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and
The Highlands Marionian

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DECEMBER 18, 1952

Welcome News

To everybody in this area, Highway Commissioner Dale Thrash's announcement last week of road plans for this section was welcome news.

Especially welcome here, since it affects almost every person in Macon County, is the start of the survey of the Cowee Gap-Dillsboro road.

It is unfortunate that this link could not have been built simultaneously with the link between Franklin and the Gap, thus reducing the time the Franklin-Dillsboro road is under construction, and a long detour is necessary.

But it is encouraging that a start has been made on this second link, and it is to be hoped that the highway commission will push it toward completion at the earliest possible date. Every day the road is unusable not only is an inconvenience; it costs Franklin, Dillsboro, Sylva, Waynesville, Asheville, and other cities and towns real money in business loss.

Spoiled Boys

It is sometimes hard to say which is the worse spoiled small boy, Harry Truman or Douglas MacArthur.

What could be more childish, for example, than General MacArthur's petulant preface to his indirect suggestion, in a speech last week, that he had the answer to the Korean war puzzle. "While it is well known that my own views have not been sought in any way", whined the General. Doesn't that present a picture of a little boy wanting to be begged?

The General appears to forget that he still is in the army, still is being paid by the public, and that if he has the answer, it is his duty to make it known without having to be begged.

What could be more childish—with the possible exception of President Truman's double blast last week at Generals Eisenhower and MacArthur! Eisenhower's Korean trip was pure demagogery, and he never wants to see MacArthur again, the President said.

Now Mr. Truman is not alone in having felt, when Eisenhower promised, in the last week of the campaign, to go to Korea, that that was a somewhat demagogic appeal for votes. But the President seems to forget that the campaign is over. His outburst sounds as though he feared that Eisenhower's trip might prove of value.

Nor is Mr. Truman alone in suspecting that MacArthur has nothing new to offer.

But an adult attitude would be the prayerful hope, by every citizen, from the President down, that the President-elect's trip, whatever its original motive, will result in the discovery of a way to a just peace in Korea. And an adult attitude, likewise by every citizen from the President down, would be to welcome and seek any suggestion, no matter from whom, that offers even the tiniest hope of ending the hostilities a single day earlier than they otherwise might end.

Like many a spoiled small boy, Douglas MacArthur is miserable when he is not in the limelight. That simple statement will explain most of MacArthur's statements and actions.

Harry Truman is considerably more complex. He can be amazingly adult, approaching greatness, at times—as he was immediately after the election. He also can be an "if I can't pitch, I'll take my ball home", spoiled little boy at others—as he was last week.

Suppose It Were YOU

Suppose it were YOU who visited the cemetery . . .

And suppose it were YOUR dead buried there . . .

And suppose it were YOUR dead's grave you found littered with broken beer bottles . . .

It could be, you know!

And so, just thinking of yourself alone, wouldn't it be a good idea, if you must use the cemetery for beer parties, to take the bottles away with you when you leave.

The Christmas Story

The story of the first Christmas, as told in the Bible, is published by The Press each year, in its last issue before Christmas.

This year, since there has been such widespread discussion of the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible, The Press will present the account of the birth of Jesus as given in both the King James and the new Revised Standard Version.

The two versions, to appear on next week's editorial page, will be printed side by side, so that persons who have not had an opportunity to see the new Bible can compare its account with the older one.

Letters

TAFT AND DEWEY

Editor, The Press:

I have a lot of respect for Senator Taft as a man, but if he is going to come down and do much hunting with Governor Byrnes of South Carolina, well, all I can say is, thank God for Governor Dewey of New York!

Governor Dewey, like President Truman, is nobody's fool. I hope he becomes our next Republican president. No, I'll have to take that back, because as our next Republican president, Governor Dewey would be too old to cut the mustard.

(Miss) Cora Talley.

Franklin, Route 2.

Others' Opinions

MAYBE THAT'S WHY

(Williamston Enterprise)

We have never heard of the fireman hugging the engineer as the train goes speeding along—which is probably the reason there are fewer train wrecks than automobile wrecks.

IF U. S. WERE COMMUNISTIC

(Stanley News and Press)

If President Truman, Secretary Acheson, and a few other Democratic leaders were lined up next spring and shot, a wave of horror would sweep over this country. That is not the American way of treating leaders who leave office.

