

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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OCTOBER 8, 1953

Hats Off!

Hats off to the citizens of Macon County! Once again—in Saturday's bond election—they expressed their implicit belief that the future lies with the school child.

And a bushel of our best bouquets to the interested citizens—Democrats and Republicans alike—who buried the political hatchet and worked as a team to carry the issue to the people.

Folks here have long known of this deep lying belief in the school child, but North Carolina as a whole became aware of it when the results of the election were tabulated.

For this small mountain county showed its coat tail to most of the other 99 counties in the state by favoring the school building issue by a startling ratio of close to 50 to 1.

Only one or two other counties are believed to have topped this.

While the county will receive \$163,000 as a minimum for school building, provisions of the bond issue say "effort" will determine how much more the counties will receive over the minimum amount.

Saturday's vote proves the "effort" is here.

A Bloody Nose

A Smoky Mountain Conference football official received a bloody nose after Friday night's game here between Franklin and Hayesville.

A Franklin player, angry over being thrown out of the game by the official, rushed on the field as the game ended and struck him.

This action by the player was serious enough, but it was compounded by the fact that the tense situation on the field was aided by several of Franklin's "leading" citizens, who apparently have forgotten the meaning of sportsmanship. These men not only applauded the action, but called for a repeat performance.

In a way, one can overlook youthful enthusiasm and the embarrassment of being put out of a game—for what is enthusiasm but the competitive spirit—but it is hard to understand why mature adults, whose responsibility it is to set the proper example for those younger, would condone the action.

Sportsmanship demands that, right or wrong, a decision by an official stands.

Fortunately, the official's injury was a minor one. And justly the player has been punished for taking it upon himself to settle the issue.

But Franklin High School is the real victim. It is saddled with the shame and must live down the black mark on its reputation as an institution of high sportsmanship. It's now the school's job to rise up and prove to the rest of the conference that the incident was just an unfortunate mistake.

As for the "leading" businessmen; well, maybe they just think they're leaders.

'Killed The Cat'

Last week a home burned in the Mirror Lake section near Highlands—a home which might have been saved by the Highlands Fire Department, but for one thing.

Thoughtless motorists blocked the road leading to the home.

It took the fire truck nearly 25 minutes to cover the short distance from Highlands to the scene of the fire, according to Chief of Police M. A. Nelson, because automobiles stuck in the mud jammed the road.

In the meantime, the home burned to the ground. Nothing was saved.

Under the circumstances, only one conclusion can be drawn:

These uncooperative citizens — who constantly

break the law by flocking to fires and hampering the efforts of firemen—are just as guilty of arson as the pyromaniac who intentionally sets fires for the thrill.

"Curiosity killed the cat, but satisfaction brought it back," goes the old adage.

But the home still burned to the ground!

Others' Opinions

TAKE APPLE

(Louisville Courier-Journal)

The Boston cream pie isn't a pie; Boston says it isn't from Boston, and if it's all the same we'll take apple.

PAGE THE INVENTORS!

(Lexington (Ky.) Herald)

One trouble pedestrians are having in maintaining their right of way is that there is no successful way that has yet been invented for a pedestrian to run over an automobile.

SOUTH'S NEW SYMBOL

(Sam Ragan in News and Observer)

A visitor from England recently remarked after a tour of the South that "Nowhere else I have ever been were there so many washing machines on the front porches." And the Memphis Commercial Appeal says the washing machine is perhaps the "South's new symbol," for it indicates the widespread distribution of electric energy, even in isolated areas, and it suggests, too, a higher level of living, more leisure, better education and longer life expectancy.

We have noticed those washing machines on the front it's a rare house that doesn't display one. And while some it its a rare house that doesn't display one. And while some might frown on such a utilitarian machine as a symbol of the South, we could do a lot worse. At least it comes closer to reality than those white-columned mansions and magnolia trees that adorn so many dust jackets on books.

THE U. S.-SPANISH AGREEMENT

(Greensboro Daily News)

Viewed strictly as a defensive military move against Russia, the 20-year aid-for-bases agreement between the United States and Spain may serve a worthy purpose. We hope it will.

But weighed against military expediency is the larger question of implied ideological and active financial backing by the United States of the tyrannical government of Premier Franco.

Should the U. S. ally itself with one enemy of freedom in order to gain strength in opposing another? Franco's Spain is as fundamentally fascistic as Marshal Tito's is Communistic. By granting military and economic aid to both, the U. S. acts on the assumption that the struggle against the greater tyranny lessens the need for opposing the smaller. This may be a minor inconsistency in a contest where stakes are as high as they are between the U. S. and the Soviet Union. The same question arose when the U. S. and Great Britain backed Russia against Nazi Germany.

