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and
The Highlands Maconian

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MAY 14, 1953

The Thing That Counts

In last spring's primary election, the majority of those voting considered Messrs J. C. Sorrells, Claude W. Cabe, Neville Bryson, John M. Archer, Jr., and Allen Siler the five best men out of a field of 12 seeking nomination to the county board of education.

When the votes were counted, it was the feeling of this newspaper that Macon County was assured of a good board of education for the next two years. It still is our feeling that we have a good board. Until and unless the members of the board prove the contrary, we shall assume that each of the five members wants to do the right thing.

That in no way changes the conviction of this newspaper—and, we believe, of a large proportion of the people of this county—that the board last week made a grave mistake. It just doesn't make sense to elect a superintendent to run the schools, and then overrule him on the choice of his subordinates.

We think the board acted without giving sufficient thought to the results of its action. That is something all of us do sometimes. All of us make mistakes. The important thing is not whether we make mistakes, but what we do about them after they're made.

The measure of a man is whether he is fair-minded enough to see it when he has made a mistake, courageous enough to admit that it was a mistake, and wise enough to correct it.

What Will The Public Say?

The Eisenhower administration finds itself in an embarrassing position.

During the campaign the Republicans pledged themselves to balance the budget and reduce taxes. While they were somewhat vague about when, the general public got the impression that Eisenhower, once he got in office, would make things move—and fast.

Now, despite deep cuts in the defense budget—cuts so deep that many wonder if they are safe—the administration admits it isn't going to be able to balance even next year's budget. And if, as President Eisenhower wisely insists, the budget must be balanced before taxes are cut, the promised lowering of taxes seems far away.

What will the public say to that?

The public is disappointed, of course. Who isn't?

But as long as the administration does what it apparently has just done — come clean with the people — the public is going to be inclined to be sympathetic. For the first demand the citizen makes of his public officials is that they be honest with him. Given that, the average citizen can and will overlook a lot of inconsistency.

On Our Way

To many of us, progress in Macon County and Western North Carolina sometimes seems painfully slow. Often this region seems sorely handicapped by lack of wealth — a little surplus money makes easy so many things that, without a surplus, are difficult indeed.

But progress we do!

Witness the growing interest, on the part of the average man, in his government, and especially in his community schools.

Witness, in this and other counties, the enthusiasm for the Rural Community Development

Program—and what that program already has accomplished in physical improvements, not to mention what it has done to community spirit.

And witness, in the cultural sphere, the developing interest in and appreciation of good music; the years the N. C. Symphony Orchestra was brought here; more recently, the visits of the Grass Roots opera; the new county-wide Home Demonstration Choral Group; and the hunger, of children and parents alike, for a better appreciation of good music, as expressed in the ever-growing number who are taking private lessons.

And now there is evidence of a spark of interest in art and related subjects.

An example is the fact that the first exhibit of original paintings ever shown in our neighboring county of Jackson opened Tuesday. Sponsored by Sylva's Twentieth Century Club, the exhibit is in the new Hunter Library at Western Carolina College. Made up of paintings by artists from throughout Western North Carolina, the exhibit will continue through May 22. Hours are 8 to 5 and 7 to 9:30, Mondays through Fridays, and 2:30 to 5 Sundays.

And in our neighboring county to the north, Swain, plans are being completed for the fourth of the annual regional exhibits of fine arts and handicrafts. That exhibit, to open May 25, will continue through June 30.

We definitely are on our way!

Our Best Bow

Our best bow to half a dozen young ladies!

Not that we don't always have a bow for all young ladies (for who ever heard of a young lady, by the very fact of being young and a lady, who wasn't attractive and so deserving a bow?)

But this is a very special bow—our best.

Because these young ladies have accomplished something, and thereby done honor not only to themselves but to their community. They've won Curved Bars, the top honor in Girl Scouting; and a girl doesn't get that as a matter of course—it has to be earned.

And so, to young Misses Edith Christy, Carolyn Dowdle, Dale Edwards, Margaret Jones, Joan Thomas, and Beverly Stockton, our best bow. Due a bow merely for being young ladies, and therefore attractive, they've become doubly attractive for having done something worth-while.

