

# The Franklin Press and The Highlands Macon

WEIMAR JONES  
BOB S. SLOAN  
J. P. BRADY  
BOLENE NEALE  
MRS. ALLEN FLEET  
MRS. J. C. BRADY  
CARL P. JAMES  
FRANK A. STANLEY  
O. E. CRAWFORD  
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON  
DAVID H. SETTER

Editor  
Advertising Manager  
News Editor/Photographer  
Business Manager  
Society Editor/Office Manager  
Printer  
Operator/Mechanist  
Compositor  
Pressman  
Commercial Printer

JANUARY 3, 1957

## 3 Jobs That Need Doing

Most Macon County citizens undoubtedly agree with these points, made by Mr. Fred Vaughn in his letter on this page last week.

1. That the Board of Commissioners make provision in the annual county budget for the operation and maintenance of the county schools.

That not only seems to be a matter of justice, but it makes sense. When any considerable proportion of these funds has to be raised by the citizens of the different communities, it usually is a few people who raise, or give, the money. Fairness seems to demand that the cost of operating and maintaining the public schools be equally divided among all the people—that is, that it be raised by taxation.

And certainly it doesn't make sense to require the school principals to operate candy stores in the schools to raise money for necessary operational costs. It doesn't make sense, for two reasons:

To hire a man qualified to operate a school and then to make a second rate merchant out of him on the side is like hiring a first rate executive to run a private business and then requiring him to devote part of his time to sweeping the floor. In neither case are you getting your money's worth.

And nothing could be more illogical than to conduct school lunchrooms, so every child will get a wholesome lunch, and then sell him candy to insure he will have spoiled his appetite when lunch time comes.

2. That the Commissioners set a fixed percentage of the actual value of property as the rate at which it is to be put on the tax books. That is, if the rate is fixed at, say, 50 per cent, a piece of property that is actually worth \$1,000 would be listed for tax purposes at \$500.

That matter was too one before the Commissioners Monday, and probably will have been acted upon before this is published. We hope so, because the system under which we have operated in past years was a bit of mess plan that offered both the temptation and the opportunity to list property at too low a figure—and penalized the man who tries to be honest.

In the past, taxpayers were told by the lister that they were "supposed to list" property "at about" such and such a percentage. No matter how honest the taxpayer, the figure hit on usually was little better than a guess.

Such a system doesn't deserve to be called a system—it is neither fair nor intelligent.

3. That the Commissioners have all property in Macon County revalued for tax purposes.

An honest revaluation would have three effects: (a) It would require a lot of taxpayers who aren't paying their fair share of the taxes to do so.

(b) It would raise enough additional taxes to pay the cost of the revaluation many times over in the first year.

(c) It would make it possible to provide with even tax funds for the operation and maintenance of the schools without any increase in the rate of taxes.

## Puzzling

There is a debate raging teacher on English. "Teach children to speak good English by teaching them the rule, or grammar," argues one group. "Teach them to conform to the 'find man's', and to heck with the rule," replies the other.

We find such a debate a bit puzzling. For the lay man, it doesn't seem an "either-or" line from at all. Good spoken English would, a day to require both some basic rules and some practice.

We find ourselves even more puzzled, though, by something else. My parent will tell you the child is likely to peak the kind of English he hears in the school room. How is it, then, that teachers' colleges continue to give M. V. degrees—and thus automatic salary increases—to teachers who themselves murder the King's English every time they open their mouths?

## SHADOW or SUBSTANCE

Don't  
overdrive  
your lights



Night doubles traffic troubles! About half of North Carolina's fatal auto smash-ups occur after dark, even though more driving is done in the day time. The State Department of Motor Vehicles says "slow down at sundown".

## Letters

### God, The Russians, And Us

Editor, The Press:

Although I am not an H. V. Kaltenborn or a George Shuster authority on work conditions, I would like to have a space on your page, to speak to the people of our county and I hope through them, to the people of our nation.

When we hear and see what happened to the people of Hungary, a fear grips us at what could happen to us. And we consider what we could do to prevent our being slaughtered and driven like wild beasts.

We think of the atomic bomb. Well, the Russians have that. Then we consider the H-bomb. They have that. Then we think, "What is there for us?" Oh, yes, there is Christianity.

They don't have that; and who knows that this might not be the time that God has chosen to make Himself known to all people; to plant the "fear of the Lord" in the hearts of many. We know that prayer is a great power for good to them who love and obey God. Those who can qualify need fear no evil. But when we consider how we, as a Christian nation, rate in this great God-given power, we as individuals find that we have fallen far short. We have not separated ourselves entirely from the sins of the world and our hearts fall as "for fear" of the evil in our nation; of God's displeasure in us.