It may be that the Spanish air and naval bases are vital to the terrifying net the U. S., in its own insecurity and fear, is drawing tightly around the outer perimeter of the Soviet Union. Our goal—and it is not unreasonable in the face of the tyrants who oppose us—is to mass so much power-in-being that the Soviet Union will not dare grab more of Europe or Asia. We have reached a decision after honest negotiations with the Soviet leaders seeking international control of atomic weapons and disarmament. The response on Russia's part has not been encouraging; now we are doing what our instinct for survival tells us we must.

Still, we might remember that wars, hot and cold, are won by more than physical power alone. They are also won by ideas. The American idea, which we seek to export and nurture, is the idea of the individual worth of human beings and a government which respects the worth. We do not enhance it in the minds of others when we ally ourselves with tyrants like Franco and Tito. We rather promote the impression, already abroad in the world, that we are more interested in power *per se* than in the ideology called democracy.

The question raised by the U. S.-Spanish agreement is whether we need the bases more than we need the good will of nations who will be appalled by it. The military mind cannot answer that question; neither can the academic. It must be answered by the man in the White House who supposedly knows the positive and negative ramifications of each alternative.

The President has responded by favoring the military. We hope he made the right choice, but that remains to be seen.

Tip to officers investigating those Macon County school break-ins: Look for adults—it's a cinch no youngster would be breaking into school.

The Orange Presbytery has tossed the Rev. Charles Jones, former Chapel Hill Presbyterian pastor and long the center of controversy, out of the Presbyterian pulpit. We take it the Presbytery decided the Rev. Mr. Jones wasn't predestined to preach the Presbyterian doctrine.

OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

The Basic Freedom

AMERICA'S EARLIEST COLONISTS INCLUDED SEVERAL GROUPS WHO CAME TO THE NEW WORLD SEEKING FREEDOM TO WORSHIP AS THEY PLEASED. BUT AMONG THESE GROUPS THE SPIRIT OF TOLERANCE, WHICH LATER FOUND EXPRESSION IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL GUARANTEE OF THAT FREEDOM TO ALL PEOPLE, WAS NOT EASILY ACHIEVED.



RELIGIOUS FREEDOM SUPPORTS AND COMPLEMENTS ALL THE OTHER FREEDOMS WE ENJOY. IT NOURISHES THE SPIRITUAL AND MORAL VALUES UPON WHICH THE SOUND DEVELOPMENT OF FAMILY, COMMUNITY AND NATIONAL LIFE DEPENDS. THE INCREASING PARTICIPATION BY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE IN RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES IS A HOPEFUL AUGURY FOR THE FUTURE OF OUR DEMOCRACY.

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

AUTUMN

See the leaves around us falling
Dry and withered to the ground.
Thus to thoughtless mortals calling
In a sad and mournful sound.
Youth, on length of days presuming,
Who the path of pleasure tread,
View us, late in beauty blooming,
Numbered now among the dead.
What though yet no losses grieve you,
Gay with health and many a grace;
Let not cloudless skies deceive you—
Summer gives to Fall its place.
On the tree of life eternal
Let our highest hopes be stayed—
These alone, forever vernal,
Bear the leaves that shall not fade.

MRS. HARRY BEALE.

Ellijay, North Carolina.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

CHAPEL HILL.—From time to time, I've been critical of the bus service in North Carolina.

I have nothing to take back on that score; in fact, I'm convinced that I, and other citizens of the state, have not criticized enough, or loudly enough. Because there often is little evidence that the bus people realize they are supposed to be providing a public service, and I have seen no evidence whatsoever, insofar as busses are concerned, that the N. C. Utilities Commission realizes it is paid to protect the interests of the public.

All that, though, didn't keep me from being impressed by an instance of all-out service.

I had to go to Raleigh on business the other day. At the Chapel Hill bus station, they told me to change busses in Durham, adding that I'd get off one bus and right on to the other.

We pulled into Durham promptly on time, but just as we drove into the bus station, the Raleigh bus drove out. Our driver blew his horn repeatedly, but to no effect. The Raleigh bus lumbered away. Inquiry revealed that it would be about two hours until there was another bus for Raleigh.

