

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

Entered at Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter
Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
Franklin, N. C. Telephone 24

WEIMAR JONES Editor
BOB S. SLOAN Business Manager
J. P. BRADY News Editor
MRS. ALLEN SILER Society Editor and Office Manager
MRS. MARION BRYSON Proofreader
CARL P. CABE Mechanical Superintendent
FRANK A. STARRETT Shop Superintendent
DAVID H. SUTTON Commercial Printer
G. E. CRAWFORD Stereotyper

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

OUTSIDE MACON COUNTY		INSIDE MACON COUNTY	
One Year	\$3.00	One Year	\$2.50
Six Months	1.75	Six Months	1.75
Three Months	1.00	Three Months	1.00

FEBRUARY 23, 1956

Fact Or Psychology?

About the time last week that the announcement of the high school essay contest on "Macon County — My Home, My Future" was being set in type here at The Press, this newspaper received a letter from a subscriber.

He asked for an extension, to May or June, of the time to renew his subscription. "There just isn't any work here in the winter", the letter explained.

That letter didn't come from someone in Macon County; it didn't come, even, from an adjoining county. It came from a town in Washington!

What made it seem significant is the fact that the West generally, and Washington in particular, long have appealed to Macon County youth as the land of opportunity — there were none at home, they were sure. The movement from this county West is nearly a century old; it was so pronounced in the old days that a town in Washington is populated largely by descendants of Macon emigrants. And while the destinations of Macon youth have shifted from the West to Detroit and other manufacturing centers, the outward movement has continued to today.

And always back of the movement was the rarely-challenged assumption that a young person didn't have a chance here; that all the difficulties were at home, all the opportunities elsewhere.

Is that true? Is it fact, or is it a psychological attitude?

We don't pretend to know the answer. But we do know that the old assumption has been accepted so generally and so blindly that almost nobody has stopped to look at Macon County, opportunity-wise. We think it's time somebody took a good look. And we think the people who are most interested, and who'll see the situation with clearest eyes, are Macon's young people. Hence the essay contest, sponsored jointly by The Press and the Franklin Jaycees.

We Wonder...

It's seemed fairly clear, for weeks now, that General Eisenhower would run for reelection. Careful observation of the newspapers and magazines has suggested a deliberate build-up, was under way to prepare the American people for the announcement of his candidacy. The climax of that build-up, of course, was last week's pronouncement by a panel of physicians that Mr. Eisenhower is physically able to stand as much as five to ten years more in the White House.

We do not question the capability of the doctors — they are among the best heart specialists in the world. Nor do we doubt their honesty.

We wonder, though, at their temerity. Intentionally or otherwise, they have encouraged the President to run for reelection; and while they know the human heart, they do not know the strains of the Presidency.

How would they feel, we wonder, should President Eisenhower, in the course of the campaign, or under the stress of Presidential decisions a year from now, suffer a second and fatal heart attack?

Bouquet

Congratulations to Mr. D. D. Davis for being on top of his job. Mr. Davis, of Webster, is district inspector for the N. C. Utilities Commission.

The primary purpose of a regulatory body like the Utilities Commission, of course, is to protect the interests of the public. When a public utility is given a monopoly — that is, protection by the state against competition — that carries with it the obligation to provide reasonably adequate service. And it is the obligation of the Utilities

Commission, which is the servant of the people, to see to it that such service is forthcoming. By all rules of logic, the commission should act on its own initiative.

All too often, though, it has assumed the role of uninterested umpire between the public and the utilities it is paid to regulate; permitting the utilities to make changes and curtail service merely by filing notice of intention — the commission sitting idle until and unless the public complained. Even then, the public usually must organize, hire a lawyer, and carry its fight to the Utilities Commission office in Raleigh — in order to get what the commission is paid to see that the public does get.

Well, on the proposal of the bus company that service between Franklin and Asheville be seriously curtailed, Mr. Davis took the opposite, and correct, approach. Learning of the proposed change, he promptly recommended to the commission that the change is disallowed. And now the commission has followed that recommendation.

Changes At Cullowhee

In his six years as president of Western Carolina College, Paul A. Reid has guided an adolescent institution far along the way toward maturity. It has had phenomenal growth — in number of students, physical facilities, and curriculum; even more important, under his leadership it has won wide respect as an educational institution of high standards, and has become an increasingly strong force in the intellectual life of this whole region.

