

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

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MAY 10, 1956

## Must Find A Way

Among recent developments on the segregation-integration front, these four seem significant:

1. A Gallup poll indicates that 16 out of 17 white persons in the deep South oppose integration in the public schools. More surprising is the result of another, simultaneous poll, of Negroes in the South — nearly half of them also oppose integration.

2. A hundred Southern members of Congress signed the Statement of Constitutional Principles (usually referred to as the "Southern Manifesto"), declaring their "intention to resist forced integration by any lawful means".

3. Two years after the Supreme Court decision, resistance in the South is stiffening; this is evidenced by the willingness of some states to modify, or, if necessary, even abolish public education. Particularly significant is the official attitude in so moderate a state as North Carolina — an attitude that seems to have the approval of a majority of North Carolinians.

4. Meanwhile, the conviction expressed in the "Manifesto" — that the court's decision is "contrary to the Constitution", has "no legal basis", and substitutes the justices' "personal, political and social views for the law of the land" — appears to be spreading. Coupled with the conviction is a feeling, as yet hardly articulate, that there is no moral obligation to obey the law, as laid down by the court.

In the light of those developments, how can integration be enforced? The answer, of course, is: It can't. (We had a somewhat similar situation, a generation ago, when the South and West sought to force prohibition on a reluctant, and finally rebellious, East.)

Yet no sensible person expects either the Southern states to secede or the federal government to enforce integration at the point of the bayonet.

How, then, can we live with the situation?

This newspaper believes we can, and must, find a way. And it is high time we were examining spe-

## Mother's Day

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The author of this guest editorial on Mother's Day, in verse, prefers to remain anonymous.)

### THE MASTERPIECE

One day the Master of Painters  
Took His palette from the blue  
And changed the brush in the sunset  
With shades meeting and triad  
Brush to paint an angel  
As only the Master could do.

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Then as the sunset faded  
Now that He painting was through  
He smiled as He looked at His painting  
And returned His palette to the blue.  
And the Master was pleased with His painting—  
The angel He painted was you.

cific methods of reaching an accommodation — ways of developing a new pattern to fit the new situation.

First of all, though, there must be some changes, both outside and inside the South — in thinking and attitude, as well as in emotion.

Discussed below are a few changes that almost certainly will have to be made before there can be any substantial progress in adjustment. Happily, there is encouraging evidence that some of them already are taking place.

\* \* \*

The very first thing we need to do is to discredit extremism — all extremism; for while the fervor of a crusade is useful in bringing a problem to light, it rarely finds a solution. A case in point — though, of course, not the only one — is the organized extremism of the Southern White Councils, on the one hand, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, on the other. The national press was quick to discredit the councils, as racist. The N. A. A. C. P. is equally racist. There is an even better reason, however, for discrediting it; like all crusading organizations, it insists there is no problem, only a simple issue of right and wrong. Perhaps with time, the N. A. A. C. P. will discredit itself; it made a good-start, in fact, in its handling of the Lucy case and in recent extreme statements of some of its officials.

Along with moderation, there must come recognition, nation-wide, that there probably is no pat, easy, final solution of racial tensions — and certainly no overnight solution; that while there may not be any such thing as racial superiority, there obviously are differences — differences so great as to make communication and understanding always difficult, and sometimes impossible. A wise Jewish scholar put it something like this: "Europe has long been civilized, and the Jewish culture is even older; yet there still are tensions between Jews and Gentiles. In view of that, aren't we a little naive to think we can find any complete and final solution of the problem arising from the fact that descendants of low-civilized Europeans live side by side with Negroes who are only a few generations removed from savagery?" Discrimination is not an exclusively white-Negro problem, nor is it confined to the South.

It is worth remembering, too, in this connection, that discrimination is an evil that can be ameliorated, but not entirely eliminated. There is no such thing as absolute justice, no such thing as absolute equality of opportunity.

Badly needed is a restudy of the Supreme Court's original decision of May, 1954. As U. S. Circuit Judge John E. Parker so clearly pointed out, neither the court nor the Constitution requires integration; all that is required is the absence of forced segregation. There is a great difference. Yet many persons — some thoughtlessly, some by intent — have assumed there must be mass integration.

As a matter of fact, is mass integration either desirable or practical? That question must be faced honestly. The two-year experiment in the nation's capital makes the question timely. For while many of the difficulties that had been anticipated did not occur, there seems general agreement among Washington educators that one result has been a drastic lowering of standards, notably scholastic standards. For practical purposes, the question of whether this was due to inherent difference in racial abilities or difference in environment is purely academic. The practical problem is the fact. That fact raises these questions: Low as they already are, does it make sense to lower still further our scholastic standards? and if we lower all standards, whom have we benefited? And from the viewpoint of justice, there is this question: Does the right of Negro children to the best possible educational advantages carry with it the right to deny the same advantages to a whole generation of white children?

None of these considerations, however, can erase what has been going on, what has happened. (And the court has made it plain that it can't be reversed.) The Supreme Court is not infrequently called the "supreme court of the South" because of the way it has handled the integration case. The court's recent decision, in fact, is a segregationist decision, and it is the point.

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## Mrs. Henry Slagle

The picture of Mrs. Margaret Gillespie Slagle severed the firm link with the Macon County of a former year.

But Mrs. Henry Slagle (Aunt Maggie) was far



THERE HASN'T BEEN A BOMBING IN FRANKLIN, BUT SOMETHING SURE HAS KNOCKED A LOT OF 'OLES IN OUR STREETS.

more than a link between two eras; she was a tower of intellectual and moral strength. For decades, she had mothered the Cartoogechaye community, where she was born, reared, and where she had spent her entire life.

