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and
The Highlands Maconian

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SEPTEMBER 18, 1952

The Time Is Now

As the 1952 tourist season nears its end, The Press makes bold to offer a couple of suggestions. They are offered not only to the chambers of commerce of Highlands and Franklin, but to the heads of all businesses affected by the arrival and departure of the tourists—and what Macon County business isn't?

Suggestion No. 1. The time to start planning for next season is NOW. Now, when the possibilities of tourism are vivid with us; now when we are most keenly aware of our individual and community handicaps and lacks as a tourist center.

Usually we wait until the late spring. Then we start planning when we should be acting. The result is hasty planning; plus failure to take full advantage of our opportunities during the season, and often failure to get the most for the dollar we spend for tourist advertising.

Suggestion No. 2. Any tourist planning should include ways and means to keep the tourist season going full blast THROUGH October.

Never do we have more to offer the visitor than during our glorious autumns. And extension of the season by two months would spell the difference between a living and real prosperity for the businesses affected by the tourists—and what business isn't?

Question Of Freedom

In the 1948 general election, every strictly rural county in Western North Carolina, save Mitchell, cast a larger proportion of its eligible vote than the average in either the state or the nation.

In the nation as a whole, according to a county-by-county report prepared by Senator Owen Brewster (R., Maine) and printed as a senate document, only 52 per cent of persons 21 years of age and older bothered to go to the polls and vote. The percentage in North Carolina was only 34.

But in rural Western North Carolina (Mitchell county excepted), the percentages ranged from 55 in Madison county to 80 in Clay. (Macon, casting 61 per cent, ranked eighth among the 12 predominantly rural counties of the mountain area.)

Pointing out that the report shows Buncombe as casting only 39 per cent of its possible vote, and the largely industrial counties of Burke and Rutherford only 51 and 45 per cent, respectively, The Asheville Citizen interestingly speculates:

Is it true that the larger the population grows the smaller the vote becomes? It is not true nationally, but it seems to be a dreary truism locally, in North Carolina. The larger counties of Mecklenburg and Guilford cast even fewer votes proportionately in 1948 than Buncombe.

If voting is a mark of good citizenship, certainly it is true that the farther you go from urban centers the closer you come to full citizen participation in the franchise. Paradoxically, areas apparently with the least stake in government are the most concerned about it. Or is that because they are more conscientious?

It may be, as The Citizen suggests, that it is a

Our American Civilization

Assuming, of our natural resources, that we can have our cake and eat it, too.

Severely punishing our children for lying; then going to the office or the social function and ourselves lying without compunction.

Letting the experts at the state or national level tell us how to run our schools, our churches, and our communities; putting the blame on local officials when the experts are proved wrong.

matter of conscience. But we suggest another explanation.

As people are more and more crowded into urban areas, they progressively lose, and become accustomed to the loss of, minor personal freedoms; in the sparsely populated rural areas, it is possible for people to hold on to these small personal freedoms. Furthermore, the people of this mountain area are traditionally noted as being jealous of their liberties.

We suspect that the heavy vote in the rural counties of the mountain area is a question of freedom—a determination to use the freedom of casting a ballot, and to use the ballot as a way of keeping other freedoms.

These September mornings, that air air air airish.

Is progress a mere illusion? Sometimes it seems so. For example, this year the Democrats in Mississippi and Tennessee retired Rep. Rankin and Senator McKellar, only to have the Republicans in Wisconsin overwhelmingly renominate Senator McCarthy. Quantity-wise, that's a 2-to-1 gain. But quality-wise it's nothing to crow over; because Rankin and McKellar, at worst, are demagogues, while McCarthy, at best, is a fool.

Letters

APPEALS FOR BLOOD

Editor, The Press:

Called to duty from Macon County November 20, 1951, I am in the U. S. Marine Corps, and like it fine.

The reason for my writing this letter is to ask the people back home to help us win this war.

