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### Needed: A City Manager

"If any business man tried to run his business the way the Town of Franklin operates, he'd go broke—and quickly."

That was the comment, recently, of a business man who has served on this town's board of aldermen.

He had reference, of course, to the fact that the Town of Franklin is operated the way a bank would be if the bank had a board of directors but no president or cashier. The operation of the town, in fact, is perhaps even more complex than the operation of a bank. For a bank deals almost entirely with a single thing—money; while the town government not only handles a lot of money—more than \$100,000 a year—but is responsible for such varied tasks as street construction and maintenance, operation of water and sewer systems, street lighting, public health, maintenance of order and enforcement of the law, and the general welfare of the whole community.

Even in the brief period he served, Mayor Robert M. Dillard gave the people of Franklin some idea of what a full-time executive could do. Unfortunately there appears to be no other capable man who can give the town his entire time, without pay.

The time has come when Franklin should have a full-time executive to carry out the policies laid down by its board of aldermen. It is time we adopted at least a modified form of city manager government.

Meanwhile, this community is fortunate in having obtained the services of Mr. W. C. Burrell as mayor. A good business man, a forward looking citizen, and a man with experience on the board, Mr. Burrell undoubtedly will give the town his best; he probably will do as good a job as any part-time man could do. But Franklin has no right to expect him or any other citizen to neglect his personal affairs to devote the time that the job really demands.

Franklin needs a capable man to serve as its full-time, paid executive.

### The Way To Cut Taxes

Much is being written today about the burden of federal taxes; and surely it has become a subject of concern for every man, woman, and child in the country—for all of us are hit, directly or indirectly.

Should federal taxes be reduced? Almost everybody agrees that they should. Can they be reduced? Of course they can! But whether they will be is quite another question, because it is going to prove a painful process when we get around to cutting our federal taxes.

If we really want to reduce our federal taxes, the most obvious first step would be to create unemployment—a lot of unemployment—in Washington and other government centers. We are all for that, of course. Or are we? Are we for it if it means a member of our family must lose his or her federal job?

Second, we must eliminate or reduce the services that we buy with a part of the federal taxes we pay. Would the families of those drawing old age assistance—to take only one instance—be willing to have these assistance checks reduced, or eliminated?

To cut taxes, we must eliminate waste, of course—and undoubtedly there is a lot of it. But we must go a step farther and practice real economy; that is, eliminate government expenditures for everything except the essentials. Would Western North Carolinians welcome a reduction in the appropriations for the Great Smoky Mountains National Park or the Blue Ridge Parkway? If not, they should stop talking about government economy.

Finally, if we want a permanent lowering of federal taxes, we probably shall have to accept even higher taxes now. The reason is simple: Today the government is spending more than it is taking in; thus our national debt is growing; that, in turn, means that the interest on the national debt, which is a big item in our federal taxes, is becoming greater each year. The only way to a permanent lower-

ing of taxes is to start right now paying more in taxes than the government spends.

Can we reduce federal taxes? Sure we can. But whether the American people have the character to demand it, and whether our federal executive and legislative servants have the courage to do it—that is another matter!

### Shack To Mansion

When a family moves out of a little shack into a big new home, the old furniture looks terrible in its new surroundings.

If the family has much ambition, it will want new furniture, too. It may have to get along with the old, bad as it looks, for a while, but sooner or later it will have furniture in keeping with its new home.

In the meantime, though, the new home will mean added expenses that cannot be escaped, or even postponed. Instead of home-made candles, that cost nothing in money, there will be an electric light bill to pay. Since there are eight or ten rooms to heat, instead of one or two, the fuel bill will be many times the cost of providing wood for the fireplace in the shack. The old place probably wasn't worth insuring, but if the head of the family is a good business man, he will take out insurance on the new home—another added item of expense. Thus it will go—the family is living better, and it must pay for it.

That is exactly the position of the Macon County school system today.

### A Job Well Done

This community is due thanks to Messrs. W. N. Sloan, H. H. Plemmons, R. E. McKelvey, W. Roy Carpenter, and Wayne Faulkner for their services as a town zoning commission.

Serving without pay, they devoted much time to their assignment. More important, they did a good job. Examination of the zoning map and the proposed zoning ordinance suggests that; and it appeared to be the consensus of the some 75 persons attending the recent hearing on the zoning plan.

