# The Branklin Press

## The Highlands Maconian

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APRIL 19, 1956

# 'Leading The Way'

What more compliment could a town be paid than being recognized as one "leading the way". Well, Franklin has that distinction.

In the Community Development News Letter, publication of the W. N. C. Rural Community Development Contest, the town's program for community betterment, along the lines of the rural development set-up, is called to the attention of the rest of Western North Carolina.

"Another fine example of the rural communities of W. N. C. leading the way," it said.

## Opportunity Lost

Students from Franklin High School did not take part in the 10th annual Western North Carolina Field Day, held at Western Carolina College on April 6. This was an opportunity lost.

Principal Harry C. Corbin gave as a part of the explanation as to why the Franklin High School faculty voted not to participate this year, a questionaire prepared by the field day program committee, which, obviously, did more to discourage than encourage various schools to attend.

This popular event-more than 250 students from schools throughout Western North Carolina took part this year-is one of the few efforts made to encourage interest in academic subjects. Of particular value is the fact that here the incentive to develop an interest in the pursuit of knowledge somes from competition.

Members of the faculties at both Franklin High School and Western Carolina College would agree that for a state supported institution of learning, almost as basic as the job of teaching is the task of stimulating general interest in the pursuit of knowledge. If more attention were paid to the latater, perhaps the former could be an easier job.

The fact that the event has been held for the past 10 years is evidence the administration at Cullowhee is aware, because of the scarcity of institutions of higher learning in our area, of its obligation to encourage such programs.

Granted, it is, a big job; still, no stone should be left unturned to see that boys and girls from Franklin High School next year are there to bring back to Macon County their share of the laurels as they have in the past.

# Who's Responsible?

It's difficult not to sympathize with the plight of S/Sgt. Matthew C. McKeon as the web of circumstance tightens around him.

'For if anyone has ever been a victim of circumstance, the 32-year-old combat veteran is the one.

Until last week, he was an efficient drill instructor at the U. S. Marine Training Center at Parris Island, S. C. Today, he's a broken young man. saddled with the responsibility of a "forced march" of his platoon into a treacherous tidal swamp. Six of his men drowned in the darkness.

The injustice of it all is that the sergeant is a victim of the very psychology encouraged and demanded by any branch of the armed forces. That psychology is "esprit de corps", an intangible of the mind that has fired the U. S. to victory in two world wars and several smaller conflicts. "Esprit de corps", coupled with hard-line discipline, is the thing that turns civilians into soldiers and soldiers into battlefield heroes.

It was S/Sgt. McKeon's job to instill this in his platoon. As a combat veteran he knew first-hand the necessity of discipline if a man is to survive a fight. The "forced march" into the swamp on that fateful night was ordered by the sergeant for dis-

That he was the last man out of the treacherous stream, after risking his own life to save several others, is proof enough the young Marine did not take his responsibility lightly.

This kind of rationalization, of course, cannot blunt the grief of the families of those who drowned, but it can ease the bitterness they hold in their hearts for the young man they think responsible.

The mother of one of the dead recruits seems to have expressed this justly:

"We can't condemn the man . . . I have no bitterness toward anyone."

Of her son, she said:

"He liked the Marines, and as long as he liked

If S/Sgt. McKeon is guilty of anything, it is of an error in judgment. He admits he was unfamiliar with the swamp.

But what of the U. S. Marine Corps, the armed branch that created these attitudes of "esprit de corps" in S/Sgt. McKeon? Did this organization that places so much emphasis on "semper fidelis" defend the young man it considered capable enough to train recruits?

The corps' seemingly spineless announcement that his actions could not be condoned seems to indicate the high brass plans to "pass the buck" back to the sergeant. His courtmartial appears in-

So, the question of responsibility becomes a matter for debate.

As for punishment for S/Sgt. McKeon, consider

Fate and circumstance have already passed sentence on him. He has to live with the horror of that tragic night.

Poetry

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE Weaverville, North Carolina

EDITH DEADERICK ERSKINE

#### THE WHITE AND THE RED

The flowers are white when a mother dies. They fall in petals from mourning skies But their perfume is borne on a memory's breath And so the mother may live in death.

