

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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## SUBSCRIPTION RATES

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DECEMBER 1, 1955

## Point Overlooked?

"... have I overlooked another point?" asks the writer of an interesting letter on this page about racial discrimination.

Well, it's just possible there is a point on this matter that has been overlooked — and not just by Mr. Corbin.

Mr. Corbin agrees there is no such thing as absolute equality of opportunity; but he argues that the smallest inequality, where the races are involved, is discrimination. That mirrors general opinion; the word "discrimination", in fact, is almost never used today without the preceding adjective, "racial".

The point, then, is a question:

Is racial discrimination worse than any other kind? if so, why? and how?

Supreme Court decisions, quoting the Constitution, seem to say it is. And if there is any doubt about the meaning of the court's words, there is none about its actions. Two illustrations: For three-quarters of a century, the court failed to ban freight rate discrimination against an entire region; and today it fails to ban discrimination in favor of veterans (and, therefore, against all other citizens.)

The court says racial discrimination is worse than other forms. That makes it law. It does not necessarily make it right. Both the court and the Constitution may be wrong. (They often have been — if the court is right now, it was wrong all those decades it supported the "separate but equal" doctrine; and we have acknowledged that the Constitution was wrong each time we have changed it.)

As a matter of fact, aren't all of us — from the Supreme Court on down — practicing a sort of reverse-order discrimination when we say one discrimination is more wrong than another?

## The Hospital Tax Vote

From a purely practical and short-range viewpoint, it seems too bad that the proposed Highlands Township tax levy for support of the Highlands Community Hospital was defeated. As a practical proposition, it leaves unsolved the problem of where the money is to come from to operate a good institution that is badly needed.

The Press, nonetheless, hails the decision of the township's voters. Because, while we are sure the cause was good, we think the method was bad. It just doesn't make sense to spend public tax money for the support of a privately-owned institution — no matter how good the institution, or how public-spirited and unselfish those who operate it. And even if it had worked satisfactorily in this particular instance, the precedent would have been bad because the principle is wrong.

The voters of Highlands township evidently still hold to the conviction that no end, no matter how good, justifies means that are bad.

## S-D Day

Today (Thursday) is Safe Driving Day.

Honesty compels us to confess we find it a bit hard to become enthusiastic about all the various "weeks" and "days" set aside during the year.

In the first place, there are too many of them. Anybody can get enthused about one "week", but whose enthusiasm will hold out for a new crusade every week in the year! And, second, if the cause is so worthy, why confine our support to a single week or a single day? To do so is too much like confining religion to Sundays.

There's a major weakness, too, in this and other traffic safety campaigns that appeal to the public, it seems to us, because a partial solution that is

close at hand is consistently neglected. Most experience confirms the belief that speed is a major cause of traffic accidents; and it would be relatively simple to control speed at its source — the automobile factory. Yet we continue to permit the factories to turn out more and more powerful automobiles — and then urge people not to use the power made available to them!

After all that is said, though, there remains a need for Safe Driving Day, proclaimed by the President of the United States. If it can do anything to dramatize the terrific toll automobiles take, we're all for it. Besides, if we can prove, on a particular day, that it is possible to materially reduce that toll by the use of care, surely all of us will drive a little more carefully the other 364 days in the year.

## 'People Are So Friendly'

Months after a brief visit here, an Ohio man remembered Franklin so pleasantly, he took the time and trouble to write a service station here to express his appreciation and admiration.

In a postal to Manson Stiles, John E. Craine, of Rockford, Ohio, wrote:

Was just looking over some of the pamphlets we kept while on our trip this summer. I found one of your cards and remembered the fine service we received at your station. Thank you! We also enjoyed our meals at a grill not far from your station while we were in Franklin. Of all the towns we were in on our vacation, we were impressed most by your town. The people are so friendly. It must be a wonderful place to live.

This is a wonderful place to live. And of course what chiefly makes it so is just the thing that impressed Mr. Craine: "The people are so friendly".

Let's keep it that way!

## Letters

### Bouquet

Dear Mr. Jones:

While bouquets are being handed out for the recent improvements at Rankin Square, things done there for the past twenty years should not be overlooked.

For that long period of time, Miss Lassie Kelly has kept the grass mowed, the square raked and cleaned, and the fence painted. As a matter of fact, it was she who had the first fence erected.

Recently Miss Kelly has had rhododendron and hemlock set out at the back of the lot and has planted tulip bulbs around the monument. Don't we all owe her a word of appreciation?

MRS. PRELO DRYMAN.

Franklin.

