

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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MAY 13, 1954

Who's What Now?

At long last the State of Georgia is going to do something about that hump-backed, roller coaster, broken and oft-criticized stretch of US 23-441 from the North Carolina state line to Clayton, Ga.

Georgia's approach is simple enough. The state is going to build a new highway—a super-type 24-foot highway, with the first section from the state line to Mountain City scheduled to be let to contract sometime in June.

This puts North Carolina in a rather embarrassing position. For years citizens of this state, particularly of this county, have practically sneered at the broken and worn stretch of highway that is part of our "tourist lifeline". And they've quipped, "You can close your eyes while riding and tell the minute you cross the state line into North Carolina."

Well, don't look now, but your "quip" is just about showing!

Last June, Highway Commissioner Harry E. Buchanan "borrowed" the \$450,000 allocation for a new highway from Franklin to the state line—this state's tie-in with the proposed Georgia project—to complete US 23-441 from Franklin to Dillsboro. His action seemed feasible and we can pick no quarrel with it.

However, last week, the commissioner confessed he had no idea when funds would be available to repay the "debt".

So, it now appears that Georgia is going to have a new highway and North Carolina, at least for the time being, is going to have to be content with the present crooked highway from Franklin to the state line.

See what we mean?

The shoe's on the other foot now!

The Mess We're In

Perhaps the best way to understand the mess we are in in the United States today is to try to see how we got into it. And perhaps the best way to see how we got into it is to consider two suggestions made by a great American on how to get out of it.

Dr. Harold C. Urey, Nobel prize-winning nuclear chemist of the University of Chicago, in an address in Chapel Hill the other day, suggested two very simple remedies:

1. "Calm thinking".
2. "Stop accusing each other of being criminals just because we do not agree with each other."

It was our failure to do those two things that got us into the mess. Maybe doing them will get us out of it.

Korean War Echo

This newspaper is all for the campaign to cut down on the number of persons killed on North Carolina highways.

We venture the suggestion, though, that highway safety, in the long run, will depend not so much on strict enforcement of the traffic laws, important as that is, as upon the attitude of individual drivers.

City and town after city and town have proved over and over that there is a close correlation between courtesy on the road and safety on the road.

Not only is the courteous driver almost invariably the safe driver, but an atmosphere of courtesy reduces the tension that is a major cause of accidents.

What do you have to do to be a courteous driver? The same sort of thing you have to do to be

courteous in any other conditions. Here, for example, are half a dozen rules for courteous driving; they are the Knights of Pythias highway safety code:

1. Think of others walking and driving on the highway.
2. Share your part of the road whenever necessary to avoid an accident. Remember, you can be right, but dead.
3. When following an automobile, be courteous to the driver in front of you; no bright lights; no unnecessary horn blowing; don't imperil both cars by getting too close.
4. When an automobile is following you, appreciate the perils ahead of you that the driver behind you may not see and do him the courtesy of signalling to him in apt time.
5. Do not drive so fast that you can not stop in the safe, clear distance ahead. Remember: SPEED is the greatest killer.
6. Remember: a courteous driver is always a safe driver.

Safety And Courtesy

Some months ago the U. S. government was begging 23 American prisoners of war, held by the North Koreans, to come back home. Presumably "brain washed" by the Communists, the 23 had refused repatriation. This wasn't good propaganda for the United States; it was fine propaganda for the Red.

We pleaded with the 23, and at last two of them agreed, and in due course they returned to the United States.

Last week, one of them was tried, convicted, and sentenced, and the other is in custody, awaiting possible trial.

The man already tried is Cpl. Edward Dickenson, 23-year old Virginia farm boy. He was charged with informing on his comrades in a prisoner of war camp and currying favor with his Red captors. Convicted on these charges, he was sentenced to 10 years at hard labor.

Assuming the correctness of the court martial's verdict of guilt, the case raises some other questions:

1. How extenuating a circumstance is "brain washing"? Men twice and thrice the age of this country boy have broken under it; Communists and non-Communists have "confessed" to crimes they obviously never committed. Among those who have succumbed have been men of great minds and characters, including high government officials and high dignitaries of the Roman Catholic church.

