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Single Copy	.10

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SEPTEMBER 4, 1952

## A Mockery And A Sham?

Here are some comments about the Macon County Home for the aged and infirm:

"Four rooms cannot be heated, due to a condemned chimney", and so . . .

"One woman stayed in a room without heat" last winter.

"A sick man needs to be in hospital instead of County Home."

"The building as a whole is in bad need of repair." Examples:

"Fire escape is not safe."

"Bad leak in kitchen."

In addition, the Home

"Needs new beds and bedding."

Those are not our comments. They are not the comments of some out-of-county visitor, to the County Home. They are not the comments of any one person.

They are comments contained in the report of the Macon County grand jury, presented at the August term of court. They are thus the findings of a group of substantial Macon County citizens; citizens chosen for their character and judgment and dependability.

And because temperateness of expression is a characteristic of the people of this county, the chances are that what these grand jurors said in their report is understatement.

It is worth noting, too, that this is not the first grand jury to criticize the condition and operation of the County Home; and that the criticisms they make echo those heard for years from almost every person who has visited the Home.

This newspaper is not censuring any one individual. It is not sure that any one individual is to blame.

But we offer this suggestion:

If we in this community are willing for the helpless inmates of our County Home—men and women who are old and sick, without money and even without friends—if we are willing for them to live under such conditions, then we should start tomorrow to tear down all our churches.

For if we are willing to tolerate such conditions, our religion is a mockery and a sham.

## Added Reason

Yesterday school opened.

That brings a responsibility to parents and teachers. It also brings a responsibility to every person who drives an automobile or a truck.

For when school is in session, children are going to be crossing streets and highways and country roads; they may even be playing in the streets and roads.

So, starting right now, there is an added reason to drive carefully. If we don't drive carefully, it may mean some child's life.

This year there will be no traffic deaths of Macon County children if all of us drive, at all times, as though the child in the street or road, the child around the corner, were our child.

Out of the mouths of today's babes and sucklings comes—"gimme!"

## Bouquets

Choice flowers from our bouquet garden to . . . Judge William H. Bobbitt and the Nantahala Power and Light Company.

To Judge Bobbitt for the business-like and expeditious manner in which he conducted the August term of Macon superior court. While there was no suggestion of slurring over important cases that warranted careful attention, Judge Bobbitt kept things moving. Result: The court disposed of 79 of the 137 cases on the criminal docket, all in a matter of five days.

To the Nantahala Power and Light Company for its forward-looking policy in installing two-way radio outfits on its maintenance and service trucks and engineers' automobiles. The investment, it is to be hoped, will prove a money-saver for the company, but the big dividend will go to the customers, in the form of faster and better service.

## Our American Civilization

Buying more and more time-saving devices; finding less and less time to earn enough money to pay for them.

Letting the children do as they please, today; reading the riot act to them when they don't please to do as we think they should, tomorrow.

Making possession of money and ability at the bridge table the criteria of social standing; looking down our noses at the old idea that family was a proper standard.

Complaining bitterly about prices when we make every-day purchases of necessities; cheerfully paying four prices for things we don't need when we buy them in an atmosphere of swank.

## Letters

### A VISITOR IS IMPRESSED

Editor, The Press:

During the past week my wife and I had the privilege and honor of passing through your lovely city and at that time we encountered an incident that I will never forget as long as I live.

As we came into Franklin from Route 23, we turned left on the highway to Highlands and, after leaving town, I saw a sign indicating that we were on Route 64. Since we were on our way to Atlanta, I knew we were on the wrong road.

I stopped at the Sinclair station near the foot of the hill just out of the business district to ask directions and to service the car. As we drove up, the attendant came to the window and I said, "fill it up". Then the manager, or at least the man in charge, came up and was servicing the front end of the car and at the same time gave direction to Atlanta. After the manager serviced the front, I got out and glanced at the pump and it indicated \$1.62 in sales. I gave the manager that amount.