## Takes Issue With Editorial

Editor, The Press:

Whereas I almost always find your editorials constructive and logical, I must take issue with the November 17 editorial, entitled "Points Often Overlooked", as being neither (excepting the first and last paragraphs). I agree with both those points, although the first one is incidental and you have misapplied it.

You state that "there is no such thing as absolute equality of opportunity, as between either groups or individuals". I cannot argue with that statement. But you are using this fact to justify the former practice of transporting Macon County's high school Negroes to a school at Sylva. I cannot agree that this practice was not, ever a serious instance of unfair discrimination simply because some white children have to ride almost as far to consolidated schools. The first practice is now unconstitutional while the second is not. More importantly, the second practice (white children to consolidated schools) is purely incidental to, and does not bear upon, any racial discrimination issue.

We cannot justify inequalities (which can be removed) simply by saying absolute equality cannot be achieved.

Or, have I overlooked another point?

FURMAN CORBIN, JR.

Columbus, Ohio, and Franklin, Route 5.

## It's Driver Needs 'Re-Tooling'

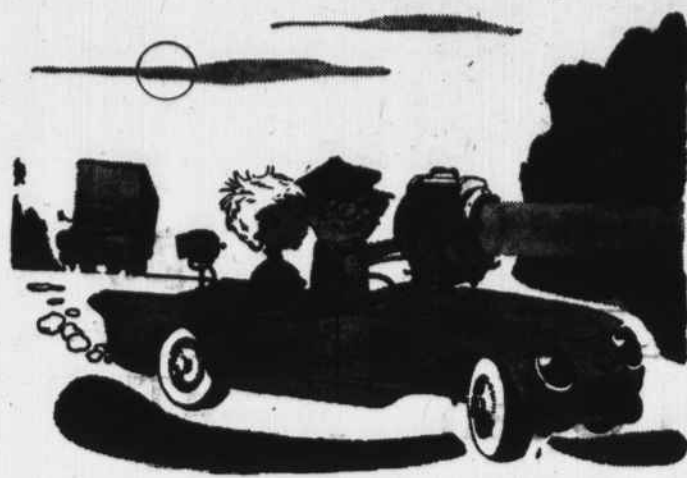
Editor, The Press:

President Eisenhower, has designated December 1 as "Safe Driving Day", but, if the people do not cooperate, his proclamation will be an empty paper.

Sixty million motor vehicles operated on the highways of the nation this past year, ten million had accidents, thirty-six thousand were killed, and one million, two hundred fifty thousand were injured. Property damage was 4.5 billion dollars. This does not take into consideration the suffering of the injured.

One million people have been killed in the first fifty years of motor vehicle operation, and it is estimated that, at the rate we are traveling now, it will take only 25 years to kill the next million.

Within a few minutes after you leave home in the morning and move out on the highway, you may be dead, on the way to the court house and jail, or you may face financial ruin as the result of a motor vehicle accident. The highways are being improved and the automobile industry is introducing some



see, and be seen!

Check your lights  
before dark



REMEMBER — you have to see danger to avoid it! The State Department of Motor Vehicles says 57 per cent of the fatal motor smash-ups occur at night. Check your headlights — check accidents!

safety features in cars. However, the man behind the wheel is the one that has to be "re-tooled", if motor vehicle accidents are to be reduced. Against the few safety devices which the automobile industry has introduced we have the other side of the picture. Continental talks about 320 horse power, Cadillac 310 horse power. Speed and power are being emphasized more now than was the case in the '20's. With speed limits what they are today, we all know that such horse power and speed are not only utterly useless but dangerous.

After a child is born it is given the most loving care by its mother. Our health departments render a brilliant service in the prevention of childhood diseases. The medical profession, with the know-how and skill that set the standards of the world, ministers to our youth faithfully. Our churches devotedly bring them up in the paths of religion. Our schools patiently open up the paths of wisdom for our children. But what is the pay off? All too often it is death or injury by an automobile, the cheapest and the most terrible weapon yet devised by man.

If the worst comes to the worst, is there anything that can be done about this situation? There is, and it may be done in Washington. The federal government may set the speed laws of all states at 45 m. p. h. Great numbers of O. P. A. men, may, in plain clothes, again ride the highways as they did in World War 2, and if an offender is caught, he may know for sure he is going to lose his driver's license for a three-month period. This is one possible solution of a situation which has now become a national disgrace.

DR. FURMAN ANGEL

Franklin.

## Others' Opinions

### Aiming

(Yuma, Colo., Pioneer)

You're not driving your car after you pass 65 miles an hour. You're aiming it.

