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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with 2 columns: OUTSIDE MACON COUNTY and INSIDE MACON COUNTY. Rows for One Year, Six Months, and Three Months with corresponding rates.

MAY 5, 1955

Why Not?

For some strange reason, most of us postpone paying town and county taxes just as long as we possibly can. We know they have to be paid, but we keep putting it off.

Yet the person who is hurt most by the delay is the taxpayer himself. For if he doesn't pay early, he loses a discount; and if he doesn't pay until late, he has the embarrassment of being listed as delinquent in legal advertising in the newspaper—and has the costs of the advertising added to his tax bill!

Each year, The Press carries long lists of delinquent taxpayers, both for the county and for the Towns of Franklin and Highlands. As of now, 132 Highlands taxpayers have not paid 1954 taxes (which were due last year) totalling \$4,498.91. In Franklin, 137 owe approximately \$6,400. The number and amount for the county are much greater.

Franklin will start advertising unpaid 1954 taxes in May; Highlands and the county, in August. Why wait until your name appears in those lists? Why pay more for the privilege of dilly-dallying a little longer?

The newspaper gets paid for this advertising. And of course it can use all the business it can get. But this is business we'd rather not have. We think it gives the county and the towns a black eye to outsiders to appear to be populated by citizens who either are poverty-stricken or are deadbeats — neither of which is the case, of course. And we think publication of these long lists of delinquent taxpayers doesn't help our own community and personal self-respect. We think everybody would be better off — including The Press — if there were no lists of delinquent taxpayers.

And there really is no necessity for there to be any such lists.

Let's have one year when there aren't any! There's every reason why we should have such a year; there's no really good reason why we shouldn't. It's up to you, Mr. Taxpayer.

By The Back Door

This newspaper came in for criticism when it expressed the suspicion that the proposed new military reserve law was nothing but a way to get universal military training — by the back door.

We pointed out that all efforts of the military, over a long period, to get U. M. T. enacted into law as a permanent, peacetime policy, had failed. We suggested that this so-called "reserve" bill, indorsed by President Eisenhower, is an attempt "to foist on the American people something they repeatedly have rejected" (through their congressmen); that it is universal military training, "pleasantly sugar-coated".

Without discussing the merits or demerits of U. M. T., the editorial criticized the President and the military for being less than honest with the American People.

That was last January.

The other day the same suggestion came from Drew Pearson. In his case, though, it was not expressed as a suspicion; he said flatly military men admit that that is what is happening.

In his "Washington Merry-Go Round" of April 24, he wrote:

"The Pentagon is very quiet about it, but it's skillfully maneuvering a sugar-coated version of Universal Military Training through Congress.

"What's more, the brass hats won the first battle in a House armed services subcommittee, almost without church groups realizing the battle had started.

"Though 'H. R. 2967' is described as 'strengthening of reserve forces' its supporters admit that it's a back-door UMT. It authorizes compulsory drafting of youths as well as service veterans into reserve components, which can be activated to full military status at the will of the President.

"Only difference is that Pentagon lawyers are playing up the word 'reserve' instead of 'universal military training'."

New York As I Saw It

(EDITOR'S NOTE: In the following article Miss Emma Watson, Franklin High School junior, gives her impression of New York. Her first visit to a big city, she won the trip in an essay competition.)

By EMMA WATSON

Before I say anything about New York, I would like to explain how this tour was made possible for high school students. In 1953 the American Freedom Association was started in Mount Airy by a business man there. The purpose of this organization is to gain peace first through religion and second through education. Each year the association sends material and information to the high schools on a topic about world peace and each year the topic is different. The information and material is used to write speeches on this one topic and a final winner is chosen. This winner, if he (or she) can get some organization to pay the expenses for the trip or if he can pay his expenses, can go to New York and the United Nations.

I was sponsored by the Franklin Lion's Club to which I am deeply indebted.

New York City is not as wonderful as it is described in books but it does have an exciting and interesting atmosphere. It is a huge, bustling city with big, beautiful buildings, which have floors on top of floors and some of them are so tall that they seem to touch the clouds. At night New York, with its many streets, stores, hotels, and other attractions, is a blaze of light. Its many signs, advertisements, and lights of all designs and colors shine brightly all night.

There are so many interesting sections and things in New York that it is hard to explain how interesting they all were to me. For instance:

Chinatown, with its old, Oriental atmosphere, is like something that you might find in an antique store. It is quaint and different and the Chinese people that you come in contact with as you visit the souvenir shops and bazaars are friendly and have something different in their personality that you don't find in other races. Chinatown is not the fighting, brawling section of New York that it once was, because most of the people have

become Christianized and those who haven't still worship in their peaceful Buddhist temple like their ancestors.