We wonder sometimes if the best way to get a truce in Korea wouldn't be for both sides just to agree to stop fighting.

Why, we often wonder, do the churches, which devote their efforts to combatting sin, tolerate the movies, since they properly are termed cinema.

"Brainpower Shortage To Be Studied", says a headline.

Careful there! Don't pick on us.

Why, that's an invasion of personal privacy! Nobody's going to find out how critical is our shortage of that commodity.

Letters

NEEDED — A BUS STATION

Editor, The Press:

With no personal reflection on anyone, I make the following statements:

From the way I see it, one of the CRYING NEEDS of the town of Franklin is a BUS STATION.

Let it be built off Main Street, away from the center of town, where there will be plenty of room for different tracks as our town grows.

Surely we would all celebrate in grand fashion if—we could have a bus station, with bus station facilities, such as seats, hot lunch counter, clean rest rooms.

All in favor of a bus station for Franklin, let it be known by going to work in the proper way to get it built AT ONCE. Yours for progress,

MRS. F. E. MASHBURN.


Franklin, N. C.

It is seldom that we find out how great are our resources until we are thrown upon them.—Bovee.

I always get the better when I argue alone.—Oliver Goldsmith.


OUR DEMOCRACY — by Mat

MINUTE MEN



THEY HURRIED OFF THEIR FARMS, OUT OF THE FORESTS, AWAY FROM HUNDREDS OF PEACEFUL HOMES, LEAVING THEIR PLOWS, THEIR AXES AND THEIR FAMILIES BEHIND, SO THEY COULD BEAR ARMS AT LEXINGTON, CONCORD AND BUNKER HILL. A GRATEFUL NATION CALLED THEM THE "MINUTE MEN" — AN EMERGENCY POOL OF CIVILIAN SOLDIERS — WHO, IN OUR TIME ARE GROUPED IN NATIONAL GUARD UNITS.

(1950s)



EACH WEEK, IN MORE THAN 2200 AMERICAN COMMUNITIES, THEY TROOP DOWN TO THE ARMORY OR AIR BASE AND ARE TRANSFORMED FOR A CRITICAL EVENING OF TRAINING INTO DISCIPLINED UNIFORMED UNITS.

— KEEP YOUR GUARD UP —

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

It is slightly ironical many business leaders in the city of Detroit are among the first to begin to raise their voice against the hard money policies of the Eisenhower administration since most anyone will concede that the business brains of the group come from that city or nearby.

What bothers Detroit according to one business news analyst is tight money. "This new 3 1/4% bond issue takes money out of the market at a time when banks, businessmen, and consumers need money. Also perhaps Detroit, a production city if there ever was one, realizes that production without consumers is no good and will soon produce a very critical condition."

There are a few other new business rumors here in Franklin that I failed to mention last week. Frank Dupcan has either sold or is in the process of selling his interest to his business partner, Charlie Conley in the Duncan Motor Company. Paul Carpenter may be a partner in the transaction also. If so this may answer the \$64 question that everyone has been asking, "what is Paul going to do now that he has sold the laundry?" I have also heard the rumor that Mr. Duncan and Lee Wood are going to build a super motor court on the lot which they purchased from the Baptist church. Traffic-wise that would certainly seem to be an excellent location for a motor court.

W. C. Burrell is constructing an attractive block building between the Nantahala Oil Company and the W. A. Hays Block plant. I have heard that this is to house a Firestone store. However, that is an unconfirmed rumor also.

Next Sunday if the weather is pretty and you want to build up your faith in Macon County let me suggest that you take one of two drives. Ride either up through the Patton community and come back into the highway right near the Cartoogechay school, or take the Ingram road at Brendle's store in East Franklin and follow it until you come back to the highway at Rabbit Creek. Here you will see two fine examples of the work of those who are the backbone of Macon County—the farmers. The progress and improvement in the past few years are amazing. Some people used to say that those who lived in the country were envious of the few material advantages their town cousins had. Now the shoe is on the other foot.

Continued on Page Three—

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The Bank of Franklin will commence business as soon as the building can be completed to receive it.

