The Branklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

| | Edito |
|-----------------------------|--------|
| Business M | |
| | Edito |
| Society Editor and Office M | |
| Mechanical Superint | |
| TE Shop Superint | |
| | cotype |

Months 1.00

SEPTEMBER. 1, 1955

Facts Unchanged

Representatives of the State Board of Assessment came to Franklin last week to explain to local officials the tax evaluation placed on properties of the Western Carolina Telephone Company within this county. The substance of what was said was reported in the news columns of last week's Press.

This newspaper has called attention, repeatedly, to discrepancies in the State Board's figures. No good purpose would be served by a re-hash of those

It is worth noting, though, that the explanation of the affable and, we are sure, conscientious Raleigh men left unchanged certain facts:

The board's first evaluation figure for 1954 was wrong; the board acknowledged that by changing it. Its second figure also was wrong; the board acknowledged that by changing it. And the figure it previously had fixed for 1953 was wrong; the board acknowledged that by changing it. Furthermore, a comparison of the 1952 figure with the revised ones for 1953 and 1954 suggests the board also was wrong in 1952.

The board's explanation for reduction of the evaluation of the telephone company's properties in this county is: The Macon County figure was too high, while the evaluations in other counties were too low. Thus the board acknowledges that it has likewise been wrong in its figures for other

In view of that record, is it unreasonable for local officials to be somewhat skeptical about the new figures?

What is the explanation of all these errors?

Dishonesty in Raleigh? The answer to that is that the State Board of Assessment is made up of respected, intelligent, honorable men.

What, then? The answer, it seems to us, is not far to seek.

The board is made up of the state commissioner of revenue, the chairman of the public utilities commission, the attorney general, the director of local government, and the director of the department of tax research. All of these men have other duties; their work as members of the Board of Assessment, in fact, is incidental. How little time they have to devote to that job is indicated by the fact the board's members were unable to find time for a meeting, although there were matters awaiting the board's attention, from November, 1954, to

And the board has a paid staff of exactly two persons! (J. C. Bethune, the board's executive secretary, is paid for other duties; he gives, without compensation, such of his time as he can to assessment matters.)

Thus two and a fraction persons are seeking to appraise the value of the properties of some 400 public service corporations in North Carolina, and then to apportion the value of each among the various counties in which it operates! And the work of these two and a fraction persons is supervised by five public officials who must, perforce, devote most of their time and attention to other duties.

Under the circumstances, it would be remarkable if the board didn't, as a rule, just accept the word of public service corporations as to the value of their properties.

And it would be remarkable indeed if some of the 400 public service corporations didn't take advantage of the situation.

Fullness of knowledge always and necessarily means some understanding of the depths of our ignorance, and that is always conducive to both humility and reverence.

Dr. Robert A. Millikan

'To Sift Apart'

We've heard a lot, in recent years, about discrimination. We've heard it shouted so much, in recrimation, in fact, that the word itself has come to have an evil smell.

Yet it is a good word; it describes a quality found only among persons of character and intelligence; and discrimination is something that is badly needed today.

The very fact the word is in bad odor betrays how sadly we lack the quality!

What is discrimination? The term comes from two Latin words meaning "apart" and "to sift". To sift apart . . . what is worse needed in today's confused and complex world than the ability to sift apart! To sift the good apart from the bad, the sensible from the senseless, the excellent from the mediocre, the true from the false!

Once, much of this sifting was done for us, by carefully erected barriers; the circle of our friends, for example, was fairly well limited by social distinctions. Whatever the weakness of such a system, it had the virtue of relieving us of making every decision, separately, for ourselves. Today, most of the old barriers, of every kind, are gone, or are going; the individual must choose for himself must choose his work, his friends, his education, his reading matter, his television show. In fact, unless children are taught discrimination from the very first, they will go through life, as it is today, confused and making decisions and choices hit or

Just because we condemn discrimination that is unfair is no reason to damn discrimination, which is a rare virtue. What we need is not less discrimination, but more. And, it might be added, what we need even worse than more equality is more qual-

Others' Opinions

Really The End

(Jackson, Miss., Daily News)

The end will come when a Congressional committee is appointed to investigate the activities of Congressional commit-

Definition

(Burton Chance in A. M. A. Journal)

A statistician is a man who draws a mathematically precise line from an unwarranted assumption to a foregone conclusion.

Decision Right, But —

(Iowa Falls, Iowa, Citizen)

How many people in Iowa Falls have ever heard of "Southern Gentlemen, Inc."?

This is not the name of a new distillery specializing in bourbon whiskey nor the name of the group promoting the country club in some of our deep South states.