Last week, however, 11 men who had once been powerful in government in Czechoslovakia were hanged after being convicted of crimes against the government.

In reality, they did nothing more than lose their hold, and they paid for it with their lives. Likely the men who sent them to their deaths will meet the same fate within the next three to five years.

Under communism, death is a controlling factor. If a man does not follow the Communist line, they think nothing of torturing him until he confesses and then they hang him.

We can think of nothing worse than for the whole world to be so afflicted, and the trials and executions in Czechoslovakia should cause us to work harder to make democracy function as it should.

GOOD FOR THE SOUL

(Greensboro Daily News)

The Daily News fails to see the need for a resolution adopted by the Baptist State Convention at its Winston-Salem session calling on managers of the state's four outdoor dramas to discontinue Sunday performances.

All of these dramas have deep religious overtones. Church services enter in some respect into all of them. There is in each a paramountcy of godliness, of faith, trust and reliance upon Providence. The dignity, the rights and the worth of the individual, all at the core of our Christian conception, are stressed. The early colonists, the pioneers, knew the meaning of prayer; they prayed fervently and devoutly. They live, in these pageants, their faith and their inner belief. No one can imagine either Paul Green or Kermit Hunter in particular, writing anything that does not approximate religion.

Anyone who sits under the stars where the Western Carolina hills jut up toward them or under a suspended moon that sends its beams across the waters of Roanoke sound and listens solemnly and earnestly to what is going on on the stage before him must get a lift, an inspiration and a tonic that are good for the soul.

Our feeling is that there are few pulpits indeed which offer

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

"I PLEDGE ALLEGIANCE..."

SIXTY YEARS AGO THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG WAS FIRST PUBLISHED IN "YOUTH'S COMPANION," ITS FINAL WORDING SHAPED BY FRANCIS BELLAMY.



OF THE GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN WHO COUNTED ON RECEIVING A SUBSCRIPTION TO "YOUTH'S COMPANION" FOR CHRISTMAS, THE LAST IS GROWN UP NOW. THE MAGAZINE IS NO LONGER PUBLISHED, BUT ITS FINE TRADITION OF SERVICE LIVES ON IN THE PLEDGE WHICH SUCCEEDING GENERATIONS OF CHILDREN HAVE RECITED, AND, LOOKING AHEAD TO THE FUTURE, WILL CONTINUE TO RECITE:

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States and to the republic for which it stands, one nation indivisible with liberty and justice for all."



on a Sunday night a more gripping, effective and powerful sermon than the motifs and the lines of North Carolina's outdoor dramas.

N. C. FIRSTS AND FACTS

(Morganton News-Herald)

Reading statistics about the other fellow may be tedious business at times, but when the compiled figures describe something of a personal nature, they are fascinating.

Which is by way of saying that the recent informational summary released by the State Department of Conservation and Development in Raleigh is delightful reading though most of the information is factual, as it was intended.

The folder was made up for use of newspapers and other sources of information that continually use reference material in reporting and analyzing. Through these publishing agencies the information will be gradually disseminated to the people of North Carolina and will serve as a sound basis to the often hazardous business of finding about the state.

We found, for instance, the fact that North Carolinians' average 25 years of age refreshing. Here is a youthful population with the accompanying energy and imagination of youth as a virtually unending resource with which to face the future.

There are reminders in the folder such as the item that dogwood was made the North Carolina flower in 1941; the Cardinal the official state bird in 1943, and the colors blue and red were adopted by the state in 1945.

Among the many firsts claimed by the state are the first English Colony (on Roanoke Island in 1585), the first airplane flight (at Kitty Hawk in 1903), the highest peak east of the Mississippi (Mt. Mitchell, 6,684 feet), the highest dam in the east (Fontana), the largest military reservation in the country (Fort Bragg), the largest rural population in the nation (2,698,828), and the largest school bus fleet in the U. S. (6,117). North Carolina contributed more men to the Confederate Army than any other state (125,000) and now leads the nation in the manufacture of textiles, the processing of tobacco and the growing of tobacco.

