

The Franklin Press
and
The Highlands Maconian

Second class mail privileges authorized at Franklin, N. C.
Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press
Telephone 24

WEIMAR JONES Editor
BOB S. SLOAN Advertising Manager
J. P. BRADY News Editor-Photographer
ROLFE NEILL Reporter
MRS. ALLEN SILER Society Editor-Office Manager
CARL F. CABE Operator-Machinist
FRANK A. STARRETTE Compositor
G. E. CRAWFORD Stereotyper
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON Pressman
DAVID H. SUTTON Commercial Printer

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
Two Years 5.25	Two Years 4.25
Three Years 7.50	Three Years 6.00

JANUARY 10, 1957

A Step Forward

Congratulations to the Board of County Commissioners on its action last week in setting a flat, exact percentage of value at which property is to be listed for taxes. That is definitely a step in the right direction.

The board's figure is 35 per cent. That means that if a man has a piece of property worth \$1,000, it is his duty to list it for taxes at \$350.

That gives the taxpayer one exact yardstick. He no longer will be told he is "supposed to" list his property "at about a third" or "about 40 per cent" of its value.

But how is the taxpayer to determine his property's value? And how are the tax authorities to determine if he's hit on a fair value? For tax purposes, what is "value"? Is it the figure at which the owner would sell the property? or is it the fair market value? or is it what the property would bring at a forced sale?

And even if those questions were answered, how many taxpayers really know the value of their property? Many—we'd guess a majority—do not.

Thus, of the two vital factors in determining the amount of tax a property owner is to pay, we've eliminated guesswork from only one.

We hope the Commissioners will take the second necessary step in making taxes equitable, by saying how and by whom value is to be determined.

Strange

Some strange things have been taking place at Clinton, Tenn. It was at Clinton that Federal Judge Robert Taylor several months ago ordered school integration, more recently issued an injunction forbidding interference with integration, and more recently still caused the arrest of 11 persons, among them two women, on charges of contempt of court.

It seemed strange for Clinton High School to be called into special assembly so County Attorney Eugene Joyce could read Judge Taylor's injunction order to the students. Mr. Joyce said such an action was unprecedented in American history.

It seemed stranger for Mr. Joyce to tell them that Judge Taylor's order "has no limits; it applies to everyone, everywhere, be they minors or adults, inside or outside any building in this county". ("Inside . . . any building" would mean inside every home.)

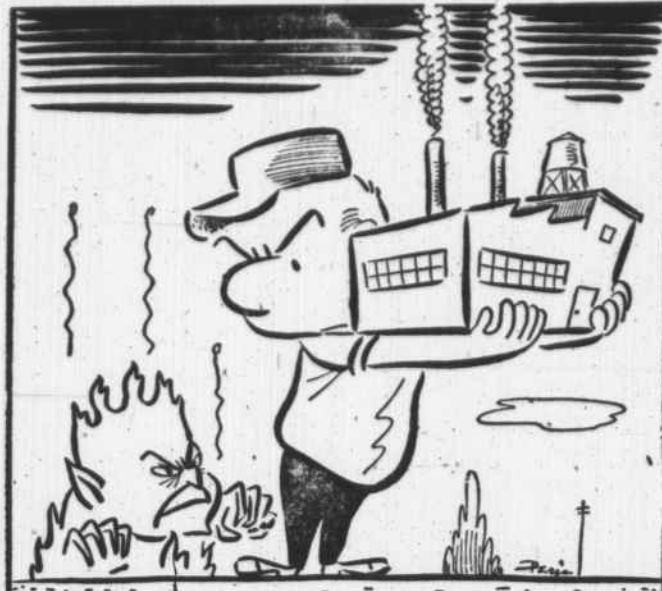
It seemed stranger still for him to warn that the school faculty had been instructed to report to the F. B. I. any violation of Judge Taylor's order by the school children.

But perhaps most extraordinary of all was the injunction itself.

In it, Judge Taylor charged certain persons with "hindering, obstructing, and interfering" because they "requested and urged the principal of Clinton High School and members of the county school board . . . to refuse to carry out" the order. It would have been one thing for the authorities to refuse to carry out the order; it was a totally different thing for private citizens to "request and urge" that it not be carried out.

Another person was charged in the order with having "stated on various occasions that the court had no authority to issue the aforesaid order . . . and that it should not be obeyed." That is no more than British and American citizens have been saying for centuries about distasteful laws. A recent example was the Eighteenth Amendment, written into the Constitution by the people themselves.

Perhaps the most significant passage in the injunction, though, was its final paragraph. There Judge Taylor forbade picketing of Clinton High



PROTECT YOUR PLANT— SAVE YOUR JOB!

LEARN HOW TO TURN IN A FIRE ALARM
AND HOW TO OPERATE A FIRE EXTINGUISHER—
AND ALWAYS KNOW YOUR
PLANT'S EXIT PLAN!

School "either by word or acts or otherwise". Note the sequence. By putting "words" first on his list, Judge Taylor not only forbade them; he emphasized them, even above "acts".