I have flown over land and sea, but luck has been with me. But some are not as lucky as I have been, and you good people back in Franklin, my home town, can help save your own husbands', brothers', sons' and nephews' lives by giving blood to the Red Cross bloodmobile.

By giving a pint of your blood, you may save a life, and bring some boy back home.

PFC. CLIFTON B. MORGAN

Cherry Point, N. C.

THE WHY OF THE MICA PROGRAM

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your recent editorial, "Doesn't Make Sense," concerning the price of domestically produced mica as compared with Indian mica, as well as the thought it might be better to leave our American reserves untouched now and available for a future emergency, presents indeed a novel viewpoint not at all like your usual logical thinking.

The principal cost of producing and preparing mica is labor. If our government is paying domestic mica producers two to three times Indian prices for certain grades under the mica program, I submit that those prices are not extortionate based on the difference in labor costs and the standards of living between American and Indian labor. Quite possibly they do not go far enough.

What is actually happening is that our government is paying a subsidy to certain of its citizens and organizations interested in the mining and preparation of the highest quality mica which it needs and without which the producers could not operate. Now, if it was a tariff designed to accomplish the same purpose, only the end user of the product would have to pay for this naturally higher American production cost; as it is, every citizen, including the mica miner and his labor, is taxed directly or indirectly to provide this subsidy. However, that is the basic nature of any subsidy program. I think we must acknowledge in the absence of any evidence to the contrary that there exists a basic and critical need for the present mica program or our government would not have established it.

Your thought which really intrigues me is the idea of holding our own mines in reserve. I take it for granted you endorse the idea or you would not have published the quotation without comment. All of the political economy I ever learned in or out of school had as one of its basic fundamentals the development of the nation's natural resources by that nation's citizens for the good of the nation and for their own use and benefit and, if there was any surplus, then for the betterment of the rest of the world.

Why stop your thought with mica? Our oil reserves are variously estimated at about twenty years, based on the present production rate. World oil, particularly from the Middle East, is substantially lower priced than our American production. Paraphrasing your quotation, "Are we trying to make sure that there will be plenty of oil in Iran for the Russians, if and when they take over that country?" Why don't we leave our own oil locked up underground until we can't buy oil from any one else? Fundamentally, it's just as logical as your suggestion about mica. Of course, we would be dealing in billions of barrels of oil instead of only a few million pounds of mica.

We could go on at length in a similar vein. Our richest iron ore deposits have in the main already been worked out and now we are tackling the processing of the poorer ores. But Labrador, Brazil and Venezuela have tremendously rich iron ore deposits. Why shouldn't we hold our own reserves and live off



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

BEFORE and AFTER—There's quite a contrast between the old and the new look in mailboxes in this county; from the old, rusty, boxes, roosting on a single plank, to gleaming white and stately uniform boxes that point out a community as a progressive one. Thus far in Macon County, only two communities have made the switch to the eye-catching uniform boxes—Holly Springs and Carson, both of them entered in the Western North Carolina Rural Community Development contest. These two progressive communities are showing the way; how many will follow their lead?

of the other fellow's fat? If we couldn't get all of our requirements, at least we could get a substantial portion.

Why don't we shut down North Carolina's tungsten mine and save its ore for an emergency? Or perhaps this is right now the emergency and our government is interested in again establishing and building up a domestic mica industry.

I do not make the above suggestions in any spirit of facetiousness. I believe the time to develop domestic sources of any critically short materials, is while there is still time to accomplish a constructive end at a reasonable cost based on American labor rates rather than on practically slave labor rates. During this mica development period our government will buy a few million pounds of mica produced in different sections of the United States at fair American prices. I don't know of any mica miners who anticipate getting rich, although the time will never come when all mica properties will produce at exactly the same cost. Hence the richer property will always enjoy a financial advantage over its less fortunate neighbor.

The import of your editorial strikes in so many different directions and at such sensitive economic factors that it appears to me the editorial itself "Doesn't Make Sense," rather than the mica program which it attacks.

