

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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AUGUST 12, 1953

## What We're Fighting For

A committee of six senators, including Tarheelia's Sam Ervin, has been set up to investigate the conduct of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy.

It is hard to see how any honest committee could make a real investigation and fail to find plenty to censure about the Wisconsin senator.

But important as it is that Senator McCarthy be discredited, by the Senate itself, that is not the most important thing; because more is on trial than an individual senator. The really vital question is whether a congressional committee, in today's atmosphere, can conduct an investigation on so explosive an issue, and conduct it as it should be conducted — with dignity, with courage, and with fairness.

It is especially important that the committee make every effort to be fair to Senator McCarthy. It is important because, otherwise, he will become a martyr in the eyes of some. There is another reason, though, that cuts even deeper: Every American — no matter how guilty of how many crimes — is entitled to a fair hearing.

That is the very thing McCarthy's critics are fighting for.

## Stupid And Unjust

The letter, on this page last week, from Mrs. W. D. Brewer calls attention to a shameful situation that exists in this and many other North Carolina counties.

It is the fact that non-residents, charged with state traffic law violations, must await the next term of superior court for trial.

It is especially bad for border counties like Macon, and for tourist counties like this one; with the large proportion of non-resident motorists on their highways, they quickly get the reputation for setting up "speed traps" — they get that reputation, no matter how undeserved it may be.

More to the point is the injustice to the non-resident motorist.

The Constitution of the United States guarantees a speedy trial. In the case of a non-resident, charged with a misdemeanor like speeding, a "speedy" trial ordinarily would be one held within something like 24 hours. But under our present legal machinery, the next term of superior court may be months away. Meanwhile, the motorist's destination may be hundreds, or even thousands, of miles away.

The expedient thing for him to do, therefore, is to post bond—and fail to return for trial. When he does that, he not only is put in the position of pleading guilty to a charge of which he may be innocent; his forfeiture of bond fails to erase the charge against him. If he ever returns to this county, he can be arrested, tried, convicted, and punished, on the old speeding charge. In addition, he can be tried, convicted and sentenced for jumping bond.

Thus our court machinery, set up to enforce the law and create respect for it, really encourages violation of the law, and tends to bring the law into contempt.

This is a situation that can be remedied. It is one that should be remedied — and promptly.

Since court officials and attorneys are those primarily charged with the administration of justice, we suggest that they are the proper ones to take the lead in seeing that it is remedied.

I think what has chiefly struck me in human beings is their lack of consistency.—Somerset Maugham.

## Different

When the local Jaycees started the annual Macon County Folk Festival a year ago, they hoped it would grow into a Macon County fair—with the festival becoming simply the entertainment feature of the fair.

Maybe it will grow into a fair. And a fair is highly desirable. But fair or no fair, the festival is here to stay. Public demand will see to that.

And the best thing about the festival is not that it provides entertainment, for tourists and home-folk alike — fine as that is. The best thing about it is that it reverses the general entertainment trend in America, which makes virtually all of us mere passive spectators; this is an event that provides opportunity for scores of persons, of all ages, to participate in entertainment.

Another interesting feature was noted by visitors at this year's festival. More than one exclaimed: "It is different from anything I ever saw."

Of course it is different! It is not a poor reproduction of something that has been on Broadway, nor a replica of folk festivals held elsewhere, nor something done according to rules laid down in a textbook on folkways. It is different for the simple reason it is Macon County.

In a strictly technical sense, perhaps the music and the dancing are not authentic folk music and dancing, because they are not done exactly as our ancestors did them 150 or 200 years ago; the dancing and the music have been influenced, in the interval — by Broadway (and the movies and radio and television), perhaps by other folk festivals, and possibly even by folk textbooks. But in the broader sense of the term, "folk", this festival is splendidly authentic; because it is exactly the way Macon County folk do these things today. Even the humor has an authentic Macon County flavor.

It is good, in short, because it is real.

## Others' Opinions

### PRAYER FOR OUR TIME

(Shelby Cleveland Times)

One of the most meaningful prayers of our times is a brief petition which is constantly appearing in numberless places.

