

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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WEIMAR JONES Editor  
BOB S. SLOAN Business Manager  
J. P. BRADY News Editor  
MISS BETTY LOU FOUTS Office Manager  
CARL P. CABE Mechanical Superintendent  
FRANK A. STARRETTE Shop Superintendent  
DAVID H. SUTTON Stereotyper  
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON Pressman

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FEBRUARY 18, 1954

## Stop It Now!

One of the many wonderful things about living in Macon County is the fact that almost everybody is honest as a matter of course. It is rare indeed to find a place where you can leave home, for an hour or a week, and never have to think of locking doors.

We'll keep Macon County that way only if we make it unmistakably clear that thievery will not be tolerated here.

And so, while we ordinarily have great sympathy for a person caught in the toils of the law and rarely favor long sentences, we hope those responsible for that series of break-ins in the Highlands area will be caught and convicted, and that the court will mete out sentences severe enough to deter any would-be thief from coming to Macon County for his depredations.

What better advertisement could we have for Macon County than to be able to say it is a place where thievery simply isn't permitted — and so doesn't happen?

## Mr. Slagle Retires

The purpose of elections, in a democratic country, is to determine, fairly and honestly, the will of the people.

It has been our observation that that thought has been uppermost in the mind of Mr. Siler Slagle during his period as chairman of the Macon County board of elections. It is a difficult, and often a thankless, job he has had, and because the evidence is that he has done it well, The Press regrets his retirement.

To his successor, whose identity is not known as this is written, go our best wishes. The duties he is taking on are a challenge and a responsibility.

They are a challenge, because often the right thing is not the popular thing. They are a responsibility for the reason that democratic government will live and function only so long as the people have faith in democracy, and they will have faith in democratic processes only so long as they have faith in the honesty and fairness of elections.

## More About Secrecy

This newspaper last week listed four narrow areas in which secrecy in government sometimes may be justified—in the grand jury room, in the discussion of the characters and personalities of applicants for positions as teachers in the public schools, in the preliminary consideration of the purchase of property for public use, and where the national security clearly is at stake.

It probably was clear in last week's editorial, but just in case it wasn't—

Except where the national security is involved, this newspaper can see no excuse for secrecy in legislation, whether enacted at Raleigh or at Washington.

Legislators serve simply as the servants and delegates of the people. Surely the people, who are to be bound by the legislators' actions, are entitled to know every detail of why and how every legislative decision is arrived at.

## Tactical Error

Friends and supporters of Senator Alton Lennon must regret his outburst the other day when he referred to his opponent for the U. S. Senate as a "demagogue" and in other uncomplimentary terms. While he did not call his opponent by name, there could be no doubt that Mr. Lennon was referring to Kerr Scott.

Aside from the issue of good taste and statesmanship, it almost certainly will prove a tactical error.

In the first place, if the campaign becomes a dirty

one, Mr. Lennon must bear the responsibility of being the first to engage in personalities.

In the second, a candidate rarely indulges in name-calling unless she is on the defensive; the public knows quite well that when a man begins to call names it is apt to be because he doesn't know what else to do.

Friends and supporters of Mr. Scott, on the other hand, must be hoping he will not reply in kind. He can best capitalize, in fact, on his opponent's error by sticking to his pledge to conduct a clean campaign. Whether Mr. Scott will do that remains to be seen.

## Others' Opinions

### THE ASK-IT TEST (Chicago Daily Tribune)

Pick a fellow and ask him a question. If he says, "No comment," he's a big shot. If he says, "I refuse to answer," he's a questionable shot; and if he says, "I don't know," he's an ordinary, confused citizen.

### DIDN'T VOTE FOR DEWEY (Smithfield Herald)

Isn't it about time for somebody to dig up that old one about the man who found it wise to vote for Dewey? Remember? Every time he voted for Dewey, times got better.

Maybe that voter had something. He didn't get to vote for Dewey last time. And see? The business cycle took a dip.

### PUBLIC CONFIDENCE (Durham Sun)

Wisconsin's Joe McCarthy has learned that even Joe McCarthy needs to have a certain amount of public confidence behind him. He has found that Abraham Lincoln knew what he was talking about when Mr. Lincoln observed that it is impossible to fool all of the people all of the time.

