

The Franklin Press  
and  
The Highlands Maconian

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Six Months	1.75	Six Months	1.75
Three Months	1.00	Three Months	1.00

NOVEMBER 3, 1955

• Letters

The Highlands Election

Editor, The Press:

I have been requested by a number of citizens and taxpayers of the Town of Highlands to write you as to their feelings in regard to the proposed 33% increase in the tax rate of Highlands Township for the support of The Highlands Community Hospital on which tax they are asked to express their approval or disapproval on the ballot on Tuesday, November 8th.

The Highlands Community Hospital is owned by a private corporation which is represented by a self-perpetuating board of trustees who in turn appoint the board of directors who operate the hospital. Your governing body has no control over the spending of the money that will be raised if this tax is approved. Could it be that this would be "taxation without representation" over which condition a war was fought in this country along about 1776?

Another thing you have probably been told is that this tax is for a "non-profit" organization. How about our various churches, the library, the boy and girl scouts and the school band? They might welcome some tax support also.

It has been said that there are a number of summer visitors that would not come to Highlands if there was no hospital. It occurs to us that a good water supply and an adequate sewer system would attract more people and also be of much benefit to our year round population. Our governing body is giving a great deal of thought to the water question but have found no means of financing the project. How about a tax for this most important improvement?

In closing it is well to remember that a tax once on the books is much more liable to be increased from year to year than it is to be reduced or eliminated.

Whether in favor of or opposed to this increase in your taxes be sure to get to the polls and cast your ballot. This is your duty as a citizen.

THOMAS H. TYSON.

Highlands, N. C.

After reading the epitaphs in a cemetery, you wonder where they bury the sinners.

Others' Opinions

Deny The Allegation

(Engelwood, Calif., Press)

"The man who makes it a habit of his life to go to bed at nine o'clock, usually gets rich and is always reliable . . . Rogues do their work at night. Honest men work by day."

When John Jacob Aster penned the above words of wisdom

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

"We must do all we can to make certain that our young people get the finest training possible", remarks The Asheville Citizen. "We must be prepared to compete (with the Communist countries) on the basis of quality alone. Are we prepared for this? Not in science and mathematics."

Well, what about in the field of self-expression?

That's important, too; for after all, how far can we get with people who may know their mathematics and science, but are helpless when they want to convey even the simplest idea, either orally or in written form?

STOP IT!

Talk Of Abolishing Public Schools Is 'Stupid, Crazy, Mad'

Roy Parker, Jr., in Northampton County News

Stop it. Stop it. Stop it. All this completely idiotic talk about "abolishing the public schools in North Carolina." Even Luther Hodges, Governor of the state, has joined in such stupid, crazy, mad talk. Even to mention such a thing—especially to mention it in the stilted prose and unctuous phraseology of "official comment"—is comparable to talking about cutting one's throat, leaping off a bridge, hanging oneself from the basement crossbeam.

The public school system of North Carolina is one of the few things material at which we can "point with pride." Read the lists—North Carolina is forty-third in this, forty-fifth in that, fortieth in another. But our public school system, despite its ever present needs, is a wealth—in plant and personnel and service—for which no Tar Heel need apologize.

If Luther Hodges, or members of the Advisory Committee, or anyone else who talks, even in "possibilities," of doing away with public schools, would read again the story of public educa-

tion in North Carolina, they would pray God for forgiveness for suggesting such madness. . . . If they would review how for 50 years a small group of men patiently battled, talked, wrote and strove to get even a modicum of public education . . . how Murphey, Caldwell, a Hare from Hertford, a Cherry from Bertie, year after year prevailed on their fellow citizens to lift themselves from the utter poverty of ignorance . . . how a delicately-nurtured system went under after the strife of civil war, and came back, slowly, painfully, and with great sacrifice.

What else does this state have but its people . . . no wealth, no natural advantages (except for the recreationally-minded), no hope. Except for its people, North Carolina would be a backwater of the nation. For fifty years, we were the "Rip Van Winkle State." That was the time when there were no public schools, when half the population could not even spell its name.

No man, or group of men, has the right in 1955, because

he did a distinct disservice to newspapermen. Although he was right in respect to wealth, that label of rogue is unfair and we resent it.

Gentlemen, But Not Nature

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

Gentlemen may prefer blonds, but nature doesn't. Science, in fact, classifies blondness as a "mutation", or genetic disease, like hairlessness, albinism, and so on.

Ancient history tells of invasion after invasion of Africa by white-skinned Europeans, but they all disappeared in the course of time because blondes cannot survive for many generations in the tropics.

Joe DiMaggio and the rest of us ordinary guys may think Marilyn Monroe is pretty, and all that, but to the geneticist she's just another freak.

Who's Head Man?

(Iowa Falls, Iowa, Citizen)

Who's the "head man?"