News of his resignation, to become assistant director of the North Carolina Board of Higher Education, undoubtedly was received by most Western North Carolinians with mixed feelings—almost shocked regret at his departure from W. C. C., but both personal and regional pride that his abilities have been given new recognition, and greater opportunities.

In selecting his successor as head of W. C. C., the board of trustees, had it looked the world over, could have found no more conscientious and dedicated man than W. E. Bird. A native of Jackson County, he has the added asset of having the feel of this region — he knows its people and their needs and problems as few other educators could. Moreover, his 36 years on the campus have made him an integral part of Cullowhee, and it an integral part of him.

Mr. Bird, affectionately known for so long as "Dean Bird" that the title may stick, even in the presidency, will not do spectacular things as president; that is not his way. But quietly, self-effacingly, he will draw on his almost unique background to continue to build at Cullowhee an institution that will serve as a guiding star to all the people of this mountain country.

Others' Opinions

Federal Building For W. N. C.

(Sylvia Herald)

If bills introduced in the Senate and House by Senator Sam Ervin and Congressman George Shuford are given an O.K., the six westernmost North Carolina counties will have a new federal building located at Bryson City. It is most likely that the project will get the go-ahead signal and \$750,000 to \$1,000,000 will be provided for the building. Bryson City is to be congratulated on getting this political plum at this time when little building of this kind is being done about the country.

The new building will provide for the post office and all offices used in connection with the western district of the U. S. Court, as well as for other government agencies. It will, however, take the annual rental income from numerous private individuals for the facilities now being provided for these agencies, including the post office.

Judging By Extremes

(Christian Science Monitor)

The American Civil Liberties Union has supported with its usual single-mindedness of purpose the Supreme Court's decision on racial segregation in the public schools. Which gives particular force to the comment in the ACLU's annual report that the "often holier-than-thou-bluff" of the North "is being called by the rapid increase of its Negro population." And it points to segregation in practice if not in law which persists far from the South.

To whatever extent the American people—north, south, and elsewhere—are challenged to take a hard look at any holier-than-thou attitudes they may entertain, to that extent will it be better for everyone concerned, including the Negro. For at the moment too many Southerners are judging the attitude of the rest of the country by the more aggressive tactics of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Too many people in the North and West are judging the South by the Emmett Till case.

From our vantage point it looks as though the vast majority of Northerners and Westerners simply hope the South will solve its problem decently and in order. They have not the slightest wish to demand that there be a Negro in every public

school. Their own are not all "integrated." Economic and social factors can segregate as implacably as law.

From our vantage point, also, we have reason to believe that good Southerners were as sickened by the Till case as were good Northerners. What appeared, incredibly enough, as defense of the killing often was motivated by a well-whip-our-own-children response to unpreceptive northern criticism.

All of which bears on the report that Representative Adam Clayton Powell, Jr., is altering the rider he has promised to attach to school-aid legislation. At first he would have withheld funds from any state which had failed to comply with the Supreme Court's decision. He now would aim his denials at school districts or counties, not at whole states. It is to them the Supreme Court directed its rulings. And we would ask again: Why go beyond that?

Highlands Seeks Payrolls

(Asheville Citizen)

The attractive resort town of Highlands in Macon County has taken steps to relieve an economic situation that has caused concern to its progressive citizens.

Under the leadership of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, the community has formed an Industrial Council.

Highlands is seeking to move out of a strictly "Tourist and Tater" town category because:

1—There is need of year-around payrolls to bolster the economy. During the tourist season of three or four months, Highlands does well. Then, during the other months, the situation is not bright.

2—The community loses adult residents who go to find jobs elsewhere.

3—It loses young people who finish school and go to other communities because Highlands offers them inadequate means of earning a living.

Following the examples set by other communities in the mountains, Highlands hopes to remedy the situation through changes to be brought by the new Industrial Council. It hopes and plans to attract one or more industries that will provide regular year-around payrolls.

Highlands should be a most suitable location for an industry that ties in with the resort and travel business.

Men are never so likely to settle a question rightly as when they discuss it freely.—Macaulay.

Those people who are not governed by God will be ruled by tyrants.—William Penn.

