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MARCH 5, 1953

This Needs Changing . . .



THIS PHOTO TELLS ITS OWN STORY—except for location. The trash dump pictured is not at the town's garbage dump, but only a few yards off Franklin's Main Street. Just back of business houses along the north side of Main, it serves ten-

ants of the Ashear Building. When it overflows, as it does almost daily, it litters the alley with rubbish. Then the wind picks up the rubbish and blows it back and forth. Apparently never picked up by anyone, the overflow trash becomes a permanent resident of this alley.

This County's Greatest Needs

WHAT ARE THEY?

What are Macon County's greatest needs? Below are some replies to that question, received in a poll of members of the Franklin Rotary Club.

There undoubtedly are readers of The Press who have still other, and possibly even better, answers to the question. This newspaper would welcome concise letters on the subject.

Several weeks ago members of the Rotary Club were handed sheets of paper on which they were asked to list what, in their opinion, are this county's three greatest needs.

Following are the replies, with some of the specific suggestions offered:

1. Tax revaluation on an equitable basis with an increase in tax revenue through increase in rate or increase in valuation.
2. Physical equipment for new school buildings.
3. A few more small industries to increase the regular pay roll income of the county and to provide more opportunity for our young people to find work at home.

1. Character building program (among high school students).
2. Clean, honest politics.
3. Continuation of (rural) Community Development Program. Suggestion (on politics): That the club hold "one or more programs each year relating to this subject, with office-holders or candidates as guests. Start movement whereby minimum standards would be set for all public office-holders."

1. Another new plant to employ 200 more people.
2. A new colored school.
3. A new tax valuation, with a new look at values; also a cleaner city.

1. A new county home.
2. A new Negro school.
3. A county-wide "back to church" crusade, and closer cooperation between schools and churches.

1. Colored school and Franklin gym.
2. Equipment for new school buildings.
3. Raise per capita income by: (a) Getting industry; (b) getting more tourist trade; (c) continuing to improve farming methods.

1. Negro school.
2. \$200,000 to finish and equip new school buildings.
3. Push for early construction of Jackson County side of U.S. Highway 23.

Suggestion: Let "each Rotarian work at the above as if it was his own business, and they will all come true.

1. Expansion of rural community development program to other communities.
2. A county fair.
3. Recreation facilities for the young colored people.

1. New Negro school.
2. More industry.
3. A county fair sponsored by Macon County.

Suggestion on industry: "Have every member of Rotary pledge himself to discuss the matter with every salesman with whom he does business, advising salesmen of the opportunities for manufacturing here."

1. Supervised recreation.
2. More industry.
3. A good place to eat.

Suggestions on Nos. 1 and 2: "Our young people need something to occupy their time. The Rotary Club, cooperating with other organizations, could employ a full-time recreational director . . . Employ a full-time (Chamber of Commerce) secretary who knows what the county has to offer and sell this to new industries."

1. Construct colored school immediately.
2. A program to adequately furnish the new school buildings.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Staunch North Carolina Democrats who applauded Senator Richard Russell's attacks on the "Loyalty Oath" enacted at the national Democratic convention last Summer were being very inconsistent. The stauncher the Democratic, the more inconsistent his applause. Here is the reason. The Democratic party in North Carolina has had enacted into law a rule which requires that every person who files as an office seeker in the Democratic Primary sign an oath that he will support in the General Election the candidates that the Democratic party nominates. The Loyalty Oath stated exactly the same principal on a national level. If North Carolina Democrats do not believe in any form of party discipline let them remove this primary regulation. However, frankly we don't see how they can have a party without any rules—this applies on a county, state or national level.

Quip of the week—Two staunch Macon County Democrats, man and his wife, had the radio on the other night listening to some commentator discuss the farm situation. The news man was holding forth at some length on the enactment of legislation which would provide loans to "tide the farmer over", as he put it. The man of the house speculatively and perhaps with a twinkle in his eye, asked his wife "What do you think he means? "Tide them over to what?" "Why, to the next Democratic Administration of course", she came back quick as a flash.

Congratulation to the girls basketball team at Franklin High School. They did what I don't think the boys have ever been able to do. They brought an uncontested championship to Franklin. Perhaps I am wrong, but I believe this is the first uncontested championship team we have ever had here. Anyway, congratulations girls. Also we think the boys are due congratulations for their fine showing. However, this year we bow first and deepest to the ladies.

Here is wishing Mr. Jess Conley and the Franklin Chamber of Commerce a lot of success. This organization, if the people would really back it could

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Lawbreakers In Raleigh

The members of the North Carolina General Assembly probably would be quite shocked, should the people of this state refuse to obey any law enacted at the 1953 legislative session.

Yet all indications are that the members of the 1953 Assembly, by their own example, are going to suggest that people do just that.

For all indications are that the members of this assembly are going to do just what the members of the 1951 assembly did—refuse to obey that North Carolina law that is basic, the state constitution.

That document specifically requires the assembly, after each decennial census, to re-district the state for the election of state senators.

The state was not re-districted in 1951, and all the signs suggest it will not be re-districted in 1953.

Bidwell Street Problem

Any fair-minded person must feel sympathy for the governing authorities of Franklin as they wrestle with the town's traffic problems. Particularly difficult is the problem presented by 18-foot-wide Bidwell street.

The plan recently put into effect on that street, however, seems rather drastic. To deny persons living on a residential street the right to park anywhere on that street, at any time, must seem to Bidwell residents a rather serious inconvenience, if not an actual infringement of property-owner rights.

Suppose someone on Bidwell wishes to have a card party, or a family reunion, or a cottage prayer meeting. Where are the guests to park?