When we read our Bibles, we find many times where God allowed His people to be taken captive and made servants to other people (wicked people) until they repented. And many years later, when they had been taught the fear of the Lord, were allowed to win their freedom. And always before an occasion like this, there have been warnings, as we have today, of impending danger, of our neglect to call upon God for direction and follow Him.

We have broken the first and greatest commandment: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." Right in between us and God has crept this god, the desire to be appreciated. It is that that keeps us from speaking against evil and standing to be counted for God. We have fought against this god, we know he is a fake, but so many times, the fear of being criticised has given him a victory over us.

After looking back over our people as individuals, we know there is much to displease our God, who is "a jealous God visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third, and fourth generations of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments." And we wonder what to do next.

Proverbs 28:13 says: "He that covereth his sins shall not prosper but who so confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy." And we remember, after Solomon in his prayer to God asked, "for this people should sin against God," "for there is no man that sinneth not," would He, God, forgive them if they would repent and pray toward this temple. And in II Chronicles, 7:14 we have God's answer: "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."

Let us evaluate ourselves and see how badly in need of God we are. First, let us make a tree. We have to have a seed. Well, let's make a seed. You make the seed and let some one make the dirt to plant it in. Only God can make a tree.

Then let us acknowledge our inferiority to God, pray and seek His help. Then let us start doing some of the things He has been directing us to do. The things we thought were too foolish. I Cor. 1:18: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved, it is the power of God." Turning from our wicked ways, we can claim God's promise, to hear, forgive, and heal. Let us show God to the Russians. But first, we must make Him our God and realize God alone is between us and destruction.

MRS. GILMER SETSER

Franklin,  
Route 1

## 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.)

### Needed: More Neighborliness

(Greensboro Daily News)

Unfortunately our good friend The Rocky Mount Evening Telegraph sets up a straw man and demolishes it in commenting on the Great Debate over reapportionment.

The Sanford Herald raised a question, a valid one we think, about Weimar Jones's minority report, which opposed the Weathers Commission's recommendations on reapportionment. The Herald feared the Jones plan (reducing the House from 120 to 100 members and placing all the population principle in the Senate, yet not expanding its membership) would widen the rural-urban split in North Carolina. The House would become more rural, the Senate more urban—and never the twain shall meet.

The Herald saw many disadvantages to a reapportionment plan in which "compromise would have to be worked out on an inter-chamber rather than an intra-chamber basis."

We agree that North Carolina needs no further segregation of rural and urban interests in separate houses; rather the state needs more integration and mixture of viewpoints in both houses. The Daily News did not imply that the urban areas would automatically produce more "enlightened" legislators or that in the Evening Telegram's words "the urban-elected Senate would be constantly dead-locked with the dumb clucks in the House elected by rural counties."

As a matter of fact we constantly look to the present rural domination of the House to give North Carolina more intelligent and progressive leadership than the generally conservative Senate. But the point here did not involve judgment of competency on a rural-urban basis. Rather the idea was to avoid further concentration of opposing forces in such a manner as to create in North Carolina the kind of dilemma Georgia now faces—in which urban Atlanta remains at loggerheads with a rural county-unit system.

North Carolina has achieved an extra dividend in neighborliness because it has not been dominated by a large city or group of cities. Its neighborly flavor is preserved in a profusion of small cities and rural areas, where the mode of life is much the same. North Carolina, thank goodness, still has a deeply-engrained state-wide outlook; it will suffer if its two houses are stacked against each other.

We favor retention of some rural and urban influences in both House and Senate—and a condition which Weimar Jones's plan, for all its good intentions, would not foster.

For less noise, it's the car that's supposed to be well oiled, not the driver.

## STRICTLY

### PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

I have never taken much stock in the usual New Year's resolutions—"after January 1, I won't smoke," or "beginning with the first of the year, I'm going to save a little money each week or month," or "starting with the New Year, I'm going to do this, or that or not do this or that."

Such resolutions are made only to be broken. If a man really wants to stop smoking, or start saving money, or whatever, he's just as likely to want to start July 19 as January 1, and if he starts when "the spirit moves him," to much more likely to keep on than to wait for a calendar date.

New Year's, though, is a good time to take stock, to review what you've been trying to do and see if it is good or bad; to amend it or add to it or find new and better ways to do what you're trying to do. And, most important of all, it's a good time for redemption to the things you've come to believe over a long period of time, not just suddenly on December 31—like a worthy while.