After we drove off, the attendant asked the manager if he had put any gas in our car; he said, no, that he thought he (the attendant) had. Well, any way, they came to the conclusion that neither had put gas in, so he jumped in his car and overtook us several miles out of town to give us our money back.

I think that was one of the greatest acts of honesty and decency a man could do, and that is what motivated this letter. I think this is a story of public interest, since it indicates that there are still honest men in the world.

LAWRENCE KIMBERLY.

Jacksonville, Fla.

## Other's Opinions

### MOONLIT HISTORY

(Charlotte News)

Tar Heels have known it for some time, but more and more stars are noticing that North Carolina has some top-notch theater (and a fine tourist attraction) in our four outdoor historical dramas. Latest to prick up their ears are the editors of Business Week, which carries a fine illustrated piece on them in its current issue.

With the addition this year of Thunderland, at Asheville, and Horn In the West, at Boone, to Unto These Hills at Cherokee and the granddaddy to the open air dramas, Manteo's The Lost Colony, ticket sales for these productions are expected to reach 500,000 this year. That will mean an income of \$1 million, much of which is ploughed back into productions, put into scholarships, or used to repay confident and enthusiastic local citizens who put up the cash when a production was but a gleam in the eyes of someone like Authors Paul Green, Kermit Hunter, Musician Lamar Stringfield, Director Sam Selden, or Mrs. B. W. Stallings up at Boone.

These productions have a lot to do in making North Carolina's \$350 million tourist business the third largest industry in the state. More than that, they're a wonderful way of preserving and teaching the state's rich history, while affording capable local actors an outlet for their talents. When one takes

## OUR DEMOCRACY—by Met

"BE SURE YOU ARE RIGHT—THEN GO AHEAD"



DAVY CROCKETT—MIGHTY WOODSMAN AND FRONTIER SCOUT, TRULY LIVED BY HIS FAMOUS MOTTO.



THOUGH SELF-TAUGHT, WITH LITTLE FORMAL SCHOOLING, HE "WENT AHEAD" TO BECOME AN ABLE STATESMAN.



HE DIED AT THE ALAMO, FIGHTING FOR THE PIONEERING FREEDOM THAT HE LOVED AND LIVED. THE KIND OF FREEDOM DAVY CROCKETT AND HIS FELLOW PIONEERS GAVE OUR COUNTRY HELPED LAY THE FOUNDATIONS FOR THE FREEDOM WE ENJOY TODAY IN OUR DEMOCRACY.

in one of these dramas 'neath a Carolina moon, he gets his history pretty easily (and pretty straight) along with some darned good theatre. It's a wonderful way to spend an evening.

## BUT DON'T RUB

(Mrs. Theo Davis in Zebulon Record)

This summer's extreme heat has caused numerous cases of "sun poison", as some call the burns it makes on face and arms. If sufferers are willing to try my Aunt Jennie's preventive for this, it might lessen the need for cure.

Before going into hot sunshine, Aunt Jennie coated face and arms with clabber or thick buttermilk. Over this, while it was wet, she patted all the sifted cornmeal that would stick on. The mixture made a protective mask from which her black eyes looked out with a truly startling effect. But it kept off sunburn, and when worn with a sunbonnet, actually bleached the skin. One word of caution: Do not rub the face while the milk-and-meal plaster is on.

Death is nature's remedy for all things.—Dickens.

There is a true glory and true honor, the glory of duty done, the honor of the integrity of principle.—Robert E. Lee.

It is not the greatness of a man's means that makes him independent, so much as the smallness of his wants.—Cobbett.

The two great civilized qualities are foresight and the capacity for continuous effort toward a remote goal.—Charles W. Eliot.

## STRICTLY

## PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Ever stop to think how much money the world would have to spend for constructive things if it were not necessary to buy locks and keys, and to pay policemen to protect property?

That question is suggested by the letter, published on this page, from Mr. Lawrence Kimberly.