2. The American military men quite properly feel they must maintain discipline, even in a prisoner of war camp; hence this trial. But has the American government played fair with these men? In the radioed messages to the 23, were they not repeatedly given to understand that, if they accepted repatriation, they would not be punished? (The military may be able to show itself technically in the clear; morally it is not.) Even in a cold war, is our word to be meaningless?—meaningless, even when given to our own men?

3. If we win the cold war with the Communists, we almost certainly will do so by persuading those under Communist control to desert to our cause. Is the trial and sentencing of Cpl. Dickenson likely to encourage others to come to us from the Red side?

Others' Opinions

NOT GOOD

(Christian Science Monitor)

The new home owner and amateur gardener soon learns that the mulch left by the builder—consisting of plaster, bent nails, sand and torn cement bags—doesn't promote the growth of shrubs and flowers.

CAN'T STOP IT

(Spruce Pine News)

An Illinois woman sued in the Supreme Court to have teaching of religion barred in public schools. No matter how the case is decided, they won't be able to keep the kids from praying at exam time.

ROSES ON THE ROAD

(Memphis Press-Scimitar)

Important news comes from New Hampshire.

Research conducted by Motor Vehicle Research, Inc., indicates that multiflora rose hedges planted along highways may save many from traffic deaths.

These matted hedges absorb the shock when an auto runs off the road. Test cars crashed into the hedges at 30 miles an hour, were stopped within 11 feet without harming driver or passengers.

One estimate indicates that these hedges may be planted at a cost as low as 5 cents a foot.

Mid-South landowners who followed the advice of Louis Bromfield and planted multiflora roses for "pig-tight, bull-strong" fences take delight not only in the beautiful blooms but in the fact that they are well nigh perfect protection for birds.

OUR BEST WEAPONS

Patience And Humility

By BARRY BINGHAM

(EDITOR'S NOTE: These are excerpts from a speech by Barry Bingham, president of the Louisville Courier-Journal and Louisville Times, to the Pinehurst Forum, Pinehurst, N. C.)

Patience and understanding, not bombs and bullets, hold the key in America's contest with Communism in Asia. The Communists are counting on lack of patience to send Americans rushing to hide ourselves in the cyclone cellars of Kansas. On that day, Communism will win all of Asia by default.

Military victory, bought at no matter what price of human sacrifice, can serve no purpose by itself. It must carry the colors of political victory high upon its standard. No Asian country will stay liberated unless the liberator brings an alternative leadership the masses of the people can accept and respect.

We demand that every nation make an immediate choice between oranges and lemons, so that we can line everybody up on one side or another. We are sure our oranges are more wholesome than the Communist lemons, but we must leave free people to make the decision on their own.

There is a saying in Asia that when elephants struggle, the ants are crushed. The passion of many Asians is to keep clear of what they believe is an inevitable battle of the elephants. America has not succeeded in convincing them that we are determined to avoid a struggle by every human means short of giving up our freedom.

The living standards of most Asians are desperately low, but they are simply not interested in our tales of autos and refrigerators and television sets. They inherit a culture which was producing the world's most beautiful and elaborate temples, exquisite miniatures, carvings of jade, and manuscripts of lofty learning when America was still in howling wilderness.

Our best weapons are not bullets or bombs or even money-bags. They are the qualities of patience, understanding, and humility.

'ESSE QUAM' — HOW'S THAT AGAIN?

(Greensboro Daily News)

"I was both amused and shocked," said Miss Cornelia Love to Editor Louis Graves of the Chapel Hill Weekly about a radio program on North Carolina history emanating from a school in Burlington, "to hear one of the children end a translation of the state motto, 'to be rather than to think.' Alas for the present-day study of Latin!"

Alas, we have suspected for sometime that our motto has somehow changed from *Esse Quam Videri* to *Esse Quam Cogito*.

Otherwise how explain the fact that we retain our justice of the peace system? That we refuse to replace our long-outmoded, unwieldy and cluttered-up state Constitution with a new model? That we hide our scenery behind a conglomeration of billboards? That we have not yet discovered that support for a public library is a "necessary public expense"? That we lead the nation perennially in "aggravated assaults"? That our highway department runs our prisons? And that we allow our streams to be polluted to the point of no return?