We have seen it variously attributed to the great Protestant theologian, Reinhold Niebuhr, to Alcoholics Anonymous who have adopted it as their prayer, to unknown authorship, and we last saw it in Catholic Father James Keller's Christopher Notes.

It is only one sentence long, thus:

"God, grant me the grace to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

It is a prayer not too long for every man to carry always with him in his mind and his heart. It is a prayer which can work great wonders in a world which needs great wonders, if only more and more men and women will carry it with them always.

### GET RID OF THIS REPULSIVE SIGHT

(Chapel Hill News Leader)

One of the repulsive sights to which North Carolina treats passing tourists is that of grim-faced men, armed with shotguns, standing over State prisoners working on the roads under a fierce sun while the water boy passes his longed-for pail.

That is one sight which the growth of intelligence and a realization of prisoners' needs ought to abolish in North Carolina. It is a vestige of an outmoded way of thinking, preserved by a wrongful and old fashioned application of the Mosaic law of an eye for an eye.

One step, entirely feasible and often discussed, is the separation of prisons from highways. Prisoners were placed under the control of the State Highway Commission in the course of the depression years ago as a business and budgeting matter. This control has now become a sort of vested interest, and to get the prisoners away from the Highway Commission is like getting a piece of meat away from a bulldog.

Several years ago the separation of prisons and highways was advocated by Dr. Austin MacCormick, student of penal conditions, supported by the Advisory Prisons Council.

But their report has been avoided by politicians like holy-water. Governor Umstead has faintly praised it, but done nothing more. Now would be a good time for those interested in the separation to prepare plans to be brought before the 1955 legislature.

### WHAT'S A PENNY?

(Dallas News)

The alleged story out of Waco, Neb., is about an alleged filling station operator who dropped a penny here and there around his place to see the results. Older folks bent over and picked them up. Youngsters didn't bother—sometimes they even kicked the coins in disgust.

It's easier to believe the reaction than the story. But assuming both are true, the explanation is simple. Youngsters—and we assume that includes those from seven to 13—have been reared in a different atmosphere. A penny-saved-is-a-penny-earned is no longer written on blackboards. It isn't talked at

## OUR DEMOCRACY—by Met

### "The Stars and Stripes Forever"

IN PARADES ALONG MAIN STREETS FOR DECADES BANDS HAVE BEEN PLAYING THE MUSIC OF JOHN PHILIP SOUSA, THE "MARCH KING", STIRRING THE BLOOD AND MAKING EVERYONE FEEL THE TALLER FOR THE SIGHT AND SOUND.



WE AMERICANS LOVE TO WATCH PARADES, BUT IT IS THE SWINGING MUSIC OF THE MARCH THAT PROVIDES THE BIG THRILL AS THE BAND PASSES BY.

home. The talk: "Might as well spend it, or the government will get it." And what's a penny?

Very little—except those same youngsters will have to pay for the profligacy of the period when they were young.

Some day they will go to work and look back in the lusty past and realize why the old folks bent over.

### ODE TO AGITUMBLE ACTION

(Greensboro Daily News)

Evidence accumulates that the poets have not died or gone away, they have merely entered the advertising field.

Thus Marjorie Holmes in House Beautiful describes an automatic washer as Homer described war or Swinburne wrote of the sea or Keats apostrophised a Grecian urn:

The musical drum of running water. Steam rising and swirling like veiled dancers.

The dry singing whisper of white suds blossoming. The foamy sleeves that cling to your arms, plunging into them. Rainbows playing leapfrog with the bubbles.

The breathless intimacy with morning: The scent of damp earth and trodden grass. The great arched tents of the trees with sun winking on their leaf tips. Cruising clouds, and the sky's blue depth. These things are yours, hanging out the laundry. And more—

The gaunt grace of the propping poles. The blowing dance of white sheets drying. The Christmasy look of the many stockings. Your husband's comically ballooning pajamas.

We hadn't realized what a really romantic and poetic contraption a washing machine is. If an advertiser-poet can do that with a washer, just think what she can do with a cook stove.