On the contrary it is the name of a group (and there are other similar names in various parts of the south) which has come into existence following the Supreme Court decision outlawing segregation in our public school systems. "Southern Gentlemen, Inc." is an organization existing in many communities throughout the South of persons whose pigmentation happens to be light rather than dark and who are dedicated to the proposition that the Supreme Court decision will not become the law of the land. This organization, and its counterparts operating under various other names, is prepared to use whatever means may be required to prevent the providing of common school facilities for both white and colored children throughout the southern states. Leaders in these groups say that desegregation may come, but they add significantly "not

It is not for us who are so far removed from this problem



to take a holier-than-thou attitude and condemn without reservation those persons who associate themselves with these groups. The Supreme Court decision was right. It is the only decision that a Christian democracy can live with. We must move toward that goal steadily and unswervingly. There is no place in our democracy for second class citizens. Nevertheless the existence of such organizations as "Southern Gentlemen, Inc." indicates the seriousness of a social problem that will not be cured overnight nor by the edict of our highest court. It will take time and patience and understanding and compromises - all of which are basic ingredients of democracy.

STRICTLY.

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

What is the function of our and to our economy not to public school system?

Most of us have thought we knew, Most of us have taken it for granted that the primary purpose is to teach children how to use their minds, and to give them sufficient skill in use of the basic "tools" - how to read, how to write, and how to work with figures — so that they can, with time and effort, become reasonably well balanced, intelligent, informed human beings

Wasn't what thought?

Well, it seems you and I were wrong!

I was told so, at a meeting of weekly newspaper editors I attended recently in Illinois. One session was devoted to discussion of the public schools, and inevitably the talk shifted from such things as buildings and enrollments around to what the schools are trying to do. Two educators present, presumably authorities in that field, agreed on the answer:

The emphasis, they said, has been taken off of scholarship and placed on personality. The schools are seeking to turn out good individuals instead of educated ones.

It is important that the children's personalities not be damaged. school and expend a reasonable amount of effort must be promoted, whether they have or have not mastered the subjects studied. And, at the end of high school, they must be graduated

On the last point, the educators remarked, there's an economic factor of importance. Today nobody can get a good job without a high school diplo- 'em for 15 cents a pound, when ma, so it's unfair to the child we're out."

graduate all who spend 12 years in school. It wasn't put quite as bluntly

as that; but there was no ques-tion but that that was exactly what these school men meant. And they didn't appear to appreciate a couple of questions that came from their newspaper audience:

"If that's the way it is, does a high school diploma mean anything?"

And

"How can you turn out good individuals, if you teach them there is no such thing as failure? — aren't their personal-ities going to get badly dam-aged when they find how badly you've fooled them?"

This view of what the public schools are for is not exceptional: because, when I mentioned the incident to an educator from another section of the country, he smiled and commented: "And they didn't admit it — they boasted about

This story, typical, it seems me, of mountain humor, came my way the other day. The incident is said to have occurred here in recent years.

Woman customer, entering independent grocery: "How so those who attend much are your pork chops?" Independent grocer: "Fortyfive cents a pound."

Grocer: "Then, madam, why in California for some time, don't you buy from them?

Customer: "They were out." Grocer: "Shucks, lady, we sell

That, I think, would be an excellent statement for the

state leaders to adopt as the official attitude of the state toward the problem. Governor Hodges has implied he does not agree with the part of this statement which says

if the prob-lem is to be worked out at all."

News Making As It Looks

To A Maconite

Concerning the segregation-integration issue, recently The

Greensboro Daily News in an editorial said the following:

"The task of preserving the schools will be made easier if

white leadership will allow ex-

periments in mixed schools to be carried out in those com-

munities where such experiments can apparently be con-ducted with

some promise

of success, without harm-

ing the schools,

in reasonable compliance

with the law and in that

spirit of mod-

eration which

both races

must manifest

. By BOB SLOAN

that experiments should be allowed in those areas where there is reasonable chance of

This is bad, I think. Above all else, our state officials should try to be fair in working out the solution to this difficult problem. Particularly is this true for Governor Hodges. It is he who in the interests of harmony between the peoples of our state has called on the Ne-groes of this state to volun-tarily give up something which the highest court in the land has said they are entitled to. Such an uncompromising stand on the part of the Governor will not cause the Negroes to feel that he is as interested in their side of the problem as he is his own race's. And after all, he is the Governor of all the citizens of the state. Frankly, as an admirer of Governor Hodges, I have been disappointed in his partiality here.

