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and  
**The Highlands Maconian**

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THURSDAY, MAY 7, 1963

**Legislative Decree**

In the course of its deliberations, the 1953 General Assembly decreed that the people of Macon County should not elect the members of this county's board of education.

The legislators likewise turned thumbs down on similar bills for other counties.

For the General Assembly to arbitrarily deny to the people of this and other counties the right to elect their school board members is bad.

The reasons for that denial are even worse.

It was obvious that these bills never were considered on their merits. Rep. Walter Dean's bill, for Macon County, in fact was killed in committee with almost no discussion.

The reasons for the defeat of these bills, providing for a right so fundamental as this, appear to have been three:

1. The measures were introduced by Republicans.
2. The bills would have permitted some Republicans to serve on county boards of education.
3. They would have robbed the legislators of their present power to override the expressed will even of the Democrats in their counties and to appoint persons other than those nominated. (The law requires the Legislature to appoint those nominated in the Democratic primary, but provides no penalty for failure to comply with that provision.)

None of these, however, was the reason assigned. The reason assigned was that county boards of education should be named throughout the state in a uniform manner.

That argument is an insult to the intelligence of the voters. Because virtually no county matters handled by the Legislature are handled in a uniform manner—and least of all, the appointment of county boards of education. In every Legislature in recent years, the "uniform method" has been modified and twisted to meet the political situations in specific counties.

It seems a little strange that the members of the Legislature should think that an issue like this one can be settled by legislative decree. It can't—and it won't.

It seems even stranger that the leaders of the majority party should delude themselves into thinking that this is even good politics.

If it were deliberately seeking a sure way to commit suicide, the Democratic party could not find a surer way than by indefinitely continuing such roughshod methods of overriding a state minority—and often a county majority, and such contemptuous disregard of a fundamental right of the voters.

**Good Sense**

About the most sensible comment we have seen during the entire controversy over the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible is contained in a letter published on this page:

"If the Revised Standard Version is inspired of God, it will stand; if it is of man, it soon will be a forgotten book."

In short, a lot of people have been wasting a lot of time and energy worrying about something that will take care of itself.

To that, we believe one further suggestion might be added:

In view of how little most people know about the Bible, it might be worth while to concentrate on

getting the Bible read, rather than on preventing people from reading a particular Bible.

**Splitting Franklin Precinct**

The General Assembly killed Rep. Dean's bill requiring the Macon County Board of Elections to cut the Franklin voting precinct up into four precincts.

The bill probably should have been killed, because it always is doubtful wisdom for the General Assembly to order a strictly local board to do or not to do something.

That, however, doesn't change the need for dividing the Franklin precinct into two, three, or four precincts; nor need the defeat of Mr. Dean's bill doom the proposal.

The board of elections, as we understand it, already has the authority to divide precincts.

And, to date, we have heard no good reason why it should not proceed to make the change.

**Bouquet**

It has become so customary for Macon County young people, particularly young people engaged in farm projects, to win district and even state honors that it has almost ceased to be news when young folk here bring another honor to the county.

It would almost be news if a Macon group did NOT win!

Nonetheless, hearty congratulations to the F.F.A. livestock judging teams that won first place last week, in a competition with teams for 13 other Western North Carolina schools. Flowers, too, to their adult advisers.

**Letters**

**THANKS MR. DEAN**

Dear Mr. Jones:

I am sending you a copy of a letter which I have mailed to Mr. Walter Dean. Will you please publish it in The Press.

Sincerely yours,

MRS. NED TEAGUE

Prentiss, N. C.  
Inc.

Mr. Walter Dean,  
Franklin, N. C.  
Dear Mr. Dean:

As acting president of the local N.C.E.A., I wish to express our appreciation for the stand you took on the education program acted upon by the House of Representatives. We feel that during your stay in Raleigh as our representative you made sincere efforts to push forward those bills which would be to the advancement of both teachers and pupils. For all these efforts, we thank you.

Sincerely,

MRS. NED TEAGUE

**CLARIFY POSITION**

Editor, The Press:

We, the people of the Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church wish to clarify the wild rumors that are circulating concerning our services.

We do not use the new Revised Standard Version of the Bible. There has never been one in our church, except one taken there Sunday, January 11, by persons no longer members of this church. No member of our church owns a revised version of the Bible.