The incident recounted by Mr. Kimberly seemed to him very unusual—so unusual that he took the trouble to write a letter about it. What may strike him as more remarkable is that what happened will not seem particularly unusual to most readers of The Press.

It won't be the very good reason that it is the kind of thing most people here would do themselves—and expect their neighbors to do.

The truth is, Mr. Kimberly, that honesty is pretty well taken for granted here. To illustrate: When we go away for a week-end, we often forget to lock the doors. If it should occur to us, while we are away, that we left everything open, we don't worry. We know that, more than 99 times out of 100, we'll get back to find things exactly the way we left them. (Unless, perhaps, a neighbor took the wash in off the line, when it started to rain, or turned the water off, when the temperature began to drop.)

Another thing we here in Macon County are inclined to forget—and that Mr. Kimberly's letter reminds us of—is the fact that this is one of the few places in the world where people don't have to lock their doors.

That is a situation so desirable, so unusual, that it is up to us to make sure it continues.

Who has a suggestion as to HOW we can make sure THAT doesn't change in an otherwise fast-changing Macon County?

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

This week another term of public school has started and again thousands of school children will be traveling the streets and highways of our country. Let's make a firm resolve to drive with care and use extra caution when we are in the vicinity of a school house. Remember the life of the child you save, is very dear.

Speaking of schools, a lot has been said concerning the need of more money for teachers, better equipment, etc. One of the places where either the state or the county falls down the most is in the providing of funds for janitorial service. Under our present system the money is provided by the state for janitor's salaries. The janitor of a school the size of the East Franklin grammar school (eight class rooms, auditorium, cafeteria) receives \$115.00 per month. For that he is expected to keep the building clean and look after the furnace. To me, it seems, that this would certainly require the services of one man about full time. There is very little, if any, chance for him to make any outside money. If the man has a family of five can he even feed them for \$115.00 per month? If he can he shouldn't be janitor of a school, he should be head of a big business, because he is a wizard at buying and managing. Today we have a big investment in our buildings and they should be kept up properly. But if the state doesn't feel like paying even a living wage to those who maintain our buildings can you expect them to feel very concerned about the buildings. I would like to see the teachers and principals show the concern about this underpaid part of our school personnel that they showed about their own salaries.

There is considerable speculation about the purchase or option of some land in East Franklin from Homer Mashburn by a man named Murphy from Michigan. The land in question is four acres of level land on First street across from Harve Bryant's house. I may be wrong, but it seems to me that those who are trying to make this into another plant coming here are idling their gears because this is in the residential zone set up by the zoning ordinance passed by the town council.

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## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Lieut. Sam B. Gibson, of Swain County, attended the reunion here Friday and Saturday.

Messrs. W. W. Sloan, Harry Jones, T. J. Johnston, Burton Lyle, Paul Robinson, Walter Deal and Miss Selma Staten, Mollie Moore, Mary Redding, and Ethel Deal went up to the Wayah Bald this forenoon and will return Friday or Saturday.

Chas. Hopper and Terrell Parrish have set up a harness shop in Penland and Cos. old storehouse. (Smith Bridge).

### 25 YEARS AGO

Rev. and Mrs. F. O. Dryman, of Morven, are spending a vacation with friends and relatives in Macon County. Mr. Dryman was reared near Sealy and has numerous friends, not only in that section of the county, but elsewhere who are glad to welcome him and his family on their periodical visits home.

Judge Willis celebrated his birthday Saturday with a party for a few friends at his camp on Wayah creek.

Mr. Charlie Teague, president and general manager of the Macon Food Products company, announced Monday that the cannery would open Tuesday.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Temple L. McCombs arrived Tuesday to accept the position of Macon County Health nurse succeeding Miss Katherine Shuford.

Somebody must be loafing on the job. There hasn't been a fire on the Normandie for some weeks now . . . London, we read, is planning to reduce the operation of its elevators by 50 per cent. That's one way of reducing war's ups and downs. (Frankie Macon).

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