It happened that I was in no hurry, so didn't take the incident too seriously. An elderly lady, however, was greatly perturbed. It appeared that she was going to miss an appointment, and though she made no great outcry, it was evident she was upset.

Seeing how worried she was, our bus driver said "wait a minute", and within the minute he was back with an automobile, presumably his own. He piled all the Raleigh passengers into the car, and lit out toward Raleigh.

He must have had to drive 10 or 15 miles before he overtook the Raleigh bus, but over-

take it he did, blew it down, and transferred his passengers from automobile to bus.

A young man, he did it all with such obvious pleasure in being able to take care of his passengers that it was a heart-warming experience.

Another interesting experience I've had down here was attending a Sunday morning service, recently, at Duke University's famous chapel.

It is one of the most beautiful modern buildings, I suppose, in the world, and the sermon and the music were in keeping with the chapel.

Of Gothic architecture, it was built, I believe, to resemble an old-world cathedral. The almost numberless stained glass windows, the high vaulted roof, the row on row of lights, and the muted music all give the place a sort of hush. You just wouldn't speak, above a whisper, in such a place; your voice would involuntarily be softened, even when no service was being held. The atmosphere was somewhat that of a Catholic or at least of an Episcopal church.

It was most impressive, but afterward I remembered what the late Josephus Daniels, an ardent Methodist, is reported to have said, upon his first visit to this sanctuary at Methodist college:

"Very beautiful! Very impressive!
"But imagine holding a shout-in' Methodist revival in there!"

No child knows any better than I about the terrors of the first day of school. You see, until I came down here, I never had taught in my life, not so much as a day.

I had debated with myself at some length whether to go overboard in being honest and confess to the students, the very first day, that I never had

taught. But after due consideration, I decided there really wasn't any call to be that honest. Nobody need ever know, I told myself, if I didn't tell them.

Nonetheless, as the time came for that first class, I grew more and more nervous, and that nervousness is what betrayed me. Being nervous, I

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News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Judging by incomplete and unofficial returns, Macon County was one of the two top counties in the state percentage-wise in support of the bond issues Saturday. The first group to be complimented are the people themselves, who by an overwhelming vote of more than 2600 votes for and approximately 55 against showed that Macon County is solidly behind this progressive move.

Two people stand out in their untiring work to see that the people did come out to vote and they understood the issues. Two weeks ago, judging by talks I had with several community leaders from over the county there would have been considerable vote against the measure because the soundness of the state's financial condition had not been made plain to the people. Two men who did a good job of creating interest and explaining the situation to the people were county superintendent, Holland McSwain and G. A. Jones, Jr., young attorney who is really putting himself into community work here. These two men spoke at meetings all over the county and judging by the results did a good job—and the results are the only fair test.

The Nantahala Power and Light Company and the Western Carolina Telephone also deserve an accolade for presenting the issue to the people in the counties they serve in a strong newspaper advertisement.

Well it's over. We have taken one more small step forward in the long mile of progress and a hope for a better future for our children and our children's children. I am proud that Macon County showed up so well. Thanks to all those who helped.

Just a suggestion to those in the tourist business who have been complaining that things weren't so good. Why don't you all go together and purchase small ads in the Atlanta papers and Charlotte papers with a message that next week-end the color will be at its height here. Bet you would get an excellent return on your investment. Of course one week-end doesn't make a season, but pennies do make dollars and "Every little bit helps" as the old lady said when she spit in the ocean.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Young Baz Jacobs arrived Friday from Wyoming after several months' absence.

Rev. E. L. Bain, Atty. T. J. Johnston, and Editor W. A. Curtis will go to Rabun Gap, Ga., tomorrow to speak at a big barbecue and rally meeting in the interest of the Rabun County High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Stewart, of Highlands, were in town Monday on their way to Chicago to spend the winter.

25 YEARS AGO

A large force of men with modern equipment began work this week on that section of Highway No. 286 between Franklin and Iotla bridge.

Franklin Hi defeated Hayesville Hi in a football game here last Friday by a score of 18 to 0.

Mrs. C. A. Bryson, of West's Mill, left last Saturday for Idaho on an extended visit to her brothers, Messrs. Ben and Frank Matlock.

10 YEARS AGO

The large board on Rankin Square, sponsored by the Lions Club, to carry the names of all men and women in the service of the armed forces, has been completed and now awaits the painting of the names upon it.

Mr. and Mrs. James Averell, of Decatur, Ga., are spending two weeks at Kelly's Tea Room. Mr. Averell was formerly assistant supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest.