The Branklin Press

The Highlands Maconian

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SEPTEMBER 22, 1955

Some Questions

A fortnight ago, the number of daily bus runs between Franklin and Asheville was reduced by one-third; the number between Franklin and Atlanta, by one-half.

The Press suggested that Macon County people complain to the State Utilities Commission in Raleigh about this drastic curtailment in service.

How many letters of protest the commission got we do not know; but we have seen the commission's reply to one such complaint. It said:

During the last few years the bus companies have found it absolutely necessary to curtail their service wherever possible in order to stay in business. The reason for this, of course, is the ever increasing number of private automobiles. As a matter of fact, out of ninetysix common carriers of passengers in North Carolina last year, only four of these companies showed a profit at the end of the year and Smoky Mountain Stages, the holder of the franchise through Franklin, was on the verge of bankruptcy and would most certainly have been forced to discontinue all operations had not a merger been effected with Queen City Coach Company.

The purpose of the foregoing is to give you some idea as to what the bus companies are up against. There are very few paying runs left and certainly not enough to support an appreciable number of runs which are highly unprofitable. Nevertheless, we will, of course, make an investigation to determine whether or not Franklin should have additional service and we would also like to point out that you or any other interested citizens have the right to protest any proposed change in bus sched-ules and to ask for a hearing before the Commission. In the meantime, we will make the aforestated investiga-tion and will advise you further upon receipt of our Investigator's report.

That letter suggests some questions:

- 1. Who pays the salaries of members of the Utilities Commission? The public, of course. Then isn't it up to the commission to see that the public gets service, without its being necessary for a delegation to go to Raleigh to a hearing - without its even being necessary for the public to protest by letter?
- 2. Isn't it the job of the commission to protect the interests of the thousands of people who have no automobiles and must depend on the public carriers? And in this particular area, do these people have any choice? - is there any other way for them to travel?
- 3. If the bus companies are losing money today - and we find that a little hard to believe didn't they make huge profits until recently? Wasn't it true, over a period of many years, that there often were more people standing on a bus than were seated? And aren't the fat years supposed to take care of the lean ones - for public utilities as well as for other businesses?
- 4. Just how do the bus companies and the Utilities Commission expect the buses to get more business and thus prove profitable, if the service becomes constantly worse?

Keeping Record Straight

This is to keep the record straight.

When a three-judge federal court, on September 10, ordered the University of North Carolina to admit three Negroes to its undergraduate school, the news dispatch indicated the court had ordered them admitted, period.

Commenting on the ruling, in an editorial last week, The Press said the court had held the Negroes "must be admitted, presumably without regard to their personal qualifications of character, personality, and scholarship".

Last Friday's daily papers carried a story indicating that was not entirely correct; it appears that the court did take into account one of those three. The story quoted Attorney General Rodman as advising University officials they should admit the three youths "if educationally qualified", the inference being that the court had specified they should meet the institution's educational requirements. On the two points of character and personality, the court apparently was silent.

Interesting Election

That's an interesting election that's coming up in Highlands township November 8.

For many years, Highlands has had the problem - especially during the winter months how to have adequate medical care immediately

At last the Highlands Community Hospital opened its doors. But the going still was tough; that institution has been kept open and operating only through the loyal efforts of many unselfish

Now the whole question is being handed to the people of the township. Do they want the hospital? and do they want it badly enough to vote a tax on themselves for its support?

More Wonders

The wonders of tax evaluation on public service corporations, arrived at in Raleigh, never cease.

Why, for example, do the lines of two telephone companies, in the same area, vary so widely? The State Board of Assessment puts a value of \$24 per mile on Southern Bell lines in this county, while it says the lines of the Western Carolina are worth \$43 per mile, nearly double!

Letters

More About Bus Service

Dear Mr. Jones:

After seeing your editorial in the Sept. 8 issue of The Press about the changes in bus schedules, I would like to write a few lines on that subject.

I am a soldier stationed at Camp Stewart, Ga., and have been home twice since I have been here.

I leave after duty hours and make very good connections to Atlanta, arriving there about 11 p. m. As it was before this change, the earliest I could get on into Franklin was 2:55 the next afternoon. If this wasn't sorry service to the public I can't figure out what to call it; and this new change will make it even worse, because if a man gets to Atlanta 5 minutes after the bus leaves, he will have to lay over there 23 hours and 55 minutes.

How would he feel toward the public utilities if some one in the family was expected to die any moment, and he had to wait that long on a bus to get to their bedside?

Sp/3 WILLIAM R. BINGHAM

Camp Stewart, Ga.

Others' Opinions

Same To All

(Park Region, Minn., Echo)

We want Adlai Stevenson again. We want the candidate who says in Georgia what he says in Harlem. Who says to the CIO what he says to the Chamber of Commerce. Who says to the Americans for Democratic Action what he says to the American Legion and the D.A.R.