Purely as a suggestion, this newspaper raises the question if a fairer solution might not be to make

Bidwell a one-way street carefully enforce speed laws, and permit parking on one side of the street. Obtaining the cooperation of the State Highway Commission in routing its trucks over another street also would help.

Of course the only real solution is a wider street. And the time to have started planning for a wider Bidwell was, at the latest, yesterday.

Installment Dentistry

"The Sylva Herald and The Franklin Press", comments The Waynesville Mountaineer, "are both lamenting the fact that the closing of the Franklin-Dillsboro highway for the duration of construction will prove a financial loss to tourist operators in that area."

Expressing sympathy, the Waynesville newspaper remarks that the operation "can be compared to a patient in a dentist's chair. Perhaps everything is not so nice now, but in a short time we can forget the unpleasant part and enjoy the ultimate good that comes from such things."

Which leads The Press to comment that we are not upset about the necessary closing of the highway for construction; what we lament is the letting of what is essentially one highway—from Sylva to the Georgia line—in three sections, and at different times, thus unnecessarily, it seems to us, dragging out the inconvenience and dollars-and-cents loss.

In other words, we are quite willing for the dentist to pull the tooth. What we object to is his pulling it a little at a time.

3. Make an honest and intelligent survey of all school personnel and weed out the "socialist minded" and "has beens" and modernize the facilities.

Suggestion: "Educate the people of Macon County to the fact that it will take money to do a proper job for their children and future citizens, and an increase in taxes is inevitable if the job is to be done."

1. More industry, increased income.
2. Improve tourist facilities and attractions.
3. More equipment and material for our schools—more efficient operation, and cooperation of principals.

1. Keeping a larger proportion of our youth at home.
2. A development program so balanced as not to destroy the things that make this such a good place to live, but which would provide enough jobs, of a sufficiently varied nature, to keep these boys and girls at home.
3. A careful study of our resources—physical and human—and of our possibilities—social and economic—and the development of a long range program on the basis of what we have and what we can best become.

What do YOU think are Macon County's greatest needs?

Others' Opinions

GROW JUST A LITTLE

(Horace Horse, in Stanly News and Press)

Personally, I hope that no special effort is made to make Albemarle grow by leaps and bounds. I am conscious of the fact that once a community quits growing, it soon begins to dry up. But just a small increase every year will keep us from developing the dry wilt.

But I am concerned with doing everything possible to make Albemarle a better town. Somehow I get the feeling that not too much attention is being given to this phase of our development, and it should be disturbing.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

"The tragedy . . . of our present way of life is the lack of balance between our material desires and our spiritual development."

The person who made that remark in Franklin the other day was not a minister, and the place it was said was not a church.

The speaker was a strapping young Asheville business man. The occasion was a banquet of young business men and their wives.

"You and I", he explained, "live in a wonderful world; we live in a wonderful country, and in one of the most interesting periods of its development. We have created the highest standards of living ever enjoyed by any people in any age. We stand in awe and amazement before the accomplishments of the men of science and the men of engineering. We look with wonder and admiration upon our technical skills—yet there is no peace. All around us there is confusion, there is strife, there is war . . . for all our prosperity, we have found no peace."

Then, speaking as naturally as if he had been discussing the weather or an everyday situation, he added:

"The trouble with your life and mine lies in the fact that we overemphasize the value of

material possessions while we neglect the development of our souls."

It was an unusual topic for the annual banquet of Franklin's Jaycee organization. It was an unusual talk to come from a business man, and a youthful business man at that. But it was more than unusual.

There was something deeply moving about the way big, handsome Gene Ochesenreiter, recently chosen as Asheville's "young man of the year", talked so earnestly—and so simply—about such things as God and spirit and prayer.

Jesus, he recalled, gave "a formula for living a completely successful life: 'Render therefore unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's; and unto God the things that are God's. In short, go right along and live your normal life, render unto your family what is due them, render to your neighbor and your community what is due them, and render unto God the things that are God's. It is all just as simple as that.'

"Surely there should be nothing difficult about being fair to our business and at the same time being fair to our spiritual life. There positively is no conflict between the two. On the contrary if our spirits were

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK  
Messrs. W. R. Stallcup and C. C. Cunningham have purchased the business and machinery of the Franklin Furniture Company and will remove the shop in a day or two to the Munday brick building.

Mrs. M. A. Love is having a new picket fence built around her front yard.

Mr. M. W. Low, of Young Harris, Ga., is in town. Mr. Low formerly lived here and has many acquaintances in Macon County.

25 YEARS AGO  
According to reliable reports reaching here, a movement is on foot in Cherokee County to annex a considerable portion of Macon County lying west of the Nantahala mountains.

Three years ago the public was howling for roads. Now that the people have the highways, some are howling because they must pay for this convenience.

Mr. Paul Cheek, of Petersburg, Va., who paid his old home here a visit sometime ago in an aeroplane, was here again last week-end. The last trip was made in a car.

10 YEARS AGO  
Mrs. J. Wayne Higdon has left to join her husband at Brookley Field, Mobile, Ala. Mr. Higdon is instructor in the Army Air Corps Technical School Command there.

Mrs. James Oliver Beal, of Jacksonville, Fla., is visiting Mrs. Haworth Beale before going on to Lincoln Memorial University at Harrogate, Tenn., where she has accepted a position. (Highlands Item).

The barn and livestock of Elias Ammons, of Rabbit Creek, were entirely destroyed by fire of undetermined origin last Friday morning about 1 o'clock, with damage of over \$5,000.