

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Macoutan

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## A Macon County Experiment

An unusual experiment is being conducted in Macon County this year. It is so unusual, in fact, that it has attracted considerable attention in other sections of the state.

Back in 1946 nothing resembling a symphony orchestra ever had visited Macon County. Most of us here—including the writer of this piece—knew next to nothing about a symphony orchestra; many of us knew even less about the great music of the world—some knowledge of which is quite as vital a part of education as is an acquaintance with good literature.

In view of that situation, an educational campaign obviously was necessary if the N. C. Little Symphony orchestra was to be brought here in the spring of 1946. That educational campaign took the form of a Symphony membership drive, in which people were asked to take memberships and thus make it possible to bring the orchestra here for two concerts, a free one in the afternoon for school children, and one in the evening for members.

That was the first of six successful membership drives that have been conducted here in the past six years. It marked the beginning of an awakening of interest in music here, as witness such musical developments in the six-year period as organization of a band at Franklin school—hardly more than an impossible dream back in 1946—which draws capacity crowds when it and allied musical organizations present concerts; a full-time public school music teacher at work in this county; and some half-dozen piano teachers kept busy every day with private pupils.

Meanwhile, too, thousands of Macon County school children and many hundreds of adults have heard the orchestra. In short, we've had an opportunity to learn something about the educational value of these Symphony concerts, and to learn whether we enjoy them.

Since that is the case, a group of persons who, year after year, have worked for the Symphony, at a meeting last fall raised these questions:

After six years of educational campaigns, is such a campaign still necessary? And if not, why hold a membership drive?

The group came up with these answers:

Six years is enough; people here know, by now, whether they want these concerts.

And the increase in interest in music generally and in the size of the audiences attending the Symphony concerts (last year there was standing room only for the evening performance) are proof that Macon County will support this movement without the necessity for a membership campaign.

More than a score of Macon County business houses and individuals were so sure of this that they gambled good hard cash on it; they guaranteed the cost of bringing the orchestra here this season, agreeing to make up any deficit. If the concert "pays out", they said, it will be proof that Macon County people want good music, and are willing, voluntarily, to pay for it; if, on the other hand, they should not "pay out", then it would be proof that this community should forget such concerts for the future.

So this year there will be no membership drive. Nobody will be "driven", nobody will even be asked to buy a Symphony membership. Instead, those who are interested in good music for this county, those who have found (some of them, to their surprise!) that they enjoy these concerts, will have to be "self-starters". It is left up to them to go, of their own accord, to one of the business houses where they are on sale to get their Symphony memberships.

Another interesting feature of this experiment is the fact that the children's concert this year will not be entirely free. In the belief that people enjoy and appreciate things more if they pay something

## A Lift For Today

★... This is none other but the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.—Gen. 28:17.

NO MORE important discovery has been made than that the house of God and the gate of heaven may be found right in our home or place of work. The kingdom of God is within us.

Make our homes, O Lord, Thy dwelling place.

for them, each child who wishes to attend is asked to bring a quarter to his or her teacher at school.

The youngsters, with children's ability to quickly sense what a situation really is, recognize that 25 cents is far from enough for an admission ticket to a 25-piece orchestra concert; they take the attitude that their quarters are their individual contributions toward bringing the orchestra here. And indications are that hundreds will attend—that more, possibly, may want to attend than any Macon County auditorium will seat.

Whether the experiment is a financial success depends, of course, upon the reaction of adults. Are there enough people here interested enough in good music for their county to voluntarily go buy their memberships?

This, so far as can be learned, is the only community in the state that is attempting to have the orchestra without a membership drive. To assume that people will support something worth-while, for themselves and their community, without being "driven" to it, is so unusual that the Macon County experiment will be watched all over North Carolina.

## What Is Behind It?

The introduction of legislation by Representative Monroe M. Redden to reduce the size of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in North Carolina is a surprise and shock to many people in Western North Carolina.

Rep. Redden proposes legislation which would deed to Swain county 44,400 acres now included in the Smoky Mountains Park and 4,500 acres of land now owned by the Nantahala National Forest.

The area now lying in the park was deeded in 1943 to the park by the commissioners of Swain county in a four-way agreement between the State of North Carolina, the board of commissioners of Swain county, the Tennessee Valley Authority, and the U. S. Department of Interior, of which the National Park Service is a part.

The three principal factors in the four-way agreement are:

(1) The area of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park was enlarged by the addition of some 44,400 acres, thus increasing the boundary on the North Carolina side to 273,896 acres.

(2) The construction (after the war) of a standard highway between Bryson City and Deal's Gap (on the North Carolina-Tennessee line) 50 miles long that would be an important link in a planned round-the-park highway that has long been one of the major proposals of the master plan for development of the national playground.

