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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

DECEMBER 10, 1953

## Step On It!

Now the State Highway Patrol is taking a poke at the slow poke.

No longer will patrolmen devote their efforts to seeing to it that drivers stay within the 55-mile speed limit; they also will see that no driver loiters along at 20 miles per hour. (Wonder what they're going to do about the big trucks going up a hill.)

No longer will it be possible (without a reprimand or a fine) to drive slowly along a Western North Carolina highway, of a Sunday afternoon, and enjoy the view. No, indeed! You and I have no right to get in the way of the fellow who wants to go lickety-split, 55 m. p. h., to get—nowhere in particular!

Well, maybe the patrol knows what it is doing. Maybe this speeding up traffic makes sense.

Maybe. But we'd always understood that the chief cause of accidents was speed—not lack of it. And it occurs to us to wonder if the automobile death toll still isn't high enough to warrant the patrol's giving it its entire attention the that chief cause of slaughter on the highways—the speeder.

## What Shall It Profit?

What about the people who say it is better to let nine Communists—or even 99 Communists—escape than to convict one honest man? Are all those people Reds?

And what about the people who say of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, "maybe his methods are wrong, but . . ."? Are all those people Fascists?

It unfortunately is true that many persons in this country would answer one or the other of those questions with an unqualified "yes".

That readiness to damn a whole group illustrates the vast confusion among Americans today about two of the major problems of this period.

The first problem is how to protect the American government and what we call the American way of life from Communist conspirators.

The second is how to protect fundamental American freedoms from those who would sacrifice them on the altar of anti-Communism.

A part of the confusion grows out of the tendency to assume that, because the two problems are related, they are one and the same; whereas they are distinct and different.

What probably has confused a far larger number is the somewhat hysterical assumption that one of the two problems is so important the other doesn't matter.

That viewpoint is illustrated by some of those who have invoked the Fifth Amendment to the Constitution to avoid testifying before Congressional committees; for undoubtedly some of those who have refused to testify were honest, patriotic Americans—so patriotic they were willing to sacrifice their reputations in order to protest against what they considered an invasion of the right of free thought and free speech. People at that extreme are so ready to underrate the spy danger they are quite likely to say there is no such thing as a spy—a dangerous assumption for any nation.

On the other hand, many of those who defend Senator McCarthy undoubtedly are equally honest and patriotic. In their case, the fear of Communists has become such an obsession they have accepted, consciously or unconsciously, the McCarthy philosophy that a good end justifies any means—an assumption that is fatal to freedom, as well as to morals.

What both groups fail or refuse to see is that there are two problems, not one; that they are equally important; and that the right solution of one will be fruitless unless at the same time we find the right solution of the other.

For what shall it profit America if we save the

legal shell of our constitutional freedoms but become a satellite of Soviet Russia? It is not the guarantees of freedoms, but the freedoms themselves, that count.

Conversely, what shall we have gained if we win the contest with Russia but sacrifice our freedoms to do it? A dictatorship is a dictatorship, and what name it goes under is of little consequence.

And if the Harry Dexter White case and the long series of similar incidents have proved anything, they have proved that the right solution will come from neither extreme; that if either should gain control, it would solve one problem at the expense of the other.

Yet to stay free—of domination either by Russia, on the one hand, or by a totalitarian government that is American in name only, on the other—we must find the right solutions of BOTH problems.

Who will find those solutions? There is considerable evidence they will not come out of official Washington, Democrat or Republican.

In the final analysis, the answers probably depend on the courage and the good sense of average Americans—or people like you and me.

## We Wonder

A new automobile financial responsibility law, which will effect every motor vehicle owner in Macon and the state's other 99 counties, will go into effect January 1. (See "Free, at the Gas Station", on this page.)

The law is being hailed by newspapers over the state as a big step forward. It is argued, quite logically, that it is not right to permit a person to drive an automobile who hasn't first made provision, either through his own financial resources or through insurance, for paying for the lives he may take or the damage he may cause, as a result of an accident.

But is the new law right? We wonder.

First of all, there is the question of whether, in an age when a motor vehicle often is a necessity in earning a living, it is right for the State to force every driver, regardless of his income, to carry heavy liability insurance—perhaps the most expensive of all insurance. Is not such a law discriminatory? Does it not say, to all intents and purposes, that the driver who can afford liability insurance may drive, but that the man who cannot may not drive? What about the small trucker who is barely earning a living now?