Like every large city, New York has its place for the homeless and dejected people of the city. In New York this place is called the Bowery. Here you see men and, sometimes, women who have no friends, no jobs, no one to love and to care for them, and who have become slaves to drink and drug. They stand around on the streets of the Bowery, half-starved, ragged, dirty and helpless. Their only hope is to find a pope or a priest at the mission, who will give them enough money for their next meal and at night they will probably sleep on the sidewalk or on some doorstep. As one looks at these dejected people he thinks of the many generations who have suffered untold sorrows such as these people are suffering today and he says a silent prayer for these people and thanks God for the many wonderful blessings that have been bestowed on him.

The United Nations was the most interesting to me because here everyone, whether doorman, guide, waitress, elevator operator, or top official, is working for world peace and the betterment of mankind. The United Nations is not a perfect organization but it is a magnificent human achievement. To me the United Nations stands between the free people of the world and Communism. Its idea is that nations and peoples working together can do more for the common good than each could do alone. As we saw and were explained to how this organization works we felt the desire for world peace. If all the people of all colors, races, creeds, and nationalities could see and understand what the United Nations is doing for world peace, they would not be so free with criticism, rumors, falsehoods, etc.

So before we say and do things against the United Nations let us first think of its many achievements instead of its short comings.

I loved New York as long as I am visiting but I know that I wouldn't want to live there because there isn't enough grass, flowers, and trees. Just give me "The Good, Ole North State" and I'll be satisfied.

Others' Opinions

WHAT TO SAY?

(Catholic Digest)

"How is your wife?" the man asked an old friend he hadn't seen for years.

"She's in heaven," replied the friend.

"Oh, I'm sorry." Then he realized that was not the thing to say, so he added, "I mean, I'm glad." And that was even worse. He finally came out with, "Well, I'm surprised!"

BASIC RIGHT

(Raleigh News and Observer)

Weimar Jones, editor of The Franklin Press, raises once more the question, "Why can't we elect the members of our County Board of Education?"

The answer, of course, is that that right should be restored to the people in all the counties of North Carolina. The denial of the right was instituted to "protect" the people of the western counties from the Republicans. Now the process only emphasizes that the denial of this right which the people of every county ought to have is imposed by the Democrats. Such an interference by the State Democratic Party in local self government no longer benefits the Democrats and it clearly damages democracy.

This basic right of local government should be restored in North Carolina.

A HEALTHY THING

(Chatham News)

School controversies are healthy things because they cause people to think positively about schools.

All too frequently the average citizen of a community refuses to bestir himself in behalf of schools. He develops the mistaken idea that members of the school committee will be able to look after all things without any help from the sidelines. Unfortunately school committee members, because of public apathy, develop the opinion that they are fighting a battle all by themselves.

A bit of a controversy serves to wake up the people. It makes them take sides. It convinces public officials that they are public servants and not proprietors of a private domain immune to the proings of the people.

If people retain their perspective and avoid developing personal animosities a difference of opinion on schools is a healthy thing. It serves as a tonic to a lethargic citizenry and as a spur to officials, elected or appointed.

I do the very best I know how — the very best I can; and I mean to keep doing so.—Abraham Lincoln.



PRISONERS AND HOME VISITS

(Shelby Daily Star)

The state should certainly want to avoid making country clubs out of its prison camps. Rigid and humane discipline should be in effect all the while.

Yet there is a measure of good sense in the legislation which has been introduced in the North Carolina General Assembly allowing convicts periodic weekend leaves of absence as an aid to good conduct and to aid in the rehabilitation of prisoners.

The bill, offered by Rep. Arthur Goodman, of Mecklenburg, would permit such leaves from 6 p. m. Friday until 6 p. m. Sunday. Prisoners would not be eligible for the leaves until they had served six months or more. They could not receive leaves oftener than every three months.

The greatest incentive any prisoner has for good behavior is to get home again. Why not capitalize on this motive by allowing a prisoner to see his home once in a while? He certainly wouldn't be any worse for such a visit and it might improve his whole attitude.

A CHILD'S PRAYER

(Jim Parker in Chatham News)

"A Child's Prayer" by Mildred Bright Payton, Negro home demonstration agent of Chatham County, won second prize in the fourth annual Guilford County Fine Arts Festival last week. The poem, published in 1954, is as follows:

God, please send two little angels To watch me through the night, And let them stand beside my bed When I turn out the light. God, I thank you for keeping me While I was out at play, Now watch my puppy through the night, So he won't run away. And watch my dolls and tea sets, To see that they don't break. I will look after them myself Tomorrow when I wake. Now, God, please bless my daddy, And little Jimmy Dale (You know the boy who plays with me And pulls my puppy's tail.) And bless my mama separately, And keep her nice and warm, And keep her close beside my bed. To kiss me in the morn.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

This piece is in praise of old maid aunts. there, and always thought of everything.