People always want to know who the head man is in any organization or institution. And in most cases it is pretty simple to determine.

Who's the head man in the United States? Why, the President of course.

Who's the head man in this or any other state? Why, the governor of course.

Who's the head man of your city? The mayor.

Who's the head man of the school system? The superintendent.

Who's the head man at your church? The preacher.

But pray tell, who's the head man at the county courthouse?

You might say that it is the chairman of the Board of Supervisors. Possibly. But actually the chairman of the Board of Supervisors has little if any control over the other elected officials in the courthouse. They all received their mandate and orders directly from the people—just the same as the Chairman of the Board of Supervisors did.

Actually there is no head man in county government—and that is one of its weaknesses.

Better Schools

(A. C. L. News)

There is currently a campaign on throughout the nation for better schools. Certainly that is a worthy aim. But we should ask, "Better schools for what?" and "What makes a better school?"

We are reminded of the man who said he wanted work. When it was pointed out that he could push a big rock up and down a hill, he said it wasn't the work he wanted but the money. Then it developed that it wasn't really the money but the food and clothing and shelter that money would buy. In the long run, what the man really wanted was the peace of his own conscience and the feeling of personal security accomplished by seeing the needs of his family and himself fulfilled according to his own standards of what was right and just.

In the long run what we want when we say we want better schools is the kind of guidance for our children that will help them to distinguish truth from falsehood, good from bad, and the courage to find pleasure in striving toward the right, with the hope of a better world for themselves and for all men.

Our children must be given the toughness to meet the world they live in and be a part of it. They must be taught that there are many values and many standards and that they must establish their own. They must learn to do their own thinking. They must be given a vision of a worthwhile goal which they can press toward in the effort to make a better world.

And they must be helped in finding the wisdom to accept disappointment and apparent failure or to meet triumph and success without letting either make its impression beyond its proper merits.

In reality a school is not in its buildings nor in its texts; it is in the people who teach.

News Making  
As It Looks  
To A Maconite

• By BOB SLOAN

"Princess Margaret, torn between the dictate of her heart and a tenet of her church, talked alone today with the Archbishop of Canterbury." "Margaret Smiles Despite Warning." "Princess Margaret and Peter Townsend met again at tea time and went partying again tonight." "The romance has enthralled the romantic, annoyed the traditionalists, and diverted the curious."

As all readers will realize, the above are quotes from stories by national news agencies published on the front page of the chief daily newspaper that serves this area. In the past four issues more than 50 inches of front page space have been filled with this type of material. Inside pages have carried much more of the same type of drivel.

Because I think that newspapers have an obligation to separate the wheat from the trash in publishing news, I feel that people who are interested in journalism as a true profession should wince with pain at the travesty that is being carried on in the name of their chosen profession. Most of them do, I feel sure.

If and when Princess Margaret should marry, Peter Townsend or some one else, it is news, but for the life of me I can't see how the details of her social life up until that time warrant front page play in American news organs.

I do not know if the funds are available but there is one project I wish the town board would carry out as soon as is possible — if not sooner! That is the construction of a sidewalk, gravel if they can't afford cement, from a point about George Reece's or Lee Barnard's store on U. S. 64 to the intersection of U. S. 64 and U. S. 441 at Phillips Service Station. A large number of school children and other pedestrians have to walk this route and there is no place for them to walk except in the highway which is heavily traveled. A great danger exists here for both the motorist and the person on foot.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The attention of The Press was called a few days ago to the condition of the jury room in the Court house opposite Major Rankin's office. It is a disgrace to the county. The county commissioners should take a peek into the room and proceed to have it put in decent shape.

Next Saturday is the day set for the Confederate Veterans picnic here in town. To make the occasion interesting, let all bring a good sized basket filled with rations and have a good time, particularly at dinner time.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Bulgin and daughter, Bessie, left Monday for Los Angeles, Calif., to spend the winter with Mr. Bulgin's son, the Rev. E. J. Bulgin. They expect to return by next April.

25 YEARS AGO

Miss Elizabeth Womack was visiting her brother, Mr. John Womack, in Asheville, this past week-end.

Mr. C. W. Teague's two sons, of Prentiss, have been spending several days with their brother in Pittsburgh, Pa.

Mrs. Maxine Sprinkle returned home from La Grange, Ga., where she attended the Georgia and Alabama annual conference of the Pentecostal A. B. Holiness Church. She also visited friends in Toccoa, Ga., while away.

10 YEARS AGO

A meeting of the Highlands United War Relief Fund workers has been called for Thursday night by the chairman, S. C. Russell, when plans will be made for a final thorough canvass of the town Friday.—Highlands item.

At the Western Carolina baby beef show and sale at Asheville 129 4-H and P.F.A. members exhibited and sold 154 fat steers. The grand champion brought 52½¢ a pound.