

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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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 17, 1953

Two Choices

Take all the facts about our Macon County school situation. Then take all the facts about the proposed \$50,000,000 state bond issue for school building. Put all those facts side by side and study them.

You'll come up with this conclusion.

We can hope the bond issue carries—work for it and vote for it. If it does, we'll get many of our school building needs met, and without any increase in county taxes.

Or we can be indifferent about it, or oppose it. If it does not carry, we'll have to do some building, ourselves, to meet even the most pressing needs—with an increase in county taxes certain.

Good News

It's good news that comes from Western Carolina College that that institution this year is starting courses in agriculture.

Agriculture is important to this area; a large proportion of high school graduates who continue their education want to go into agriculture; and it makes sense for them to have an opportunity to get such training close to home.

This is another step at Cullowhee toward making W. C. C. really serve the area in which it lies.

G. I. Training Again

For nearly a million young veterans of the Korean War, the deadline for starting training under the Korean GI Bill—similar to the GI Bill of Rights set up after World War 2—is less than a year away.

Of the Korean War veterans separated from the service prior to August 20, 1952, nearly a million have not yet begun the training that is theirs for the taking.

How many of that million are Macon County young men?

None, we hope; because surely this is an opportunity that comes but once in a lifetime—and not even once, except to those who have served in the armed forces in time of war.

It is virtually impossible to earn a good living today without training; this is the veterans' opportunity to get that training—and to get it "on" Uncle Sam.

Youth Not Enough

Alton A. Lennon, of Wilmington, who is filling out the unexpired term of the U. S. Senate of the late Willis Smith, already is campaigning for re-nomination in next year's Democratic primary.

And the campaign issue he's putting most stress on is the advantage of having a young man—Mr. Lennon is only 47—in the Senate.

Far be it from us to pose as experts on campaign issues, or to offer advice to a U. S. Senator, but we have a sneaking notion Senator Lennon is going to have to pull something better than that out of the bag.

Kerr Scott—unless 57 years have put him in his dotage—will make shreds of that issue in a single phrase.

Intellectual Inbreeding

Figures compiled by someone at Cullowhee show that six out of every ten public school teachers in the counties in Southwestern North Carolina are graduates of Western Carolina College.

That's a fine endorsement of W. C. C. We are not so sure it is good business for the schools.

W.C.C., we hasten to add, is a good school, and

getting better; it is doing a good job, as witness the many fine graduates it has turned out. The trouble is not with the quality of the work done at Cullowhee.

We think it would be bad to get more than half of our public school teachers from any one college.

The reason is that a free flow of ideas is an essential in any kind of education; and ideas have a way of being distributed geographically. While it would not be true to say that everybody who graduates from a school thinks like all other graduates, it is true that you will get a wider variety of viewpoints from graduates of several schools. And surely, in education, we want the widest possible variety of ideas and viewpoints.

To pick more than half of our teachers, here in this region, from a single college could become a kind of intellectual inbreeding. And in the case of W. C. C., it is doubly bad, because most of the students at Cullowhee come from this immediate region in the first place.

We have fine teachers in this region, and we get fine teachers from W. C. C., but we should get a larger proportion of our teachers from elsewhere. We should, that is, if we want to give the children of this region the best possible educational opportunity.

"Figures are always dull and uninteresting." Oh yeah! What about that one in the bathing suit?

Others' Opinions

BLOCK PARTY

(Dallas Morning News)

Did you read about the party they held in the 1900 block of Prichard Lane, out in Pleasant Grove? The 1900 block is new territory, with fourteen spick-and-span brick homes that have gone up within the year and have been occupied within the half-year.

Mrs. Paul W. Siebert started it and the other neighbors fell in with the idea. Picnic tables occupied the center of the street and traffic suspended for fried chicken, and pies and all the trimmings that go with good food and fellowship. Everybody and everybody's dog were there, so far as the 1900 block was concerned.

Result: There are no strangers in the 1900 block of Prichard Lane and Pleasant Grove is still pleasant. Mayor Grove is still pleasant. Mayor Thornton ought to send a citation to Mrs. Siebert for furthering his courtesy campaign in Dallas. It's easy to be courteous to someone you know.

