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and
The Highlands Maconian

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Strange

From the office of Mr. George A. Shuford, candidate for congress from this district, there comes to this newspaper a remarkable news release.

Its opening paragraphs read:

George A. Shuford, Asheville attorney who is a candidate for congress in the Democratic run-off primary June 28, favors early completion of the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Shuford told The Franklin Press that, if elected to congress, he will urge an early appropriation to complete the Parkway. His opponent, Frank M. Parker, recently told an Asheville audience that "in times such as these I do not think it wise to spend large amounts of money for the Parkway".

"If our government can afford to send billions in aid to foreign nations, it can afford to spend the few millions necessary to finish the Parkway", said Shuford.

That is strange talk to come from the congress candidate who, it is generally agreed, is the candidate of the more conservative leadership in the Democratic party in this district.

It is strange to hear the conservative candidate speak so casually of a "few millions".

It is strange to hear him imply that we are recklessly spending billions abroad, and so it is all right to add a "few millions" more to the national debt. Mr. Shuford has wandered far from the conservative doctrine that "pennies make dollars"—and millions make billions.

It is strange because Mr. Shuford presumably speaks for the conservative element. And it is the conservative element that has cried longest and loudest for government economy; that has been most alarmed by deficits and inflation; that has argued, quite logically, that heavy government expenditures are the prime CAUSE of inflation, and that the only way to halt inflation is to postpone every non-essential expenditure.

What is perhaps strangest of all is to hear a candidate for congress suggest, at a time like this, when the United States is faced with perhaps the most gigantic problems and the greatest dangers in its history, that the immediate completion of a scenic parkway is a major congressional issue.

We respectfully suggest that foreign aid is one question, to be considered and decided on its merits.

We suggest that a thing like completion of the Parkway is another and quite different question.

We suggest that a wrong decision about foreign aid—if the decision has been wrong—is no excuse for a wrong decision about a parkway.

We suggest that of course we all want the Parkway completed—Mr. Parker, no doubt, along with the rest of us.

But we suggest that when Mr. Parker says "in times like these" it would not be "wise to spend large amounts of money for the Parkway", he is talking plain common sense.

It is good common sense, that is, if we mean what we say about the need for economy and a balanced budget; if we mean what we say about the dangers of inflation.

As The Crops Grow

As the crops grow and the tourists arrive, any thoughtful observer must be impressed by the blessings enjoyed by the people of Macon County.

Among the county's material blessings is its diversity. It is a diversity so wide that it makes for an interesting place to live and to visit, for an area that is far removed from the boom-and-bust type of economy, and for a community where cooperation is easy.

Cooperation is easy here for the very simple rea-

son that there are so many differences that there is no real reason for competition, between county and towns, or between the two towns. In few places, perhaps, is it so true that what is good for the towns is good for the county, and vice versa; and that what is good for one town is good for the other.

A single example: Highlands is so unique, in every way, that it is an asset to the entire county. But Highlands would find it hard to exist, much less prosper, without the rest of the county.

Few counties are so blessed in every way; none, perhaps, is so blessed in having cooperation made easy—and profitable to all.

Common sense suggests that we make the most of this blessing.

Our Macon County possibilities are almost limitless. All that is necessary is to work together to realize some of those possibilities.

To illustrate: Franklin and Highlands and the rest of the county, working together, could make the Franklin Highlands scenic drive the most famous road in the southeast. And scores of similar opportunities could be cited.

Once again we are in the fly season. And once again Franklin is beset by these annoying and dangerous pests. It is a situation that does not have to exist; really, there is little excuse, in this day and age, for a town to be plagued by swarms of flies. Something could be done about it; something probably would be, if the town had someone on the job who had the necessary time—time enough to study the problem, and then to take action.

Our American Civilization

Hiring an expert to make recommendations; ignoring the recommendations.

Killing more people with automobiles than are killed in war; boasting of the number of our automobiles as an evidence of progress.

Citing America as a land where there is respect for the dignity of the human being; belittling that dignity by destroying its first essential—the right to privacy.

