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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 |

JULY 21, 1955

Time For Action

Detours to right of us,
Detours to left of us . . .

And more detours to come!

Almost since the memory of man runneth not the contrary, Franklin has been cut off, by one or more detours, from the outside world. And Franklin is a tourist town!

You can't have good roads, of course, without construction and the inconvenience construction imposes. But there is such a thing as planning. There is such a thing as consideration for the rights and convenience of the public. And there is such a thing as getting through.

The end is in sight on most of our detours. But, at the snail's pace at which the State Highway Commission has been proceeding, we'll be cut off to the south for the next decade or so.

If the state is going to build the road between Franklin and the Georgia line, it ought to let the contract, now. And it ought to see to it that that road is completed before the height of another tourist season.

Can We Compete?

Unless the United States buys from Japan and other friendly nations that are dependent on exports, inexorable economics will force those nations over into the Communist camp. The alternative is to continue, indefinitely, to give them economic aid — that is, gifts. And there is serious question of how long we can continue such aid and stay economically strong ourselves.

Meanwhile, we have equipped many of their factories with modern machinery and have passed on to their workers much American technical know-how.

In the light of that situation, plus the great difference in the standards of living, there arises the old question, the old fear: Can American industry compete? — can it compete even in a world market barely free enough to permit these other nations merely to survive?

That fear is graphically portrayed in a cartoon on this page, reprinted from the Stanly News and Press, first rate newspaper published at Albemarle, in the heart of North Carolina's textile belt.

Well, can we compete?

The question, it seems to us, has at least three answers.

1. We must.
2. Nobody knows. Nobody knows because the experiment hasn't been tried.
3. We cannot, unless we rid ourselves of vast American waste.

American industry is shackled on every hand by waste. Here are three major sources: Waste by government, which results in unnecessarily high taxes on industry; waste in industry itself — the top-heavy industrial bureaucracy that provides high salaries for quantities of unproductive "vice-presidents" and "chairmen of boards" is only one example; and waste by labor. The most obvious instance of the latter, of course, is the union demand that a labor-saving machine be allowed to save no labor; that three men still must be hired to do the job that, with new machinery, could easily be done by one.

The freedom of the mind can save us yet — if we can save it. — Elmer Davis.

What Matters

From Crumpler, in Ashe County, comes the preamble to the constitution of a new organization, White Men, Inc.

A part of what is said in this preamble seems to us to make good sense. Moreover, we can understand what must be the feelings of the founders of White Men, Inc.; because those who believe in racial segregation have been pushed around rather roughly, over a long period. It is only natural for them to feel they have to hit back.

But while we can sympathize with their feelings, we have no patience with such an organization. The reason is pretty obvious: We already have one racial pressure group, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People — and that's one too many. The N. A. A. C. P. isn't interested in the slightest in such things as justice for all, or in the national welfare; its sole objective is just what its name suggests, to advance a single group, colored people.

Presumably, White Men, Inc., would be equally social conscious and selfish. And never yet have two wrongs made one right.

Besides, the time has come when the question of whether we have or do not have segregation is unimportant.

With this nation and Russia possessing nobody knows how many atom bombs, and now the hydrogen bomb — and maybe the cobalt bomb is just around the corner! — there are only two questions of any real importance to Americans:

1. Can America stay free without an atomic war, and, if there is one, can we win it?
2. Can we go through a cold war, and possibly a hot one, and keep the personal freedoms that are the one thing that make America worth saving?

• Letters

Flowers For The Living

Editor, The Press:

Mahatma Gandhi, one of the world's deepest thinkers, was once asked by some religious leaders what he thought of Christianity. He said: "Well, show me a Christian, and I will answer you."

The Savior said the way is "strait and narrow and few there be who find it".

I think it quite likely that Billy Graham is a Christian, but my real candidate for that honor is Mrs. Mary Ledbetter, who lives about three miles out of Franklin on the Murphy road. Although I have seen very little of this noble woman, she has been more inspiration to me than all the ministers I have ever met.

Mrs. Ledbetter is well advanced in years. Her pathway has not been strewn with roses, but she has never allowed the rough grind of daily life to choke the sweetness and love out of her heart.

Mahatma Gandhi, you would have found one — at least one — in Franklin, a woman whom everyone loves, and her name is Mary Ledbetter.

FRANCIS L. BAILEY.

Alto, Georgia.

Others' Opinions

Franklin Road

(Asheville Citizen)

It is welcome news that, barring bad weather, the 9.42-mile link of U. S. Highway 23-441 in Jackson County will be ready for paving by the latter part of August.

Resident Engineer S. T. Usry adds that, if all goes well, the entire section of U. S. 23-441 from Dillsboro in Jackson County to Franklin in Macon County will be open for travel by the last of September.

