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NOVEMBER 12, 1946

From 'One Of' To 'The'

Since the outset of the rural community development program in Macon County, this newspaper has, from time to time, offered editorial comment on the movement, calling the program in one instance ONE OF THE FINEST things to ever take place here.

But now, after visiting each community and seeing first-hand the amazing transformations that have taken place during the contest year just ended, we've changed our minds—it's THE FINEST thing to ever take place here.

These eye-opening—and sometimes very necessary—things that have transpired in the 13 communities are almost innumerable and would take weeks—possibly months—to describe in any detail. So our suggestion is: Visit each community and see these products of hard work, enthusiasm, and imagination. Our guess is you will be as amazed as we were.

Probably the most heartening feature of the entire program is the firm bond of cooperation that has been welded between the communities, the people, and their churches. Without exception, each of the 13 communities has rallied to the fullest behind its churches—building and remodeling, and financing new heating plants, pews, pianos and organs, Sunday School additions, and a host of other small—but nevertheless significant—things.

With the church as the foundation of the program, the 13 communities have taken the contest slogan, "There is no limit to what a community can do—if it wants to", and turned it into a striking, visible example.

Our biggest and brightest bouquets to the 13 communities for jobs more than well done; to County Agent S. W. Mendenhall, Mrs. Florence S. Sherrill, county home agent, and Assistant Agents T. H. Fagg and Mrs. Barbara B. Hunnicutt for their invaluable assistance in helping with organizational procedure; to the members of the contest council, headed by Erwin Patton, for its aggressive and farsighted approach in the conduct of the contest; and last, but far from least, to the business and professional people of Franklin, for showing their faith and confidence in the people of rural Macon by putting up prize money for the contest.

The new contest year is now under way. We have no doubts about its outcome.

J. P. B.

The Time Is Now!

There was considerable jubilation, when the route of the new Franklin-Dillsboro highways was announced, over the fact that it would go right through the middle of the automobile junk yard that for so long has marred the eastern entrance to Franklin. Highway progress, it appeared, was going to solve a (previously) unresolved municipal problem.

But it seems the junk yard has merely "moved over".

It is quite true that the owner of the land and the operator of the business have legal rights. But it also is true that the people of Franklin have rights. Isn't there something at the very base of our government about "the greatest good for the greatest number"?

If groups like the Franklin Board of Aldermen, the Chamber of Commerce, the Jaycees, and the Garden Club ever are going to take steps toward making Franklin's eastern entrance at least not unattractive, the time to take those steps is now. And whatever the legal obstacles, there always are ways to solve a problem like this: all that is necessary is the determination.

W. J.

An American will tinker with anything he can put his hands on. But how rarely can he be persuaded to tinker with an abstract idea.—Leland Stowe.

No Cure-All

From Washington comes the news that Defense Mobilizer Arthur Fleming has offered industry extra tax benefit incentives to build defense plants in areas of "chronic heavy unemployment". In announcing the new policy, the defense mobilizer made public a list of 17 major areas and 22 smaller ones classified by the Labor Department as such areas.

Of the 39 areas in the United States that suffer chronically from lack of enough jobs to go around, three are in North Carolina. They are listed as Asheville, Durham, and Winston-Salem.

For a variety of reasons, Asheville is unique, and the reasons for its perennial unemployment problem probably are many. Not so with Durham and Winston-Salem. They are two of the most highly industrialized cities in North Carolina's highly industrialized Piedmont. Yet they suffer from "chronic heavy unemployment"!

For good or bad, the trend is toward more and more industrialization. In Macon County, a few carefully selected, small industries probably would be "for good". But as we move toward industrialization, let us do it with our eyes open.

Industrialization is no cure-all. It isn't even a cure for unemployment—as the situation in Durham and Winston-Salem shows.

W. J.

Reasons For G. O. P. Worry?

Last fall the American people wanted a change in Washington. They got it.

Do they want another, already?

The Democratic victories last week in Virginia, New York, and New Jersey suggest that possibility.

In Virginia, which voted for Eisenhower last year, and elected three Republican congressmen to boot, the Republicans made the strongest bid in the party's history to put a man in the Virginia governor's mansion. Before the election, they figured if they could get the vote out—say a total vote of 350,000—they could win. The total vote was over 400,000—and the Republican candidate lost by 45,000 votes.

In the New York race for mayor, Democratic Robert F. Wagner, Jr., son of the late famed senator, was expected to win, but even Democrats wouldn't have been surprised if he had got in by a narrow squeak. In the three-man race, he led in every borough—even traditionally Republican Queens.