Carl S. Slagle

Western North Carolina has suffered a great loss in the sudden death of Carl S. Slagle of Macon County. Mr. Slagle was a citizen who threw his strength and influence behind every good cause. He was a man of sound judgment and highly respected all over Western North Carolina. He had been a director of the Farmers Federation and chairman of the Ma-

con County committee ever since the Federation was organized in Macon County. He knew the problems of farming in the mountains, he was an excellent farmer himself and was one of the principal leaders in the great progress Western North Carolina has made in agriculture in the last few years. He was a tower of strength to every good cause. He served his county not only in the legislature but also in many constructive and little known ways all through the years. Carl S. Slagle was a man to match our mountains.

Want No Klan

(Franklin, La., Banner-Tribune)

It is one thing to disagree in free and open debate on an issue such as integration. It is an entirely different matter to endeavor to resolve the question by use of an organization whose members must hide their faces to conceal the hatred of their fellow men that is in their hearts.

Americans of all races and all creeds, regardless of their differences in opinion on other issues, must stand united and vigilant in their opposition to the revival of the Ku Klux Klan or any other secret society that preaches Americanism but practices an ideology entirely foreign to the American Way.

What Boss Wanted?

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

When Russia fell in with the proposal for a meeting of heads of state at Geneva, Secretary Dulles had it all figured out. The amiable "new look" over there, he said, indicated that the Soviet economy was on the verge of collapse. Recent reports of visiting American farmers and businessmen, however, certainly do not bear out the Dulles analysis.

American sightseers, of course, are still limited pretty strictly to such sights as the Russians want them to see, but at least they have been there and Mr. Dulles hasn't. His statement presumably was based on the reports of his intelligence department representatives - who perhaps had limited themselves to seeing only what their boss wanted them to see.

STRICTLY-

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

I've sometimes discussed in this column the difficulties presented by myopia (fancy word other of my favorite dishes. My fornear-sightedness) —and some But all too soon I find I have, of the amusing results.

ever remarked on the problems and potato salad! it presents for a person attending one of these community suppers, where the food is served cafeteria style. When they're outdoors, in the twilight, the situation is just about hopeless; but it often isn't much better inside. Because my observation is that church dining rooms or school cafeterias either are dimly lit, or that the light is so bright it blinds me. For a person of ordinary vision, I am sure the light is fine; in my case, though, there has to be plenty of light, and it must be somewhere besides in my eyes; otherwise, what I am likely to see is a vague blur.

For one who really enjoys good food, the results sometimes can be close to tragic.

Take macaroni and potato salad, for instance. I like most things, and my mother long ago taught me to eat whatever was put on my plate. So, when they get on my plate, I eat much, I don't much like those two the most.

And so what happens at a about sweet potatoes. community supper? It is rare at least two servings of macaroni and sometimes three or four of potato salad!

I sit down, quite sure I have slaw and spoonbread and some mouth waters in anticipation. instead, a plate heaped up and I don't believe, though, I've running over with macaroni

I said it was near-tragic. I guess it would be tragic — if it didn't always hit me as so fun-

The other night, though, I had an illustration of how things generally even up, in the end. The felks out at Bethel were kind enough to invite Mrs. Jones and me to their Community Development Or-ganization supper. Such gatherings, in rural Macon County, always are delightful; they would be, even if there weren't any food. This one was no exception to the rule, as far as the company was concerned; and, food-wise, it was a rare treat. That was one community supper I really cashed in on, gastronomically.

Because if there are any two things I like better than any other two, they are sweet potatoes and lemon pie. Somehow I usually manage to get the lemon pie; maybe its bright macaroni and potato salad. I yellow color distinguishes it, or wouldn't say, though, they maybe my nose is especially were my favorite foods; fact is, sensitive to the odor of lemon, of all the things I don't like and I track it down like a dog does a rabbit. But I've never particularly fortunate

That time, I was. I found indeed that I get around the myself, when I sat down, with serving table without acquiring two big slices of lemon pie, and three servings of sweet potatoes, fixed three different ways! What a meal that was!

rogators and the submachine

guns of the guards, the victims

News Making As It Looks To A Maconite . By BOB SLOAN

When the United States Supreme Court gave a decision which made segregation illegal, there was much criticism, particularly from people living south of the Mason-Dixon line. A large part of the comment was to the effect that the Supreme Court was trying to legislate rather than just interpret the Constitution. They were called everything from starry-

eyed reformers to "politic-ians." I was guilty of some of it myself. I remember that I was displeased that the Supreme Court said something was illegal and then set an indefinite wait-

ing period before the offenders had to do something about it. That, to me, seemed a little out of character, but I'll admit that the problem of segregation is a difficult one and perhaps a different solution was in order. However, in recent months, I have been struck by a much more blatant example of the crossing of lines which separate the executive, legislative, and judicial bodies of our government by some of our own state officials, with the governor being an offender, but there

was no cry raised. Last Spring the North Carolina legislature, which is the law-making body of our state and as such is the body which most nearly reflects the sentiment of our people, adopted a resolution which said that the problem of determining who would attend what schools in our state should be left up to the local boards. No one objected to this proposal when it was passed. The secret feeling among many, I think, was, "That's good, the local boards won't let any 'niggers' into our schools." Also there was the feeling in Raleigh that "That gets the problem off our neck." The resolution was praised in some quarters because it contained the virtues of home rule. I did not see any criticism of the idea.

