

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Marionian

Entered at Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter
Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
Franklin, N. C. Telephone 24

WEIMAR JONES Editor
BOB S. SLOAN Business Manager
J. P. BRADY News Editor
MRS. EDWARD CRAWFORD Office Manager
CARL P. CABE Mechanical Superintendent
FRANK A. STARRETTE Shop Superintendent
DAVID H. SUTTON Stereotypist
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON Pressman

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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

MARCH 10, 1955

warm, for another week or two, as it has been the last fortnight, and as it is as this is written, then we are going to do a bit of boasting.

Because, as every reader of The Press must remember, the Groundhog saw his shadow when he came out February 2 (if he really did come out that day!), thus predicting six more weeks of winter; but he did not see it when he came out February 14!

If the weather stays like it is now, we're going to be sorely tempted to say "I told you so"; to say that February 14 has been proved to be the real Groundhog Day — by the weather itself!

Others' Opinions

CRAZY

(The Gosport, U. S. N. A. S., Pensacola, Fla.)

A bachelor is a fellow who is crazy to get married — and knows it.

'BARE, GRACELESS . . .'

(Chapel Hill News Leader)

"A city does not have to be ugly", says Weimar Jones, editor of The Franklin Press, who with Mrs. Jones has been having a visit to the deep South. It would be a good deed to furnish Jones with a loud speaker by which he could shout this to the bare, graceless, and horribly commercialized little towns which have succeeded the stately and shaded old Southern towns of a former day.

A GOOD COMPANION

(Asheville Citizen)

When Burlington Industries Inc. acquired controlling interest in Goodall-Southern Co. last summer Western North Carolina put a second rivet in its bond of friendship with a progressive, civic-minded industry that is North Carolina's native pride.

Burlington again has proved the case at Hot Springs. Through Goodall-Sanford it is buying up the stock of two Madison County companies formed to finance building of the original plant at a cost of more than one million dollars.

No small sacrifice was made by some Madison residents to bring an industry into their neighborhood. Burlington will assume this indebtedness. The gesture is good business but it is also magnanimous. It is typical of how this giant integrated textile firm operates in the broad area of human relations.

Burlington is establishing itself in Franklin. It is to be hoped that this second Western North Carolina enterprise in Hot Springs can be fitted into the world's largest textile complex of its kind. The fact that Madison residents committed themselves without qualm or quibble to bringing an industry into an industrially starved county is the earnest of a good partnership for anybody who will follow it up.

An Editorial

(Reprinted by Permission)

SOMETHING happened not long ago that made no headlines and was hardly even reported. In fact, it was all but lost in the flurry over Formosa. But it was as important as any single event in the past ten years. What happened was that the United States Government quietly repudiated its historic position under which heads of enemy governments at the end of the last war were killed or punished for the crime of war. Without benefit of national debate or a vote of Congress or even an explanation to the American people, the United States reversed itself on the principle of world law under which we had earlier declared that not nations but individuals make war and are therefore to be held accountable for war.

Before fixing our gaze on the incredible historic liability we have just incurred, let us review the background. Almost as significant as victory itself in World War II was the proclamation of a new principle, investing sovereignty in the community of nations as a whole. Under this principle it was decreed that war was a crime by individuals against the world community. Accordingly, eminent jurists from the victorious nations came together in a Four-Power Tribunal to define the principles of world law under which individuals were to be tried. Hundreds of political and military leaders from the Axis powers were arraigned, tried, sentenced, and punished. The indictment drawn up against the inner Nazi circle, for example, charged twenty-two men with (1) participating in a conspiracy to commit crime against the peace and against humanity, (2) planning and executing a war of aggression, (3) violating the rules of warfare by mistreatment of civilians and prisoners of war, (4) murdering and enslaving people because of race, religion, or political belief.

The Tribunal condemned twelve high-ranking Nazis to

death by hanging. Seven were sentenced to long prison terms; three were set free. Subsequently, acting under these precedents, and with prosecutors from the Allied nations, other trials were held. The final score was 456 death sentences and 1,112 convictions with lesser penalties. In Japan, acting under the same legal sanctions, the United States tried twenty-eight Japanese war leaders, executing seven and imprisoning eighteen.

