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MARCH 19, 1953

Consider The Case . . .

Consider the case of the county courthouse.

In 1941, Macon County had a \$150,000 combination courthouse-jail within its grasp under a WPA arrangement. The county's share of this project would have been \$60,000.

But, in a special election, the majority of those voting (only 1,504 votes were cast), not the majority of eligible voters, turned thumbs down on the proposal and chose to let the present 71-year-old courthouse continue its faithful, but inadequate, service.

Today, Macon County stands on the threshold of another enticing arrangement where an agency other than the county will put up the bulk of the money.

The Medical Care Commission—which allocates funds to counties for health centers on the basis of financial need—is willing to foot more than 80 per cent of the cost of building a health center here.

Macon's share of erecting a \$30,000 building would be roughly \$6,000.

No special election is needed this time—only the nod from the county that it will provide its share.

Completely ignoring the idea as a sound investment, not even the most complacent county could help but consider a proposition of this type from the standpoint of providing better health for its citizenry.

What businessman wouldn't jump at an arrangement like the one proposed?

A businessman builds, enlarges, and redecorates to better serve his customers—the people.

In this light the county is an even bigger businessman.

'Spit-ball War'

Tuesday of last week, a Russian-made jet fighter, with markings of the Czechoslovakia Air Force, shot down a slower American jet some 15 miles inside American-occupied Bavaria in Germany. Fortunately, the American pilot parachuted to safety.

If the situation was tense following this, things surely must have neared the breaking point by Thursday when seven English flyers perished when a Russian jet attacked and shot down a four-engined bomber over the east-west frontier in Germany.

Both incidents sent diplomats scurrying for pen and stationery. The United States and England exchanged "notes" with Czechoslovakia and Russia—each country accusing the other of violations.

In other words, the "War of the Stationery" (a close relative to Cold War) was renewed with energy.

Neither the "paper war" nor attacks on planes by Russia and her satellites is new.

Let's jog your memory:

April 5, 1948: A Soviet fighter plane, maneuvering around a British Viking, rammed and caused it to crash at a Berlin airfield.

April 8, 1950: An American Navy Privateer and its 10-man crew disappeared over the Baltic. Russians later admitted having fired on it.

November 17, 1951: Communist fighter planes forced a lost American C-47 to land in Hungary. The crewmen were held for ransom.

April 29, 1952: Two Russian fighters fired on a

French airliner in the air corridor west of Berlin, injuring two passengers.

June 13, 1952: A Swedish training plane mysteriously dropped out of sight with its eight-man crew over the Baltic.

June 16, 1952: Russian fighters shot down a Swedish Catalina navy plane over the Baltic.

October 8, 1952: Two MIG-15 jets fired bursts over an American C-47 hospital plane in the air corridor between Berlin and West Germany.

Following each of these incidents, "notes" were exchanged.

These "notes" apparently had little affect on Joseph Stalin, the late Russian "little father".

Why then, is it reasonable to assume that this "spit-ball material" will have any bearing on the attitude of Stalin's successor, Malenkov?

Malenkov—whose philosophy is founded on the idea that FORCE is the only thing to be respected.

Novel Material

Macon County has the material for a good novel.

A sad one, too.

Or so some folks say.

And they're worried.

Even wringing their hands,

At times.

They'd call the novel "The Tourist Who Didn't Spend His Vacation In Macon County This Year Because US 23 Was Tied Up By Construction."

Or something like that.

Some are smiling tho'.

And are planning to write a novel too.

They'd call it, "I

"How Macon County Introduced The Tourist To Beautiful And Scenic US 64."

• Letters

LIKES PRESS

Editor, The Press:

We think you have the best small town paper we have ever read. The editorial page is especially fine, and we wish to continue reading it. Inclosed check for \$3.

MRS. C. A. WATHEN

London, Kentucky.

Others' Opinions

PESTS IN THE NEWS

(Harnett County News)

Not even the farmers are more bothered by pests than newspapers. Know why? Well, farmers can use poison and one thing and another to eradicate pests. Newspapers can't.

The pests that bother newspapers are the little mistakes that creep in no matter how hard a fight is kept up trying to keep they out.

In newspaper offices they're called "gremlins," and if you ever see a mistake in your news you may rest assured that it's one of those things.

Take the story of the wedding when it should have read "The bride was lovely in her costume of shady blue." It was printed "The bride was lonely in her custom of shaby blue."

Nothing could kill that pest. It ate the heart out of the story.

EXPENSES AND TAXES

(Scotland Neck Commonwealth)

Word from Washington is to the effect that legislation has been adopted by Congress granting President Eisenhower the \$50,000 expense account, but Congress specifically refused to make this expense account a tax-free item. As a result, President Eisenhower will receive \$11,000 as an expense account, since about \$39,000 of the money will be paid to the Federal Government in income taxes.

This appears utterly absurd. If the money is for expenses which the President incurs while traveling about either in his official or private capacity, as President of the United States, then it should be an expense item. Harry Truman in his private expenditures and travels as President could not have held down his expenses to the point that he can as Harry Truman, a private citizen of Independence, Missouri. Neither can President Eisenhower hold his expenses to what he might normally spend as a private citizen.