The \$307,296 Jackson County project, started in the fall of 1953, is to tie in with the completed link of highway between Franklin and Cowee Gap on the Macon-Jackson County line.

Opening of the entire route between Dillsboro and Franklin will add another major modern highway to the mountain road system. Gradually, the region is getting better roads. More and more will be needed before it can be said the system is adequate.

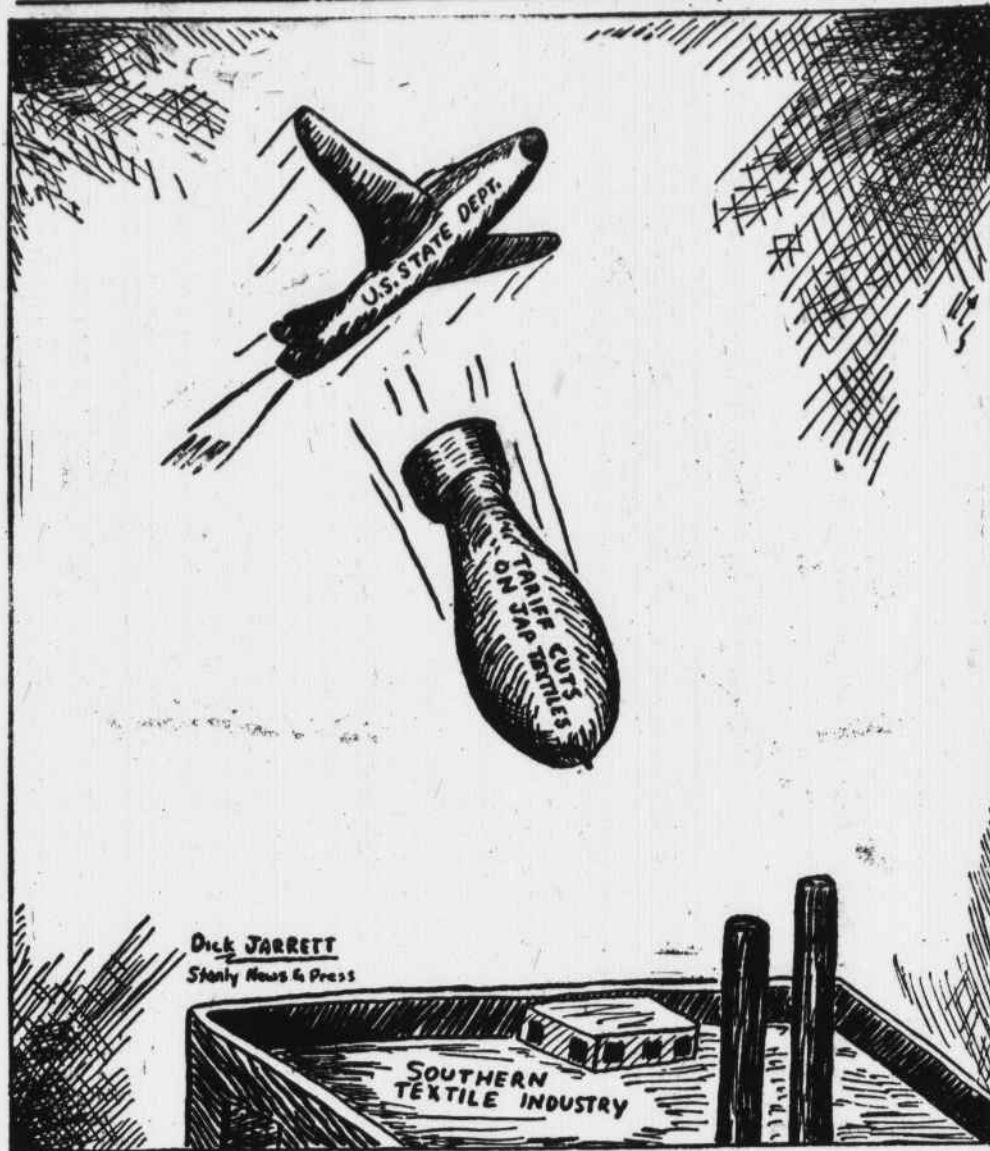
Financier

(Tracks Magazine)

A small time salesman treated himself to a Pullman ride from Boston to New York aboard a de luxe streamliner. Thrilled by the train's luxuries, he entered the club car where several big business men were discussing the state of the economy. "A bad week," he heard one capitalist complain. "We netted only \$130,000."

"It was better for us," said another. "Wheat was hot and we

ANOTHER PEARL HARBOR



This editorial cartoon, reprinted through the courtesy of the Stanly News and Press, Albemarle, N. C., is attracting considerable notice throughout the Cotton Belt because farmers fear the "bomb" will have an impact on the raw cotton industry equally as severe as on American textile mills.

cleared \$250,000." Man after man told of such profits. Suddenly all eyes centered on the little salesman and someone asked, "How's your business?"