Her entire life, that is, except when she was traveling. For, throughout her long life, she was blessed with a child's naive curiosity about new places and new ideas — and the boldness of youth to find out about them. So it was in character that she not only went seven times to the Pacific Coast to visit children there, but, at 65, crossed the Atlantic as a World War I Gold Star Mother.

In her life, though, travel was only the dessert; the stable foods were her big family, her Bible, the little white church on the hill above her home, and the growing of flowers (her home was appropriately named "The Arboretum").

Only a few days old when General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, she had spent most of her life in the care of burgies, springhouses, and washboards. Yet whatever her age, she always was a part of the life around her.

How thoroughly, modern she remained is indicated by a story told by her children. Not long ago, a son and daughter took her for a little ride. These members of a younger generation expressed amazement at what seemed to be a peculiar cloud formation; but their mother had to take but one good look to identify it — "why, that's a jet vapor trail".

Her moral courage was as much taken for granted, among those who knew her, as the weather or breathing. Typical was a letter to the editor of The Press, written when she was in her 80's. "I would fight this thing", she wrote, "if I could just get somebody to help me." What was it she was ready to fight? The nation-wide influence of comics on children! And it was characteristic of her sanity that she considered the worst feature of the comics the distorted impressions they give young people.

Mrs. Slagle is gone from the hospitable old home on Cartoogechaye. But, happily for all of us, her influence goes marching on.

## 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' Opinions.)

### Spies Are Broke Too?

(Forest City Courier)

There is one surprisingly angle in the recent Internal Revenue Service clampdown on the Communist Daily Worker, published in five big cities of our nation.

Of course the action itself was not a surprise. The Worker has long been in financial difficulties, and has often appealed to leaders of every political persuasion to give money to insure "a free press" for even the Communies.

But the basic angle about the whole thing that is rather surprising to us, anyhow, is that anybody who spies for a foreign nation—and we think of Daily Worker people as doing just that—running out of money.

Maybe we have seen too many movies, but we have always thought of foreign spies as possessing unlimited resources, financial and otherwise. We have thought of them as owning expensive radio transmitters, heavy black sedans with curbside country estates to use as secret hideaways, and the like.

We have always felt that they could whistle up a submarine off the coast, or take a fast trip by air to Moscow or Singapore or Montevideo or Lisbon, or take on other operations like that.

In our mind's eye these spies could even slip a weak-willed government official who had the right information a hundred thousand dollars, just to tell them how fast the new jet bomber will go or whether or not the AEC has been able to make fissionable corn flakes to kill the starving Russians.

But now it develops that spies (or Daily Worker workers) are just like the rest of us. They probably can't afford to trade cars, and worry about their income tax, and eat hamburger three times a week, and even go out of business.

It's sad to have one's faith shattered in this way. If you can't believe in foreign intrigue in this day and time, what can you believe in?

## VIEW

By  
BOB SLOAN



Sergeant Matthew C. McKeon, the marine sergeant who recently led an unauthorized night march on which six men were drowned, has been charged with manslaughter.

If McKeon was, as Marine Corps officials have stated, drunk from drinking vodka, he will probably be found guilty.

However, I hope that those who pass sentence will consider that McKeon is not alone in the blame. The blame should also be shared by the Parris Island marine organization. The peculiar part is that the mistakes made by the organization were not caused by an over indulgence in strictness or toughness as we citizens were inclined to think when we first heard of the situation.

Instead the entire situation is a strong indication that military discipline and training has greatly deteriorated at Parris Island.

The Marine Corps says that Sgt. McKeon, in the company of another sergeant, had been drinking off and on all day. Did no officer visit the barracks the entire day? Furthermore McKeon led a group of 65 men out of their area on a Saturday night march and apparently no one questioned the unauthorized movement of that large a group of men at that rather odd time. In a tight, well disciplined military organization that just wouldn't happen? Where was the platoon lieutenant whose first, and almost only, responsibility is to know about and see after his men? The officer directly in charge of these men should certainly be charged as an accessory to the crime with McKeon.

The top commander in the Marine Corps, Gen. Randolph Pate, seems fully aware that weakness in the organization at Parris Island was the real underlying cause of this tragedy. Not only has he replaced the commander at Parris Island, but he has assumed personal responsibility for the recruit training here and at other marine bases. He appeared before congress and admitted to mis-

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

May 8 — Temperature 34 degrees, considerable frost. The frost yesterday doubtless did a great amount of injury to gardens and tender vegetables, particularly in the lowlands.

The first excursion of the season came up the Tallulah Falls Railroad to Dillard last Saturday.

The Franklin Bottling Works got its machinery in place and commenced bottling drinks Thursday.

Mr. William Littlefield left on Tuesday of last week for the north to spend the summer.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson, of Franklin, was elected president of the Converse College-alumnae association at the annual meeting of the group Tuesday in Spartanburg.

Mrs. C. K. Sewell has returned to her home in Miami, Fla., after spending several days here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cunningham.

Dr. W. E. Furr and family returned from a week's visit to relatives at Concord last Saturday.

Mr. Francis Tesler left Monday of this week for Brownsville, Tex., where he expects to remain this summer.

### 10 YEARS AGO

The newly elected board of directors of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce at a meeting Tuesday night decided to employ a full-time secretary for the next six months.

H. D. Corbin, Jr., who is with the Delta Air Lines in Asheville, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Corbin, of Route 4, Monday.

Miss Carlyne Jamison, who is doing stenographic work in Asheville, recently visited her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Jamison, at their home on Riverview Street.