It is in that spirit that I am reprinting below what another newspaperman said recently. He put much better than I could what we on The Press have been trying to do, year after year. We're going to try, in 1957, to do these things a little better than we have in any previous year.

The man who said what follows is Don Norberg, editor of the Albia, Iowa, Monroe County News.

"The newspaper which truly loves and respects the community it serves will have the best editorial page—free from literary and philosophical and typographical standpoints. It can produce 'headers' have a right to a complete newspaper. And a newspaper which has no editorial expression is not complete—it has a body, but no heart."

"Second: The newspaper which believes the people it serves have a destiny will appreciate their dignity and intelligence. It will interpret local national and international news in the light of what has happened."

"And in the light of what a free and dynamic people can make happen."

make happen.

"Third—The newspaper which appreciates the people it serves will emphasize the spiritual and cultural and intellectual growth of the community as well as the physical growth."

"My town will not grow better simply by becoming bigger. No town will."

"The truly important citizens of your community and mine are the teachers, and the preachers. They need a newspaper to hold in their hands."

"Many years ago, when I was wanting very much to become an editor, an editor told me this—'Never,' he said, 'become involved editorially with local politics or religion.'"

"The world and newspapers are and rightfully so, have passed him by. 'It is in local politics that legislators and governors and congressmen and presidents are made. It is in local politics that our republic has its roots.'"

"As for religion—if Billy Graham came to my community and addressed a thousand persons, that would look like really something. But."

"The pastors and the priests and the rabbis who serve my community talk to a much greater total congregation every week of the year."

"The philosophies they preach, the actions they urge are vital to the life of my community, and your own. They are the leaders in the fight against everything that threatens a people with evil."

"Consequently, you have one of the rare instances in which it can be honestly said if you are not with them, you are against them."

"And here is my fourth point."

"The newspaper which loves and respects the area it serves will be a diplomat first, a crusader second. It will not attempt to build itself by tearing down institutions and individuals."

## VIEWES

By

BOB SLOAN



Both Macon County and the State of North Carolina are faced with a vexing problem at this time. What are they going to do about their respective tax situations? In the case of Macon County, I find that more and more people are agreeing that there are many, many inequities in the property valuations. These have crept in through perhaps an unintentional mistake here and there. The fact that once a listing is made the valuation has rarely been more than slightly changed has helped to bring this about. Also, it seems to me, that more and more people are becoming convinced that the best way to correct this situation is to bring in an outside firm or group of people that specialize in this business and have them to set up a new valuation for all property in the county. Having been an advocate of this for many years and this being the year for revaluation of county property, I certainly hope that the Board of County Commissioners sees fit to take action along this line. I feel that they will have the support of a majority of the people.

I have discussed the state problem in a previous article.

Various publications each year name some person for "Man of the Year." Generally, it is some person in political life. To me, the man who displayed outstanding moral courage and knowledge of present events and the future was Sir Anthony Eden, Prime Minister of Great Britain.

From the time that our government practically forced Great Britain to withdraw her troops from the Suez Canal area, I think that Eden felt that this presented an opportunity to Russia. When this vital traffic artery, so vital to economic livelihood of so much of the entire world, was seized by the weak Egyptian forces, Eden knew that if something were not done, Russia would soon control the Suez canal. At grave risk of having his motives misunderstood by many of his own people, as well as most of the rest of the world, he took action to bring about a crisis. This, in turn, brought the United Nations forces on the scene and was a step toward placing the canal under the control of this international body, where it, and other canals, so vital to the commerce of the world, should be.

I, for one, believe that Mr. Eden took the gamble with his eyes open, and can now hold his head very high indeed.

To me, it is the outstanding example of courage, coupled with political astuteness, that has occurred in my lifetime.

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 25 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

The Macon County Commissioners authorized payment of \$93 to the owners of 16 sheep killed by outlaw dogs.

The Highlands Bank has been designated official depository for Macon County funds. The county's daily balance is about \$2,500.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Hollis Clark, of Aquone, this week told how he put a stop to hog-killing by tracking down and taking care of a 503-pound bear.

The Franklin Presbyterian Church will begin a building program that calls for the construction of an educational annex, installation of a central heating system, and restoration of the steeple and belfry.

Miss Barbara Hurst has been promoted to demonstration agent for Caldwell County.

### Hughes Ends First Phase Of Training At Base In Texas

J. C. Hughes, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Hughes, of Franklin, Route 3, has completed the first phase of military training at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Tex. According to an announcement from the base, he has qualified for specialized technical training and will be assigned to the 3450th Student Squadron at Warren AFB, in Wyoming.