The flower of life is a crimson rose. From its warmth a tenderness gently flows, But whether the flower is white or red Love and the mother are faithfully wed Time cannot alter or dying sever The root of this love that lives forever.

Weaverville, N. C.

# Others' Opinions

(Opinions expressed in this space are not necessarily those of The Press. Editorials selected for reprinting here, in fact, are chosen with a view to presenting a variety of viewpoints They are, that is, just what the caption says - OTHERS

## 'Black Market' Newsprint

(Stanley News & Press)

During the past sixty days, the News and Press has received communications from various paper brokers offering to sell newsprint at about twice the price charged on the open market today. In other words, a "black market" has developed in newsprint, the paper on which newspapers are printed.

This "scarcity" situation has arisen because newspapers throughout the country have been printing bigger papers and selling more of them, a fact which does not make a publisher unhappy, because it indicates a continuing prosperity among his subscribers and advertisers.

Some of the newsprint made by the smaller manufacturers is being diverted into the "black market" in order to reap a Our Great America & by Woody & OF CONNIE MATERIAL

quick and large profit, since a newspaper gets in bad shape quickly unless it has sufficient newsprint to meet its require-

Our purpose is not to discuss the newsprint situation, but to point out the increasing use of this and other paper products. At the same time, we should like to stress once again the wisdom of putting all idle land in the county to work producing pulpwood. Under more or less normal conditions, the use of paper products, made from pulpwood, will continue to increase steadily, and the landowner with pulpwood to sell will always have a market for it.

The big paper companies are coming into this state, buying huge tracts of land and starting long-range forestry programs. We were particularly interested in a report made recently to Governor Hodges by the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company which started such a program in Dare county in 1952. Today, this company has a total of 302,291 acres of woodland in Dare, Tyrrell, Washington and Hyde counties in the eastern part of the state. During the past three years, it has planted a total of 1,107,750 year-old trees, and a scientific program which will result in the production of usable pulpwood in a minimum length of time is being further de-

There are other pulp and paper companies with vast holdings in North Carolina, representing tremendous investments. They know what the future holds for the paper industry, and they are preparing for it.

Here in Stanly county, we have many idle acres which should be growing trees, and land owners should follow, on a smaller scale, the example set by the paper companies.

## It's Plain Tragic

(Windsor (Colo.) Beacon)

It's purely tragic, the way authorities are trying to discourage original thinking!

Postmaster General Summerfield has announced that ballpoint pens will be placed on the public desks in postofficesright after I'd worked out a hilarious joke on the unique subject of the scratchy postoffice pen that won't write.

Sometimes it seems they're just bound to tromp out the spark of genius.

### Can Be Wrong, Too

(Asheville Times)

Everyone has heard the old saying, "Fifty million Frenchmen can't be wrong."

One of France's greatest men of letters, the late Anatole France, made an infinitely wiser observation: "If 50,000,000 people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing."

This is not limited to France, of course. It applies to every nation on the face of the earth. The fact that many people, or even a great majority of people, believe or approve something does not necessarily make it right.

Some of the greatest human achievements-in the realm of ideas as well as material progress-have come from non-conformists and dissenters who hewed to their principles in the face of widespread ridicule, opposition, and even persecution.

If a nation expects to be ignorant and free, it expects what never was and never will be. - Thomas Jefferson.

GREENSBORO DAILY NEWS --

## First Recorded Use Of Small Round Dot (Period) Goes Back To Pehriad

of his life, traveling through him (Kohmar).

In those days written langu- mankind.

Only to his own country but to Dutch statesman and enthusiastic amateur philologist

represent the first recorded use marking to correspond with the guage, we refer to Kolholi Pellof the small round dot to indipause in a person's speech in riad (544-480 B.C.), who, Today we call it the semi-colon. Major and Mrs. Frank Carmack,
cate the end of a completed the middle of a sentence, he strangely enough, was born on
unit of expression. More impordevised what we now know as the same day as Kohmar Pehthing of all about these Maceter months in Tampa, Fla., have tant than that, he gave 30 years the comma, also named after riad.

Tomorrow, The Saturday Review reminds us, is the 2,500th of the small dot that has since done so much for literature. (544-493 B.C.), inventor of punctuation in written language.