"So-so," he shrugged. "Last year yellows were off half a million, but reds were up a million and blacks up four million." Eyebrows raised in wonder, and one of the financiers respectfully asked, "What is your business?"

"Me?" said the little fellow. "I sell jellybeans."

go out of an air-conditioned building on to the street, I wondered why anybody would live there, period.

You leave the artificial coolness of air-conditioning for the real weather outside. First, you think you've mistakenly stepped into an oven; then you feel yourself wilting, like a freshly-set plant; and then you cease to care whether you ever get where you started. . . . it's just too hot to care!

And to think, those poor, benighted millionaires down in the Piedmont are sorry for us poor folks here in the mountains!

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

• By BOB SLOAN

On January 23, 1954, twenty-one American youths decided to accept the way of life of the Chinese Reds who had held them in prison camps for a period of three years or more.

Recently three of these men decided to return to their native land.

They have expressed a willingness to be prosecuted for their mistake.

I do not believe that these men should be prosecuted.

I think that, as commander-in-chief of the army, President Eisenhower should announce that any charges which the army has against these men will be dropped and that they will be given a chance to start life all over again in their native country.

What will serving a jail sentence do for these men?

Will it help to show them the difference in our way of life and that of the Chinese Reds?

These three men came from unstable homes. Will a jail sentence help them to adapt themselves to normal living conditions? — an adjustment that will be difficult to make under any conditions.

From a diplomatic angle, if our prodigal sons are given the back of our hands, how sincere do we appear in our expressions of Christianity?

If these men are tried and punished, we stand to lose a lot, both in our own respect and in the eyes of the rest of the world, and the only thing that could be gained would be that some could say that the law was carried out — to the letter.

Also it should be remembered that these three have returned home expecting the worst. If our country has the heart I hope that it has, they will receive better. This, I think, would go a long way in helping some unstable boys to find firm footing to build their lives on.



Sloan

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The examination of public school teachers began last Thursday, and a pretty good crowd enlivened the town that day.

Mr. George A. Franks, who has a job in Montgomery, Ala., arrived Saturday to spend a few days visiting his father's family.

On last Friday evening a branch of the Woman's Association for the Improvement of School Houses was organized here, and Mrs. C. W. Slagle was selected for President. About \$8.00 was raised as a prize to go to the teacher who makes most improvement on school house in the county.

25 YEARS AGO

Miss Dorothy Lyle is visiting her grandparents, Dr. and Mrs. S. H. Lyle, in Franklin.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold T. Sloan and family spent Sunday visiting relatives in Athens, Ga.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Cunningham made a trip to Baltimore last week for the purpose of buying fall goods for the Leader Department Store.

10 YEARS AGO

Mrs. Jack Q. Lever and mother, Mrs. Elsie Franks, visited Mrs. Lever's mother-in-law, Mrs. James J. Lever, Sr., in Columbia, S. C., last week.

L. B. Angel, of Haines City, Fla., is here for a visit with his mother, Mrs. T. W. Angel, Sr., and other relatives and friends in Franklin.

Mrs. Jennie Sue Daniels has returned to New York City, after a two weeks' visit with her sister and mother, Mrs. H. D. Randall and Mrs. George L. Bell, at the Randall summer home on Billy Cabin Mountain. —Highlands item.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

THOUGHTS IN SUMMER:

Earlier in the season, we deplored the lack of rain. Well, we're getting it; plenty of it, it would seem. . . . But is the amount of rain we've been getting excessive? Seems to me, when I was a boy in Franklin, we had a thunder shower almost every afternoon.

Maybe that accounts for the fact things seemed so much greener then. . . . I wonder if they really were; or if it seems they were because then they were seen through fresh eyes and an impressionable mind.

There are always compensations. For instance, the coolness that comes with these afternoon rains is far more refreshing because of the heat that preceded it. . . . And consider the beauty of the mountains; clear days are all right, but for scenery, give me the moun-

tains when they're patched with sun and cloud shadows. Or, better still, the mountains during a storm — they're magnificent then.

Speaking of hot days, Franklin really is hotter than it once was. And that's not due entirely to natural causes. The climate in Franklin no doubt has changed, but buildings and pavements are at least partially responsible for the climatic change. . . . If you doubt that, leave Franklin on a sweltering day and drive out into the country, away from buildings and pavements.

But no matter how hot the pavements here, a sure-fire cure for complaint about Franklin's climate is a trip down in the lower altitudes. A couple of weeks ago in Winston-Salem, I found myself wondering how people ever lived down there, before the days of air-conditioning. . . . And when I'd