

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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THURSDAY, MARCH 3, 1955

A Test And An Experiment

You'd think every business in North Carolina was on the verge of bankruptcy, if you took seriously the howls the tax-levying legislators are hearing in Raleigh.

Any additional tax on tobacco products would be calamitous. The bus companies simply can't stay in business if they have to pay the sales tax on their vehicles and parts. And a one-cent tax on soft drinks would destroy the bottling industry. (Funny the bottlers weren't afraid a penny increase would scare off customers when they themselves recently raised the price from five to six cents!) And so with every other industry that might be affected.

They just can't stand any additional taxes, they all chorus.

We suggest that the legislators apply a test and try an experiment.

The test: If the lobbyists for these interests arrive at the capitol driving jalopies, then their howls deserve consideration. Otherwise, the experiment is worth trying.

The experiment is suggested by the Confederate veteran's story about how his company hanged a spy. The spy begged for any kind of death except by hanging. "I just can't stand to be hanged", he declared.

"We'll try an experiment", was the reply. "We'll hang you and see if you can stand it."

Bouquet

A bouquet to Mrs. Holland McSwain for demonstrating a lesson most of us need to learn.

For last week's county-wide P. T. A. study course, held at Cullasaja school, not only was there an excellent program; it was one of the smoothest-running gatherings ever held here. That, of course, didn't just happen. It was because Mrs. McSwain, as chairman in charge, had carefully planned, had attended to every detail, had thought of every contingency. Those of us who are inclined to call a meeting and then forget it until time for the meeting — and then wonder why the program limps along and gets nowhere! — could well take a leaf out of Mrs. McSwain's book.

Incidentally, something that happened during the meeting also was noteworthy. It was necessary for the school children to pass through the auditorium in groups, to get to the lunchroom. But they did it so quietly there was no interruption of the program; persons in the auditorium were hardly conscious the children were passing along the side aisle. Such discipline and courtesy are in themselves a bouquet for the faculty and students at Cullasaja.

Since When?

In a letter published in The Asheville Citizen, Senator W. D. James appeals for letters from the public to members of the General Assembly in behalf of legislation to curb the health insurance racket. Under present laws, some companies collect premiums from the well, but cancel the policy when the well become sick.

We are in complete sympathy with Senator James' legislative objective. And we hope many people will write their senators and representatives on this subject.

We find ourselves a bit shocked, though, by Senator James' implied confession that nothing can be done about this admitted racket unless the people apply more pressure to the legislators than the lobbyists do. Since when have legislators become mere referees between the people they represent and purely selfish interests?

Intolerant: What people are who stick to beliefs contrary to ours.

Letters

'TILL ALL FOOLS' DAY'

Dear Mr. Jones:

Since the ground hog myth was originated by our forefathers in England, why not accept their version as given in this old, quaint verse:

"If Candlemas day in Leap Year be
And the ground hog his shadow cannot see,
Back to his ground-hole he goes to stay,
For winter will last 'till All Fools' Day."

Sincerely yours,
(MRS.) MARGARET ORDWAY.

Franklin.

NEEDED: RECREATION CENTER

Editor, The Press:

What are the adults of Franklin and Macon County doing for the young people of this community, the young people who will be our citizens of tomorrow?

We give them good food to make their bodies strong. We work to clothe and educate our children, but in all this outpouring of concern, we have overlooked the necessity of good recreation, which is one of the best methods of building good character.

Several attempts at organizing a youth center in Franklin have failed due to the lack of adequate facilities. If in some way, a suitable lot could be made available and enough people were interested in our young people to help erect a building for a recreation center, then our problem would be partly solved. This action is needed at once, if we are to realize the full value of providing wholesome recreation, not only for the young people who reside here, but to help our summer visitors entertain their children properly.

The maintenance and equipment for such a center can be provided by dues and sale of refreshments. The time and little money spent for this project will pay big dividends in the future.

I write this in behalf of the youth of our community, who have appealed to me for help. It is only through the cooperation of all the parents of Macon County that the desire of these young people can be met. How many of you parents are willing to give a little time and money so your children will have a supervised recreation center?

Sincerely,
MRS. ROY M. BIDDLE, SR.

Franklin.

WORD OF APPRECIATION

Dear Mr. Jones:

First, please let me say that I hope that you will not let the personal relationship contained in the content of this letter interfere with your professional ethics.

I have often heard your view expressed that the columns of The Franklin Press were open to individuals to express their opinions on various subjects. I hope that you continue the policy in regard to this letter.

The purpose of this letter is to call the public's attention to an individual, who although having no children in public school recently, has given of her time and strength in working for the betterment of public schools in whatever community she lived. It has been our good fortune that for the past nine years she has been living in Macon County.

The work of Mrs. Weimar Jones in the development of the Parent-Teacher Association in Western North Carolina and particularly Macon County is a record of outstanding achievement.

Her latest unselfish service in helping in the growth of an organization that has as its aim, the betterment of our schools through a closer understanding between parents and teachers, was as P. T. A. district director. During her three years in that unpaid work, 15 new associations were organized. Five of them were in Macon County, making this county the first in District 1 to be 100 per cent organized, that is, a P. T. A. in every school. Many miles of difficult travel and hours of time were spent in accomplishing this. Mrs. Jones also gave valuable assistance in helping with institutes, workshops, and study courses for P. T. A. workers.

Truly, through the work of this one individual, and all the other P. T. A. leaders, the Parent Teacher Association in our county has grown into an organization of which we can all be proud.