Among the firsts familiar to native Tar Heels are the best hush puppies, barbecue, football teams, fishing, vacation spots and fall mountain scenery in the country, but in a factual compilation those opinions weren't allowed.

The Conservation and Development Department has rendered an excellent and needed service. The new facts for the researcher may be used with a broader study in the North Carolina Almanac to get a clear picture of just what we are and just where we stand.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

"I miss your Strictly Personal column when it doesn't appear in The Press", writes a friend in Arizona.

Others have been kind enough to say the same thing. Now everybody likes to be missed, and nothing is quite so flattering as to be told one is missed.

That being true, you'd think these suggestions that the column is missed, when it doesn't appear, would be such a spur that I'd see to it there was SOMETHING, no matter how poor, in this column every single week.

Yet it'll be missing sometimes in the future, just as it has in the past. And the reason is I am going to try to stick to what I wrote when I started this column last spring: "It will be written for my personal pleasure—and with the hope that it may prove entertaining to others. It will appear if and when I feel the urge to express a purely personal opinion or whim or like or dislike."

In other words, there'll be a column when I feel I have something to say, and when saying it is fun. Trying to say something when one really has nothing to say is anything but fun; it is hard writing. What is worse, it makes hard reading. And so, before the reader discovers it for himself: This week I have nothing to say. I am saying it!

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

I think that perhaps the best news that came out of Dale Thrash's various road announcements here the other day was the news that they would soon begin work on the Nantahala road. Many people will of course be more pleased with the news about the improvements to be made in U. S. 23 and 441 going south and the improvements on the same route in Jackson County. However, those things were sure to come sooner or later. The Nantahala road improvements are something extra and if Franklin business people will get busy and really develop the situation it can mean a lot of extra dollars here in Macon county. However, we have got to show the people of Nantahala that we are really anxious for them to come and trade here if we want to get the local trade that is there. This area also has great (in fact almost unlimited) tourist attractions if properly developed and really advertised. But you can't, as we have tried to do in the past, spend \$25.00 for advertising and get \$10,000.00 worth of business. You get what you work or pay for and so far Macon County has paid practically nothing and done very little work to attract tourists here and so we should be more than grateful for the tourist income we have received in the past. It has practically been handed to us. This is not intended to belittle the efforts of some individuals who have worked very hard on promoting the tourist business but rather when viewing the efforts of the people of Franklin and Macon County as a whole.

There is a dangerous sign looming on the national economic scene. It is the continuing decline of farm prices. A drop in farm prices has preceded practically every economic setback this country has had. Along with watching the Korean front our national leaders would do well to concern themselves with this decline in the farmers' income. If caught while it is still in the brush fire stage perhaps we can stop a forest fire which might pull down the rest of our economy with it as was the case in the late twenties.

Locally, in the retail field at the time of this writing several merchants have reported that their business is a good bit behind last year's total. Perhaps there will be a late spurt which will bring the total up to last year. In our remaining Christmas buying let's all make a major effort to BUY AT HOME. Remember the big stores of the

Continued On Page Three—

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. Jess E. Angel, of Cherokee, is on a ten days' visit to his father's family and other relatives here.

Mr. H. H. Jarrett killed a pig last week, 1 year and 3 weeks old, that weighed 410 lbs., and yielded 90 pounds of lard.

Miss Virgie Crawford returned yesterday from a month's visit to friends at Walhalla, S. C.

25 YEARS AGO

You will note in the letters to Santa Claus that Santa is requested by little Ralph Bryson to bring his daddy something to keep him from getting up so soon. If Ralph's daddy is like most of us he must be an early riser to make Santa's visit possible.

According to the thermometer of Mr. J. T. Moore, who seems to be the unofficial recorder of daily temperatures at Franklin, the mercury registered at 7 degrees above here last Friday morning and at 10 above on Saturday morning.

Mrs. S. M. Mann, of Clayton, Ga., was a visitor in Franklin a few days this week.

10 YEARS AGO

Dr. Ralph Morgan, Jr., of Durham and Chapel Hill, who has recently received his commission of lieutenant in the medical corps of the U. S. Army, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Morgan, over the weekend.

J. F. Fugh, principal of the Franklin Schools, will spend the Christmas holidays at Elizabeth City.