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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Table with 2 columns: Outside Macon County, Inside Macon County. Rows for One Year, Six Months, Three Months with prices.

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.

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 figures.

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.

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.

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.

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!

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 recrimination, 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!

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.

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.

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 committees.

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.

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

CLEANING UP

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

Louis Graves in Chapel Hill Weekly

We were talking about the way things accumulate in a home, and Clarence Heer said in a plaintive tone of voice: "I'm always resolving to get rid of a lot of stuff but never can make up my mind what to throw away."

Millions of men and women have been confronted by this problem and I dare say that nobody has ever attacked it with firmer resolutions, or come out of it with less success, than I have.

I have many boxes, wood and cardboard, filled with old letters, photographs, business documents, sections of magazines and newspapers, miscellaneous clippings, and souvenirs such as play and concert programs.

Our Great America by Woody. Advertisement for a tree nursery featuring a cartoon of a man with a tree and text about tree planting and nurseries.

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

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 experiments in mixed schools to be carried out in those communities where such experiments can apparently be conducted with some promise of success, without harming the schools, in reasonable compliance with the law and in that spirit of moderation which both races must manifest if the problem is to be worked out at all."



Sloan

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

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 Negroes of this state to voluntarily give up something which the highest court in the land has said they are entitled to.

to take a holler-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.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

What is the function of our 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.

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.

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, so those who attend 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 diploma, so it's unfair to the child

and to our economy not to graduate all who spend 12 years in school.

It wasn't put quite as bluntly as that; but there was no question 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?"

"How can you turn out good individuals, if you teach them there is no such thing as failure — aren't their personalities going to get badly damaged 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 it!"

This story, typical, it seems to 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 much are your pork chops?"

Independent grocer: "Forty-five cents a pound."

Customer: "Why, that's too high; they have them for only 35 cents at the chain store."

Grocer: "Then, madam, why don't you buy from them?"

Customer: "They were out."

Grocer: "Shucks, lady, we sell 'em for 15 cents a pound, when we're out."

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 Smithfield, N. C., and Miss Mollie Moore, of Rocky Mount, N. C., are visiting Capt. W. E. McDowell's family.

25 YEARS AGO

Miss Helen Burch left Franklin Monday to take up her duties in teacher training at Atlantic, N. C.

Mr. David Peek, who has been in California for some time, 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 Albuquerque, 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 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.