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

Sponsored by Asheville Branch, National League of American Pen Women

VACATION

Elements of summer play upon my soul,
Quietness of nature makes my spirit whole.
Like the grass and flowers I will rest in thee,
Spirit of the country, to make my spirit free.

ELIZABETH FIELD

Others' Opinions

LOOK WHAT HAPPENED!

(Roy Thompson in Winston-Salem Journal-Sentinel)

Now the Democrats have gone and done it!

They've been so busy spending millions to keep Europe from going Communist it looks as if the United States is going Republican.

TACTLESS

(Sanford Herald)

Earl Tomberlin tells about the wife who said to the husband one evening after they had come home from some kind of community gathering: "I'll never go anywhere with you again as long as I live."

Husband: "And why not?"

Wife: "You asked Mrs. So and So how her husband was standing the heat, and he's been dead for two months."

DISCRIMINATION

(Abbeville (S. C.) Press and Banner)

... Perhaps no group or race of people in the United States has been subjected to such discrimination as has the South as a whole.

Certainly, too, no group of people has carried us so far along the road to Socialism as has the present administration. We feel that the people of the South realize the dangers more than those of certain other sections and that it is not entirely FEPC that has turned this section of our great nation against the Truman Democratic party.

PHYSICAL CHECKS FOR CANDIDATES

(Burbank (Calif.) Review)

Complete physical examinations should be given candidates for both the presidency and for vice president by a disinterested group of doctors appointed by Congress.

The strain on a President is tremendous. The public should

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

LIBERTY is WEALTH



THE IDEAS OF SUCH MEN AS ROGER BACON, PHILOSOPHER AND SCIENTIST OF THE 13th CENTURY, MET LITTLE ACCEPTANCE AND EVEN ACTIVE DISCOURAGEMENT IN THE TIMES AND ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH THEY LIVED. THEIR RECOGNITION HAD TO COME LATER.



IN OUR DEMOCRACY, THE MODERN ROGER BACONS ARE ENCOURAGED TO THINK, INVENT AND DISCOVER. ACCORDING TO THEIR BENT—A FREEDOM THAT NOT ONLY ENRICHES THE SPIRIT, BUT THAT PAYS OFF IN SOCIAL BETTERMENT AND INDUSTRIAL POWER. MORALLY AND MATERIALLY, THE LIBERTY OF THE INDIVIDUAL IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE IN HUMAN PROGRESS.

know before voting whether or not the candidates are in good health.

It is important to include vice presidential candidates in the examination. Seven vice presidents have become chief executives of the nations as the result of presidential deaths.

Americans should have all pertinent information before going to the polls.

WHOLESALE

(McComb (Miss.) Enterprise-Journal)

America can well be described as a land where a lot of people favor the free enterprise system for themselves and who are opposed to socialism except as it may benefit them individually.

PLANNED SLUMS

(Salisbury Post)

It is not too harsh to say that here and there we are building planned slums. A house ought to be a man's crowning pride, not his particular slot in an expanding cell block.

HAVE OUR SCHOOL IDEALS DECLINED?

Hartsville (S. C.) Messenger

Miss Crista Graf, German school teacher who has been in Hartsville observing educational methods in our public schools, has given a thumbnail sketch of the German school system in addresses before several civic clubs. Our system does not look too well by comparison.

German children start to school at six, same as ours. Upon finishing the fourth grade, they are given a comprehensive examination. Those achieving a certain rating are promoted to another school, roughly equivalent to our high school, and go on through the twelfth grade. The ones who don't measure up remain in elementary school, from which they graduate after finishing ninth grade.

German children go to school six days a week. In twelve years they receive fourteen years of instruction by our standards. They start language courses in the fifth grade and by graduation time can speak at least one foreign language fluently.

The net impression gained from Miss Graf's remarks is that the education of children is regarded as a serious business in Germany, that the standards are higher, the courses tougher and hours longer than ours. The corollary conclusion is that our high school graduates just aren't very well educated by German standards.