Second, we question the moral right of the State of North Carolina, or any other governing body, to demand of its citizens that they buy a given commodity from private business, paying thereon a profit—for of course private business is and must be operated for profit.

Would it not be as reasonable for the State to require every citizen to be able, either through personal financial resources or insurance, to meet the costs of possible illness—so he would not become a public charge?

Automobile financial responsibility is needed, as a matter of justice. But if the State is going to require liability insurance—and the law's alternative is a purely technical one—then the State should itself set up the machinery for such insurance and provide the insurance at actual cost.

## Others' Opinions

### WHO'S DELINQUENT?

(Matton, Ill., Journal Gazette)

Sudden thought: Perhaps there was far less juvenile delinquency in the good old days because our forefathers had better parents than the present younger generation has.

### DRY WIT

(Fort Myers, Fla., News-Press)

There had been a long dry spell and two cowboys were discussing the lack of grass.

"Just how bad are things over at your ranch?" asked one.

"Pretty tough," replied the other. "Why, our cattle are so thin that by using carbon paper, we can brand 'em two at a time."

### THE ALTERNATIVE

(Morganton News-Herald)

This question from a reader:

"You suggest that Morganton's approach to the sewage treatment system problem should be a positive one, and yet you imply that there is an element of compulsion. What if the city should fall to provide the sanitary facilities? What then?"

We don't know, but it would be our prediction that there would be strained relations with neighboring towns, possibly

law suits in which Morganton would be in an indefensible position, and a guilty conscience for not having done what should have been done long ago.

We don't know any other town of comparable size which does not have a sewage treatment system or which has tried to "get by" as Morganton has.

## FREE, AT THE GAS STATION

(Charlotte News)

Your car may be winterized, but that is not sufficient preparation to operate it in North Carolina after next month.

Between now and the end of the month every Tar Heel car owner and driver ought to do two things.

1. Get a copy of the booklet on the Motor Vehicle Responsibility Law, which goes into effect January 1, from a filling station.
2. Check to be sure that you carry enough liability insurance on your car to cover claims up to \$11,000.

The reason for the first step is that this booklet tells what you must do, and heretofore did not have to do, if you are involved in an auto accident.

The reason for the second step is that if you are in an accident, and do not carry liability insurance, you may end up with no driver's license and a big debt.

Furthermore if, after January 1 someone driving your uninsured car gets involved in an accident, both of you may find yourselves without driving privileges.

If you are the operator of a car involved in an accident in which someone was killed or injured, or there was total property damage to an apparent extent of \$100, you will have to do the following:

1. Immediately report the accident to a policeman, patrolman or sheriff.
2. Within 24 hours make a written report on the Department of Motor Vehicles form that you can obtain from a policeman, patrolman or sheriff.

The operator of every car involved in the accident, whether or not he was responsible for the accident, must make these two reports. If a claim results from the accident, and your liability insurance is in order, your worries are over, as far as this law is concerned. If, however, you don't carry insurance, you may have to post security requirements, which could be as high as \$11,000, within 60 days—else lose your driver's license. Of course you won't have to raise that money if other parties in the accident, or the courts, absolve you from liability.

This law is an important part of North Carolina's highway safety program. It is much better than the law it will replace. Motor Vehicles Commissioner Ed Scheidt, who explained the law over the radio last night, and the petroleum distributors and gasoline station operators who are passing out the booklets, are all co-operating nicely to help you, the motorist, learn about this law.

## Poetry

Editor  
EDITH DEADBERRY ERSKINE  
Weaverville, North Carolina

### TRUCE

The soldier rests, his rifle cool—  
The soldier knows that men are fools.  
The war that ended just last night  
Did not prove what's wrong or right.  
The soldier rests and now at last  
He prays the clouds of blood have passed . . .  
He sits upon the pock-marked soil  
Hoping never to repeat this toil.  
Somehow he knows across the way  
That his enemy feels the same this day.

PVT. DAVID W. SHIELDS

2nd Regiment,  
351st Infantry.

## STRICTLY

## PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

CHAPEL HILL.—They went in for culture, over Raleigh way last week, three or four days of it.

There were meetings of the N. C. State Art Society, the N. C. Society of County and Local Historians, the N. C. Literary and Historical Association, and the N. C. Society for the Preservation of Antiquities.

A youthful wag, noting the preponderance of elderly women at the meeting of the latter group, wisecracked that "all the antiquities were there".