Poetry

Editor
EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE
Weaverville, North Carolina

SPRING'S MESSENGER

From a window ledge a friendly robin
Looked at me, his black head bobbin'
As though he wished to give to me
A message in sweet melody.

With his brilliant red breast throbbin'
With gay notes, this friendly robin
Seemed to say, "Wake up, old boy,
Spring is here, a time for joy."

Then this friendly, happy robin,
Wings a-flutter, head a-bobbin'
Sped a way with breast still throbbin'
With thrilling notes — and all day long
Came echos of his joyous song.

A. D. BREWER.

Franklin.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

We at The Press debated a long time before we decided to move from the Square to our present situation on Palmer Street.

One of the arguments in favor of the move was that the Palmer Street site would be quiet.

Well, it was four years ago, but try, sometime next summer when doors and windows are open, to carry on a conversation anywhere in the building. You'll have to stop between every sentence, sometimes between every word, for a truck, laboring up the hill, to get by and out of earshot.

Add to the noise the congested traffic on this street that is fast becoming a major one, and it's pretty obvious that we'd better be thinking about a truck lane, skirting the town. Fact is, we're already about five years late.

Another thing Franklin, if it continues to grow, is going to have to have one of these days, and that's some back alleys, so the big trucks that now obstruct traffic and endanger lives on Main Street, and even on Palmer, can unload at the back, instead of the front, of business places.

And what makes action toward that end urgent is the fact that every year we delay, we multiply the cost.

Lake V. Shope, Macon County

VIEW

By

BOB SLOAN



The efforts of the local Parent-Teacher Association groups, headed by H. H. Gnuse, to see that our schools are placed on a self-supporting basis, are very commendable. Surely, Macon County can meet the educational needs of our children without requiring the parents to conduct rummage sales on the streets. Also, the work done by the office of the county superintendent in compiling figures which show the amount of funds received by the county school system from school stores and school and P. T. A. benefits was a step toward bringing about the desired goal of making our schools supported entirely by county and state funds.

However, there are two other things, which I believe, need to be done before the people of the county will support a tax increase to make the schools system more self supporting.

First, there should be made public, and widely publicized, a detailed statement as to just how present funds are expended. These facts, of course, are available to anyone who has the time to look them up, but what we need is a statement so plain and concise the average layman can get this information in a few minutes' reading. We all know that it takes a lot of money to build and operate our schools, but few of us know just where it goes, or what portion the state pays and what part the county is required to support. If it is made plain to the people of this county what their part is, I feel that they will meet their obligation. But, at present, many feel that a large portion of the budget is going to the schools and before they will be willing to increase the amount, they would like to know where and how it is being spent on the schools.

Second, we should improve our county tax collection system. I want to make it clear that I feel the trouble is the system, not the officials. For many years we have had large sums of uncollected taxes left on the books each year. The present officials have a better percentage of collected taxes than many of their predecessors in office. Regardless of the reason, those who pay their taxes feel that before theirs are raised, the county should do a better job of collecting the present tax.

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mr. Charles K. Robinson, who has been in business at Alexander, N. C., during several months past, arrived Wednesday last to spend a week or more at home.

Attorney J. D. Mallonee, of Murphy, was visiting his father's family here this week from Wednesday to Monday.

Miss Lily Moore went to Atlanta Saturday to select her spring stock of millinery goods.

25 YEARS AGO

Mr. Harley Keener, of New York, returned to his old home at Gneiss last Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. P. Conley have returned to their home here after a visit of several weeks with their daughter, Mrs. Turner Vinson, at Clayton, Johnston County, N. C.

Mr. Alvah Pearce, of Asheville, is in Franklin visiting friends for several days.

10 YEARS AGO

T/Sgt. Bill (W. W.) Sloan arrived in Franklin Monday, after 43 months' service in the army. Sgt. Sloan, who was discharged January 27, was overseas 13 months, serving with the counter intelligence corps, in New Guinea and the Philippines.

Mrs. Elsie Tarry returned Saturday to "Chee-on-dah", her home on Satulah Mountain, following a month's visit in Laurel, Miss. — Highlands item.

A valentine dinner party was given last Thursday evening by members of the Franklin Methodist Church, honoring returned veterans connected with that church. Fifty-four guests enjoyed the bounteous buffet dinner served by members of the Mary Allman Wesleyan Guild and the Woman's Society of Christian Service.