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and

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JUNE 4, 1953

A Remarkable Story

Out of Korea comes this remarkable story:

Robert W. Toth, 21, of Pittsburgh, was honorably discharged from the Air Force last December. But the other day Toth, now a civilian, was arrested by military police. And within five days he was back in Korea to face court martial on a charge of the murder of a Korean!

Flown to Korea with him, to face trial on the same charge, was A. C. Thomas L. Kinder, of Cleveland, Tenn. But Kinder is still in service.

According to an alleged confession by Kinder, he and Toth shot the Korean on orders, direct or indirect, of an Air Force officer. No charges have been preferred against the officer, nor has he been arrested, the dispatch from Korea said.

Toth, remember, is a civilian; he has been out of service half a year.

But, under a 1951 federal law, he is still subject to arrest by military police; still subject to trial by court martial; still subject to being whisked halfway round the world, to face a murder charge in a military court, without time to prepare a defense.

Why the great rush? The most plausible explanation is that the Air Force wanted to get him out of the country before the question of the law's constitutionality could be raised.

It is bad enough, but probably necessary, to take men into the service against their will. It is bad enough, but probably necessary, to give the military almost unlimited authority over them (in actual practice, if not in theory) while they are in service.

But now the trend is to go a step farther—to so fix it that a man, once in the military service, never again can get completely out from under its shadow.

That trend, plus such high-handed actions as this, raise the question of whether American freedoms are in greater danger from Russian Communists or from our own military.

Pertinent Question

Thanks to the so-called secrecy law enacted by the 1953 General Assembly, North Carolina is the first and only state with specific authority, written into statutory law, for secret sessions of legislative committees.

The law was enacted at the behest of the appropriations committees; and it was those committees, after a hearing, that refused to recommend repeal of the secrecy act.

Heading, and encouraging, the senate committee was Senator John D. Larkins, Jr., of Jones County. Now Senator Larkins is being boosted for appointment as state treasurer, to succeed Brandon Hodges, resigned.

Would that mean secrecy about the public's money in the treasurer's office, too?

In view of the record, the question seems pertinent.

The Reason Why

It has been explained several times, but people still ask:

"Why is a subscription to The Franklin Press more outside the county than inside?"

The reason is that it costs more to deliver papers outside the county. And one of the several ways in which it costs more is the item of postage.

The Post Office Department makes no charge for handling papers delivered within the county of

publication. But the moment a paper goes outside the county, the newspaper must pay postage on it.

And the rate of postage charged for handling newspapers is being almost doubled; it is being increased 30 per cent a year for three years.

Letters

NEWS FROM 'PEACEFUL VALLEY'

Dear Mr. Jones:

I'll have to take back all I said about us here in Patton Valley last winter, I guess; because no place could be any more peaceful than this valley is at present. All feuds seem to be settled and everybody grinning again.

I noticed some time ago you handed a bouquet to a man in your "Strictly Personal". I like that because I still say, "Give the flowers while people are alive and can know."

Everybody is working real hard on our community project. Especially the directors, namely Messrs. General Jones, Harley Stewart, and Jim Emory. They have been faithful. In fact all the folks seem to be more interested than I've ever seen them in my long stay here. We're hoping for better things in every way in the future.

Recently Mr. General Jones had a birthday dinner for his mother, who was 86. I was invited and will say I've never been to a nicer dinner where you were really welcomed. We are so proud to have people like the General Jones family to settle in our community. I didn't count the folks attending, but I'd guess it to be 200, mostly relatives from other counties and states.

It is good to see children so kind and good to their mother as all could see they are in that happy family.

(MRS.) LEONA D. EMORY.

Others' Opinions

HONEYSUCKLE

(Chapel Hill Weekly)

Amid all the stir in the world—wars, airplane crashes, shipwrecks, murders and robberies, floods and earthquakes, alterations in the seats of government—there is this to rejoice about in Chapel Hill: the fragrance of the honeysuckle.

THE DIFFERENCE

(Ashland, Ky., Independent)

The optimist sees the budding trees as one of the beauties of nature. The pessimist sees the same buds and worries about the leaves he will have to rake up next fall.

KEEP 'ER COOL

(Jacksonville Daily News and Views)

When he was speaking to the Kiwanis Club, Lt. Tom Brown told of the time that Cpl. Ernest Guthrie, now in charge of the patrol unit here, was stationed down in Currituck.

He saw one day a car going across the sound bridge, and it was weaving from one side to the other. He followed it on across the bridge and then stopped it.

When he went up to the driver, Cpl. Guthrie asked, "Are you drinking? You're driving from one side of the road to the other."

"Nope," replied the sounder, "I was just keeping her headed into the wind to cool her off."

WAR AND WEALTH

(Chester, Penna., Times)

Most sincere Americans are awakening to the fact that they have been cultivating a Jekyll and Hyde morality since the first evidences of World War II were apparent.

And we are shocked at our moral duplicity. For as peace becomes a near possibility, we have found ourselves predicting and expecting a depression, born of cut-backs in Government spending for defense.

It is a stern indictment, and perhaps unfair, but actually we give signs of being a people who fear peace because it will cut down high earnings and flush, false prosperity.

We may be acting in this realistic (but far from idealistic) frame of mind, but deep down, we do not wish such a condition, and the many editorials on this point, and the letters from readers refuting it, indicate a sense of realization and guilt that we have waxed fat on strife.

It was to this purpose that Secretary of Treasury Humphrey flatly declared recently that "We are not headed for a depression." Certainly the huge expenditures that have been spent on armament and defense could be put to a much greater use if spent to heal the world's economic and social wounds and aged ailments.

