

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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OCTOBER 21, 1954

Need Emphasis Shift

In the course of some 200 campaign speeches, a Utah congressman has told a fantastic tale. The story had to do with his exploits while he was with the Office of Strategic Services during World War 2.

Following an exposé by The Army Times, he went on TV to repudiate his own story. He never was with the OES, he admitted. Tears streaming down his face, he offered to withdraw as the Republican nominee to succeed himself in Congress.

A strange feature of the situation is that the man had a good war record without having to lie about it; he still walks with braces, due to a wound suffered while clearing a mine field in France.

Taken by itself, the story is merely a tragic and pitiful account of the break-down of a man's character. But it cannot be taken alone. It is but one in a long series of such break-downs among men in public office.

The situation seems to suggest that we need to shift our emphasis in the selection of public officials. The party to which a man belongs is important; what the man's own views are is important; but the one vital thing is his character. Everything else is secondary.

Paint And Red Tape

It is to be hoped that the Macon County Health Department will be permitted to move into its quarters in the new Health Center within the next ten days.

The word "permitted" is used advisedly; because the department was all set to move early this month, when the move was forbidden by an architect in Asheville. The reason: Names had not been lettered on office doors and one door facing painted the wrong color must be re-painted before the building could be used. Meanwhile, Macon County continues to pay rent on the privately-owned space now housing the department.

The situation suggests two questions:

How can the project's architect, 75 miles away, exercise such arbitrary power? The answer to that one is easy; state and federal funds are involved.

But why stupidity multiplies as we get higher up the ladder of government is a question that would stump Solomon himself.

The Women's Crop

Rural Macon County is fast being transformed.

Much of the credit for the improvement goes to the Community Development Program, and both men and women are pushing that program.

But the women of the county, through their home demonstration clubs, were on the job long before the development project was thought of. The seed they sowed five or ten or even fifteen years ago is being harvested now.

And if anybody had any doubts about the quantity and quality of the seed sown, they had their doubts dispelled by last week's Achievement Day program.

169 To 1

Appointment of members of the county board of education by the Legislature means that the selection of the members of this purely local board is entrusted to one man from Macon (who knows them) and 169 men from outside Macon (who don't).

The members of this Macon County board should be elected by the people of Macon County.

Mr. Wilson, the Secretary of Defense, can say the doggonedest things.

Letters

WHAT'S ITS NAME?

Dear Sir:

Concerning Mrs. W. E. Furr's inquiry (in the October 7 Press) about the cactus plant, I believe the botanical name is "Stapelia Gigantea". It also is known as the "Giant Star" or "Starfish flower". It has been known to have flowers up to 16 inches across.

Yours truly,

Chicago 40, Illinois.

MRS. E. REYNOLDS.

ANOTHER SUGGESTION

Editor, The Press:

No doubt Mrs. Furr has identified the cactus by now, but just in case — perhaps it is listed under succulents. It is called "Star of Bethlehem", and grows quite readily in the tropics. It is rather surprising to see such a big bloom spring from such a small plant, almost without warning. The peculiar odor is supposed to attract insects. The flower is carnivorous.

Why it is called Star of Bethlehem I will never know, unless it is because it just suddenly appears.

Sincerely,

Miami, Fla.

MRS. LESTER DRYE.

Others' Opinions

FRANKLIN'S GOOD FORTUNE

(Sylva Herald)

The citizens of Franklin and Macon County are rejoicing these days over having been selected as a site for a new \$3,000,000 hosiery mill by Burlington Mills Company. The Herald extends its congratulations on their good fortune.

The Burlington Company is one of the largest textile firms in the world. It is a North Carolina corporation, owned and directed by North Carolina people. For this company to locate a new plant in a community it means that community is a progressive community, one providing the necessary leadership to make it attractive to a company of the type of Burlington.

This choice new industry did not come to Macon County overnight; months of preliminary work between the company officials and local civic leaders and businessmen were carried on before final decision was made. Macon County's rapidly growing Community Development program and its rapid strides in public school improvement and development of other natural resources had much to do with having been selected as a site for the new mill.

'WHAT THE SAM HILL'

(Beaumont, Texas, Bee-Picayune)

You've heard the expression, "What the Sam Hill?" Did you ever wonder "who the Sam Hill?" Sam Hill was?

Turns out that it all began years and years ago in the little town of Guilford, Conn., and that the expression originally was "He works like Sam Hill!" . . . Sam was an actual man, and he took a lot of pride and pleasure in doing a lot of good work as a hat maker — while, at the same time laboring diligently for the good of his community as town clerk, magistrate and member of the General Assembly.

COWBOYS WITHOUT COWS

(Winston-Salem Sentinel)

In all these cowboy pictures that we see all the time, where are the cows?

The old and the new cowboy movies are being shown on television. Pass through the room where the children's eyes are focused on the TV screen and you'll see and hear running horses, shooting, dandy fights, struggles on cliffs, bar-room scraps, melodious singing with guitar accompaniment, scenes of boy meeting girl, cowboys, cowboy boots, pistols, bad men, sheriffs, cattle rustlers—but no cows.

Cowboys used to punch cattle. But the cattle are vanishing from the screens. Maybe the rustlers have made off with them.

MOVE-MINDED MAMAS

(Greensboro Daily News)

There are two kinds of people in the world—those who like things in the same place, and those who have a congenital distaste for seeing a piece of furniture in the same place more than 48 hours.

There are men who like to move furniture, men who tackle the job with enthusiasm and who, on finishing the deal, sit down to view their accomplishment with satisfaction.

But, mostly, those who have that inner craving to move things are women—wives, mothers, aunts and grandmothers. Ever so often they get that easy-to-get-along-with way. They bake a favorite pie, make homemade rolls, cook up a big pot of vegetable soup—all kinds of culinary lures. Then as the Man of the House gets a day off and relaxes in his favorite club chair, he's approached by "You know, Honey, I've been thinking"

He's heard that introduction before and he could predict word for word the next five minutes' plea. The sofa ought to go over by the front window, or maybe by the side porch door. The desk never looked right facing the front door. That picture in the attic would be just right for the blank space near the dining room door. And so it goes. And the next thing he knows, that favorite chair is being offered the used furniture dealer.

In this age of an insurance for every malady and misfortune which can befall mankind, why doesn't someone think up a policy to protect a man from move-minded mamas?

FIRE FACTS

DON'T GAMBLE WITH FIRE!



FAULTY CHIMNEYS, STOVES AND FURNACES
CAUSE ALMOST 1 OUT OF EVERY 5 FIRES.
HOW LONG SINCE YOU CHECKED YOUR CHIMNEYS
IN YOUR HOME?

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

• BY BOB SLOAN

The other day a farmer said to me, "When I go to town to buy something they tell me what I have to pay; yet when I go to sell something they tell me what they will pay". In short the farmer buys and sells at a price fixed by some one else. A whole lot of his trouble is wrapped up in that fact. When some one finds a way around that the farmer will be helped a lot.

The main trouble about Charlie Wilson's remark concerning dogs and unemployment was not that Mr. Wilson intended any comparison between man and canine, but it reveals a certain attitude existent among more than a few people in this country. That is, that the only reason that anyone is unemployed is that they just don't want to work. To put it another way, they say that anyone who wants to can find work. They say the unemployed won't get out and hunt work, etc. There is much more to the problem than that and those who take this narrow view are very foolish and limit the development of this country. To you who raise your eyebrows, remember there is a difference between development and exploitation.

To me the Dixon-Yates business still smells somewhat. I have read considerable defending the agreement, but no one gets around the fact that one company got a terrific chunk of business from the government with a guaranteed profit of 9% and no one else bid on it. I am told that it is not customary to buy electric power by the bid method. Then I think we ought to change our customs.

I was in a town recently that has experienced a rapid growth in population due to the addition of two industries in a short period of time. The town had not been able to extend the needed public services at anything like the rate of the growth of the population. In just a glance around you could see that the streets were not paved, there was no garbage pickup, sidewalks, except on the main business street, were unheard of. Although I didn't see it, I feel sure that the schools were over run. Let's hope that every effort here will be made to not let our public services get behind because we are going to grow — and grow rapidly — and it is hard to catch up.

SUPPER PLANNED

A supper is planned October 28 by the Cartoogechaye Rural Community Development Organization. Officers are to be elected at a business meeting following the meal, it was said.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

In Asheville the other day I segregation — any segregation — saw something I am sure never had happened before — a Negro having lunch in the dining room of swank, exclusive Grove Park Inn.

There was no valid reason, so far as I could see, why he should not have been there, because he was one of the speakers on a luncheon program; and surely if he was good enough to be on the program, he was good enough to have lunch with the group. Incidentally, in some respects his was the best speech made.

Furthermore — and this is the really significant thing about the incident — nobody present seemed to question that he belonged there; it was taken for granted. That suggests how far we have gone in this region to assume that their reasoning, just because it comes out of the Supreme Court, thereby becomes correct reasoning, is a surrender of the right and duty of citizens to do their own thinking. Everybody at the Asheville meeting obviously did not agree with the reasoning, but nobody challenged it.

Nor did they challenge the flat statement that most of the progress made by the American Negro has come as a result of court decisions.

Some of it has come that way, of course, but no observant or thoughtful person could fail to come to the conclusion that the great bulk of the Negro's progress, at least in the South, has resulted from his own efforts, plus a vast amount of help extended to him by the white man.

There was a question-and-answer period after each talk, but nobody even indirectly challenged an assumption that ran through the whole program which certainly is debatable or a flat statement that obviously is untrue.

The assumption was that

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Light frost was reported in different localities Saturday morning.

Hon. W. T. Crawford, of Waynesville, and Hon. F. B. Benbow, of Franklin, addressed the citizens of Macon County at a political meeting in the courthouse last Thursday.

Waters are very low now on account of the long continued dry spell.

25 YEARS AGO

The Macon Theatre, local (silent) moving picture house, is soon to be equipped with a modern talking machine.

A telegram from Raleigh states that butter made by the Nantahala Creamery, owned and operated by A. B. Slagle, won first prize at the State Fair.

10 YEARS AGO

A hearing will be held at Gainesville, Ga., before the U. S. District Court October 22, to consider an application of the Tallulah Falls Railway to discontinue the passenger trains on the line.

Sgt. James B. Gibbs, son of Mrs. Florence Gibbs, of Franklin, Route 3, recently submitted the winning design in a contest to select an insignia for the base unit of Harvard, Neb., army air field.