman's chance against our forces in Korea. But thanks to this Russian prodding and assistance, it appears now that we are in the middle of a bad fix, facing a hard campaign right in the teeth of winter.

The future for our young men does not look bright. They can make no plans, can seek no jobs with certainty. About all they have to look forward to is military service with possible death at the end of the road.

It is not a pretty picture, but it's a picture that exists, and there is no reason to try and fool ourselves otherwise.

We older folks can worry about business and high prices and shortages of this and that, and one thing and another. But when we compare ourselves to those young men who are of, or have just reached, military age, we should realize that our worries are trivial.—Elkin Tribune.

ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE FUTURE

For two days this week I was privileged to sit among some sixty representatives of press and education in the South listening as scientists discussed the probable impact of atomic energy discoveries on our world, for good or for evil.

We were in Huntsville Ala., at a seminar for newspaper people arranged by extension divisions of Southern universities with the co-operation of the Atomic Energy Commission. Among the North Carolina delegation were Russell Grumman, extension director at the University of North Carolina; Walter Spearman and Jack Riley, members of the faculty of the journalism department at the University of North Carolina; and Holt McPherson, managing editor of the Shelby Daily Star.

Remembering how I had to struggle to pass physics in college, I went to Huntsville with misgivings about my ability to understand anything a scientist might have to say about atom development. And if I had expected to be confused by discussions of such futuristic terms as "tracer atoms," "radioisotopes," "reactors" or "unstable isotopes," I was not disappointed.

But there was encouragement for the novice in atomic science. The editor of The Nashville Tennessean, confessing his own ignorance on the subject, remarked in the opening speech of the seminar that we members of the press could not expect to leave Huntsville with any solid understanding of atomic energy but that we should expect to return to our communities with an urge to start digging for information about the new miracle of science which is certain to reshape the destiny of the earth. He correctly foreshadowed the good accomplished by the seminar.

Far-reaching decisions must be made in the months and years ahead concerning atomic energy. Not only does the United States face military decisions about the manufacture and use of atom bombs, but there are policies that must be formed on control and use of atomic energy in medical research and treatment, in agricultural production, in development of new power for industrial machines.

As Sumner Pike, member of the Atomic Energy Commission, observed during the Huntsville discussions, we live under democratic government and it is the people who must shape the policies of the nation. The people must determine the course of atom development.

But how can the people make intelligent decisions about atomic energy if they are not informed about atomic energy? At Huntsville this week the ground-work was laid for acquainting the people with the problems and opportunities presented by atomic energy.

There will be more seminars for the press with many more newspapers represented. Newspaper reporters and editors will be invited to inspect the non-secretive phases of the atomic project at Oak Ridge, Tenn. Newspaper readers will begin to see more material printed in the news and editorial columns about atom-splitting and its effect on social and economic life around the globe. It is hoped that the people will be stimulated to make deeper studies of the subject than newspaper reading affords.

While the terrifying aspects of atomic warfare were not omitted from the discussions at Huntsville, I nevertheless came away with a feeling of hope for the continued advancement of civilization.

I returned home more convinced than ever that it's time for us Johnstonsians and all other Americans to get rid of any hysterical fear of the destructiveness of atomic weapons and to begin looking upon atomic energy as the key to better health, to better farming, to greater industrial development, to a better economic life generally, not only for the people of the United States but for the people of the whole world.

If ill health and economic misery are seedbeds of war, atomic energy could well be the answer to the problem of world peace rather than the weapon for destruction of civilization. If we of the press can help the people understand that, it may be said that history was made at Huntsville.—T. J. Lassiter in Smithfield Herald.

Experience is the cheapest thing you can buy—if you're smart enough to get it second hand.—Ties, Southern Railway Publication.

BUSINESS Making NEWS

By BOB SLOAN

Duncan Motor Company, with their 1951 Ford now on display, are the first car dealers to present the '51 model to the Macon County public. Shortly before time to display the new models, Duncan Motor received notice from the Ford Motor company that their display shipment would be cut in half. We wonder if this is an indication of things to come in civilian automobile production for the coming year.

In this week's column we would like to journey across the mountains 40 miles to Haywood county and show what can be accomplished by the use of two simple things which we are sure are available in large quantities in Macon County. Those two things are cooperation—imagine every one in Macon County working together toward a common goal, and leadership which gets all to working toward a common goal.

Haywood County's Community Development Program was started in 1949. The amazing results of the first full year are briefly summarized below:

1. \$500,000 income from poultry (increased from \$300,000 before program was started).
2. \$1 million from dairying (increased from \$750,000); 51 Grade A dairy barns built.
3. \$750,000 from apples (increased from \$700,000), Haywood County Smoky Mountain Apple Producers Association organized.
4. \$1 million from burley tobacco.
5. 165,000 seedling trees set.
6. \$2 million from beef cattle (about same as year before, but much work building herds for future income).
7. 28 Laidino clover demonstrations held; 50,000 pasture handbills distributed in county, and goal set for 10,000 more acres Laidino.
8. New playground centers added to the pleasures of young and old; 3,000 people enjoyed athletic events, singing, and other recreation; 300 people sang in combined chorus at music festival.
9. 1,200 attended fall and winter recreation contests between Iron Duff and Ratcliffe communities.
10. 400 farms in county visited by 6,558 people on 23 community tours; 156 went on six-day tour of North Carolina, Tennessee, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, and West Virginia.
11. 1,700 rural homes showed many major improvements.
12. 35 rural churches improved—\$40,000 spent on one church. Practically all of the cemeteries cleaned off and beautified.

Furthermore in a community (Turn to Back Page 1st Section)

Do You Remember . . . ? (Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK  
Dr. W. H. Higgins placed a new, improved, up-to-date dental chair in his office last week. It cost him \$150.

The double track street railway on Lyle street is in operation again.

Joe Harrison and John Gillespie, after spending several months in Indian Territory, returned home last week. "There's no place like home."

25 YEARS AGO  
Charlie Morgan has for sale at \$1.50 booster tags for Franklin. The sign is colored like silver and is a key, with the words, "Key City of the Mountains" in red on the shank of the key, and Franklin above the key.

Before day on Thursday Mr. Bob Bryson left his car standing on the Bryson City road for a few minutes. While he was absent the car moved off and went into the river.

Power from the municipal dam is now ready for use and has been since yesterday.

10 YEARS AGO  
Construction of the latest addition to the Forest Service's chair of fire towers over the Nantahala forest, a 32-foot lookout tower on the summit of Satulah mountain near Highlands, will be completed shortly.

It was bear against panther here last Friday afternoon when the Franklin high Panthers tangled with Canton on the high school gridiron and the Black Bears of Canton came out victors, 19-0.