

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	Stereotypist
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON	Pressman

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

SEPTEMBER 9, 1954

## What The Court Said

There's been a lot of balderdash about the Supreme Court's decision on segregation.

The latest illustration is the argument, advanced by people and newspapers all over the South, as to why the Southern States should file briefs with the court next month on how and when segregation shall be outlawed in the public schools.

The court has graciously "invited" those states requiring or permitting segregation to participate in the discussion, runs the argument; therefore it is reasonable to assume the court will listen to the arguments of those states — probably accept the suggestions they offer.

Well, maybe. But let's keep the record straight on this:

The court has issued no such "invitation" to the states that practice segregation.

The court used a very different word. The court's own language, in the May 17 decision, was:

"The attorney general of the United States is again invited to participate. The attorneys general of the states requiring or permitting segregation in public education will also be permitted to appear as amici curiae upon request to do so by September 15..."

There is a vast difference between being "invited" to appear and being "permitted" to do so, "upon request", by a fixed date. The latter suggests the attorneys general of the states will be present on sufferance.

It probably is wise for the Southern states to file briefs with the court, for the reason that the states have little to lose, and possibly may gain a point here and a point there.

To assume anything more than that is to close one's eyes to plain facts.

## Why The Tax List?

### II

In this space last week, some questions were raised about the list of delinquent taxpayers published in The Press each year. Following the questions, certain facts bearing on the situation were cited.

Below is an attempt to answer — or at least discuss — those questions, in the light of the facts set forth. (While towns also levy taxes and advertise property on which the taxes are unpaid, this discussion will be confined to the county.)

Why is the delinquent tax list — some ten newspaper columns long, this year — published in the paper?

It is required by state law.

The law sets October 1 as the date on which the year's taxes are due. (That is, 1953 taxes were due October 1, 1953; 1954 taxes will be due the first day of next month.)

Under the law, according to County Attorney R. S. Jones, the county is required to advertise real estate on which taxes have not been paid. The advertisement must appear in four successive issues of a newspaper of general circulation in the county — if there is such a newspaper.

The property may be advertised as early as April, May, June, or July; it may not be postponed later than the last four issues of the newspaper prior to the first Monday in September. That is the practice in this county.

What happens after the list is published?

If, after four publications, the taxes still remain unpaid, the county tax collector (who, in this coun-

ty, also is sheriff) is required to offer, at public auction, tax liens on the property.

Any person may buy one or more of these tax liens, at the auction. If he does, he may, after a wait of a year, sue in court and get a judgment against the property. If no individual buys the liens — and usually no one does — the county always does; and it may, after a fixed period of time, foreclose on the property on which taxes remain unpaid. The fact that, in recent years, the county has not done this does not mean it cannot, or that it may not do so again, as it sometimes has in the past.

Is there any advantage — or disadvantage — to the taxpayer in postponing the payment of his taxes until after they are advertised?

The only possible advantage is it enables him to hold on to the money a little longer. (See further comments on this in next week's issue.)

The disadvantages are added costs — and possibly embarrassment at being publicly labeled one who is slow to pay his taxes.

The added costs are not great, in dollars and cents — but may be very large, in proportion. The county charges the taxpayer 15 cents per line for each insertion of the taxpayer's name, etc., in the paper. For four insertions, that is 60 cents. And the law gives the tax collector a fee of 50 cents per name for the public outcry of the tax liens. That's a total of \$1.10, which is added to the amount of the taxes.

That is a high proportionate cost for a large number of taxpayers. Of those whose property was advertised this year, for example, more than a third owed less than \$5 in taxes. Adding costs of \$1.10 means the taxpayer is paying about 20 per cent interest to keep his \$5 or less a little longer.

And if he still waits, there are more costs: a charge of six per cent interest on the taxes, plus the advertising and auction costs. That interest continues until payment is made. And ultimately the taxes must be paid. Sometime the owner, or his heirs, will want to sell the property. Usually, a purchaser will not buy property on which taxes are unpaid; and if he does, he is sure to deduct the amount of taxes from the purchase price, so that the owner pays them, directly or indirectly.