However commendable Judge Taylor's zeal in enforcing the Supreme Court's segregation decision, there is a question about the lengths to which he has let his zeal carry him. Has he forgotten that even federal judges are governed by law? Has he forgotten that the First Amendment to the Constitution, a more basic law than any court decision, denies him the right to interfere with the citizen's freedom of speech?

And has it not occurred to Judge Taylor that once that freedom is destroyed, whether by foreign invader or American courts, all the others are doomed?

2 Good Records

Two extraordinary safety records were set here last year.

Macon County went through 1956 without a motor vehicle fatality. This is the second time Macon made an unusual record in this respect, the county having been presented an award a few years ago for having set the pace for the state.

What the reasons are for this year's highway safety record is anybody's guess. The effect of crooked roads on speed undoubtedly was one factor. It probably is hardly coincidence, though, that this record came after three years of driver education at Franklin High School. Because the 250 young people given instruction in driving during that period have set a record of their own—to date, only three of the 250 have received traffic tickets.

The second record was hung up by the Nantahala Power and Light Company in its four-county area—a full year without a single accident resulting in loss of time. Not a single disabling accident in 300,000 man-hours! This record, the best in the company's 27-year history, contrasts with 1955's five disabling mishaps.

Congratulations are in order to the company's safety director, Mr. W. W. Sloan. He, however, would be the first to agree that, even more, credit is due the employes, whose cooperation made this fine showing possible.

Mrs. Myra Allman

Death has removed another human landmark from the local scene.

Mrs. Myra (Aunt Mimie) Allman first saw the light of day (September 4, 1864) when the Southern Confederacy was in its death throes. A native of Franklin, she had lived her 92 years here. She saw the tiny village, incorporated only a decade before her birth, grow into today's spreading, modern, thriving town. She had seen the ox cart replaced first by the horse-drawn wagon and then the buggy and surrey, and finally by the "horseless carriage". Even more important, she had seen a way of life and an attitude toward life change with rapidly changing times.

In her more than four score years and ten, Mrs. Allman experienced a lot of life. She was a bride, a mother, and a widow, all before she was 20; her first husband, Jesse R. Siler, died in 1884, less than four years after their marriage. In 1886 she mar-

ried Lee H. Allman, and although that marriage was to last 37 years, Mrs. Allman was a widow the second time for a third of a century.

Growing up in the post-Civil War period of dire poverty, she learned to take life as it came, the good with the bad, sorrow with gladness, disappointment with hope.

She represented the hardy qualities of an age that is gone. She was modest and quiet, as contrasted with today's "promotion" of both causes and self. She grew up in a period when honesty, among self-respecting local people, was taken for granted, as much as breathing; what the cost of honesty happened to be was never counted. It was a period when hardship and self-sacrifice were routine.

History has moved swiftly since 1864. It is a far call from the post-Civil War girlhood of Miss Myra Bell to the Franklin of today. And, while each age undeniably has its own virtues, it is a far call indeed from the courage, the self-reliance, the independence of that period to today's dependence on "security" and the machine.

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.)

Roosting Time

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

It may not be an invariable rule that chickens come home to roost, but just the same it does happen with a great deal of regularity. Take the amendment that limits the presidency to two terms. That was pushed through by a G.O.P. congress to prevent another Rooseveltian era in the future. Now, it is threatening to hamstring the very first Republican president to come into power after Roosevelt.

Even Mr. Eisenhower, who certainly has no third-term ambitions, is said to be considering a move to get the amendment repealed. He is realistic enough to see that a president who is barred from succeeding himself is bound to have a less powerful voice in the party councils, and that does not fit with his expressed determination to modernize the G.O.P.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

I believe in trading at home. I've been preaching it for years. I intend to keep on preaching it. Whether it's goods or services we are buying, it's just plain good business to buy it at home. There are at least two reasons why it's good business.

In the first place, it's our local business men who pay a big share of the taxes and make most of the larger donations to our churches and schools and to other worthy causes. In the second place, when I send a dollar out of the county, it's likely to be a long time gone. When I spend a dollar here, on the other hand, it's likely to be re-spent here many times—ultimately, it may even find its way right back into my own pocket. But whether or not that ever happens, it stimulates the local economy, and that helps us all.

It's good business to trade at home. But that conviction ought not to blind any of us to three pertinent facts:

Fact No. 1: Human nature being what it is, people are going to trade at home only if they can get what they want here, and if they can get it at approximately as good a price, quality considered, as they can somewhere else. Maybe they ought to take whatever is available at home, and pay whatever the price may be—but they just aren't going to do it.

Fact No. 2: The local businessman can't always meet the competition, as to price. But he can give even better service. And it's up to him to make up for any difference in price by going all-out to give the maximum in service.

Fact No. 3: Sometimes it is the local businessman, himself who drives customers out of the county to trade. The fact it isn't intentional doesn't change the fact it happens.

How many people, for example, are there who haven't at some time had the experience of going to a local store and asking for a certain brand—and being given something else "just as good"? Maybe the substitute is just as good, but that's for the customer to decide for himself—that is, if the merchant wants him to come back.