At one time the American theory was that every child should have the opportunity to receive an education. That sensible viewpoint has given way to the proposition that every child deserves and shall receive a high school diploma, whether fit to be educated or not. This novel concept has apparently failed to penetrate the historically excellent German school system.

The trend in the U. S. is toward painless public education. It is toward shorter hours and less work. Children are neither required by the schools nor expected by their parents to do any school work at home.

"Let them have a good time while they're young," is the cry.

The truth of the matter is that education is held in low regard in this country. The almighty dollar is the measure of achievement in our society. Education that prepares for high paying jobs is swell. The liberal arts courses are merely tolerated as necessary evils.

The diploma itself is a badge of social position rather than an index of learning.

This mercenary philosophy will degrade our people and result in the destruction of those artistic, intellectual and moral values that are the essence of our lives.

News
About
People

GENE DOWDLE OBSERVES TWELFTH BIRTHDAY

Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Dowdle entertained with a picnic supper at Arrowood glade Monday night in honor of their son, Gene, who was celebrating his twelfth birthday.

Guests include Rebecca Reeves, Nanck Siler, Janice Bowman, Beverly Bryson, Susan Wallace, Alice Ruth Angel, Frances Whittington, Ann Hall, Luana Baker, Bobbie Young, Eugene Cook, Dickie Wallace, Clarence Phillips, Larry Swindell, Bruce Bryson, and Horace Hurst.

FAMILY HONORS HOLDEN SUNDAY

A family get-together, honoring the Rev. R. H. Holden, who is 86 years old, was held Sunday at the home of his daughter, Mrs. James Powell, near Otto.

Mr. Holden's children present included Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Jordan, of Tryon, and Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Conley, of Otto. Four of his children were unable to attend.

A number of friends and relatives were present and the group went to Arrowood glade for a picnic.

"I wanted to see all my children together once again", Mr. Holden said.

PERSONALS

Miss Harriette Kinnelbrow underwent an operation at the C. J. Harri Memorial hospital, Sylva, last Friday.

Mrs. Jack Lever and two children, of Bethesda, Md., have returned home following a stay of two weeks with her mother, Mrs. Elsie Franks.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cunningham and son, George, and Mrs. Aaron Cunningham spent several days last week in Belmont as guests of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Hyde and son.

Miss Mildred Deal is attending summer school at Western Carolina Teachers college, Cullowhee.

Miss Imogene Landrum has returned to Langley Field, Va., after spending a week with her mother, Mrs. Ruth Landrum, of Franklin, Route 4.

Mrs. Oscar Martin and young daughter plan to join Mr. Martin at an early date in Barnwell, S. C.

Miss Georgia Dowdle, of Atlanta, Ga., is spending a two-week vacation with relatives here.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The Lower Burningtown and Oak Grove sections had a heavy hail storm Friday evening, greatly injuring corn and grain crops.

The Press learns that Mr. Baz Picklesimer, of Tesenta, last Saturday killed 45 rattlesnakes and two pilots at a single layout. We do not know what he expects to do when a good day comes for rattlesnaking.

Capt. Jacob Fulmer, of Cherokee county, is visiting his daughter, Mrs. E. K. Cunningham, of our town.

25 YEARS AGO

That a cannery for Macon county is now assured was announced here Friday by County Agent Lyles Harris. The full amount of \$3,000 was quickly subscribed and the application for charter has gone forward.

By a vote of more than five to one, citizens of Iotia school district, in this county, Tuesday of last week voted down the proposal to take off the special school tax.

For the past two and a half years the fire loss in the city limits has been exactly nothing. Let us hope that our luck in this respect will continue.

10 YEARS AGO

A collection is being made for the purpose of purchasing two pairs of spectacles for Murphy's two umpires who gave Murphy a twin-bill Sunday at Murphy by the score of 4-0 and 9-4. All donations should be turned over to the Franklin baseball club.

A true music lover is a man who, upon hearing a soprano in the bathroom, puts his ear to the keyhole (Frankie Macon).