In New Jersey, which hasn't had a Democratic governor in 10 years, the Democrats' gubernatorial candidate swept the state, winning by a 154,000-vote margin. In the same election, a New Jersey congressional district which has been Republican since its organization in 1932 elected a Democrat to congress.

And these Democratic victories came on top of the upset, earlier, in Wisconsin, where a congressional district that has been Republican throughout its history chose a Democrat for congress.

President Eisenhower may have been putting these results in their proper perspective when he remarked: "I have lost skirmishes before". But the Republicans can hardly dismiss them lightly. However much they may have been affected by local issues, they undoubtedly reflect, to some extent, dissatisfaction with the Eisenhower administration to date.

While President Eisenhower himself still is popular, the drop in farm prices that has occurred since he has been in the White House is not. Neither, on the whole, is the proposed farm program of Mr. Benson, his Secretary of Agriculture. There is a feeling that not only the farm policy, but many others, are being improvised; that the administration is unsure itself of what policy to follow, and accordingly is halting in its actions.

Running even deeper is the feeling on the international situation. There can be little question that a major factor in Mr. Eisenhower's election was his implied promise to end the fighting in Korea. The fighting has ended, but there is a widespread feeling of disillusion—a feeling that we have paid a high price for a truce that really doesn't amount to much.

It probably is a good guess that, should the congressional elections scheduled for 1954 be held tomorrow, the Democrats would win control of both houses of congress; the Democrats conceivably might even win a Presidential election, if one were held tomorrow.

But a lot of things could happen between now and next November's off-year congressional balloting; and the changes could be vast indeed between sentiment today and sentiment in 1956, when we hold the next Presidential election.

W. J.

Others' Opinions

GIVE HER 'A' ON POLITICAL SCIENCE

(Harnett County News)

The wife of a city councilman tells this story to illustrate how children will copy the ways of their elders.

Her eight-year-old daughter came home for lunch one day and emptied the candy dish in a paper bag and took it back to school with her.

The mother said nothing because she assumed the sweets were for one of the many parties in her daughter's class.

When the little one came home at the end of the day, the mother said: "Well, how was the party?"

"We didn't have a party."

"No? Then why did you take the bagful of candy to school?"

"So I'd be elected president of the class. I gave a caramel to each boy and girl who promised to vote for me—and I was elected."

TWO WAY STREET

(Raleigh News and Observer)

Chancellor Robert B. House of the Chapel Hill unit of the University of North Carolina told the freshmen that "every time a person talks about freedom these days he ought to be required to emphasize that freedom carries with it the responsibility to be good citizens." Right. And every time anybody talks about good citizenship these days he should be required to emphasize that there is no such thing as good citizenship in America which does not put its stress on American freedom.

"ATTITUDES"

(Raleigh News and Observer)

Various steps have been taken to try to clean up Chitose, a center of every kind of vice near an American base in Japan, but the attitude of local Japanese authorities and business men has proved a stumbling block. Apparently it never occurred to the Army to declare the place off limits to all U. S. personnel, as Senator Lester C. Hunt of the Armed Services Committee says should have been done long ago.

Undoubtedly our troops in all parts of the world run into strange attitudes and different moral ideas. Obviously, however, such attitudes and ideas do not control the Army in the protection of its own men. Blaming this business on the Japanese will not seem a satisfactory excuse to the thousands of American parents whose sons have been drafted for service overseas. They do not expect the Army to coddle their boys. They understand that they will be subjected to dangers not all of which are of a military nature. But when the Army says it has not been able to do anything about a vice center around its gates where, the United Press says, "marijuana is easier to get and less expensive than American cigarettes", where there are 564 houses of prostitution, the attitude of the Army seems stranger than the attitude of any Japanese.

The generals are not expected to turn the Orient into a Sunday School. But parents and wives have a right to expect that it not turn their sons and husbands straight out of a base into a cesspool.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

CHAPEL HILL. — I've always been proud of Macon County; proud to say I was born and reared there.

But never have I been so proud of my home county as since last month's state-wide election on the issuance of bonds for schools and mental institutions.

Even the early, unofficial returns showed that what the folks in Macon County did on that election day was "something to write home about". But it took a comparison of the vote in this and the other counties (which was not available until the State Board of Elections had made public the official vote for each county), plus a comparison of vote with the population, to show how great was the achievement of the people of this county on October 3.

Little Macon, 73th among North Carolina's 100 counties in population, was 13th in the number of votes cast for the school bonds. (The vote for the mental institutions bonds was approximately the same.)