Supreme Court Justice Robert H. Jackson, who headed the American staff of jurists participating in the Nuremberg trials, made it clear that this country was not using the forms of legality as a cloak for vengeance. Even though there was no government of the whole to represent the human community, the community existed and possessed certain basic rights. When these rights were violated it became the responsibility of that community not only to protect itself but to invoke the mechanism of legality at its disposal against the criminals. Individuals who operated or governed aggressive nations could not escape responsibility by pretending to be merely the agents of those nations. Their decisions were the ones that led to the crimes.

Seldom in human history had there been anything as epochal as the definition and application of these principles. In essence, they laid down the basis for world law. They also made implicit the need to create a constitutional basis for the community of nations in order to enable it to deal with world criminals before and not after the damage was done. In any event, we had made certain specific commitments to basic legal and moral principle from which we could not depart without becoming world criminals ourselves. For if the decisions that were to send more than a thousand human beings to their death were to be undone, we would stand condemned under the very statutes we invoked to condemn others.

To repeat, the big challenge after the Nuremberg trials was to incorporate its basic provisions into the Charter and structure of the United Nations,



Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

THE SNOW

Old Mother Goose has been
picking her geese
and bits of white, fluffy down
fell down, down.
They covered our county and little town
until we found
a white velvet carpet
all over the ground.

Marion, N. C.

ANNIE G. LITTLE

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

It's interesting to watch a public official hold a press conference. It often has occurred to me that it must be quite an ordeal for him.

For reporters have a way of asking penetrating and sometimes embarrassing questions. And the person being questioned has no way of knowing what question will be next. Furthermore, because he doesn't know what questions are going to be asked, he has to answer "off the cuff"; that is,

he doesn't have the opportunity, as he has in preparing a speech, to plan just what he is going to say, and consider just how the words will sound. Finally, if he declines to answer a question that can sometimes be more damning than even the worst answer he might give.

I've seen some half a dozen North Carolina governors in action at press conferences, and last Friday I had an opportunity to watch Governor Luther

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ARE WE MEN OR MURDERERS?

From The Saturday Review

eyes of history, seeking immunity from the very legality we solemnly impose upon others? There is an equally important question that concerns Supreme Court Justice Jackson and the able corps of American jurists who worked with him at Nuremberg. Have we by our action before the United Nations converted them into murderers? If the legal basis of their work is to be dissolved, what status are they to occupy in history?

Ever since the United Nations was founded, American delegates to the United Nations have chafed under the frequent use of the veto by Soviet Russia in the Security Council. But not once have we reminded the world that we ourselves proposed the veto. Nor have we ourselves proposed that the veto be replaced with binding obligations — on us as well as everyone else. Similarly, we have made dramatic postures against aggressors and world criminals but when the hard question of individual responsibility actually comes up we ourselves have run for cover. Most perplexing of all is the presumption of our Delegation in saying that the American people are not ready for the measures that are an organic part of world law and therefore world security. Has the question been put to our people? Has there been a national debate? How does the Delegation know?

Is it possible that the American Delegation to the U.N. is more concerned over the probable attacks by certain Senators who fear world commitments than they are over the moral and historic significance of their reversal of Nuremberg? It is undoubtedly true that some Senators will shout to the skies against the creation of a higher sovereignty. That is their right. But it is also the right and privilege of the Government to take the fight to the people.

The American Delegation to the U.N. has put the American people on the spot. Whether we get off it or not depends on whether the American people will allow their name to be used lightly in the world, even by their own government.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Properly this column, this week, should be named Random Thoughts On Various Current Topics.

I think that Governor Hodges did a very good job the other day on straightening out the issues involved in the tax problem before the General Assembly of North Carolina. Certainly, if we want to continue to improve our public services in the way of better schools and roads, better care for the mentally sick, and encouragement of industry to come to North Carolina, we are going to have to pay for it. To obtain the money to pay for the furnishing of these services, the state must levy taxes. If any person can suggest some other feasible way to finance the operation of these various functions let them suggest it. So the problem is this in a nutshell. Either we raise more money through taxes or we have sorer schools and roads. If we decide we want to maintain our schools and roads on at least as good or better standards and that we should do the same for other state services shall we obtain the money by increasing the taxes on the basic necessities or shall we first try to raise enough money by levying a tax on various items which people do not have to have. The people of North Carolina should decide and let their representatives know. First, do we want to continue to improve our various public services, second, do we want to pay for it by a tax on the bread and milk we eat, or the tobacco we smoke? That is what the Governor of North Carolina asked the people of his state to decide — a fair question, I think.