Of course they aren't always aunts, the kind of persons I'm thinking of. They may be distant cousins — or no kin at all. And they aren't invariably old maids, these selfless persons who usually are indispensable but often aren't fully appreciated. Sometimes they are widows without children, or widows whose children are grown and gone. Maybe they are grandmothers. And on very rare occasions indeed they are found among men.

Generally, though, they are old maid aunts. Everybody knows the kind: The person we can always count on when there is need for a helping hand; the kind of person who is there as a matter of course.

She was there when our little noses wanted wiping, or when we wanted to learn about Mother Goose, or when our tears needed smiling away. She kept house for us while Mother was at the hospital for the arrival of little brother or sister. She helped us when the arithmetic or the grammar just wouldn't come right. She stayed home and washed the dishes so Mother and Dad and we children could get to the school program or the community meeting or the movie on time. And when there was a death, anywhere in the community, she was always

She often does those same things today, but with time, the pattern of activities has changed. The old maid aunt hasn't. She still thinks of everybody — everybody, that is, but herself. Today she is likely to be doing that unspectacular church or community task nobody else has the time or the inclination to do. Or she is helping Junior, who is sure nobody understands him, to understand himself; because the modern version of the old maid aunt is likely to be a psychologist as well as a saint. And the chances are nobody, not even she, knows how many nieces and nephews and cousins she's first inspired and then financed through college.

She's made no history — she doesn't even get in the newspaper, as a rule. But she's made a lot of character, as she went her quiet way. And without realizing it (because it has never occurred to her that she is unselfish), she has demonstrated for a lot of us the truth of the axiom we all accept but few follow — "It is more blessed to give than to receive."

She'll have plenty of star-studded crowns, surely, in the hereafter. In the meantime, here's a simple and imperfect one for her in the here-now.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

Whether it is right or wrong, whether it is a continuation of Dean Acheson's Far East policy or a new revitalized Dulles plan, when representatives of the United States government sit down to a conference table with representatives of Red China there will be one result that all must face. Red China will then be one step nearer recognition as a sovereign power.

It is a bitter pill to swallow and most of us dodge the fact, but the truth of the matter is that Chou En-lai is head of the government of China proper regardless of what means he used to come into power. This is true because he is there and neither the United Nations nor the United States cares to pay the price necessary to restore Chiang Kai-shek to power. Certainly Chiang can not build enough power on the isle of Formosa to reconquer the mainland of China. His cause is hopeless unless the United States fights his battle, and I know of no one who will actually advocate we go to war to restore the Nationalist government in China.

An interesting sidelight to the struggle is just how silly the remarks about "turning loose the mighty forces of Chiang against the Red Chinese" made by Eisenhower and other Republican leaders in the last election seem now. They have been turned loose for some two years now and all they have done is scream for help whenever the Red Chinese made a threatening gesture toward Formosa.

There have been reports of people paying premium prices to obtain the new Salk vaccination for polio. Any person so doing should immediately be placed in jail. To create a black market in a medicine of this kind would do immeasurable harm to the polio prevention program besides being a great gamble with the health of a child. Of course any person making such a sale is also one of the most despicable characters we can think of now or any other time.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The Franklin High School closed its spring term last week. Over 100 pupils were enrolled during this term. We learn this has been one of the most successful terms of this school in a number of years. M. D. Billings has been reelected by the trustees as principal for next year.

Misses Margie and May Franks, Ruth and Agnes Zachary, and Rosa Watkins went to Bryson City last week to attend the closing exercises of the Bryson City School.

25 YEARS AGO

More people appear in Highlands each week-end. Those who already have summer homes are preparing to move into them in a few weeks, and others are building and renting places. The week-end just past saw 10 or 12 different states represented by the cars, some from as distant states as Illinois and Pennsylvania. — Highlands item.

Miss Lillie Rankin entertained the members of the Sewing Club at her home on Riverview Street Friday afternoon. In addition to the club, Miss Rankin had as guests Mrs. Florence Hampton, of Bryson City, and Mrs. J. E. Lancaster, of Franklin.

Mrs. Sam L. Rogers has returned from an extended visit to Phonotoffa, Fla., and announces that Rogers Hall will open for the summer season on May 15. Mrs. Rogers has been away since February 1.

10 YEARS AGO

Jerry Ledford has returned to Pontiac, Mich., after spending several days here visiting his mother, Mrs. Bertha Ledford, and family.

Miss Nancy Allen, who has been employed at Washington, D. C., is spending several days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Dewitt T. Allen, of Franklin, Route 3.