FLUORIDATION AND FALSE TEETH

(Stanly (Albemarle) News and Press)

If fluoridation of the city's drinking water will eliminate the necessity of upper and lower plates for men and women, we are satisfied that a number of them right here in Albemarle will rejoice for their offspring. We refer, of course, to those unfortunate persons who are now breaking in "store-bought" teeth. There is nothing which can be done for them, but they have reached that age in life when they are somewhat concerned for the next generation.

Decision of the city council to proceed with installing fluoridation pumps is a wise step. Sufficient tests have been made over a period of years to prove that fluorides in drinking water serve to prevent tooth decay.

A person who has a good set of teeth which will not need to be replaced with artificial teeth has every reason to give thanks for this wonderful blessing. As we learn more about how to preserve teeth for a full lifetime, we should lose no time in putting such processes into use.

Letters

CONGRATULATIONS

Dear Editor:

As a fellow citizen of Highlands, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on the success of "Hillbilly Day", 1953. That day, along with the natural scenic beauty of Highlands and the surrounding area, is making Highlands the number one resort town in the East.

I say, keep up the good work; it's a job well done.

A/2c W. R. (BOBBY) POTTS.

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LET'S PLUG FRANKLIN

Editor, The Press:

Please allow me to express a thought that many people may be interested in, if you may use this in your paper.

While in Miami, Fla., last winter, I was told by realty brokers that greater Miami was on the increase to the tune of 40,000 people annually, which sounds fantastic. After a check, I was told that this was about right including the stork visits.

Why this great influx of people in normal times? First,

Miami was built overnight, as you know, by advertising the "climate". They still advertise through many channels. Once in Miami, you are a Miamian. They have found that it pays to draw people to their area. More people, more business for everyone, and every new citizen is a booster that brings more people.

Western North Carolina has the most wonderful climate, that makes for good "rugged health", of any place we can think of. Cool summers, mild, short winters that are only invigorating, makes us eat more good "ham and sausage" for breakfast with an extra good cup of coffee. We eat hearty here, sleep around the clock at night; something that many people do not do in other climates.

Suppose that Franklin could increase its population 10 per cent in the next 10 years? We would have 4,000 people added to our long 2,000. It seems that a town must have 5,000 to 10,000, more stores, and more places of amusement, to attract the average public. If Franklin could reach that stage, it would be a springboard to really go places. Realty values would increase from the increasing demand. People, like sheep, follow each other. If it is good for them, it's good for you.

Some advertising at this time in Northern papers, of our climate, would start a trend of people here to dodge the zero weather. Old timers here, 90 and past, tell me there ain't a better place to live than Western North Carolina. It's still big new country with opportunities if we only let the people know what we have here. Franklin, with its location, five highways, the new U.S. 441 now coming through, should attract attention for more people to come. Folks, Franklin has the spotlight for becoming the brightest little city in Western North Carolina. It will not take business away from any of us, it should increase it two-fold. The Franklin area has made big strides in the last couple of years, many new modern schools, more civic pride being shown in our countryside, all of which will attract more people. Look at five years ago!

OWEN C. FURLOW.

Franklin, N. C.

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

SORGHUM COOKING

Cool night's calling
Leaves are falling
And there's longing in the air.
Sorghum's cooking while we're looking
Just to know the other's there.
Squirrels chatter,
"What's the matter?"
And far off the fox hounds bark.
Hearts are meeting in their greeting
Finding sunlight in the dark.

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE.

Weaverville, N. C.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

An interview with Federal Judge E. Yates Webb, which appeared recently in the Asheville Citizen-Times, recalled a newspaper situation—amusing now, but far from funny at the time—created by the Shelby jurist in Asheville a number of years ago.

In the interview, Judge Webb set forth his views on liquor and prohibition—the conviction that liquor is the greatest single cause of crime in this country, and that total, nation-wide prohibition is the only solution of the problem.

Judge Webb long has held that conviction, and during the years he presided over the sessions of district federal court in Asheville, he virtually always expounded those views in his charges to the federal grand juries. It happened so often, in fact, that we on Asheville's afternoon newspaper often felt we'd be safe to write an account of the charge and put it in type before court even convened.

That feeling carried with it no disrespect for Judge Webb, for nobody can fail to admire the dedication of a man who, believing that one evil is the root of most others, continues to hammer on that topic; and especially the courage of a man who sticks to his convictions long after public sentiment has gone the other way.