Why do so many Macon County people fail to pay their taxes when they are due?

Is it because they can't — because they just don't have the money?

The evidence suggests that is not the reason; because last year the office of Tax Collector J. Harry Thomas collected a record 98 per cent of the 1952 taxes. That is to say, all but a tiny 2 per cent of Macon County property owners did pay their taxes; so they must have had the money. In fact, about one out of five paid his taxes, plus added costs.

Why, then, do so many taxpayers wait?

There may be as many answers as there are delinquent taxpayers, but it probably is a good guess that, in most cases, it is nothing but a matter of neglect — and habit.

## Correction

In last week's editorial, "Why The Tax List?", it was incorrectly said that the county taxes due on the real estate advertised for sale amounted to "only about one per cent" of the total 1953 county levy. It should have read, "only about ten per cent". Stating the same thing in other words, the editorial said that, though one-fifth of the taxpayers were delinquent, their taxes represented "only one one-hundredth" of the taxes. It should have said "only one-tenth" of the taxes.

The courage of the American Legion, it would seem, knows no bounds. Last week, in national convention assembled, the Legion boldly attacked the Girl Scouts.

The people of Western North Carolina call the season just ahead "Nature's Colorama", says an Asheville Chamber of Commerce release.

Well, now... A few of 'em call it "autumn", a good many "Indian Summer", and most just plain "fall". But "Nature's Colorama"? Name one who calls it that!

That man is a success who has lived well, laughed often, and loved much; who has gained the respect of intelligent men and the love of children; who has filled his niche and accomplished his task; who leaves the world better than he found it, whether by an improved poppy, a perfect poem, or a rescued soul; who never lacked appreciation of earth's beauty or failed to express it; who looked for the best in others and gave the best he had.—Robert Louis Stevenson.

## Letters

### SAYS ANIMAL SHELTER NEEDED

Dear Mr. Jones:

The report of my trial is gratefully appreciated, and I thank you for giving it prominence, for it emphasizes the great need for an animal shelter in Macon County. I have restored a number of hounds to owners. One, discovered when I went to ring the Sunday school bell, had been horribly clawed by a wild animal. He was the children's pet and they had searched for him three weeks.

Unvaccinated, starving strays, especially the females, are a menace to everyone. Dr. Burnside has put so many to sleep for me, he and I have lost track of the number. Dr. and Mrs. Burnside have cooperated in every way and their absence deprived me of essential witnesses. I have always observed the vaccination law and the rabies quarantine whenever imposed. The dogs never run during the night hours. Apparently the law prohibiting that is known to very few people, though it is very old and covers every square foot of North Carolina:

"No one who owns, boards or harbors a dog over six months old shall permit it to run between dark and daylight, unless accompanied by owner, or by some one designated by owner to accompany dog." The fine is twenty-five dollars or thirty days for each offence.

Only I know the extent of my husband's dependence on the companionship of the dogs he has had so many years. To deprive him of that comfort, or to let one whisper of this affair reach him, would, I am sure, be the final disaster for his afflicted heart.

I feel that The Press is the only medium through which those who wish to establish a local unit of the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals can locate other residents of the county who are aware of the great need for this service. I am sure your cooperation will receive grateful acknowledgment from many readers.

Let us all remember these lines:

"The bleat, the bark, the bellow, the roar,  
Are waves that beat on Heaven's shore."

Sincerely yours,

Franklin, N. C.

MARGARET ORDWAY.

## Others' Opinions

### CANINE QUIETER

(Chapel Hill News Leader)

Two recent visitors to the Monogram Club's dining-room included a portly English gentleman and his taciturn American companion. The repeat concluded, the two made their way to the dining-room's boniface, the genial and dapper Frank West.

"Aw, I would be delighted, old chap," the hearty Briton confided to Mr. West and the four corners of the dining-room, "if you would be so kind as to provide me with the recipe for those delectable, aw, dog-silencers. Eh? What?"

It was now Mr. West's turn to say, "Eh? What?"