Joe McCarthy felt the futility of proceeding with a one-man subcommittee (The Democratic members had withdrawn and the Republican members were merely rubber stamps). McCarthy invited the Democratic senators to return to the subcommittee ranks. He agreed to abandon his position that he should exercise dictatorial rights within the subcommittee.

The Democrats have returned. It remains to be seen what McCarthy attempts henceforth; but, whatever it is and however the Democratic subcommittee members acquire themselves, McCarthy has confessed that he could not successfully assume arbitrary authority. He has bowed, for the moment at any rate, to public opinion.

### WHO READS POETRY NOWADAYS? (Greensboro Daily News)

A modern poet recently suggested that people don't read modern poetry because they don't read any poetry because they don't read anything.

That may be true to a considerable extent in our hectic age, but our guess is that many still read poetry—mostly old poetry—because they need to. It may be the poetry of the Bible in the Book of Job, the Psalms, Ecclesiastes and the Gospels; the work of the philosophical poets, Lucretius, Dante and Goethe; the poems of those who "make this too much loved earth more lovely," Herrick, Shelley, Keats; or Shakespeare and Euripides who threw the searchlight of poetic drama into men's minds and hearts.

When poetry comes to men speaking truth in terms of beauty, men will read it for thousands of years, indeed as long as there is light to read by or earth to stand on. But its talk of truth must be translated into beautiful words for it to be poetry. Man has no deeper or more constant desire than for "beauty, old yet ever new, eternal voice and inward word." That desire may turn to tawdry channels but it is always there waiting, if not hoping, for the best. Alfred North Whitehead, the philosopher, got at its essence when he said that "when youth once grasps where beauty dwells . . . its self-surrender is absolute."

Poets may fail men, but poetry never does; it is a well of living water which may rise or fall at times but which can never run dry because it is fed by springs older than man and deeper than the earth.

### FRANCIS C. ANSCOMBE

## How Is It We Are Able To Hear? The Ear Is A Marvel Of Nature

In Twin City Sentinel

Salem College through its Department of Music has been making noteworthy contributions to the cultural life of the city. The recent piano recitals by Clemons Sandresky, Hans Heidermann and James Hart have been highly meritorious. The large attendance has attested to the ability of the artists and to wide-spread appreciation of good music.

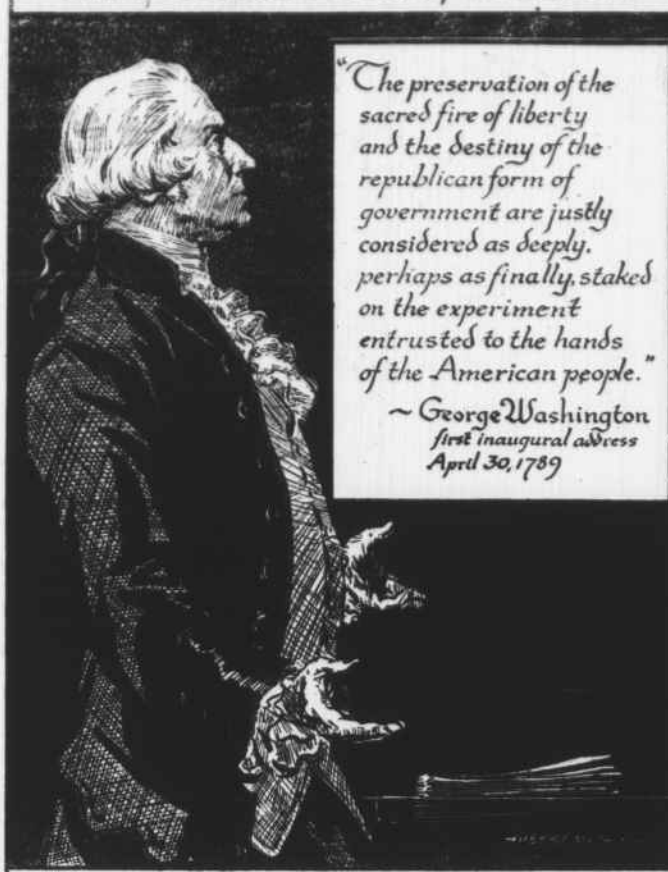
How many of the audience considered how they were able to hear the music? Probably most folks suppose the musician produces the music and the listeners hear it. Actually that is not so. The skillful performer never makes any music at all; all he does is to produce air vibrations! The music is created in the minds of the listeners! This is very comforting to the many unfortunates who do not know one note from another; it is a grand solace to