The point was that the same-ness of the judge's charges created a major problem for newspapermen, who always are in search of something new and different.

Finally, Claude Ramsey (now executive news editor of the Asheville newspapers, then court reporter for the afternoon Times) and I cooked up a scheme to get a new and different charge.

It was at the time when the controversy over the Roosevelt "court packing" bill was at its height, and Judge Webb, being a member of the federal judiciary, naturally was keenly interested in the bill. So Mr.

Ramsey approached the judge with the suggestion that his next charge be devoted to "court packing". He accepted the suggestion with enthusiasm.

Not only that, he accommodated us by writing out, in advance, the substance of what he was going to say in his charge, and giving it to us so we could write our story, get it in type, and thus be able to carry the story in the day's first edition, which would be on the streets within a matter of minutes after the charge was made.

It was a streamer story, and we even wrote the headlines and had them put in type. Nothing was left to do except wait for Mr. Ramsey to telephone me, from the courtroom, that the judge had made his charge. The presses could then start rolling.

The wait for that telephone call seemed interminable. I paced the floor, and looked at my watch a hundred times. Finally the phone rang and I recognized the voice of our court reporter at the other end of the line.

"Everything O. K.?" I asked impatiently.

There was a sputtering, as Mr. Ramsey sought for words. Then he exploded:

"Weimar, the story's out! The judge made his same old liquor charge!"

"Called me aside, right after he got through, and apologized. Said he was terribly sorry, but he got to talking about liquor, and just forgot about the 'court packing' charge he had planned."

What did we do?

My recollection is we hastily grabbed up some little item about the corn borer in India, or something similarly exciting—some story that had been set in type to plug a hole on an inside page one day that week or the next—and wrote a streamer on it, to take the place of the "court packing" charge that never has been made, to this day.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

An incident occurred the other day which caused my blood to boil and brought forth some thinking concerning our local merchants.

An out-of-town woman came to The Press office accompanied by one of our local ladies soliciting advertising which would help to pay for a project of one of our organizations. After taking one of the smaller ads, I casually remarked that our merchants were called on more than any other group to help with community projects. I added that other groups are perhaps as willing, but it is just easier for those soliciting to see the merchants. You can see more of them in less time. Well sir, this brought forth quite a volley of criticism against merchants from the out-of-towner. For some reason (and to those of you who know me best this will be hard to believe) I didn't argue with the woman, but the more she said the more I became convinced that small town businessmen do contribute more than their share on community projects.

Then I got to thinking about Franklin merchants and I came to the conclusion that for a town the size of Franklin we certainly are fortunate in the group of businessmen we are served by. I can't think of a town this size with similar economic conditions that has as up-to-date and modern stores and business firms as Franklin, and these firms are run by men who are unusually honest and civic minded. That sister can say what she pleases, but the more I think about it the more I think, "How fortunate we are in our businessmen."

Over in Yancey County the other day something happened which shows how far to the front Macon County has come in the livestock field—that is particularly our boys and girls. At a livestock show when a Macon County man was introduced, one of the officials stopped the show and said, "tell your people over there, we are going to stop their winning all these livestock shows." Our boys and girls are the mark the rest of them are shooting for. Don't let them catch us.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. J. P. Bryson has gone to Charlotte to accept a position with the McCormick Harvesting Machine Company.

Charlie Robinson went to Wilson, N. C., last week to take a position with the graded school of that town.

Mr. John S. Trotter is building a new barn in the eastern part of town on the lot where the Trotter pin mill is located.

25 YEARS AGO

Recently The Press had occasion to gently chide the "extension highbrows" down at Raleigh for failure to give proper publicity to the fine work of the extension service in Macon County. Since that time there have been four extension specialists here and another to come within a few days.

Attorney T. B. Higdon, of Atlanta, came up last week to attend the Higdon reunion.

Miss Margaret Cunningham left Wednesday of last week for Weaverville, where she will enter college for the winter.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Arnold Garris has returned to her work at the airplane depot in Macon, Ga., after a visit with her small daughter, Jeannette Garris, at the home of her aunt, Mrs. Grover Edwards. Mr. Garris is on a defense job in South America. (Highlands Highlights).

Louis B. Anderson, of the Nantahala National Forest headquarters here, has been promoted to the position of principal clerk of the Pisgah National Forest headquarters in Asheville.