Eisenhower approached the greatness of the best occupants of the White House when he promised to turn American's defense production and potential into a peace offering to all the world.

Those few who fear "peace" because of a possible depression may take unenviable comfort in the fact that we will spend just as heavily for peace as for war. For the great majority, we can appreciate that this nation is ready to assume a worldwide obligation that is unprecedented in human history.

All of us were taught by our parents to tell the truth. We were told that truth-telling is an un-mixed virtue.



TAKEN FOR GRANTED

(Heron Lake, Minn., News)

Once let the heavy hand of censorship blight the freedom of American newspapers and the general public will begin to appreciate what the editors mean when they refer to the freedom of the press.

Of course, newspapers make mistakes. No product of human beings is perfect. When one considers the immense amount of detail work connected with the publication of a newspaper, the wonder is that the mistakes are so few. That this is true is easily observed in the general acceptance by the public of whatever is published in the local newspaper as correct.

NOT REALLY!

(The State Magazine)

A man now in New Jersey, who married a woman from North Carolina and so fell into the habit of reading this little magazine, is puzzled and, we gather, a little hurt. He writes: "In my opinion, no other state excels North Carolina; yet, during the years I worked in and out of North Carolina I noticed that I was classified as a 'foreigner.' In the North we classify a foreigner as a person who comes from another country, and not one from another state. I guess the use of the word is misunderstood."

It is not always this easy to clear up such a matter. We hasten to assure the gentleman that the application of this word to him probably was not deprecating. For a long time, many North Carolina communities were so close-knit, and so infrequently visited, that anyone beyond the scope of the area was called a "foreigner." The term was applied in the Smokies, for instance, to a man from nearby Asheville.

We never heard the word used in the Piedmont section, because strangers were not rare enough to be conspicuous.

The word now is often used in a jocular sense by people quite conscious of its misapplication.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

For what they are worth, here are my strictly personal suggestions to the 141 young men and women who were graduated from Macon's three high schools last week:

First of all, don't get that word "graduation" wrong. Too often it's used in the sense of a finishing. A more accurate definition would be "a beginning." Or take it in its literal sense: Graduate to something a little higher.

The point is you have not finished your education; you really have hardly begun it. Because, at most, what you have acquired is a few tools with which, if you will, you can become somewhat educated. Nobody, of course, ever is completely educated; and the only persons who become even reasonably well educated are those who educate themselves—in school, and then, day by day, down through the years, after they leave school.

All that, no doubt, sounds a bit corny. But it has a recommendation that over-balances the corn: It is true.

You've been told, directly or by implication, a lot of things that are NOT true.

You've been given the impression, for example, that the world is in an awful mess; such a mess that there really is not much hope or reason to try. Bologney! The world almost always has been in a mess. And, in spite of the messes, the general trend, from the beginning of recorded history, has been upward. Furthermore, the messes usually proved to be growing pains!

Continued on Page Three—

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

I was glad to see that a Franklin citizen recently gained recognition for hard and non-rewarding work when E. J. Whitmire was named to continue on the board of trustees for Western Carolina Teachers college. In the last four years Cullowhee, as the college is more familiarly known, has made considerable progress. A large building program is under way. Dr. Paul Reid, one of North Carolina's coming men in the field of education, has been named president, and this mountain college, long the step-child of the legislature, has been obtaining better share of the money spent for education by the state colleges. As chairman of the board, Mr. Whitmire played a large part in bringing these and many other accomplishments, such as higher standards for the faculty, about. I said that the work was unrewarding. Perhaps Mr. Whitmire is finding the same reward here that he found as Agriculture teacher when he made the local department one of the best in the state. This is one appointment that Gov. Umstead did well on.

I think that I will just make this a sort of congratulatory column this week. Congratulations to President Eisenhower for standing up to the man who is running the government—Robert Taft. It is all right to work for harmony as long as you don't have to sacrifice any principals. I am glad to see that when the president came to this crossroad in regard to our foreign policy he stuck with his beliefs that we can not follow the isolationist path. However, before the battle is over it will take more than just a statement to beat Mr. Taft. Lay with it, "Ike".

Congratulations to the merchants of Franklin for being willing to raise money so that a thousand dollars in prize money is available of the prize winners in the local community development contest. It shows a lot of faith in the movement. However, I think, the faith is well founded. In fact, money put up for prizes in this contest is one of the best investments ever made by local merchants. I don't believe that any

Continued On Page Three—

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Several families that went from here to Union, S. C., a few weeks ago, to work in factories, have returned. They complain of too much work, too hot weather and bad water, and too small wages.

Rev. E. Myers, of Webster, came over Monday to remain with relatives here till the latter part of the week.

The Clayton Tribune of May 28th reached us yesterday, just five days old. We hope when the railroad comes it will get here before it grows whiskers, and not look so tired.

25 YEARS AGO

The atmosphere of old Russia was in evidence at Asheville last Tuesday night at the municipal auditorium when the Franklin people put on the Russian episode of the giant Rhododendron Pageant at 8:30 o'clock.

The election here last Saturday did not create nearly as much excitement as a first class funeral.

All indications point to the fact that Franklin is getting up in the world. Yes, indeed! Last week the cadies on the local golf course went on strike for higher wages.

10 YEARS AGO

Oscar Dills has been appointed to the Franklin force as night policeman, succeeding N. W. Officer, who left several weeks ago to work for Georgia Power and Light Company at Macon, Ga.

Dr. George Gallup, of Princeton University, of Gallup Poll fame, was a guest at King's Inn in Highlands this week.

Mrs. Eloise G. Franks, county superintendent of welfare, will attend the regional meeting of the American Public Welfare Association in Asheville on Friday and Saturday.