It's enough to make a husband stick these odes to household appliances on his wife's mirror where she can see them first thing when she gets up in the morning.

## Letters

### 'NAIVE AND STUPID'

Editor, The Press:

I suppose I should address you as the "Franklin Daily Worker", since you have joined with them and all the pinkos, the pink fringe left wingers and all of communist front organizations in trying to purge from public life one of the few red blooded Americans we have left in Washington.

Why don't you raise your voice in protest against the infamous give-away Marshall plan, as does the Charlotte Observer?

Joe McCarthy is backed by the American Legion and millions of other Americans who place the welfare of the U. S. A. above that of Europe or anywhere else.

I don't know whether you are just naive and stupid or if you have received a grant from the left wing Ford Foundation.

In any case, I doubt if your puny editorials will hurt our Joe. He has a job to do and he will not be deterred. However, it is regrettable that you choose to mislead the good mountain people of your community.

S. W. RICHARDSON

General Delivery,  
Gastonia, N. C.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: As a matter of keeping the record straight, the American Legion never has gone on record regarding Senator McCarthy, according to John L. Crawford, commander of the local Legion post.)

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

This past week-end I drove 1,100 miles here in the Eastern United States. A trip always makes some big impressions on me. This one did. The main thing I noticed was the difference in towns. Take, for example, Kingsport or Erwin, Tenn. Here were towns where people had a clean town and a great many recreational facilities for young people and their parents. Compare these towns to Franklin, North Carolina and you get a feeling that we should keep our town cleaner and if we would put our shoulders to the wheel there is much that we could do to improve the recreational facilities. If other towns do it so can Franklin.

This is just a hunch, but I believe that if we really had a clean town, recreational facilities would not be long in arriving.

The first thing that is needed here is an adequate water supply, so for example, the town could furnish the water for a good swimming pool. Right along with this would be sufficient water to allow someone to develop a good golf course with grass greens. The third thing would be daily street washing in the business district, daily pick up of garbage throughout the town, and vacant lots and street curbs mowed and kept cleaned. If all this were done steadily for a period of two or three years Franklin would begin to gain a reputation as a clean town. This along with the better recreational facilities that I mentioned would make Franklin grow and increase the revenue of the town. An excellent water supply might be the main factor in drawing another industry here. If we had more tourists and more people decided either to retire here or to make this their Summer home, it might be that the revenue of the town would be sufficient to build a town hall without financing the construction by selling bonds. Also maybe water would be plentiful and cheap enough to make it possible for the children in Franklin to have a first class swimming pool all summer long.

They do it in other towns, so why can't Franklin?

Soon school will be starting again and thousands of dollars worth of clothing and supplies will have to be bought to get the kids ready to go back

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## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

In 1901, Macon County voted \$60,000 in bonds as an inducement to get a (rail) road built to Franklin, at the suggestion of Mr. Prentiss and on his promise to have the road here at a certain specified time. The time expired and the road was far from being here. Work was being done, however, on the extension of the Tallulah Falls Railway, pointing in this direction. Mr. Prentiss came here and asked for an extension of time. It was given him and a new date set. We believe the time expired again some months ago, and the road is not here yet, nor within 20 miles of it. The road is not yet to Clayton, Ga., from the best information we can gather, all hands have gone and no work is now being done.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Organization of the Nantahala Power and Light Company, a subsidiary of the Tallahasse Power Company, was announced in a dispatch from Bryson City Sunday.

Mr. Dan Lyle, of Peck, Idaho, and Dr. Jim Lyle, of Lewiston, Idaho, are here on a visit to Dr. S. H. Lyle and Mrs. Mary Lyle Waldrup.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Dr. Frank T. Smith, 85, one of Macon's most honored and beloved citizens, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Fleet H. Scroggs, in Richmond, Va., Wednesday.

Pvt. Curtis Pearson is home on a ten-day furlough.

Mrs. Louise Edwards has received a cable from her husband, Capt. Edwards, telling of his safe arrival overseas and of his unexpected meeting with Lt. Val Pierson, Highlands paratrooper, almost immediately after landing in North Africa.—Highlands item.