Who hasn't had the experience of needing a plumber, a baker, a candlestick maker—and having to call half a dozen times before getting him?

And how many are there who haven't had the experience of asking a merchant to order an

article, going back time after time, and finally realizing the merchant hasn't ordered it and isn't going to? Maybe it wasn't worth the merchant's time to bother to put in the order; but if he wasn't going to order it, he should have said so in the first place.

A Macon County person told me the other day of this experience: Months before Christmas, he went to a local shop to have an article made, to be given as a Christmas present. Yes, he was told, they could make it, and would be glad to. The materials would have to be ordered, but the article would be ready in plenty of time for Christmas. Finally, he went back to the shop the third or fourth time, only to be told the materials never had come, and, besides, they didn't believe they could make the article after all. "Where would you suggest I might get it made?" the customer asked. He was advised to go to Asheville or Atlanta!

Then there's that little matter of statements. A customer gets a first-of-the-month statement saying simply, "Acct. . . . \$—". All business men here don't follow that practice, but a lot of them do.

What's the amount for? Why isn't the statement itemized? As a rule, it would be if the goods were bought out of town. And there's a reason why it's even more important for a local businessman to itemize his bills; the customers often are his personal friends, and you find it embarrassing to ask a friend for an itemized statement.

So the customer usually pays the bill without asking what it's for. But in the back of his mind he feels resentful about it—he doesn't know what he's paying for, and he hesitates to ask.

Well, he ought not to HAVE to ask. When a statement goes out to customer, it ought to say what articles or services it's for, and how much per. When it doesn't, the businessman is laying up ill will for himself.

If anybody thinks I'm being critical of these practices of some—not all—of our local business men, he's right. But if he thinks I'm doing it just to be critical, then he's wrong.

What I want is to keep more business at home. And I think one of the best ways to keep it at home is to discuss, frankly, the reasons why so much of it goes elsewhere.

VIEWES

By
BOB SLOAN



The year 1956 is now a thing of the past. However, many things happened during the year which will have their effects for years to come. Behind events, there are always people. The following persons and groups contributed much to our happenings during the past year.

Verlon Swafford, as president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, did an excellent job. Mr. Swafford greatly enlarged the scope of influence of the organization. Besides the usual tourist promotion work, through his leadership, the organization was responsible for the neighborhood development organizations in Franklin and organized trade promotion in Franklin.

In connection with the trade promotion in Franklin by the merchants, a committee composed of Sam Gibson, chm., T. Y. Angel, Bruce Bryant, Roy Moore, and Bob Sloan did a good job. Two promotions were staged last Fall with considerable success. I think we cannot emphasize too strongly the advantages to all of us of a "Trade At Home" program. It is our merchants who support our schools and churches and many, many other community projects; not the department stores and mail order houses in Asheville and Atlanta.

Tom Fagg, Mrs. Florence Sherrill, Wayne Proffitt, and their respective assistants did an excellent job in staging a very, very fine fair.

Northwest Franklin Community Development showed the rest of the groups here in Franklin the kind of job that should be done. Besides making a very attractive recreation area, they held many square dances and other social events that contributed to the harmony of their neighborhood.

Republican Party leaders did an excellent job in organization of their workers for the fall election, and in getting young people interested in, and working in, politics.

Bob Carpenter, Fred Vaughn, Doug Simpson, all team managers, and many others who helped in the organization of, and completion of a successful season, for the Little League baseball group. This is one of the finest things that has been done here for the problem of youth recreation.

Hall Callahan, who staged the Christmas parade almost single handed.

John Brady and Steve. Who else, could have, or would have, been the most enjoyable clown team of the Christmas parade?

Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Three tramps with two hand organs, a bagpipe, and two monkeys amused the boys while on our streets Thursday.

Mrs. J. C. Wright has received a Maltese cat from Pennsylvania as a Christmas present.

The Rev. D. F. Carver, of Franklin Methodist Church, and family were right liberally "pounded" last Thursday night.

25 YEARS AGO

D. G. Stewart and W. C. Burrell announced this week they are planning to build a modern brick filling station on the lot at the corner of main and Palmer Streets (at the foot of East Town Hill) which they recently purchased from M. D. Billings and Roy Carpenter.

The W. M. Ritter Lumber Company is planning to resume operations at its mill at Rainbow Springs about March 1.

Woodrow Gibson visited his brother, Carroll, of Bryson City, the past week end.—Cowie item.

10 YEARS AGO

Rep. Herbert A. McGlamery will appoint as members of the Macon County Board of Education the five men nominated in last spring's Democratic primary, he announced shortly before his departure Monday for the opening of the 1947 General Assembly.

The Bank of Franklin in 1946 had the best year in its history, Henry W. Cabe, cashier, reported to the stockholders at their annual meeting. A dividend of 18 per cent was distributed.

State Highway Patrolman Pritchard Smith, Jr., seized 720 gallons of non-tax paid liquor Tuesday at 4:30 a. m. in the Flats section.