I am afraid this letter may be too lengthy for you to publish. I am sure you understand it is written in all friendliness. We are arguing about critical economic factors over which neither of us is in position to exert any control. But I submit that you should be very positive of your facts on a subject like this before suggesting in effect we invent or embrace any new "isms."

My deepest respects and best wishes to you.

Cordially yours,

R. G. LICHTENSTEIN

Franklin, N. C.,
September 12, 1952.

Others' Opinions

STYLES CHANGE IN TOURISTS, TOO

(Waynesville Mountaineer)

A careful study of what the traveling public is seeking will be of material benefit to those in the tourist business—styles and taste change in this business just as in fashions, although not as often, but just as steady.

TOURISTS WANT SOMETHING TO DO

(Sylva Herald)

Exactly what would you do if you were a summer visitor and in Sylva for a week?

If Sylva is ever to get its rightful share of the tourists and the "summer" money, it is going to have to get busy. If one of us goes on a vacation and takes his family, he expects to go where he will be entertained.

CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS AND THE CHILD

(Hertford County Herald)

The struggles of a number of smaller high schools to preserve their identity is understandable. In such communities, the life centers around the school and the church and to re-

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STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

No objective observer at last Wednesday night's called meeting of the county board of education—and I was there purely as an observer—could have failed to go away without some very distinct impressions.

Here are some of my strictly personal ones.

First of all, there was a feeling of deep sympathy with the members of the protesting delegations, who obviously were honest in their feeling that their children were not getting

the best possible in school advantages. But sympathy, too, with the equally honest school officials, who found themselves caught in a tangle of school bus routes, teacher loads, and classroom capacities.

Then there was the impression that, no matter how unfortunate the controversies that culminated in the meeting, the presence of the protesters was a healthy sign. To realize just how much progress it represented in public interest in

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News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Looks like travel from here to Sylva will be difficult for the next year or so. The present road project which is about to begin will have the road torn up this year. By next year they will either be reworking the remainder of the road or that portion of the road will be so badly in need of repair that it will be impassable. However, if the difficult travel is caused by road construction we should not grumble. Just remember that any change or progress causes discomfort as well as bringing benefits.

Looking at the political picture for the November election, it still looks topsy turvy to me. From what I had read in the papers, I understood that Stevenson was the politician and Eisenhower the layman who would remain aloof from politics. To me, now, it looks the other way around.

Locally there doesn't seem to be the interest in politics that there is in other parts of the country. It may be caused by the fact that we have very few local races with only the state

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Capt. W. P. Moore, of Clay county, popularly known as "Irish Billy", called by The Press office Friday and told us of passing the home of "Uncle Johnny Moore" near Aquone Thursday and stopping to see the old gentleman. He found him in the field pulling fodder, although his age is 93, he having been born in 1809.

Mr. W. O. Roberts, the tent photographer, has a gun that is somewhat of a novelty here. It is a double-barreled shotgun, but he has a rifled tube just the size to fit inside one of the shot-gun barrels, which when in place converts that barrel into a rifle of 32 calibre. It is a fine piece of workmanship.

25 YEARS AGO

The Senior class held a meeting Monday afternoon and elected the following people for office: Martha Pearl Cunningham, president; Philip Newman, vice-president; Mattie Wilkes, secretary; and Mary Enloe, treasurer. (School News, Franklin High).

Visitors to Franklin and Macon county, who are about to return to their homes in the lowlands, will miss the finest part of the year. The fall months, it is true are beautiful everywhere, but in the mountains they are magnificent.

On Friday afternoon, at 2 o'clock, the mercury registered 88 in the shade at the Bank of Franklin. The thermometer was placed in the sun at the same hour and went to 121, before being taken inside for fear the sun's rays would break it.

10 YEARS AGO

Miss Kathryn Neal is now at Ceell's Business college, Asheville. Miss Emogene Hall, of Kyle, Emma Jane May, of Flats, and Dorothy Hardin, of Top-ton, accompanied her. (Aquone).

The Fouts-Rowland reunion was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. G. I. Fouts Sunday. A large crowd attended.