Big counties, with big towns and cities in their borders—Gaston, Iredell, New Hanover (Wilmington is the county seat), Wayne, and Rowan, (Salisbury is the county seat)—made much poorer showings.

Among all the state's counties, in only three were the bonds favored by a larger proportion of those voting. More than 97 per cent of those voting in Macon favored the bonds. That's more evidence — if any were needed! — that the people of Macon County are school-minded.

Finally—and this is most important of all, it seems to me—was the number of people who went to the polls. For after all, we do not question a man's good citizenship because he

doesn't vote the way we do; in a democracy, the point is not what people think so much as whether they think, not how they vote so much as whether they vote.

And Macon County folks voted! Out of every 100 people living in the county—men, women, and children—nearly 18 went to the polls and voted their convictions on this issue.

Registration figures are not available for comparison of the different counties, but population figures are; and only one county in North Carolina—our neighbor to the west, Clay—cast a larger total vote, in proportion to population. If Macon had to drop to second place in this test of citizenship, I am glad it was Clay she lost first place to.

In its issue of October 1—published just two days before the election—The Press made this editorial comment:

"Are we good enough citizens, are we intelligent enough, to take the trouble to vote in an election because the issue to be decided is important? or do we have the excitement of politicking and name-calling to get us out to the polls?"

"Macon is a small county. It cannot cast a big vote, as compared with the more populous counties. But it can cast the largest vote, in proportion to registration. That would be an enviable distinction for this county."

Well, we didn't quite make the top place, but making second, along with the other high ratings Macon won in that election balloting, truly is an enviable distinction for this county."

I'm betting that next time we'll be in the No. 1 spot. Meantime, I'm going around telling everybody who'll listen: "I'm from Macon County!"

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

As my associate, Mr. Brady, has so aptly said in the editorial columns of this paper concerning the Rural Community Development Program, "It is the finest thing that has ever happened to Macon County." I agree, and there is no more that I can say. However, if you don't believe it go see for yourself.

Congratulations are again certainly in order for the young stockmen of Macon County. It has become such a regular event that it nearly isn't news any more to say that our young FFA and 4-H club boys took nearly all the prizes at the Fat Calf Show in Asheville last week. From what good stockmen have said I am not sure but what a Macon County calf should have been declared the Grand Champion as well as the Reserve Champion, but then we didn't want to break up the meeting and had we come home with the Grand Champion again some of the rest of the counties might have become so discouraged they would have quit. The note for the boys of the future is that we have established a tradition of winning and these young men must not let the tradition die. It seems to me that the most impressive part of this year's showing by the Macon entries was that all but one of the 28 calves entered by our boys was a Blue Ribbon calf. The remaining calf won a Red Ribbon. That means that we aren't just raising an occasional good calf here and there, but that quality beef is becoming wide spread throughout the county.

Behind the scenes in both of these outstanding achievements mentioned is the support given such projects by Franklin Business and Professional men. More than a thousand dollars was raised by these men to provide added incentive for the Rural Community Development contest. Each year these same men have contributed liberally to assure the boys who are raising the prize winning calves that they will get top money.

Continued On Page Three—

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. Mark Rhinehart, well and favorably known as a careful and reliable druggist of 15 or 20 years' experience, has accepted a permanent position with Dr. H. Johnson, who occupies the elegant store room of F. M. Miller.

An earthquake was very perceptibly felt here Wednesday by many citizens. It caused several to run out of buildings very hurriedly.

We have placed about a dozen delinquents on the "dead head" list within the last week or two, because we have made every effort possible for a long while to collect what they owe, but they ignore our efforts. Nothing but charity towards them prevents our publishing their names.

25 YEARS AGO

For President: Hoover, 2,903; Smith, 2,195. Hoover's majority, 708.

No wonder the farmers of Macon find tax money hard to get when they pay \$63,000 per year in taxes on idle land.

According to an announcement made here today Mr. Frank T. Smith, who has been actively engaged in the drug business in Franklin for the past 43 years, has sold his drug store to Mr. Jim Perry, a native of Macon County.

10 YEARS AGO

The Franklin Future Farmers of the high school exhibited 12 baby beaves at the Fat Stock Show, held in Asheville last week. Although they did not have the grand champion or reserve champion, the home-grown calves won nine blue ribbons and three red ribbons.

When Bill Moore went to his home on the Georgia road Sunday morning to get his radio, he found the front door open and inside evidences of occupancy surpassing that of the Three Bears after Goldilocks. He found the empty plates of a supper devoured, general confusion of open closets and bureau drawers, and beds which had been occupied; but no "Goldilocks".