### Visiting With TV

(Loleta Powell in Smithfield Herald)

I visited for a week end in a home recently with a television set. I wanted to hear about a trip to Maine, the chickens, the tobacco, the strawberries, the family itself. But did I? I got George Gobel, some time-wasting hill-billies, Art Linkletter, and a sleek-headed inhuman wrestler. While the family ate, cooked, walked across the house, went out or in, it was with one, one and one-half, or two eyes on that 17-in. glass product of General Electric. If you moved injudiciously, you were eyed acridly as a screen blocker. If you said anything, someone—if anyone happened to have you intrude upon the fringe of his consciousness—shushed you summarily.

### Strange Reversal

(Carolina Israelite)

Forty years ago, as America's "Robber-Baron" era was coming to a close, in the days of Ida Tarbell, Jack London, Eugene V. Debs, Clarence Darrow, and Morris Hillquit, the "enemies" in the "class-struggle" were "Rockefeller", "Carnegie", "Frick", "Harriman", and later "Ford". I remember the time when a speaker could warm up his audience by merely shouting, "Rockefeller."

But this can happen only in America. During the last ten years, the period of America's greatest crisis in HUMANITARIANISM, the champions of civil rights have been "Rockefeller", "Ford", "Carnegie", and "Harriman". Amazing, isn't it? What a story that would make. Eugene V. Debs would probably turn over in his grave if he knew that The Nation, The New Republic, and Commonwealth, the three great liberal publications of our day, have been waging a bitter struggle defending "Rockefeller" (Foundation) and "Ford" (Fund For The Republic) against the right-wingers of our country; while a "Harriman" is considered to be too far "left" by even some of the liberals themselves. Thus what has happened in recent years is that the names of the richest men in the world have become anathema to the arch-conservatives.

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

In the news people can't seem to stay away from the 1957 Presidential election, so I believe that I would like to get out on the speculation limb early. One reason is that I am going way out and I want plenty of room. Barring another heart attack of at least equal seriousness, I think that President Eisenhower will be a candidate for re-election.

As the time draws closer more and more pressure will be exerted to get the President to ask the people to keep him in office. Also unless "Ike" does have a serious relapse, newspaper accounts will picture the president's health as getting better and better. If Mr. Eisenhower's recovery continues along on a normal basis, the public will be led to believe by some accounts that his health is better than it was before he suffered the heart attack.

Stevenson will again be the Democratic nominee. After it becomes clear that Mr. Eisenhower is to be the Republican standard bearer many Democratic hopefuls will get cold feet and not be so anxious to champion the cause of the Democratic party.

Considerable has been written and said about the extreme attitudes of the NSACP with some cause. However, some Southern state officials are just as rabid and foolish in their charges against this organization.

Take for example, the case of Marvin Griffin, Governor of the state of Georgia. In the past several months considerable scandal has been brought to light concerning the use of funds by the state highway department and other state agencies. But, how does Governor Griffin explain all of this? Even though the state auditor is two months late in making an annual report and leading Georgia newspapers are making charges in print about the corruption in his administration, Governor Griffin says there is nothing to it. It's just a lot of propaganda stirred up by the NSACP folks who want to discredit his administration because of his strong stand for segregation. It seems that the people of Georgia, who have swallowed a lot in their time, about have their craw full.

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

W. R. Bulgin has been reappointed postmaster at Cullasaja. His four years were out in August. He has renewed his bond and expects his commission this week for four more years.

Some of the visiting attorneys who attended court here last week were Walter E. Moore and Felix Alley, of Webster, Joseph Hooker, of Dillsboro, and J. D. Mallonee, of Murphy.

Bas Jacobs, who has been in Wyoming several months, reached home Thursday evening.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Mr. F. N. Johnson and daughters, Hallie and Launa, of Clarksville, Ga., were visiting here last Sunday.

Attorney Dover Fouts, of Burnsville, was in Franklin Wednesday on legal business.

Mr. J. B. Carringer, of Murphy, is attending court here this week.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The Franklin Panthers closed their season Thanksgiving Day with a decisive 7-0 victory over the Murphy Bulldogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Swafford, of Charlotte, spent the Thanksgiving holidays with relatives and friends in the Iotla community.

Mr. and Mrs. Bryan Edwards, of Douglas, Wyo., are visiting Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Edwards at Hotel Edwards.—Highlands item.

## F. F. A. Chapter Holds Turkey Shoot Wednesday

Members of the Franklin chapter of Future Farmers of America held a turkey shoot among themselves Wednesday of last week.

Sharpshooters taking gobblers home for Thanksgiving were Riley Henry, Eston Cook, Huel Sorrells, Ralph Allen, and Ralph Hall.