Since this month (February) we are observing Parent-Teacher Association "Founders' Day", I think it only fitting that we, the school patrons and school children of Macon County (and I'm sure I can speak for all these), express our sincere appreciation to one who has done so much.

Yours truly,
MRS. CURTIS PEARSON.

Franklin, N. C.

DEFENDS DICTIONARY

Dear Mr. Jones:

It has been said, "A turtle never gets anywhere unless he sticks his neck out".

Whether or not our ancestors came by Siberia to Alaska, came over on the Mayflower from Plymouth, England, or to Florida with Hernando De Soto, we who live in the mountains are just as you say, "Mountainwhite". Real, red-blooded Americans. Who can deny this?

To defend my dictionary and encyclopedia, I for one must answer your question in last week's Editor's Note:

Some of us have learned Noah Webster was well known for his publication of the American Dictionary of English language, 1828. (Note: It was an "American Dictionary" published for the use of all, whether they be North or South.)



News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Before I write the remainder of this column I would like to preface my remarks by saying that the business men of Franklin are, as a group, among our most public spirited citizens. I think, that in most small towns, your business men are usually the leaders in community mindedness, and I think that our business men here in Franklin are far above the average even for a small town.

Taken on a national scale, I am not so sure that this compliment fits as well for business men as a group. And I have an even stronger feeling that one theory concerning business men does not always hold true on a national scale. Many people say, and seem to think, that the way to have the best government is to turn it over completely to businessmen. I don't know how many times I have heard, "If we could just get some good hard-headed business men up there in Washington, everything would be all right." We certainly need good business management in government, but there are other factors involved which make the handling of a particular problem different from just a debit and credit matter, and call for some viewpoint in addition to a business man's. Two recent events, I think, illustrate what I am talking about.

One of the main results of the election of the Eisenhower administration was the sending of business men to Washington. An action of this administration is the proposed toll on the Parkway. Some business man has looked it and said, "we can get some revenue there"; a typical big business approach, I think. So regardless of the effect on the local economy, or the implied, if not written, understanding in the past that there would be no tolls, regardless of the wishes of the state government that contributed to making this highway possible, we are going to have a toll on the Parkway because it will bring in revenue for the federal government.

In the Far East it seems to me that our President has been so influenced by his business associates in Washington that he approaches each problem

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Others' Opinions

IS A GENERAL SALES TAX FAIR?

(Chapel Hill News Leader)

A hint comes from Raleigh that, unless strong protests come in, the General Assembly will find needed additional revenue from a "general" sales tax with no exemptions except possibly for a few agricultural needs.

If so, the legislature will have wiped out the principle of ability to pay and substituted a tax on consumption which will bear heaviest on families of low income.

Also, the big interests will have dodged the burden of increased taxation and loaded it on the merchants and dealers who must collect the proposed flat tax from the people who can least afford it—the luckless, the aged, the sick, and the unemployed.

All over the nation state and local taxes are rising while federal taxes are easing off—at least for some interests. But there is an increasing tendency to solve the situation by imposing new or broader sales taxes instead of getting the money from the people who can afford it.

There is only one fair tax principle today, and that is to raise the money by income taxes, making sure that the rate rises in proportion to the amount of income.

North Carolina promised years ago that its sales tax was only an emergency measure and would be temporary. The least it can do is to keep food and drugs—already high enough—free of taxes, and lower the sales tax gradually from 3 to 2, and then 1 per cent, while adjusting income taxes in accordance with ability to pay.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

(NOTE: This is from a talk at last week's Franklin Rotary Club meeting, which marked the 50th anniversary of the founding of Rotary.)

It was 50 years ago tonight that four men, meeting in a Chicago business office, organized the first Rotary club.

What was happening here then? What was life like, in Franklin, back in February, 1905?

In seeking a partial answer to those questions, I did just what any of you would have done, had you been given this assignment. I went to the old files of The Franklin Press and consulted the minutes of the meetings of the town board of that time.

The minutes show that E. H. Franks, generally known as "Mr. Lish Franks" (he was the father of Mack and J. D.) was mayor. Aldermen were George H. Dairymple (whom many of you knew), Dr. Fred Siler (Allen's father), Jean Bryson (he was a brother of Mrs. Tom Porter), Dr. W. H. Higgins (Harry's father) and John

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The Macon High School celebrated Washington's birthday last Wednesday with interesting public exercises, and a public debate was had at night.

J. G. Siler recently sold his grist mill, located near Mrs. Gaston's, to T. S. Waldrop and Walter Deal, and the machinery was removed the latter part of last week to a location near Mr. Waldrop's, about 2½ miles from town.

Fred Munger returned from Douglas, Wyo. to his home at Highlands last week.—Highlands item.

25 YEARS AGO

A large three-motored plane flew over this town one day last week. This may be a common occurrence for some towns, but this was only the third plane to fly over Highlands.—Highlands item.

Mrs. W. M. Lee and Mrs. John Crawford made a trip to Atlanta, Ga., and Westminster, S. C., last week, and returned to Franklin on Tuesday.

Mr. C. R. Cabe, of Otto, was a business visitor in Franklin last week.

10 YEARS AGO

Miss Brandon Corpening, who has been doing stenographic work in Charlotte for several years, is here on an extended visit to her sister, Mrs. Henry Christy, and Mr. Christy, at their home at Mimosa Inn.

Cadet Nurse Maxine Brendle has returned to Greenville, S. C., where she is taking training at Greenville General Hospital, after a visit with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Brendle.

Mrs. Walter Houston and her small son, Bobby, recently enjoyed a week-end visit in Murphy with Mrs. Houston's brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Everett Anderson.—Highlands item.