There is a lot of good natured joking, too, about all this concentration of culture, within a period of less than a week, with frequent comments about it's being culture spelled with a capital C.

There is general recognition, however, that these organizations, through presentation of awards and otherwise, have done much to help North Carolina lift itself by its own bootstraps in the fields of art, history, literature, etc.

Thanks to an invitation from Walter Spearman, University journalism professor, to go along with him, I had the opportunity to attend the final session of the Literary and Historical group. Then, after the program proper, I followed him to the reception. I must confess this

was against my better judgment and my inclination. That's true for two reasons: I've always found, at a reception, I had at least three hands that I didn't know what to do with; and I've always been convinced that the person who first thought up the idea of a reception was looking for a way to punish a lot of enemies, all at the same time.

Mr. Spearman, however, is a book reviewer as well as journalism teacher; he had read and reviewed many of the books entered in the competitions; and I found he knew personally most of the celebrities present. Thus I got a personal introduction to some of them, including the three winners—Mrs. Inglis Fletcher, author of a series of historical novels laid in North Carolina; Mrs. Frances Gray Patton, short story writer; and Legette Blythe (whom I had known years ago when we were both on the Charlotte Observer). It was his book, "Miracle of the Hills", on Dr. Mary Martin Sloop, of Crossnore, that won the award for him.

And do you know what? They are the simplest, plainest folks you can imagine! As we used to say, in the old days in Macon County, about people who weren't "stuck up", they were "plumb common".

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

In the Republican party the hour of decision has arrived. Members of that party now have to decide whether they will follow the leadership of the President or the man who would be president in 1956—Senator McCarthy. No matter how vigorously Jolting Joe may deny that he is at odds with the president his attacks on our foreign policy are a direct affront to the President. Members of the party now in power can decide whether they want to support the man, Dwight Eisenhower, who restored the Republican party to power, or the demagogue McCarthy. If they are concerned about the threat of communists in our government somehow I can't help but feel that they would rather trust the job of their removal to Eisenhower than to a man whose methods leave little to be desired over the methods practiced by the communists themselves.

In North Carolina, as in most other states, we have a body called the Public Utilities Commission. This is a very necessary body. Because of the very nature of their organization it is necessary that utilities be given the franchise for their particular type of business in a given territory. Equally so it is necessary that there be a governing regulatory body. This body is the Public Utilities Commission. In short its function is to see that the public is well served and charged fairly for this service. Here in Macon County we are served by three different types of utilities—the Nantahala Power and Light Company, The Western Carolina Telephone Company, and The Smoky Mountain Trailways. With the first two organizations we have no quarrel as to service, and would like to take this opportunity to say that we do not believe any electric company in North Carolina gives better service to its area than the Nantahala Power and Light Company. The service offered by the telephone company is certainly satisfactory, though the rate seems a little high. But we wonder if the Utilities Commission even realizes it should govern the practices of bus companies. We say this particularly in regard to the service they furnish. If you happen to want to catch a bus out of Franklin Sunday evening you sure are in bad luck if its raining. Oh yes, the bus will run after while but there is no bus station open for you to wait

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## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK  
Miss Nina Porter and her little nephew, Robert Crawford, came over from Asheville Friday to spend a few days with relatives.

Messrs. Curtis Cunningham and Jess Jacobs last Friday bought out the livery business of T. B. Shepherd. Tom is now like a fish out of water, but he will soon flounder back.

It is dry hereabouts. Many of the springs and branches are dry; rains have been infrequent and of short duration since summer. This is unusual. (Highlands).

25 YEARS AGO  
According to an announcement made here, T. W. Angel, of Franklin, has sold his bus line to the Independent Bus Line of Asheville.

Though the roads were in bad condition due to two days steady rain, about 100 rural families were represented at the courthouse last Saturday for the one-day farm school, the first of its kind in the history of the county.

The 30-foot lookout tower on Wayah Bald has been completed by Ranger Z. B. Byrd. This tower is well anchored by strong cables and is perfectly safe. The public is invited to make use of the tower in extended views of the country.

10 YEARS AGO  
There have been no forest fires in Macon County for the past few months, according to E. A. Schilling, supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest.

Sheriff Charles T. McCracken, of Soda Springs, Idaho, is visiting his father-in-law, R. L. Scott, and his brother, Wayne McCracken, of Route 4.

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