"Dog-silencers," the Englishman repeated. "Simply ripping, I must say! Dog-silencers, what? Doncher know, eh?"

Mr. West did not know. But the Englishman's companion knew, and became untactful long enough to explain:

"He means hush-puppies."

## STRICTLY

### PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Why, I often wonder, do so many of us promise to do things, and then never do them — or, at least, fail to do them when we say we will?

There are occasions, of course, when unforeseen circumstances make it impossible for us to keep a promise. But those are the rare exceptions. And it isn't unforeseen circumstances that make us promise to do things we know at the time we cannot do, or that we have no intention of even trying to do.

All of us experience this failure of folks to keep their promises. We want a piece of work done; nine times out of ten the person who agrees to do it doesn't start it until he's broken at least a couple of promises about when he will start it. We ask somebody to serve as an officer or as a committee chairman of a community organization; they agree—and a lot of times that's ALL they ever do. And so it goes, in almost every department of life.

If some reader is asking himself, "Is he talking about me?", the answer is, "If the shoe fits, wear it!"

I am not, however, thinking of any one person or any one group. I am thinking of US; I am compelled to say "us", because I cannot discuss this subject without remembering how sometimes we at The Press have promised a job of printing by a certain time—and failed to get it ready by that time.

Why do we do it? Why don't we just say, "No, I can't come then"; or "No, I can't take on

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Last Saturday I saw a cartoon in "The Asheville Citizen" which warmed me right down to the soles of my shoes. It really did me good, and I don't think I have ever seen a cartoon which more concisely expressed my feelings on an issue than this one did.

The drawing pictured Uncle Sam handing out aid by the basketful to a sombreroed individual (possibly from Texas) who is labeled Drought Aid Requests. Lying immediately behind the aid requester is a sign which he has presumably knocked down in rushing to Uncle Sam with outstretched hand. The sign reads, "State Rights To Federal Offshore Lands. Uncle Sam Go Home. Old Uncle can't help but ask as he gives assistance, "You are sure this doesn't violate any State Rights?"

I really liked that one. By all means drought relief should be given to the stricken areas. But it should be made very plain that the relief is coming from the federal government and those politicians who rode the state rights issue so hard should have to eat a little crow.

After all, out in Texas Allan Shivers won the Democratic nomination for governor chiefly because he proclaimed that he kept all the revenue from the offshore oil lands for the schools in Texas rather than let it help improve the schools throughout the United States. An uncharitable person might say, "Let them get their drought relief from those funds rather than take our tax money."

There is strong evidence that the realization that war on a major scale will just about be the end of our civilization. Twenty years ago if United States citizens were still imprisoned by another country, if two of our officers had been killed by enemy artillery fire, and one of our planes shot down by enemy planes, the cry for us to go to war would be long and loud. Today, people are inclined to take more, but some day the bully is going to have to be stopped. When will it be?

Reason number two — Why Trade at Home. Often times you hear people say, "Well I would buy here in Franklin, but I can't find what I want." The best way to get the local merchants to increase their stock of goods is to try to find everything here first. The more we buy at home the more capital the merchants have to increase their stock of goods with and the better knowledge they have of the demands of their consumers. Buy at home and help build a bigger and better trading center in your home town instead of the neighboring towns.

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. T. C. Bryson was elected moderator and Mr. H. D. Dean clerk, at the meeting of the Baptist Association for Macon County here last week.

Just received at the Press job office — fine typewriter Manifold paper. — Advertisement.

Mr. J. D. Mallonee received his license Monday to practice law.

### 25 YEARS AGO

The Press is informed that Mr. Jim Mann, who has been state game and forestry warden for Macon County, has given up this post and that Mr. Fred Slagle has been appointed his successor.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Thomas left last week for Darrington, Wash., to make it their future home.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The town board, at a meeting Monday night, made appropriations for rest benches to be placed along Phillips Street, near the Square and the jail. J. O. Harrison, mayor, announced this week.

Second Lieutenant Horace C. Hurst, of Franklin, navigator on a B-17 flying fortress, has been awarded the third Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal.