

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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THURSDAY, FEB. 4, 1954

## How Much Longer?

It can never be said the citizens of the Nantahala Community haven't been patient—overly so, we figure.

And now that patience is wearing thin—justifiably so, we think.

Their demand of the State Highway Department is reasonable. They only want what is due them—an all-weather road into their community, for, after all, they are a part of Macon County. Although they're closer to Andrews, in Cherokee County, they naturally want to trade in Franklin, want to be able to visit with their friends, and feel they are a part of the county.

But a rutty dirt road and bad weather all too frequently force them to abandon their wants.

The money (\$750,000) for an all-weather road into the community was allocated in January, 1952.

A survey of the proposed all-weather road was started in January, 1953, and completed a few months later.

Since then, the citizens of Nantahala have patiently waited.

How much longer must they wait?

## Can He Do It?

Lower tariffs and more free trade are advocated by the Foreign Economic Policy Commission, headed by Clarence B. Randall. The program has the official blessing of President Eisenhower.

But, Republican Senators Millikin, Reed, and Simpson all are opposed. Perhaps they have forgotten the damage the Smoot-Hawley Tariff program did the country in the late twenties.

John Foster Dulles is attempting to work with representatives of other countries in the quest for world peace. In doing this, however, he is taking a firm stand on the basic principles for which this country stands and at the same time passing up no opportunity to hear the viewpoints from other nations. He has the backing of President Eisenhower.

But Republican senator Bicker and others would so tie his hands that he will be powerless to represent the viewpoint of this nation at the conference table.

Dwight Eisenhower may have a chance and the ability to go down in history as one of the great leaders for world peace, but before he can do this he must overcome the narrowness of some members of the political party of his choosing.

## Have You Noticed?

Have you noticed the extra spark in this year's March of Dimes drive?

How folks seem to be really putting their hearts into pushing the county over the top of its \$3,000 goal?

Well, it's there if you'll just look for it, and we suspect the recent announcement by science that this will be the "show-down" year on polio has a lot to do with it.

Polio is no stranger here. We've battled through epidemics, and all of us know what it feels like to choke back a sob when we see a tousel-headed youngster keep smiling, although his body is twisted and drawn by polio.

And we know, too, the feeling of hopelessness polio leaves in its wake. This probably explains why, in some past drives, the county has failed to raise its full quota.

Yes, Macon County remembers and wants to be in on the kill when the disease is conquered.

We'll raise our quota this year.

## Others' Opinions

### MORNING EXODUS (Greenwood, Miss., Commonwealth)

The Population Reference Bureau, Inc., reports that more and more Americans are moving into cities. They certainly seem to be doing it at the hours when we are trying to get to work in the morning.

### SURPLUS (Jim Parker in Chatham News)

My wife's father is a hard man to buy a Christmas present for. He announced to us early in December that he had managed to accumulate a lot in his sixty years on this earth and that he had everything that he needed and most everything he had ever wanted.

And so it is hard to find something different for him.

Christmas afternoon when he opened his presents I really felt sorry for him. The first package he opened contained a garment storage bag, one of those plaid bags with the hook on it, so useful for carrying clothes in a car. The next package contained a second one, of a different color, and he remarked that he could always use two of them.

The third package contained another one, and this time he didn't say anything—he just sighed.

### PROGRESS (Charlotte News)

We note today, with some satisfaction, another sign that the nation is slowly recovering from the emotional binge often, though perhaps inaccurately, described as "national hysteria".

In Illinois, between six and eight thousand books once withdrawn from state library shelves as "salacious, vulgar or obscene" have been restored by order of Secretary of State Charles F. Carpenter.

Carpenter says, a bit plaintively, that librarians were "over-zealous" in carrying out his order. If he expected them to be otherwise, he is a very naive man. Every recorded effort in history to ban or to limit the circulation of books, no matter how high or how proper the motives, has been seized upon by frenzied zealots as an excuse for the wholesale decimation of libraries.

The original Illinois order was ill-advised, but the damage appears to have been undone by the rescinding thereof.

### IS IT 'ME'?

(Christian Science Monitor)

Queen Elizabeth II, according to a report from her tour in New Zealand, heard two small girls near the royal car arguing whether the lady within was the Queen or Princess Margaret. "I leaned over", the monarch related, "and said, 'No, it's me'."

A generation ago a number of grammatical purists would have insisted, and probably some still do, that the proper phrase would be, "It is I." However, the "me" has long been accepted usage in Britain, and the National Council of Teachers of England once acknowledged it as also an American idiom.