(3) Extension of the boundary to Fontana Lake with the National Park Service having the right of access to and use of waters for construction and maintenance of boating and recreational facilities, including piers, docks, and related equipment.

Rep. Redden said that he was introducing the legislation because of the failure of the Park Service to build the Deal's Gap highway and because the park does not need the land.

Since this legislation comes as a complete surprise to most people outside of Swain county and perhaps many within, we are sure there are many questions which will arise out of what could be the beginning of the dismemberment of Western North Carolina's greatest tourist asset. Here are some questions which people in Western North Carolina, and for that matter people throughout the nation, will want answered before the legislation is passed:

1. Why is this land not needed for the park when in 1943 it was decided by all parties concerned, after considerable study and discussion, that the transfer of the land would be a good move?

2. If the failure of congress to appropriate money to the Park Service for construction of the Deal's Gap highway is Mr. Redden's reason for the introduction of this legislation, would it not be more constructive for him to continue to apply his efforts toward bringing about the necessary appropriations for the construction of this road, rather than abandoning the cause so quickly? (Had his predecessor, the late Zeb Weaver, given up so easily, there would never have been a Smoky Mountains National Park.)

3. Are the reasons assigned by Rep. Redden for the introduction of this bill the only ones behind the demand for this legislation?

## Every Week

We like a report that has come to this office from the Macon County schools about Brotherhood Week, observed throughout the nation last week.

No unusual programs marked the observance here last week, it seems; instead, the report points out, "in the schools of Macon County, every week is brotherhood week". That is the sort of observance which really means something.

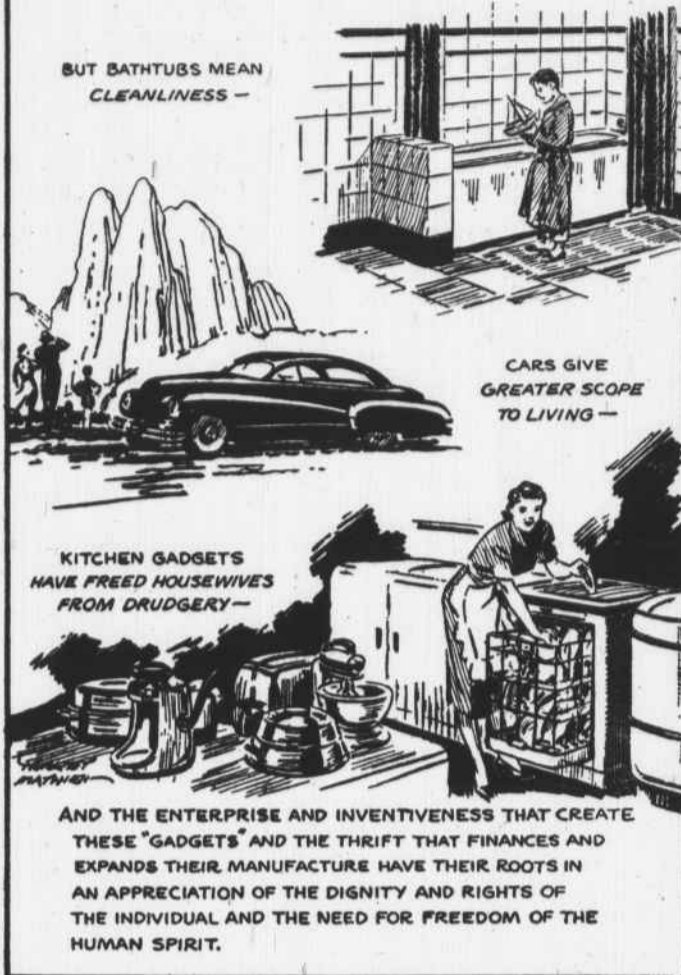
Most teachers here, the report explains, lose no opportunity, throughout the year, "to promote among their pupils an understanding of people who are different from themselves in race, customs, or religion".

That phase, we suggest, makes for good will because it makes good sense. First, there is an admission—something many are inclined to overlook—that there are differences; then there follows the

## OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

### BATHTUBS and GADGETS

SOME CYNICS SNEER AT AMERICAN CIVILIZATION AS A THING OF "BATHTUBS, CARS AND KITCHEN GADGETS."



effort to understand the person who is different.

In studying the Indians, Eskimos, Chinese, and other groups, school children here are encouraged to point out the special gifts, as well as weaknesses and handicaps, of these groups. And as an aid to understanding, the study of geography is used to explain why there are differences among people.

Understanding, the report suggests, eliminates prejudice and leads to respect for human rights.