Will Franklin some day be "the key entrance to Southwestern North Carolina", as some persons predict? Highways have been a major factor in Franklin's growth, and the new highway construction program may hold the answer to the question.

This Needs Changing . . .



Countless grand juries have recommended additional space for storing valuable county records. Nothing has been done. Storage vaults in the clerk of court's and register of deeds' offices were jammed to capacity years ago.

Pictured above is Mrs. Freda Allen, secretary to the register of deeds, trying to run down some information for a taxpayer. She's not at her usual post on the first floor of the courthouse, but is thumbing through a jumble of records piled in a crude bin and along the floor in the lawyer's room, upstairs, in the rear of the courtroom.

The grand jury for the April term of superior court probably will point out this "graveyard" for records and suggest, as others have done through the years, that something be done about the situation.

HOW TO GET NEW INDUSTRY

(Smithfield Herald)

What should Smithfield and other Johnston County communities do to attract new industries?

Some answers to this question are suggested by studies recently made by research departments of seven Southern universities. The researchers undertook to find out the major factors that influence an industry's decision to locate in a community.

Here are the findings, as summarized by The Gastonia Gazette:

1. The availability of industrial sites with good transportation facilities and utility services.
2. Effective fire and police protection for property.
3. Adequate water, electricity, gas, local transit, and sewer facilities.
4. An ample supply of employees who have the basic training for special skills needed by the industry.
5. Good schools for the children of employees.
6. An effective public health program.
7. Adequate public recreational facilities, such as parks, playgrounds, and swimming pools.
8. Comfortable modern housing at costs within the range of the employees.
9. Equity and stability of local taxes.
10. The aggressiveness and progressiveness of the community's central government.
11. Physical attractiveness, social amenities, and favorable community attitudes.

What the findings show is that an industry is interested in locating in a well-rounded community with a progressive outlook and a deep concern for the welfare of its people.

Our Johnston County towns might well use the 11 points outlined by the researchers in grading their attractiveness as a location for new industry. And our leaders might well concentrate on correcting the weaknesses reflected on the score-card.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Took a little trip down the state last week-end.

I guess I am like just about everybody else about going on trips—there never really is a good time to take a trip. In my own case, I almost always feel I can spare neither the time nor the money—and never have I had the time and the money, at the SAME time.

So the only trips I get are the ones where I just pick up and go anyway.

It was like that last week-end. And in one way, that trip was like all the others I've taken. When it is over, I'm always glad I went; and I always find the very finest part of the trip is getting back home.

I think the man who said that travel is the best of all education knew what he was talking about.

I know I always find it takes me out of a rut to see new sights, hear new sounds, smell new smells, and, most important of all, meet new people. (And you don't always have to formally meet them to learn

from them. I got quite an insight, for example—and an encouraging insight—on the thinking of today's young people from snatches of conversation I overheard on a bus. A young sailor and a college student, obviously strangers to each other until they became seat-mates, just back of me, discussed with remarkable matter-of-factness and frankness such things as their religious experiences, marriage, and the state of the world.)

On a trip, I almost always see something I don't like. But that is good—nearly all of us have to get mad occasionally to be worth much, to ourselves or anybody else.

I always come home a little less suspicious of other people's motives; because I always am impressed with how many thoughtful, considerate, kindly people there are in the world.

And I get new ideas. And, since most of us operate—whether we are running a business or a home or a school or any—

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News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Franklin and other small towns in Western North Carolina had better begin to consider, with an eye to the future, the problem of sewage disposal. Perhaps the eye had better not be inclined so much to the future, as to the treasury since sewage disposal is an expensive proposition.

As in most other small towns the sewage disposal here is very inadequate. In fact except for those homes and business houses which have septic tanks the sewage of Franklin goes into the Little Tennessee river. As the town grows this is going to become an increasing health menace. Sooner or later the state health department will have to require that Franklin do something about this. At present the situation is not dangerous, but if we were to double our population in the next 10 years the present system just wouldn't work.

The problem is going to be very expensive for Franklin because we are going to have either three disposal units—one for East Franklin (or the "Over

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Arthur Addington came home last Thursday from Birmingham where he has been at work for some time. He will return to Birmingham after court.

Mr. F. D. Clarke, of Flint, Mich., has been in town since Saturday. Mr. Clarke is the partner of Mr. H. G. Trotter in the new locust pin business to be opened up soon; also he is interested in mica mining in this county.

25 YEARS AGO

Hal Slagle has a Guernsey bull with a pedigree that will reach from Franklin to Timbuctoo.

Judging from sound alone, the post office these days is nothing more nor less than a brooder house.

Harry Shepherd, John Thomas, J. D. Thomas, and Bob Patton left Saturday for Illinois on business. The party will be gone about a week.

10 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Roliver Baty and son, Michael, returned to Charleston Sunday after a short visit with Mr. Baty's parents, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Baty, and with Miss Ethel Calloway. (Highlands.)

The Cartoogechaye Home Demonstration Club surprised the editor last Wednesday afternoon with a "shower" of their most delicious canned concoctions.