realize that it is the marvelous brain of the listener and not the technique of the virtuoso that produces all the gorgeous music.

The process of hearing is among the greatest of nature's marvels. The human ear consists of three main parts—the external ear, the middle ear and the internal ear. The outer ear is a curiously contrived funnel to gather the sound waves and direct them inward. Most animals have moveable ears, but humans have allowed the wiggling muscles to atrophy.

The tympanum or ear drum is a very sensitive membrane at the entrance to the middle ear. This responds to the air vibrations and causes three tiny and delicate bones—the hammer, the anvil and stirrup to be agitated according to the pitch, timbre and volume of the air vibrations. These bones act as

## OUR DEMOCRACY—by Mat "THE SACRED FIRE of LIBERTY"



"The preservation of the sacred fire of liberty and the destiny of the republican form of government are justly considered as deeply, perhaps as finally, staked on the experiment entrusted to the hands of the American people."  
—George Washington  
first inaugural address  
April 30, 1789

"BECAUSE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HAVE MADE THAT EXPERIMENT WORK SO WELL FOR US, THE FREE PEOPLES OF THE WORLD—AND THOSE WHO ASPIRE TO FREEDOM—LOOK TO THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC FOR HOPE AND LEADERSHIP IN PRESERVING "THE SACRED FIRE OF LIBERTY."

do the dampers of a piano. They are embedded in and protected by the temporal bone and transmit the sound waves or air vibrations from outside to the inner portion of the ear, known as the labyrinth.

Here is one of nature's masterpieces. What are described as stiff hairs quiver according to the vibrations, and it is the opinion of some authorities that there is a separate hair for every one of the different sounds humans can apprehend—some say 16,000.

The cochlea or snail shell is probably the receptor or the place where vibrations are converted into nerve impulses.

The semi-circular canals make some contribution to the hearing process, but their chiefest function is the preservation of balance of the whole body.

The auditory nerve transmits the agitations of the various membranes, bones, muscles, fluids, hairs and emotions to the brain, and an incomprehensible miracle occurs. These various vibrations are converted into something utterly different, to wit, music.

No one knows whether that which is created within is the

same as that produced without.

Another matter which is worthy of attention is the manner in which the sound waves reach the ear. No two people hear the same music. The air vibrations proceed in all directions. Few come direct to one's ears. They may have bounced all over the place. Clothing and upholstery absorb much of the sound waves; music in an almost empty room is not the same as when well filled.

How can many variations enter the ear at the same instant? Suppose there is a full orchestra and at least a dozen different kinds of instruments. How do the waves become composite? And how does the trained ear hear several instruments at the same time?

All sound waves travel at the same speed, but each note or noise has its own definite wave length. The human ear can receive over eleven octaves of vibration ranging from about 32 to 32,000 per second, and they vary in length from 35 feet to 1/3 of an inch. Middle C has a frequency of 256 per second. The next higher octave has double

Continued On Page Three—

## Poetry

Editor  
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE  
Weaverville, North Carolina

### JUST PEOPLE

How high, how wide, how deep is GREAT,  
The applauded one, the potentate?  
His measurements are out of date.  
Just PEOPLE stand without the gate  
To meet the world—just people wait.

—EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE

Weaverville, N. C.

### STRICTLY

## PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

CHAPEL HILL.—After more than five months in Chapel Hill, I still am amazed—and given a lift—by the remarkable honesty of the young people attending the University.