It occurs to us that that Burlington kid could put up a pretty good argument for his translation.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WELMAR JONES

CHAPEL HILL.—A long smoldering controversy between student organizations and the University administration has been at white heat—and has come out in the open—in recent weeks.

It is over whether women students here should be permitted to drink while visiting fraternity houses.

Is drinking permitted at Chapel Hill? The reader may be asking in surprise. The answer, of course, is no; drinking definitely is frowned on by the institution's officials. But there is drinking here—just as there almost certainly is on the campus of every college in the state.

But surely coeds are not permitted to drink? Again, the answer is, no. But again, the fact is some of them do—just as some young women almost certainly drink at every other college that admits girls.

I personally question the statement, often made, that today more young women, in and out of college, both smoke and drink, than young men. But I suspect the day has passed when it could be truthfully said that the majority of women—young or old—were teetotalers.

In the controversy here, the students are quite honest—in one particular, at least. They say some coeds drink, anyhow—in downtown establishments, in automobiles, etc.—and wouldn't it be better to face the facts, and arrange for them to drink under respectable circumstances, while enjoying a social occasion at a fraternity house? To pretend there is no such thing as coed drinking is pure hypocrisy, runs the student argument.

I suspect the students are a bit less honest—though I am convinced they are not being consciously dishonest—about their motives. It is noteworthy that those most vocal about the matter are male students. They

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News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

The fall of Dien Bien Phu brought over me a feeling of great sadness and some shame. The gallantry of those fighting there has been wasted other than it shows that there are those still in the world who are willing to stand up and fight. Could the outcome have been different? Can the forces of Democracy and the Free World defeat Communism or is it too late?

Our radios and television sets bring to our living rooms the spectacle of Americans bellowing against the evils of Communism and how we must resist its advance. Our government rattles sabers, talks tough, and proclaims that we have a "New Look" to our foreign policy; that we will not be content to follow in the future a policy of containment, but that we will be dynamic and take the offensive against communism. But 12,000 men were left to stand alone against the advancing hordes. For fifty-seven days they held back by sheer courage the advance of communism. But they stood alone.

Here in America, we should decide if we want to resist this menace to our way of life. Surely we do. But let's don't become known as the nation that talks a good fight but fails to back it up. Our heritage in the past has been filled with more deeds than words.

We must face the fact that it will take sacrifices, and not stand around and whine that no one is helping us. It is our way of life we will lose. Isn't it worth fighting for?

It seems that commissioner Harry Buchanan is going to have to hustle on his bustle if he makes good his promise that U. S. 441 from Franklin south to the North Carolina-Georgia state line will be improved by the time Georgia has their section of the road ready. Georgia is on the move, so Mr. Buchanan, let's get rolling.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Prof. J. J. Britt arrived Thursday evening to deliver the address before the Macon High School on Friday.

Mr. H. G. Trotter photographed the Macon High School faculty and pupils, lined up against the side of the court house Friday morning.

A few days ago a darkey, while cleaning up the back part of the lot on which the masonic hall stands, found an old cannon ball, which had been lying around ever since the war, and picked it up and threw it into a heap of burning brush. After several minutes there was an explosion and a scattering of brush and fire and dirt and a badly frightened darkey. No damage was done, however.

Rev. T. E. Winecoff and Messrs. T. W. Porter, Sam L. Kelly, and H. G. Robertson and wife went out to Nantahala last week, trout fishing. They report a catch of 658.

25 YEARS AGO
Now that the new town board is in the saddle, how about the elimination of a few mud holes, here, hence, thither and yonder.

The Myers Brothers, familiarly known as Tobe and Bill, have leased the building formerly occupied by the Sludger-Garrett Furniture Company.

Misses Hope Solesbee and Ruth Stillwell, who have been working in Hopewell, Va., for the past several months, are here on a visit to their parents on Iotia.

10 YEARS AGO
The charter for the Cub Scouts was presented to the Lions Club, the sponsoring organization, in a meeting held in the basement of the Franklin Methodist Church on Friday night.

The Highlands Baptist Church has called Dr. Thomas N. Carter, of Arizona, as supply pastor for the four summer months.

Mrs. Comer L. Vandiver, employee of the Nantahala National Forest Service, gave a farewell party at her home in the Leach Apartments on Friday evening, honoring Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Woody, who have recently been transferred to Lufkin, Tex.