Our pastor, the Rev. Frank Reid, does not own a Revised Standard Version of the Bible, nor does he preach from one.

Mr. Reid neither condemns nor justifies the Revised Bible. He takes the position that the average Christian does, that God is still capable of taking care of His Word. If the Revised Standard Version of the Bible is inspired of God, it will stand; and if it is of man, it soon will be a forgotten book.

Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church,  
By Fred Mincey, Superintendent.  
Dan Bishop, Clerk.

Ellijay, N. C.

**Others' Opinions**

**RETIREMENT AGE**

(New York Times)

As one sidelight on the old question: What is the proper age for retirement? We now have the finding of a study conducted at Columbia University's Teachers College that the younger industrial worker often looks forward to retiring from his job, while the older worker generally tries to put it off as long as possible. Undoubtedly the younger worker, with years of toll stretched out before him, looks wistfully ahead to the "long vacation" of retirement, while the older worker, with retirement near, regretfully sees it as almost the end of the road.

**The Prisoner Story**

(Joseph C. Hanch in Christian Science Monitor)

The record told by prisoners returning from Communist captivity through the truce camp at Panmunjom tells an evil story, but not a story which should come to anyone as a surprise or unexpectedly. What we are told is what anyone reasonably informed about Asiatic manners and customs and practices in warfare would have anticipated.

The stories record, in fact, that western peoples have been engaged in war with Asiatics. They also record that Asiatics differ in degree, and that their armies do not possess facilities for the succor of the injured remotely as adequate as facilities evolved for such humanitarian purpose in western countries.

The record is not yet complete, but already enough has accumulated to permit a reconstruction of the general proportions of what happened to prisoners during its course.

Allied interrogators noted that up to April 22 no one had come through Panmunjom who was taken prisoner by the Communists up to the time of the battle around the Pusan perimeter in the summer of 1950. Perhaps there will be some Allied survivors from that first phase, but this was apparently the phase of greatest brutality to prisoners. Koreans had had no practice or tradition of showing mercy or granting quarter to prisoners. Western forces serving in Korea in that period were horrified by South Korean treatment of their prisoners. American and British officers conducted a long and strenuous campaign to teach western standards to their own South Korean allies. Only gradually did they succeed in mitigating Korean custom. The evidence is conclusive that the North Koreans had no higher standards in this respect than the South Koreans.

Fortunately, few Allied soldiers were lost as prisoners to the enemy from then until the retreat from the Yalu in the late autumn of 1950. Interrogators at Panmunjom have noted that under the Chinese the treatment of prisoners improved a little. That is to say, the Chinese are less primitive in their practices toward prisoners than are the Koreans, although they are still Asiatic. Also, the reported improvement after Chinese intervention would be explained partly by the fact that by that time the Allies held large numbers of Communist prisoners captured after the Inchon landing.

However, the 1950-51 winter was a bitterly cold one. The Chinese themselves were not equipped for its rigors. It is known that thousands of Chinese troops perished that winter from insufficient clothing, insufficient food and hospital facilities totally incapable of handling their own combination of battle casualties and victims of plagues which swept North Korea. Under these conditions western troops captured in the United Nations retreat from the Yalu suffered high proportional losses when they were marched from the front back to prison compounds. It is, of course, obvious also that the Chinese showed little compassion for the more seriously injured. Under these circumstances only the "walking wounded" had any real chance for survival.

Although the front was relatively stabilized by the following winter (1951-52), conditions were still bad behind the enemy lines. There were more epidemics (which the Communists attributed to Allied "germ warfare" to cover up their own inadequate sanitary and hospital services), and again prisoners marched to the north were victims of the familiar combination of primitive Asiatic concepts and of just plain inadequate facilities for the effective handling of prisoners.

It is merely another contributing fact in the situation that the Chinese Communists are not signatories of The Hague conventions under which prisoners of war are granted quarters. It is to be doubted that Koreans ever heard of The Hague conventions until recent times, and our own record of teaching these concepts to South Koreans would indicate that the level of Asiatic receptivity is not high.

The remarkable thing is that a substantial number of prisoners survive. Figures are not complete, but American figures (the most complete available) indicate possible proportions. Official United States figures list 9,156 United States personnel in the category of "current missing." The Communists have used a figure of United States prisoners in their hands higher by a thousand than the official United States figure of 2,365 "current captured." This would reduce to about 8,000 the true number of "missing." But the "missing" include losses on battlefields inaccessible to Allied forces. The United States Army never lists a man as killed unless it obtains positive identification.