Boiled down to its essentials, the purpose of the zoning ordinance is twofold. Its primary purpose is to protect the owner of property, particularly residential property, from damage resulting from nearby construction of buildings of an undesirable nature. Its secondary purpose is to make Franklin a better place in which to live and a prettier town.

### Our American Civilization

Deploring the moral standards in Hollywood; continuing to let Hollywood set most of our American standards, moral and otherwise.

Boasting of American progress as indicated by the high standard of living; ignoring the fact that it takes more and more wage earners per family to maintain that standard.

Providing transportation for more and more children to and from school; citing the quantity and quality of this transportation as an index of educational progress.

### Others' Opinions

#### HE WAS SO RIGHT

It's a long time since Caesar Augustus decreed, as recorded in the Book of Luke, that "all the world should be taxed." Verily, the decree has now been oh so heartily carried out, and now comes home to roost. Caesar's seizures cease not.

—CHARLOTTE NEWS.

#### MAN OF THE YEAR

We nominate one Harold Hunt as "Man of the Year in Sports." Perhaps we should make it "Man of the Year," in any field.

In a year of scandalous activities in college athletics, here's a man who dramatically reminded us that true sportsmanship is still being practiced if the headlines seem to say otherwise.

Mr. Hunt is a football coach at Southwestern College of Kansas. One day last fall his team was tied, 6-6, with Central Missouri State when one of his players swept around end for a tie-breaking touchdown. The referee signalled a score and was having the teams line up for the extra point when Coach Hunt intervened. He had noticed that his ball carrier on the touchdown play had stepped out of bounds, so he informed the officials of their oversight and declined the touchdown. The game ended in a 6-6 tie.

Not only the sports world, but all areas of our national life could use more Harold Hunts.—Smithfield Herald.

#### DECLINE IN FARM TENANCY

The University of North Carolina News Letter asserts that farm tenancy is definitely on the decrease in North Carolina, and especially has this decrease been apparent during the last

**OUR DEMOCRACY**—by Mat  
**RIGHTS and RESPONSIBILITIES**

160 YEARS AGO THE FIRST TEN AMENDMENTS WERE ADDED TO THE CONSTITUTION.  
THESE AMENDMENTS FORM OUR BILL OF RIGHTS.  
AMONG THE RIGHTS THEY GUARANTEE AND MAINTAIN ARE:

THESE RIGHTS ARE THE FUNDAMENTALS OF OUR DEMOCRACY. IN THEIR EXERCISE, WE HAVE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF MAKING SURE THAT WE DO NOT TRANSGRESS THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS.  
DAY AND NIGHT THESE RIGHTS PROTECT AND GUARD US.  
IN WHAT WE THINK, WHAT WE SPEAK, AND WHAT WE DO, THEY ARE THE FREE SOIL WE WALK ON—THE FREE AIR WE BREATHE.

20 years.

When the first farm census was made in 1880, thirty-three per cent of the Tar Heel farms were operated by tenants. From then until 1930 there was an increase in farm tenancy until 49 per cent of the farms were operated by tenants. The reverse trend then became apparent and since 1930 the farm tenancy figure has decreased to 38 per cent.

It should be noted that farm tenancy increased tremendously from 1880, on through the lush years of the so-called "roaring 20's and reached a peak in 1930. Then the trend was reversed, and it is significant that the reversal in the trend came about during the years that business-like programs for development of agriculture were worked out, combined with parity prices and quota systems. Men who were tenant farmers got more for what they were doing and the desire, always prevalent among those who love the soil, to own their land, took form in the purchase of farms by these tenants.

The decline in farm tenancy is significant to this section of North Carolina, which is largely agricultural. A tenant farmer may be a satisfactory risk in every respect and may be an entirely satisfactory citizen and may enjoy life. But there is definite proof that the land-owning and home-owning make far a more satisfied citizenry; and likewise make for a more stable population and a more prosperous community.

A community which is composed of large numbers of farmers owning and tilling their own land is from an economic aspect a much better place in which to live and do business than a community composed of tenant farmers and sharecroppers. What is true in the towns and cities, that is that home ownership makes for greater interest in the community and its affairs, is true likewise of the rural areas.

—Scotland Neck Commonwealth.

