

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

Entered at Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter
Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
Franklin, N. C. Telephone 24

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

OUTSIDE MACON COUNTY		INSIDE MACON COUNTY	
One Year	\$3.00	One Year	\$2.50
Six Months	1.75	Six Months	1.75
Three Months	1.00	Three Months	1.00

SEPTEMBER 10, 1953

Something Precise

This newspaper never has been an advocate of an indiscriminate campaign to get industry — any and all industry, regardless. It believes that industrialization, like anything else, can be overdone; it believes, furthermore, that some industries would be far worse than none at all. In seeking industry, it believes that Macon County and Western North Carolina should do a careful screening job, exactly as industry does in seeking a locality.

But Macon County hasn't over-industrialized, yet — as witness the number of young people who go elsewhere for jobs. And there are industries that are highly desirable — as witness the Van Raalte plant here.

Macon County undoubtedly needs a few, small, desirable plants.

But we aren't likely to get plants of any kind, simply by sitting down; certainly, we haven't a chance for choice of plants if we just sit.

And — as is so well illustrated by the comments of those who attended the industrial forum in Bryson City last week — the first step is to know what we have. We need to know that for our own purposes, even if we weren't interested in a single new industry.

It's high time for us to get together some exact, precise information about our resources, our advantages, our needs, and our community aims — and get it all on paper.

The Second Issue

When Macon County voters go to the polls to cast their ballots in the special bond election October 3, there is little question about how the majority of them will vote on the proposal to issue \$50,000,000 of state bonds for schools.

The people of this county have proved, time and again, that they believe in schools — and are determined to have good schools.

But how will we vote on the other bond issue to be decided at the same time? How will we vote on the proposal to issue \$22,000,000 of state bonds for North Carolina's mental institutions?

If the people of Macon County do not vote for that bond issue, it will be because they have not given the matter careful thought.

For surely one of the first duties of a Christian state is to provide for its citizens who are sick in mind. And reports from all who have visited North Carolina's institutions for the mentally sick are that present conditions in those places would be a disgrace to any state, regardless of religion.

Good Fun - And A Tip

All indications are that the Jaycee-sponsored Macon County Folk Festival will go places.

For the three nights' programs last week, the volunteer entertainers and competing performers were large in number and varied in talent; and the attendance was encouraging — the crowds grew larger each night, and were obviously appreciative.

This Festival was so successful that surely it will be only the first of a long series of annual events.

The Festival, incidentally, offered the community a valuable tip: A number of tourists stayed over longer than they had planned, so as to attend. That suggests that we can prolong our tourist season merely by providing some attractions, before and after what we have come to regard as the regular July-August season.

Can You Vote?

Voters of North Carolina will decide whether this state shall issue \$72,000,000 in bonds for schools

and mental institutions, at a special election October 3.

When that election day comes, will you be eligible to vote on this important matter? You won't, if you aren't registered.

Better check with your precinct registrar and make sure. You have just two more chances — this Saturday and the next, September 12 or 19.

Letters

AFTER 30 YEARS

Editor, The Press:

Please find inclosed check for \$3 for renewal of Press. I have been taking The Press ever since I have been away from Macon County (30 years). I don't want to miss a copy.

Sincerely,

Clayton, N. C.

MRS. TURNER VINSON.

ENJOYED VISIT HERE

Editor, The Press:

Another call from The Press today reminded us we have meant to write you. We are again in our home, after the wonderful trip of nearly five months.

It was fine to see that section of North Carolina in spring, with all its beauties. We will long cherish our visit with relatives and friends in and around Franklin and Bryson City, and especially the old home settlement at Oak Grove.

To have driven almost 10,000 miles with no trouble of any kind, over good roads and with no bad weather when traveling, seems a fine record to us and we feel we have had a very wonderful experience.

With every good wish for the paper's success,

Sincerely,

MR. AND MRS. FRED F. BRADLEY.

Claremont, Calif.

A TIME FOR PRAYER

Editor, The Press:

In Mr. Bob Sloan's column, "News Making As It Looks To A Maconite", often there are some very readable statements. But at this terribly critical time in the history of our dear country, it is — or should be — a time of prayer, rather than paltry criticism of our President.

As a Christian nation we are duty-bound to obey our Lord's words: Read I Timothy 2: 1-2 — "I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; for kings, for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty."

We in the United States have been so richly blessed by the Supreme Ruler.