This day we should not let lightly pass. Pehriad, according to an article by K. Jason Sitewell:

Well, was a leading literary figure of Macedonia in the pre-Christian era.

Tomorrow, The Saturday Refor to obtain local acceptance written language. Apos-Trophe done so much for literature. Pehriad felt the comma could the reader after an introductory to exade to other purposes, so he used it inside a word to denote show an abbreviation and at possession.

But Mr. Sitewell overlooked uses the small round dot. Thus, important researches by Jan it was not surprising that Kohnor felt the need for a punctuation mark to stop the reader after an introductory to explanation, example, definition, estatement or recapitulation. Hence the colon, as it is known today.

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terest in punctuation. Ceemy age was continuous. There were Pehriad's efforts did not stop Careful digging led Oldenno sentence or paragraph with the dot. Concerned with barnevelt back to another great ing a more distinct separation breaks. Pehriad's own writings the need for an appropriate benefactor of the written lanthan his double third cousin's represent the first recorded use marking to correspond with the guage. We refer to Kohlon Pehdot with the descending curve. Kohlon was his name and his

BOB SLOAN



Random thoughts on events here and there.

The other day, while coming to town, I noticed two large trailer trucks parked on the sidewalk near the Farm and Home Supply Co. I am sure the town strained a point to build the sidewalk and I am also sure that the huge trailer trucks placed quite a strain on the sidewalk there. My reaction at the time was that a law en-forcement officer would surely come by and fine the truckers as much as the law would allow. It is difficult enough for us to get sidewalks without having them destroyed by pure care-

Governor Hodges made an excellent address to the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce last Saturday night. His theme was the subject that seems to be the one dearest to his heart, as he has spoken many, many times throughout the state on the matter. In brief, he advocates that we in-crease North Carolina's per capita income by increasing the industrialization within the state. However, Governor Hodges would not have us be indiscriminate in our growth. I was pleased to hear him say he would rather have five small industries than one large one.

Another theme in the Governor's talk that pleased me was the idea that, in as much as possible, we should particuencourage industrialization which would process the raw materials found in this state. He stressed the packaging, processing, and marketing of farm products. To emphasize a point, he told of finding peanuts, grown in North Carolina and shipped to Wisconsin to be packaged and processed, returned to North Carolina to be sold. He described it as a disgrace. I have to agree! Any good army or marine infantry outfit would say, "We take care of our own." North Carolina would do well to adopt the same slogan, particularly in regard to the processing of raw materials.

I wonder who should be blamed the most in regard to all the tripe that is appearing in the newspapers in regard to Grace Kelly's wedding — the newspapers themselves or the reading public?

# Do You

(Looking backward through the files of The Press

#### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

J. R. Morrison and the two young men quarantined with him on account of smallpox were released Tuesday of last week. The young men were vaccinated at the start and no new cases developed.

Mrs. Emma Huskin and little son, Frank, of Andrews, came over last Wednesday to spend a few weeks with relatives here.

There seems to be much activity among the mica men of this county just now, and timber men are busy too.

#### 25 YEARS AGO

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Neely, of Atlanta, Ga., have leased Trimont Inn on Harrison Avenue from Dr. S. H. Lyle, and will operate it this summer as a resort and tourist hotel.

Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Sloan, of Fort Worth, Tex., and small son, are in Franklin for a visit of several weeks with Mr. Sloan's mother, Mrs. J. S. Sloan.

Mrs. D. D. Rice and little son, Bailey, and Mrs. C. W. Hames, returned from a visit with relatives and friends in Atlanta last

#### 10 YEARS AGO

The Nantahala Forest led all the national forests in the entire southern region both in the amount of timber cut and in timber sales during the period, July 1, 1945, to March 31, 1946.

Mrs. Knyon B. Zahner has returned from Atlanta where she spent several days last week attending the flower show. - Highlands item.

iad. donians who added so much to returned to Franklin for the sum-Kohlon was a double second written language: Pehriad, Koh- mer and will open the Franklin ancient Greece, Rome, Persia, Still another marking was cousin on Pehriad's father's lon and Ceemy Kohlon all were Lodge and Golf Course about North Africa and Asia in an ef- added by Pehriad's son for the side, no relation at all to the born on the same day—April 1. June 1st.