Like other idioms, it won't parse, but it is clearly understood. How explain, for example, why a Frenchman says, "Qu'est-ce que c'est?" (literally "What is this that it is") for "What is this?" And how satisfactory would it be to try to straighten out the syntax of the well-loved Negro spiritual, "It's Me, O Lord, Standin' in the Need o' Prayer!"?

Actually, the Queen's "It's me" harks from ancient times as part of the king's English.

### ROLL CALL

(New York Times)

There has been much discussion as to the judgment that should be passed on fighting men who were taken captive in Korea and who weakened under threats, hardships or torture. Those who have never faced what they faced may well be hesitant in criticizing them. No one of us knows in advance how much he can stand. Not all of us are born with the physical and moral courage needed to endure and exist under conditions of captivity and we cannot always acquire what we are not both with.

But whatever we think of those who yielded to their captors to save themselves pain or to gain privileges, there is no confusion at all as to those who did not yield. Secretary of the Navy Robert Anderson has conferred decorations in a Pentagon ceremony on five Marines who stubbornly refused, in the words of the citation, "to bear false witness against their country." These are not the only five men to deserve this honor, but they were selected after a rigorous examination of their records. Their names will be forgotten by most of us, but it is good to let them be read off once more: Lieut. Col. William G. Thrash and John N. McLaughlin, M-Sgt. John T. Cain, Maj. Walter R. Harris and Capt. John W. Flynn, Jr.

Perhaps the memory of these five men and what they and others did will put courage some day into someone else fighting hard to save his conscience and his soul.

### IDLENESS CAN BE FATAL

(Milwaukee Journal)

In the years immediately following adoption of federal old-age retirement benefits, many industrial companies adopted supplementary pension plans to aid their employees to retire at 65. In many instances the plans called for compulsory retirement at that age. Most recently the tendency has been to make retirement age requirements more flexible.

There has been a very good reason for this—most workers who are well and still competent are reluctant to step out of harness, sensing that idleness will shorten their lives. They

## OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat

### WHAT MANNER OF MAN?

"THE TRUE TEST OF CIVILIZATION IS NOT THE CENSUS, NOR THE SIZE OF CITIES, NOR THE CROPS—NO, BUT THE MANNER OF MAN THE COUNTRY TURNS OUT." —RALPH WALDO EMERSON



BECAUSE THIS COUNTRY CONFERS FREEDOM ON THE INDIVIDUAL AND THE RESPONSIBILITY THAT GOES WITH THAT GIFT—BECAUSE WE HOLD IN HIGH HONOR THE QUALITIES OF INDUSTRY, INITIATIVE AND THRIFT, OF INTEGRITY AND DEVOTION TO HOME AND FAMILY, THE MEN THIS COUNTRY TURNS OUT ARE STURDY, SELF-RELIANT CITIZENS, BRED IN THE GREAT TRADITIONS OF OUR DEMOCRACY.

feel, moreover, that at their age it will be impossible to find some other satisfying use for their time.

The Overstreets—Dr. Harry and Mrs. Bonaro—who spoke in Milwaukee several weeks ago, have one answer to this problem. They are themselves "retired," but occupy themselves with lecturing and writing. They suggest that persons who do not need to earn money after retirement go into volunteer welfare work in hospitals and elsewhere and that those who need added income take part-time jobs.

The prime purpose in both cases would be to prolong life by having a continued interest in living, which can be had only by participation in some productive endeavor.

The only alternative to this readjustment is to permit the older to continue working for the old employer, perhaps in some different capacity, and perhaps for less than the normal 40-hour week.

As the Overstreets say, there are few jobs which kill, but not working is often quickly fatal to the person whose work has been a large share of his life for years and years.

## STRICTLY

### PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

(News Editor's Note: Weimar Jones doesn't have time to write his column this week. He was busy, very busy, preparing an address for delivery before the N. C. Press Association Institute in his capacity as association president. How effective was this address, which was aimed not at some vague issue but at the close-to-home inadequacies of newspapers serving the public? For the first time in the 21 year history of the institute, the President received a standing ovation.

Following is the Associated Press account of Mr. Jones' address:)

DURHAM, N. C.—The press of North Carolina was challenged to work out a new code of ethics here last night at the group's annual award meeting at Duke University.

Weimar Jones, president of the N. C. Press Assn. and editor and publisher of The Franklin Press, received a standing ovation during his remarks in which he told the newsmen that they lost the battle over the "Secrecy Law" of the 1953 Legislature because they lost the people's confidence.

Jones called for two steps in the direction of increased "newspaper responsibility":

1. "At these Duke dinners we give recognition to technical excellence in writing and photography. . . . I suggest we go a step farther and offer awards for outstanding performance in the field of newspaper responsibility."