Now when the world is tottering —

Lest we be utterly destroyed as a nation —

Let us all PRAY earnestly without ceasing — holding fast to the Master's hand. With His guidance we cannot fall.

Let us rededicate our lives — our all — to the King of Kings.

"When the Son of man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?"

Let us all humbly pray, "Thy will be done."

Yours for a stronger America,

Gneiss, N. C.

MRS. F. E. MASHBURN.

A WESTERN OFFENSIVE

Dear Editor:

I have felt for some years that we should seek to counteract the Russian peace offensive with statements of what we want and desire for the German, Austrian and other enslaved, non-Russian people.

The demands should be based on the highest moral and Christian principles, and they should be broadcast not only to the German and Austrian people but to the free world as well.

The Russians have caught us off-guard again by broadcasting a note that they have handed to American, British, and French leaders, so that they could definitely influence the German election which is in September. If by their peace propaganda, the Communists get complete control of Germany, then it will be only a short time until all Europe will come under Russian domination.

We have no time to lose; we should act at once. We should notify Russia that we will talk only about certain matters, such as a united Germany and Austria, giving the German and Austrian people the privilege of establishing their own governments, freedom to vote without coercion, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, freedom of the press, free enterprise, and a treaty with all of Germany, accepting them as a free people among the nations of the world.

We should not only let the German people know that we are demanding their freedom, but also the other Russian satellite countries. We should send these messages by Radio Free Europe, Voice of America, and balloon barrage. We should also arrange to train and send thousands of refugees back to these countries, and let their fellow countrymen know that we want for them all the liberties and freedom that we enjoy in America.

Let them know by every possible means that we are praying for them and are asking God to help us know best how to help them. Let them know that, if they put their faith in

Christ and in God the Father, pray constantly, and work with others of like belief to help them obtain their freedom from bondage and slavery, they, too can become free men, as God has planned for all men. Let them know that when they are free, we will help them to reach a higher degree of economic freedom than they now have, and that we will join with them as a free, God-loving people to establish a lasting peace and prosperity for all mankind.

May I urge all American citizens to write the President, Secretary of State, your Congressman, and your Senator, and ask them to act quickly to let the enslaved peoples of the world know that we are working and praying for them?

B. T. TALLY

Albemarle, N. C.

Others' Opinions

MAY COME LATER (Waynesville Mountaineer)

The post office department, in a moment of having little else to do, has figured that every man, woman and child in America, will average receiving 329 pieces of mail during 1954. In 1940, if you remember, you averaged 210 pieces.

This is a big increase over 15 years ago.

The department made no claims that there would be a decrease in the number of bills included in the 329 pieces. Maybe that will come later.

CHURCHES ALIKE, TOO (Morganton News-Herald)

Among major religious groups, none takes greater pride in its freedom than do the Baptists. Each Baptist Church is a separate entity, free from any control except that which the congregation exercises, although the separate churches may band themselves together into voluntary organizations such as associations and conventions which may advise or recommend.

Because of this traditional freedom of the individual church there is nothing earth-shaking in the decision of a Baptist Church in Rocky Mount to withdraw its membership from the Southern Baptist Convention. The reason, in brief, was that it disapproved of the denomination's support of such a hot-bed of liberalism as Wake Forest College.

How the spirit of the late Dr. William Louis Poteat must be chuckling, for during his long term as president of Wake Forest he was exposed almost continually to similar charges from irresponsible and water-logged Baptist groups whose ability to generate spiritual steam seemed confined to carping criticism of the most negative sort, without recognizing that religion has a positive side.

Certainly in the field of religion there is a continuing struggle within the same sect of the forces which might be classified as conservatives and liberals. The widely varying emphasis which different groups within a single denomination place upon creed and dogma explains why there are so many different groups and why any dream of a single united church is fantastically unrealistic.

Look, for example, at the result of recent division within the Presbyterian Church at Chapel Hill. There are now three churches. The so-called conservatives pulled out and organized a separate church. The liberal or progressive wing has formed or is forming a new non-denominational body, and the original church still remains.

Protestants are not alone in being subject to rending schisms. The Catholics have their Father Leonard Sweeney who was excommunicated for insisting that salvation is impossible for non-Catholics. Some of his fanatical followers recently put on a demonstration in which one of their protests was aimed at the University of Notre Dame for allowing heathenish Protestants to play football alongside of Catholics!

There will always be, we suppose, divisions over matters spiritual. We would feel much better about them if we could be satisfied that the people engaged in rifts spent as much time in studying the points of similarity with their Christian brethren as they do in figuring out how far apart they could come.