They are honest in many ways. First of all, there is the basic way of not stealing the property of others. The students seem to leave books anywhere without fear of not finding them when they come back; rarely does anybody lock an automobile, even though coats or other valuables may be left in the car; and while students have often said to me that they had "lost" something, I am yet to hear one say that anything had been "stolen" from him.

My personal experience bears out the point. Twice within recent weeks, after having a meal at a restaurant, I have discovered that my overcoat was missing from the place where I had hung it. In each case, when I returned for the next meal, there was my coat—and the similar-looking one, that I had observed when mine was missing, was gone!

They are honest in their work. The honor system has been de-

veloped here, over a period of decades, to an extent perhaps not equaled at any other school in the country.

It is more or less standard practice for an instructor to write a quiz on the classroom blackboard and then leave the room and not return until the end of the class period.

Does nobody take advantage of such a situation to cheat? A few of the some 5,500 students here undoubtedly do. But I have checked not only official sources but have talked to many students about it. And from every source I get the same reply: "Honesty is taken for granted. Cheating is very rare. There is less of it here than any place I know."

Then, there usually is this significant added remark:

"In the few cases where there is cheating, it usually occurs when an instructor shows he does not trust his students."

Finally, these Carolina students are honest in the hardest way of all—in their thinking. They do a remarkably good job of seeing things as they are, not as they might like

Continued on Page Three—

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

The local political pot is beginning to boil, at least on the Democratic fires. More and more possible candidates are being mentioned. However, sometimes when you hear that so and so is going to run for such and such an office always remember that it may be that no one has mentioned it to the alleged candidate.

At present, the only person I have heard mentioned as a possibility for the office of clerk of the court is John Edwards. I don't know that he is considering seeking the office, but I have heard his name mentioned by a good many people.

For register of deeds, Lake Shope will run again and probably without opposition in the Democratic primary.

In the Sheriff's race, Harry Thomas has announced that he will seek the office again. There has been some talk that George Byrd, state highway employee, and Clarence Byrd, former patrolman, will seek the office.

For representatives — As yet there is no announced candidate (remember that this is being written Monday, by Thursday we may have several). Among those I have heard mentioned are Clyde West, Jim Raby, and Rev. W. N. Cook.

If anybody is going to run for the board of county commissioners or the board of education, they sure are keeping it quiet. My guess would be that there will be 10 or more candidates for the latter office — there generally is.

Turning to the representative again. There is one law I would like to see enacted. When ever a representative enacts a law which pertains to this county only and when the law requires the expenditures of additional funds I think that it should be required that the law also state how the funds will be raised. In short, when a representative goes to Raleigh and passes a law which requires the school board to pay the bus drivers more salary or the board of county commissioners to pay out money for fire protection he should also have to include in his measure provisions (generally a tax increase which

Continued On Page Three—

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

We would like to have a few bushel of oats on subscription.

Mr. D. J. Richards, of South Sherborn, Mass., was here Monday. Mr. Richards owns a large body of land on upper Nantahala, which he was here to look after.

Mr. R. P. Palmer and Miss Carrie Rogers, of Clay county, were in town the latter part of last week, on a visit for a day or two.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Miss Mattie Franks, of Greensburg, Indiana, has been chosen Indiana's Most Deserving Girl in a newspaper contest conducted by the Indianapolis News in collaboration with the Mary Pickford Studios of Hollywood, Calif. Miss Franks is well known in Franklin, being the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Conley and Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Franks.

As we understand the matter, the law requires that the expenditures of the county be published each year. It now appears that this information for last year will not be available to the public. Mr. Harrison states that it is the duty of the old board of commissioners to have the county statement of last year published. We have no idea that the old commissioners will do so. Hence the tax payers are destined to be kept in ignorance of what became of their money last year.

With the development of Lake Emory will come better times.

### 10 YEARS AGO

A second Home Hospitality week-end for a group of soldiers stationed at Clemson College was sponsored by the young people's War Worker's Club this past week and again Hotel Edwards was headquarters for the group. (Highlands Highlights)

Miss Kathryn Anne Huggins, of Arlington, Va., is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John L. Huggins.

Dr. J. L. Stokes, II, took a business trip to Durham last Tuesday.