That, in a nutshell, surely is the whole purpose of Brotherhood Week. It might be added that it also is a major purpose of both Christianity and democracy.

## Our American Civilization

Specializing more and more narrowly; wondering why so many of us are cranks.

Measuring progress in terms of size, quantity and speed; spending millions for research to learn why so many of us die of heart attacks.

## Others' Opinions

### NEW CIVIL WAR

From certain areas of Yankeeland, particularly in New England, have been coming sustained walls that the textile South can out-produce the textile North at lower cost. Owners of the Northern textile mills have complained that Southern textile employees work harder for less money, and they have threatened to move South, lock, stock and barrel.

Some, in fact have done just that.

Primarily, it appears that much of the propaganda being turned out by owners of northern textile concerns is aimed at particular state governments with a view to obtaining reduction in taxes, and at the unions which, for some years, have dictated, in a measure, textile wages in the North.

But the Charlotte Observer last week noted a new target, which raised its editorial blood pressure virtually to the pop-off point.

It was the suggestion that government procurement agencies, mainly operating in the armed forces, grant contracts to Northern mills, even at higher prices than of Southern mills.

It was, of course, enough to make plenty of blood pressures boil. Such a policy would be a new form of government subsidy and one which defies all the laws of economics, supply and demand, comparative advantage, etc.

Unquestionably, the textile manufacturers of the South, their trade organizations, newspapers and others will keep a firm view on such shenanigans and will insist that their representatives in Congress prevent such an unfair and foolish policy.

—Kings Mountain Herald.

## Poetry

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE  
Editor  
Weaverville, North Carolina

### HIGHLANDS IN SPRING

The sun is aglow in Highlands  
When the spring comes once again  
And the pink Arbutus wanders  
Up and down the wooded lane.

The breeze blows cool in Highlands  
And the woods are a County Fair,  
Flaunting flags of glory  
With music in the air.

At evening in the heavens  
The sun is an amber crest,  
Then it blushes over all the sky  
And slowly sinks to rest.

VIRGINIA E FLEMING.

## Business Making News

By BOB SLOAN

Lee Wood, for a fellow who was a mighty sick man a year or so ago, sure is getting a lot done these days. This past week he broke ground on the construction of several new units for his modern tourist court located on Palmer street, and on March 8 he will have a part in the auction of the Howard Shook farm located on the Highlands road. This fine farm has been subdivided into home sites and small farms. There are many beautiful home sites here and if you are interested in building it would be well worth your time to attend this auction sale on March 8.

The new hatchery is expected to open this next week-end. This company is owned by E. M. Hunt of Denton, N. C. Mr. Hunt also owns the Denton hatchery at Denton. The local plant will be managed by Herbert Skeen.

As said before in this column, construction of this hatchery here is proof that the folks in the business believe that the peak has not been reached in this field yet.

It looks to me like the legislation introduced by Representative Monroe Redden pertaining to the returning of some of the land from the Smoky Mountains Park to Swain County might help a few folks at the expense of a much larger group. Certainly no one can dispute that the park is much more desirable as a recreational area with its boundaries reaching to the edge of Fontana lake, than it would be if a strip between the lake's edge and park boundary were commercialized. If the move wasn't a good thing why did the commissioners of Swain county agree to the exchange in 1943? Also consider the danger of establishing the precedent of giving back to the various counties the lands taken over by the park. If the park were dismembered how much tourist trade would western North Carolina have in 20 years?

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The dispensary spirit seemed to manifest itself pretty freely in town Saturday.

Mr. W. H. Greenwood, of Rabun, drug drummer, was in town Monday.

Mrs. E. A. Sample, after a few weeks' visit to her husband here, left Friday to return to her home at Hendersonville.

### 25 YEARS AGO

According to reports, Cartoogechaye has an optimist de luxe. He planted a dogwood tree and expects to raise a litter of hound pups.

In order adequately to accommodate its growing business, The Press is moving this week into more commodious quarters at the Franks building on East Main street.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Ben Douglas, assistant state director of Civilian Defense, visited Franklin last week to give instructions to the local committee.

Miss Emogene Landrum has been chosen valedictorian of the senior class of the Franklin High school and Miss Virginia Bryant has been chosen salutatorian.

### Royal Burnette Taking Course In Night Vision

Undergoing a night vision course at the U. S. Naval Air station, San Diego, Calif., is Royal W. Burnette, Jr., aviation structural mechanic, third class, the navy has announced.

He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Burnette, of Franklin.

Veteran pilots, crewmen, and recruits attended the school to familiarize themselves with the various ways possible to see under reduced lighting conditions. In the high point of the course, students take seats on a high balcony to undergo a simulated mission over an "enemy" city lighted to an equal intensity of a moonlit night, it was explained.