If one assumes, as the Pentagon does, that at least half of the "current missing," and probably more, were battle casualties, then it would follow that the number of American victims of Asiatic primitiveness would run to about 4,000. This compares with an expectable ultimate return of about 3,000 United States personnel.

**STRICTLY**

**PERSONAL**

By WEIMAR JONES

REMEMBER . . .

When the railroad came only to Prentiss? and later stopped about two miles from town—and people wondered if it ever would come all the way to Franklin? and how, when the last rail finally was laid, people went up the line to get aboard and triumphantly ride the first train ever to come here?

When Franklin had two passenger trains daily, one arriving in the early afternoon, the other in the evening?

And how grandly people rode from the depot up town in a hired "conveyance"? and how lucky they were if they got from the train to the convey-

ance without getting into knee-deep mud?

(One of my earliest recollections is hearing my elders discuss the probable dire effects, on Franklin's morals and culture, of having a railroad.)

When the Jarrett Hotel (now the McCoy building) was one of Franklin's chief hostleries? (Ah! how beautiful to a small boy were the ladies who sat on that above-the-sidewalk porch and gaily chatted, with apparently never a care or a duty in the world!)

And when "Uncle Dee" Cunningham ran another hotel, re-

Continued on Page Three—

**News Making As It Looks To A Maconite**

By BOB SLOAN

The recent industrial committee set up here in Franklin can serve two important functions — furnish information to industries which are desirous of locating in this section concerning Franklin, and furnish Franklin information about the plants which want to come.

The survey to raise capital or pledged capital for a prospective plant here was certainly very successful and a fine indication of the fact that businessmen here are willing to do their part. At the first sign of something they could do to really show their faith in Franklin, most of them came out swinging. It should be pointed out to any of our readers who are away from here or who maybe missed a copy of The Press that the money being raised by Franklin businessmen is to construct a suitable building for a selected company and that the building will either be bought or rented from them. So that it is not a donation, but rather an investment.

There has been some business growth this Spring which is also a healthy sign and an indication that local people have faith in Franklin. J. Wiley Clark and Son have started a ready-mix concrete plant here. They mix the concrete in a specially built truck and bring it right to your door. This saves the individual having to buy sand, stone, and cement which generally doesn't come out even. Mr. Clark, a builder, said he got the idea after leaving little piles of stone and sand all over Macon County. Roy Sanders has built a nice garage and installed gas pumps for a new kind of gas here, Richlieu gas. Both of these businesses are located in Loganville. I believe that a bakery will open here soon. It probably will be located on Main street.

The value of grassing schoolyard grounds was plainly shown at Franklin High school this week-end. Since Friday we have had some very heavy rains, but thanks to an excellent seeding job done by Wayne Proffitt and Max Parrish there was very little wash. A little gully did start at the lower end. I hope that the school officials in charge there will catch this before it grows bigger. Again I would like to thank Mr. McSwain and Mr. Proffitt for stepping in and seeing that this area got its present coat of grass.

**Do You Remember?**

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

**50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**

Mr. Robert Porter and wife, of Russellville, Ala., are in the city visiting relatives and friends. They have been at Andrews during the past week visiting his father's family.

Mrs. W. E. McDowell and daughter, Miss May, and Miss Annie Ashe left last Thursday on an extended visit to relatives and friends in Walhalla, S. C.

Mrs. A. E. Stewart, of Washington, D. C., is visiting her sister, Mrs. John C. Wright, of our town.

**25 YEARS AGO**

Once again the grand jury recommends a new jail, but nobody pays any attention to a grand jury report.

The light over on Brown Mountain has been "explained" again. Some of these days somebody will run that thing to its lair.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Hall have leased the Pine Tree Inn from S. A. Munday and will utilize this building as a boarding house.

**10 YEARS AGO**

Miss Elizabeth Jerry Love, of the U. S. Motor Transport, has been home on furlough.

Mrs. Ben McCollum has accepted a position at St. Joseph's Hospital in Asheville.

Homer Collier, who lives near the Twin Churches, brought a rat to town last week measuring 17 inches from nose to tail. The rat was light brown and white in color. He said he had killed 61 like it.