Sunday night, I heard Dr. Billy Graham being interviewed by a bunch of sharp reporters on a Meet the Press program. During the program, Dr. Graham expressed a thought which I think all churches would do well to ponder. In the course of the interview, Dr. Graham was asked how we would reconcile the recent rapid growth in church membership in this country and the fact that there is a still increasing number of crimes and other acts that are indications of immoral living on the part of our citizenry. Whereupon, the youthful evangelist replied that he felt that one of the main problems of churches in Amer-

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Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Oscar Moore, of Birmingham, Ala., arrived here last week for a visit to his mother and other relatives.

Mrs. W. H. Higgins returned home Friday evening from a visit of a few weeks to her brother, Harry O. Siler, at Matlock, Wash.

W. E. Sanders reported killing a copperhead snake 27 in. long at Mr. R. L. Porter's place at Silver Birch last Saturday.

25 YEARS AGO
The home of Mr. L. W. Rice was slightly damaged by fire Sunday morning. — Highlands item.

Mr. T. W. Porter left last week on a business trip of three weeks to points in Florida. He carried several hundred dollars to advertise Franklin to the Floridians.

The Study Club met at the home of Mrs. W. A. Rogers on Monday. Eleven members were present. After the business session, Miss Helen Burch reviewed Rohaag's "Giants in the Earth".

10 YEARS AGO
Mr. and Mrs. Stacey C. Russell returned to "Homewoods" Monday from a vacation visit in Orlando, Fla., Thomasville, Ga., and Anderson, S. C.—Highlands item.

Mrs. J. K. Hunter and small son, Johnny, who have been spending several weeks with Mrs. Hunter's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Zeb W. Conley, have returned to their home in Hollyoak, Del.

Robert L. Cunningham, son of Mr. and Mrs. Newton Cunningham, of Akron, Ohio, is spending several weeks in Franklin with relatives.

Driveways And Highways

This newspaper has great sympathy for whoever holds the post of division highway commissioner.

Undoubtedly there never is enough money to do what the commissioner himself considers necessary, much less what the people of the division want done. There undoubtedly are many more entirely legitimate demands for immediate action than it is possible for the commissioner to comply with. Undoubtedly, too, there must be many unreasonable and quite impossible demands.

Commissioner Harry Buchanan, we are sure, is all-too familiar with this situation. But Mr. Buchanan must know, too, that the people of Macon County have been both reasonable and patient.

They were reasonable enough to be willing to divert \$450,000, temporarily, from the Georgia road project to speed completion of the Dillsboro road. And though they have been unable to understand why the Dillsboro road was let in two sections, at widely spaced intervals, so that its construction has taken about twice as long as otherwise would have been necessary, surely Mr. Buchanan must have been impressed by the patience of Macon County people during the nearly four years they have been cut off from the east.

Now they face the prospect of having the road to the Georgia line — though the distance is much less, and though it is all in one county — let in two sections, at widely spaced intervals, so that they will be cut off to the south twice as long as otherwise would be necessary!

Suppose a Macon County man, having decided to build a driveway from the road to his house, should build it in two sections. Suppose he should hire a builder to come in and grade half of it, then wait for the filled-in places to settle, then pave it; and then, having finished half of it, go out and hire another builder to repeat the process on the other half. If a Macon County man should do that, instead of building the driveway all at once, Mr. Buchanan, as one experienced in road building, would say such a man was foolish indeed.

Macon County has had its "driveway" to the east built that way. They've learned by sad experience just how foolish it is.

Can Mr. Buchanan blame them if they protest against having the same mistake made a second time? Aren't they being entirely reasonable in insisting that this short stretch of road between Franklin and the Georgia line be built in one link, all at the same time?

Navy Color Line

When the American carrier Midway visited South Africa sometime ago, it called for quite a bit of official explaining, reports Columnist Drew Pearson. The Negro press, in particular, had to be placated.

The reason why explanations were in order: In South Africa, racial segregation is practiced. And, according to Mr. Pearson, it is the strict policy of the Navy to steer clear of segregated areas.

Since when? and why? What, in the name of all that makes sense, has racial segregation to do with where the Navy's ships go into port?

It is one thing to demand for the Negro all his rights. To have this, or any other, minority influencing Navy policy is a horse of a very different color.

A Warning

It may be snowing and freezing, of course, by the time this issue of The Press reaches its readers. Besides, it's too early to do much boasting yet.

But here's a warning: If the weather stays as