Do You **Remember?**

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. R. L. Bryson sold out his store and lot on which it stands to Mr. John Thomas last Monday morning, and Mr. Thomas is now dispensing goods over the counters. Mr. and Mrs. Robert Roper,

of Fossil, Ore., arrived here last Wednesday evening for a visit to relatives. Mrs. Roper is a daughter of Mr. N. L. Barnard. Mrs. J. E. Stevens, of Smith-

field, N. C., and Miss Mollie Moore, of Rocky Mount, N. C., are visiting Capt. W. E. Mc-Dowell's family.

25 YEARS AGO

Miss Helen Burch left Frank-Customer: "Why, that's too lin Monday to take up her

Mr. David Peek, who has been was on Ellijay greeting his many friends the past week.

Miss Mary McNeely, of Roswell and Atlanta, Ga., was the guest of Miss Myra Stribling last week.

10 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. George B. Perce, of Alburquerque, N. Mex., are here on a visit with their son, Marion A. Perce, and Mrs. Perce, at their home in East Franklin.

Mack R. McKinney, of Highlands, was listed by The Asheville Citizen as among the 27 Western North Carolina soldiers returning from the European theatre on the S. S. West Point last Friday. — Highlands item.

Mrs. F. E. Mashburn and son, Samuel, have returned from Marietta, Ga., where they were visiting Mrs. Edward and Miss Annalee Mashburn.

License Examiner Won't What does the future hold, Be Here Next Week

License Examiner R. V. Hooper has announced he will not be available next week (Sept. 7-8-9) to give examinations and road tests.

He will be attending a school for examiners in Chapel Hill all week. However, he will be available

the following week; Wednesday and Thursday in Franklin, and Friday in Highlands.

CLEANING UP

DON'T THROW THOSE AWAY NOW; I'LL LOOK AT 'EM LATER

Louis Graves in Chapel Hill Weekly

in a plaintive tone of voice:

sess, than I have.

I have many boxes, wood and cardboard, filled with old let- awareness that I had set myters, photographs, business doc- self to a task: getting rid of uments, sections of magazines the contents of the box. But and newspapers, miscellaneous the first thing I knew I was elippings, and souvenirs such reading something else. Then as play and concert programs. I was debating with myself Only three or four days ago I whether I had better discard came upon one of these boxes, one thing or another. All of which have increased fright- this had consumed a lot of fully in number through the time and my work for the day we do. years, stopped the work I was was being neglected. The ex-

way things accumulate in a iron determination to throw home, and Clarence Heer said them all, or anyhow most of them, into a trash basket.

Presently, when I had got rid "I'm always resolving to get of two or three pieces, albeit rid of a lot of stuff but never with painful doubts as to can make up my mind what to throw away."

or two of three pieces, and the painful doubts as to whether I should let them go or not, I was deeply immersed. Millions of men and women in a magazine article which I have been confronted by this remembered having kept with problem and I dare say that the purpose to use it as a text nobody has ever attacked it for some sort of piece of writwith firmer resolutions, or ing. I had tucked it away and come out of it with less suc- forgotten all about it, and now it had a fresh interest.

I jerked myself back to the beside me, and began to go the box was taking a lot long- and declare we are going to a chance."

We were talking about the through the contents with an er than I had expected (though keep it that way, but in a few why I had expected it to take days there is just as big a less I can't imagine, since I jumble of things on it as there had gone through the same routine many times before). Finally I pushed all the things back in the box and said: "To hell with 'em-I'll look through 'em some other time.'

As I suppose is true of every household, ours has periodical cleaning-up spasms. When one of these spasms comes on, we say, "First of all, let's clear off the encyclopedia table." piece of furniture, called, I believe, a cabinet, which holds 24 volumes of the Britannica, stands at the turn of the front hall into the back hall, where it is passed dozens of times every day, and its smooth top is an ideal place to pile things on. Even so, it seems a miracle we get as much piled on it as

We feel great satisfaction doing, put the box on the bed amination of the contents of when we have cleared it off, through them as soon as I have

ever was. I get about a ton of news-

papers and magazines every week — well, it seems like a ton - and there seems to be something in every one of them that makes me want to keep it a long time. They mount into tremendous piles. Now and then I sit down with them, and get rid of a lot of them, but there are always enough This left to clutter up the house.

> in the way of the accumulation of all manner of things in the house? No change, is my fore-cast. It'll keep on as it is. I am the one responsible. My wife would succeed in making a real clean-up if I didn't restrain her by saying, as we look at some boxful: "No, I don't believe we'd better throw these things away now. I'll look