Somebody is always wanting to sever "the tie that binds."

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

There's an old saying that "you have to have trouble to find out how many friends you have".

And it surely is a fact that, when trouble strikes, we nearly always are surprised to find how many friends come to stand by our side, with sympathy and help. Trouble often shows us how much kindness there is in the world, because often practical help and warm sympathy come, too, from bare acquaintances, or even from people we never had known before.

Yet I think that old saying that "you have to have trouble to find out how many friends you have" isn't strictly true. Because it would be equally true to say "you have to have good fortune to find out how many friends you have".

If I had ever doubted that, I cannot any longer; and I should be both ungrateful and ungracious if I failed to comment on the heart-warming experience of having so many friends, acquaintances, and virtual strangers go out of their way to congratulate me and wish me luck in my good fortune in being able to spend a year in Chapel Hill.

In a sense, this is an even greater proof of sympathy than is kindness to those in trouble. Because most of us assume, when others are in trouble, that "it can't happen to me"; subconsciously, we are likely to have a little sense of superiority. Our sympathy and help are likely to be prompted, in part, at least, by pity.

But when good fortune overtakes another, we cannot feel any sense of superiority; if we are small and selfish, indeed, we are likely to feel a little jealous — "why couldn't it have happened to me?"

So I say the person who can honestly rejoice in the good fortune of another offers the greatest possible proof of the kindness and sympathy that are in his heart, and, especially, of his selflessness; this is a genuine forgetting of self in thought of the other fellow.

But, whether it be trouble or good fortune that comes, all of us, time after time through life, have the opportunity to learn something of the great, generous, kindly heart of humanity.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

To those persons who are against all forms of federal government works, I suggest they take a trip on the Blue Ridge Parkway which runs roughly from Asheville, N. C. to Roanoke, Va. It is the most wonderful scenic drive I have ever seen. I believe that any fair minded person will admit that there is a project that would never come into being if we had waited for the two states to get together on the deal.

From the looks of the papers, Kerr Scott and Senator Lennon are going to get into a hammer and tongs struggle before the Democratic Primary ever opens up. Perhaps they will sort of wear themselves out before Spring thus making the Primary a little less hectic — something all Democrats would like to see, but which most Republicans would like to stir up.

Franklin sport fans will get to read quite a bit about one of the former local boys this fall since our (big brother in the news field), the Asheville Citizen, has quite a tendency to really go all out for any of their boys who look good. From the way Bill Hunnicutt held down an end position for the Maroons in their game with Wilmington last Friday night, Asheville sport scribes should indulge in throes of ecstasy. It was a fine game with Asheville losing a close decision 13-16 and Bill was easily one of the two or three best linemen on the field. It was the best game I ever saw him play.

I see by the papers that President Eisenhower has an anti-depression program laid down on paper. One of the features of this program is to sell tax exempt bonds. This feature is typical of the Republican party philosophy of using the government as an instrument to help the rich to get richer. By doing this, persons with more wealth than is necessary for their living costs could place their extra money in bonds thereby setting aside a large part of their income as non-taxable while the man who must spend all his income for living expenses will have to pay taxes on 100% of his income. Other features of the program included a public works spending program and lower taxes. When a politician tells you he is going to give you "better schools and better roads for less money" I am suspicious.

Continued on Page Three—

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
What is it that has a head where its head ought to be and has no feet, but has its mouth where its feet ought to be?

The first dirt was broken on the railroad in town Tuesday evening when a large force of men in charge of M. L. Shirley opened a grade point on the Lafayette Wolf property, near the Tribune office. (Clayton Tribune).

The brick work on Dr. W. H. Higgins' new building is nearly completed.

25 YEARS AGO
The Democratic Primary ended here Saturday at sundown with charges and counter charges of crookedness. The tension at the voting place in Franklin for the Franklin Township became so acute that the judges decided to place the absentee ballots under lock and key to await a decision as to whether these ballots are to be counted.

Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Browning have moved back to Bryson City. Mr. Browning was here working for the Asheville Times.

10 YEARS AGO
George Moore, who has been working in Maryland for several months, is home on a short visit with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Moore.

Mrs. T. H. Bridgman and the younger members of the Bridgman family, Albert, Eleanor, and Stewart, leave this week to join the Rev. Bridgman in Columbia, S. C., where he began his new duties as pastor of the West Columbia Presbyterian Church last Sunday. (Highlands Highlights).