2. "I propose that a group, made up of the finest charter and the best brains we can find in North Carolina, be asked to assume the task of working out a broad statement of journalistic principles to fit the hard problems you and I face in today's complex and confusing world—a practical statement not only enunciating a code of journalistic responsibility, but delimiting for use these vague

areas where none of us is ever quite sure where responsibility ends and irresponsibility begins."

Endorsing the association's stand against the Secrecy Law, Jones declared: "Except in a few, narrow areas, secrecy about public affairs is wrong. It is our job as good citizens to see that these iniquitous secrecy laws are repealed. We must keep fighting until they are . . . but that alone is not enough."

"We lost a battle in Raleigh last spring. We lost it because we hadn't kept our powder dry. Most of us are agreed that we could and would have won if the people had been willing to fight. And most of us are agreed that the reason the people were apathetic was that they just didn't believe us when we told them it was their fight."

"Why have we lost the people's confidence? Let's be honest with ourselves. Isn't it because newspapers, as a class, too often have boasted of reliability in their news columns, but put their emphasis on other things—the dramatic and the clever phrase; permitted the acquire for speed to interfere with accuracy and coarseness to stand in the way of real objectivity; forgotten reportorial responsibility in the intoxication of reportorial power?"

"Isn't it because we have been courageous on our editorial pages in inverse ratio to distance, boldly championing the cause of freedom, in Indochina or Africa, but carefully straddling controversial issues near home?"

"The people are not fools. They have sensed these things. But fortunately, because they are not fools, we can regain their confidence. All we have to do is to deserve it."

"I covet for the newspapers of North Carolina the distinction of taking the lead in a movement toward the building of a press so reliable, so courageous, so honest, that it will command the confidence of the people."

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Two years ago in this column I expressed the hope that something would be done to improve the road from Nantahala to Franklin. It should be done because those citizens there should have a decent road to travel to their county seat. It would be good business because of the local trade that would increase between there and here and visa versa and the great tourist potential it opens for this whole section by making Nantahala lake accessible and its further development possible as a tourist attraction. Last year I had high hopes. It was announced in January that the survey would be started. I understand this has been completed. But to date no dirt has been moved or no contract let. The people of Nantahala have waited long enough. Let's us here in Franklin do all that we can for them to get this road. They deserve the road and we need the business.

This year one of the main things I think that Macon County citizens should concern themselves with is making sure that we get a revaluation of the taxable property here and that the revaluation is done by an outside firm which specializes in that type of work.

The reason I think that a firm of experts should be employed is just this: What would

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## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

**50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK**  
Revs. J. E. Woosley and T. E. Winecoff went to Bryson City Thursday to attend the missionary meeting. They had a snowy day for the trip.

On arising Thursday morning from their slumbers our citizens found the earth covered with snow and more falling quite rapidly. By Friday morning it reached a depth of about six inches.

Eggs are selling at 15 cents a dozen.

A few months ago our honorable board of town commissioners passed an ordinance and gave public notice in The Press that any person burying a corpse inside the corporation of Franklin after January 1st, 1904, would be subject to a fine of \$50. If a person should die, what is to be done with the corpse? How stands the matter anyway?

### 25 YEARS AGO

According to the latest reports the new municipal well is now at a depth of about 80 feet. Water was struck at 40 feet, but not the kind of water the town board wants and will get—perhaps.

A forest fire on Rabbit Creek on January 29 burned over about 30 acres of land belonging to J. T. Berry, Will Perry, and L. A. Allen. A number of fences and, it is said, a barn were burned.

Schedule the trial of a scandal case and the court house is filled with people. Call an important meeting for the farmers of the county and probably 50 will come.

In our opinion John Henry missed his calling when he failed to become a lawyer. When persuasion is necessary John can deliver the goods. He seems to know instinctively when to get rough and when to don the gloves.

When politicians become afraid of honest elections it's a safe bet that they have been guilty in the past of "irregularities" to say the least.

### 10 YEARS AGO

One of the largest real estate deals of the season in Franklin was the sale on January 31 of Hotel Bryson by R. L. Bryson. They buyers were Horner Stockton and R. S. Jones, Franklin attorneys, who it is understood have bought the property as an investment.

George Byrd and family, of Byrd's Creek, have gone to Hamilton, Wash., where he has a position.

The Rev. L. H. Smith, pastor of the Highlands Methodist Church, was given an old-fashioned pounding Thursday night at the parsonage. Dr. Jessie Z. Moreland was hostess for the occasion and was assisted by the Misses Marion Norton and Maxie Wright.