Mrs. Dr. Wexler Smathers, of Asheville, accompanied by her daughter, Miss Joanna, and little son, are visiting the families of Mr. H. H. Jarrett and Dr. W. H. Higgins.

Two bright young ladies, Misses Pauline and Grace Penland, of Smith's Bridge township, paid our office a pleasant visit Saturday evening, and investigated some of the mysteries of the printer's art. We hope they will call again when the mill is grinding.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. Jim Hauser, who is working in a drug store at Waynesville, was shaking hands with his many friends here Tuesday.

Mr. Thos. Alexander, of A. ville, was a visitor here week. He was connected with the forest service here for several years.

J. H. Daves, who has been in Massachusetts for about two years, is spending a six weeks' vacation with relatives in Macon County.

10 YEARS AGO

Misses Jena V. Frazier and Belvia Walthrop left Friday for Washington, D. C. They have accepted positions with the F. B. I.

W. Cantev Johnson, of Madison, arrived in Franklin Mother's Day to spend several days with his mother, Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson.

Others' Opinions

NO IMPROVEMENT

(Dunn Dispatch)

"The first lie detector," says Cad Upchurch, "was made out of the rib of a man." And no improvement has ever been made on the original machine.

CORN BREAD

(Miss Beatrice Cobb in Morganton News-Herald)

There were a number of things done by the 1953 session of North Carolina Legislature in which I found myself in total disagreement. However, as I believe I have mentioned in this column heretofore, I thoroughly approved their action in turning thumbs down on the proposal to require "enrichment" of corn meal offered for sale. The debate brought forth some of the real oratory of the session. It also caused Representative Kemp Doughton to delve into an old scrap book for the classic comments of the late editor of the Houston (Texas) Post, Col. George Bailey, who was, if I remember correctly, a native of North Carolina, and of "Marse" Henry Watterson, another of the famous Southern editors of a couple of generations ago. The following was published over forty years ago, about 1910, in the States-Graphic, a weekly paper of Brownsville, Tenn.:

CORN BREAD

"Recently a theoretical cook, who makes a living by writing rather than by cooking, published a formula for a new kind of corn bread. Commenting on the recipe, Colonel George Bailey of the Houston Post said with some heat: 'About that corn bread recipe which includes three-fourth of a cup of sugar. Tell them not to do it. Sugar in corn bread is an abominable crime. It violates every tradition of the South. It insults the palate. It mocks the culinary art. When the Lord made corn, He put all the sugar in it He intended that it have.'

"Colonel Henry Watterson saw this attack by Bailey, upon the newest vice, and though more than eighty years old, the intrepid Colonel rushed to the side of the Texas Colonel to strengthen his arm.

"Corn bread with sugar in it was an idea born of the devil, planted in New England and sent South by our enemies. It is threatening the life of real corn bread right in the land of its birth. It has done and is doing worse. It makes men trifling and women frivolous. It is responsible for most of the murders, suicides and divorces. It is the mother of Bolshevism and the daddy of anarchy. It weakens the brain, infuriates the lives and makes people pot-bellied. It brings corns and baldness and saffronizes the complexion. It makes the nose shiny and the skin purple.

"It drives husbands down town at nights. It causes the servants to be insolent and obstreperous. It creates an appetite for moonshine.

"It emboldens a man to refuse his wife's request for money. But for sugar in corn bread, there would be no war, no flies or mosquitoes, no ants or roaches, no I. W. W., no Republican Party.

"Let the twentieth amendment to the constitution forever prohibit sugar in corn bread, and let's have the vote right away.

"This would seem all-embracing and is sufficiently conclusive. New England may know how to bake beans. They say the cider in Maine is a good substitution for whiskey. It must be admitted that in Boston "punkin pie" is no slouch. But corn bread? La! That requires all that George Bailey says, and a pair of old black hands to boot—and a real bandana handkerchief—and an old black mammy's voice, rich, mellow and devotional, singing:

"How Firm a Foundation, Ye Saints of the Lord."

"There is little to add to this except the thanks of the mighty congregation of cornfeds throughout the South."