#### STRANGE BEDFELLOWS, INDEED

We received a postal card the other day from a group which calls itself the Citizen's Protective League. The card states that the league holds "America First" meetings on the first Friday night of every month in the Assembly hall of the New York Ave. Cafe, corner of 84th street and York avenue in New York. This may not sound significant to the average reader until he recalls that "America First" meetings were being held before the last war, that their objective was withdrawing from the arena of international affairs to give the troops of Hitler, Mussolini and the Japanese warlords free reign over the world. The "America First" meetings had the backing of William Dudley Pelley's Silver Shirt, a subversive group. Furthermore, the meeting place, in New York's Yorkville district, has definite taints of Nazism.

The interesting facts on this postcard are the political views of this "America First" group: "We believe that our country's best interests might be served by a Sen. Taft and Gen. MacArthur (or a Gen. MacArthur and Sen. Taft) ticket, as—if elected—they would lower taxes, stop inflation and drive out of government not only the crooks but also the fools, failures and fanatics who are often more dangerous than crooks. Their foreign policy would be AMERICA FIRST; they would conclude immediately a fair and, if necessary, separate peace treaty with all of Germany and Austria. There would be no Koreans in Europe, the Far East or the Near East."

Probably most of us are for lower taxes, less inflation and fewer crooks in the federal government. But we are inclined to wonder what fanatics the "America Firsters" would have thrown out of the government. Looking at the past record of the "America First" group, this would include practically everyone who advocates a realistic view of the international situation. For Taft and MacArthur we have this observation to make: You make claims about Acheson courting some strange bedfellows. But the forces of Acheson and the Democratic party have not received the endorsement of the America Firsters, who have been proven wrong once. Looks as though there are some strange bedfellows who approve of your views.

—Sanford Herald.

## Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

Due to the moving, Annie's ailments and Christmas, this column has been absent several weeks. We will try to do better for the remainder of the year.

Last year we began the year with the wishes that something be done about a road to Nantahala, the Franklin-Dillsboro highway, and a county fair. We feel lucky because we picked the right horses to ride, judging by results. More than three-quarters of a million dollars will be made available by the state and federal governments for this road to Nantahala in the next several years, and work will begin this year. Contracts will be let this Spring on the improvement of the highway across the Cowee mountain. The combination Home Demonstration club achievement day and 4-H club achievement day program held last Fall was such a success that perhaps that is a better answer than an out and out fair. There are sometimes certain aspects about a fair which are not always desirable.

Anyway here are some of the things we hope Macon County works for in 1952:

1. An equalization of the tax valuations in Macon County by an outside, impartial board of people who know this work. If the county had a 20 million dollar tax valuation and a 90c tax rate instead of a 14 million valuation and \$1.10 tax rate, there would be two advantages. 1. There would be more money available for public service at very little extra burden to the average tax payer. 2. A lower rate would be added incentive to incoming industry.

2. All offices in the courthouse should be placed on a salary instead of being paid by fees and commission. Also we suggest that a county manager be hired who is a trained accountant. Fourteen million dollars valuation is a pretty big sum to keep track of, particularly when it has to be distributed into many different funds.

3. We think that the town of Franklin should adopt a city manager form of government and that the city manager should be paid not less than \$3,000.00 a year. We doubt that any of these things will be realized in the coming year but we can hope.

Here are a couple of predictions—  
Continued On Page Five—

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

#### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

If all the seeds sent to Macon County by Congressman James Montreville Moody are planted and produce well, Macon will need two railroads to transport the surplus.

It will soon be time for candidates to bud.

Prof. R. M. Ledford, of Ellijay High school, was in town Saturday and gave The Press a call. He reports his school progressing finely.

We are having a kind of blizzard, cold north winds with occasionally gusts of snow.

#### 25 YEARS AGO

Thermometers in and around Franklin Sunday morning registered all the way from 5 above to 6 below zero. Every one banks on the correctness of his own thermometer. Take your choice as to how cold it was. Mr. W. L. Higdon 'lows it was cold enough for him and then some.

Mr. Andy Gibson, who has been away 19 years, has been visiting friends on Turtle Pond.

Mr. W. H. McKay, brother of Franklin's photographer, has located his furniture shop in the building formerly occupied by the Western Electric company, near Angel's hospital.

#### 10 YEARS AGO

The Franklin chamber of commerce met on Tuesday night to discuss the matter of transportation and living accommodations in Franklin that will be available for employees and their families on the Fontana dam project in Swain county, which will begin operations shortly.

A big square dance at Panorama Court on Saturday night, will be a feature of the celebration of the President's birthday.