If Governor Hodges or Attor-General Rodman did not think that it was a good idea to let the people decide the that it would be better for the state as a whole to fol-low one uniform plan they should have said so then. Any person could see then that there was the possibility that a local board might favor integration in its own locality. The time to be opposed to letting (See Bacp Page, 1st Section)

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Miss Maybelle Ashe returned home Wednesday from a protracted visit to South Carolina

Mr. W. J. Zachary has purchased a fine, new, four-seated hack and put it on the line from here to Dillsboro. It arrived here Saturday evening.

A party stopping at Mr. W. N. Allman's went to Wayah Bald Wednesday to see the beauties of Macon County and enjoy the freshest of air and water.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. Alex Setser, son of Mr. Frank Setser, left last week for N. C. State College, Raleigh, to take a course in forestry

Messrs. Fred Guest and Frank McDowell left Tuesday for Pineville, Ky., to accept a po-

Attorney McKinley Edwards. of Bryson City, was in Frank-lin last Friday on business.

10 YEARS AGO

Major Winton Perry, who has been spending his 30-day furlough here with his mother, Mrs. J. E. Perry, left last week for his new assignment at La Junta, Colo.

Mrs. Craig Cranston, of Augusta, Ga., is here for a stay at her cottage on Satulah Road, which was occupied during the summer by Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Fargo, who have returned to their home in Augus-- Highlands item.

T/Sgt. Reno Moses, of the U. S. Army, stationed in Santa Fe, N. Mex., is spending a 30-day furleugh with his mother, Mrs. Rebecca Moses, of Franklin.

ORDEAL IN THE DESERT

RED-TYPE TORTURE MADE PART OF U. S. AIR FORCE TRAINING

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following article, reprinted from Newsweek by special permission, tells how the U. S. Air Force seeks to toughen American soldiers to resist Com-munist brainwashing. The article, the magazine explains, was cleared with the Penta-

By PETER WYDEN

The lieutenant was young and frail. There had been a time when he had eaten, washed, and slept, but that had been in some other life many nightmares ago. Stripped to his shorts, he stood on the crude wooden floor with his knees slightly bent. It did not look like an uncomfortable position, but the pain in his legs became worse and worse. He began trembling.

It was difficult to estimate interrupted by screaming har-the temperature in the window- angues about American Air less wooden shack. It might Force officers who were too have been 110 degrees. It might have been 130. The lieutenant couldn't see his surroundings

because three powerful spotlights flooded his grimy face from 3 feet away. He kept staring at his arms. They were stretched forward with a thin, naked wire looped around each forefinger. Whenever somebody behind the lights felt like it, the wires pumped an electric shock through the lieutenant's

The unknown somebody often felt like it. Perhaps he enjoyed watching the lieutenant jump toward the ceiling like a jack-in-the-box. Perhaps he was annoyed because the lieutenant wasn't answering questions.

There were many questions: "Where are you from?" . . . "What kind of aircraft do you fly? . . . "Who's your wing commander?" . . . The questions hit the lieutenant by the dozen, sometimes with the insistence of machine-gun fire, sometimes stupid to know answers to simple questions, sometimes by promises of food and sleep, al-

The lieutenant was a naviwere more shocks. More shouts. More shocks. The lieutenant said nothing. He trembled and jumped for nearly two hours, but in the shack something had happened to time. To the lieunever been anywhere else. So

ways by more electric shocks.

Not Alone

The lieutenant was not alone. cles temporarily paralyzed.

Notwithstanding the foreignlanguage signs all around the prison compound, the foreignlooking uniforms of the inter-

gator in a B-57, but he did not of these persuasive techniques reveal this. He even refused to were captives not behind the reveal this. He even refused to Iron Curtain but American airgive his first name. This made men in the sand-and-sagebrush the interrogator angrier. There desert of Lemmons Valley outside Reno, Nev. They were guests of Stead Air Force Base, the only U.S. center exclusive-ly dedicated to teaching men how to survive in enemy territenant it seemed as if he had tory. The men who run Stead adwhen he was shoved through the door, he collapsed on the ground and cried.

A few steps down the dirt road was an upright wooden box 16 inches wide and deep and just too short to let a man stand straight. After hours of confinement in this device, men tumbled out like footballs, mus-

minister a lesson never taught before: How to resist brainwashing. No teachers ever applied more ingenious combinations of physical and mental stresses. But the pressures are turned on under supervision of medical men and five psychologists and some 29,000 men have safely withstood seventeen-day course. Graduates include the majority of crews who fly the Strategic Air Command's A-bombers, many Air Force jet fighter pilots, and some Army, Navy, and Marine instructors who are setting up

(See Back Page, 1st Section)