

The Franklin Press  
and  
The Highlands Macoun

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JANUARY 24, 1957

## Time For Guarantees

Once more, Queen City Trailways has sought to curtail its bus service to Franklin and other communities between Atlanta and Asheville. And once again, the move was made so quietly as to suggest an effort at secrecy.

In the past, people in the affected communities have been given little or no notice of proposed changes. This time, the bus company didn't take the trouble to notify even the States Utilities Commission — the commission found out by accident.

Fortunately, the commission has ordered the company to make no change, pending a hearing. The hearing has been called for Friday, February 1, in Asheville.

It ought not to be necessary for Franklin and the other communities affected to send delegations to Asheville in order to protect their interest, where bus service is concerned. For the bus company, like other utilities, is granted a monopoly by the state; and monopoly carries with it the obligation to provide service.

It ought not to be necessary, but it seems it is. And we hope Franklin will send a big delegation to the Asheville hearing.

We hope, too, that the delegation will insist, courteously but firmly, on some guarantees for the future. The bus company, since it is afforded state protection from competition, should be required to present evidence of its intention to give adequate service. And surely it should be required to furnish guarantees that, in future, it will give adequate notice of any proposed changes.

## Blithe Spirit

In the presence of even the slightest danger of death, most of us quail. Not so Mrs. Inez Crawford Murray. Time after time, she faced death — and laughed him out of countenance. Time after time, through sheer courage and will, she lived — when all the physical rules said she must die.

And into her brief 30 years, she crowded more living than many of us experience in three score years and ten. Despite health handicaps that easily would have conquered most, she built a life not only full and satisfying, but one filled with gaiety.

Rarely, if ever, have Macon County people known so blithe and valorous a spirit. Rarely, if ever, have they seen demonstrated so movingly these oft-neglected truths:

It is not the length, but the quality, of life that counts. And it is not from the physical body, but from an indomitable spirit, that men draw their strength.

## More About Water

As we in Franklin wrestle with our water problem — and it is a problem for all of us, not just the town's officials — one way to clear our thinking, it seems to us, is to ask and try to answer some basic questions.

The first one is: What do we want from our water supply.

We want **enough** water, of course.

But quality is as important as quantity. If anybody has doubts about that, all that is necessary to resolve the doubts is to remember that one of the characteristics of water of high quality is purity. We want **enough** water, but we also want **good** water.

Health considerations demand that it be a pure water. On that score, there seems to be some misunderstanding; contrary to a widespread opinion, health authorities do not advocate taking just any

water, no matter how polluted, and treating it heavily enough with chemicals to make it safe. Instead, they advise getting the purest water possible to start with, and then adding only enough chlorine to make it safe beyond question.

The second characteristic of good water is that it is pleasant to the taste. Some water tastes bad, some is tasteless, and some tastes good. Then, too, there is water that is "heavy" and water that is "light"; you can drink more of the latter than the former. Just how important, from a purely practical viewpoint, it is for Franklin to have water that is pleasant to drink is suggested by the fact that tourists who come to Western North Carolina, or persons who come here to live, usually are first attracted by this region's climate, its scenery, and its good water.

A third factor in the quality of water is its chemical content, whether it is hard or soft. This also is a practical consideration. Hard water is uneconomical; its higher cost to water users can run into thousands of dollars in the cost of extra soap.

We want a water supply that is adequate. But that alone is not enough. It is just as vital that we get the best water obtainable.

## Happy Correction

As a rule, none of us likes to admit we were wrong. This is one time, though, The Press is happy to confess to a mis-statement. Because the fact we were inaccurate in a recent editorial is proof of community progress.

In a January 3 editorial ("3 Jobs That Need Doing"), we remarked it didn't make sense to have school principals running school stores to raise money. We added that it didn't make sense to prepare wholesome lunches for the children and then spoil their appetites by selling them candy from the stores.

Well, most of the school stores have discontinued selling candy. That is progress, and we hasten to hail it as such.

The chief point of the editorial still holds true, however. The job of teachers is to teach, not to operate school stores to raise money. And it still is necessary for them to do that. At Franklin High School, in fact, a soft drink machine is being re-installed for that very purpose.

## Press Responsibility

At a time when most of the year 1957 still lies ahead, and especially on the eve of the North Carolina Press Association's annual Institute, it seems appropriate for North Carolina newspapers to re-dedicate themselves to the principles they put on paper and adopted in 1955.

The statement was an effort to define the responsibilities that the freedom of the press imposes on newspapers. It is perhaps beyond the ability of any newspaper to fulfill all these obligations at all times. But no self-respecting newspaper can fail and have a clear conscience.

Because it is the citizen, in a democracy, who benefits most from a free press, we re-publish below the Statement of Principle of the North Carolina press. We do so in the hope our readers will help us to more perfectly fulfill the obligations it sets forth.

### A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLE

The newspapers of North Carolina, conscious of their obligations, and mindful of their own human imperfections, re-dedicate themselves to these principles which guide a responsible press in a free society.

I

Freedom of the press exists in a democracy, not for the power or profit or pleasure of any individual, but for the common good. The right of the people to know cannot be denied or diminished without endangering democracy itself. It is the obligation of the press to provide accurate, timely and complete information about all developments which affect the people's political, economic or social well-being. Given the facts, the people usually will reach wise decisions.

II

The trusteeship of a free press is the final responsibility of the publisher. He may share it, but he cannot escape it. The good publisher provides the necessary money and space for adequate coverage of the essential news and employs personnel of integrity, ability and sound judgment. He exalts accuracy above every other consideration, and insists upon prompt, full and even generous correction when errors occur.

III

Every citizen deserves the stimulus of a strong editorial page, on which the editor voices his own well-informed opinion, clearly and forcefully; yet willingly provides space for contrary opinion. The good editor often takes sides, but without arrogance or intolerance. He champions boldly the rights of the people, sometimes against government itself. He provides leadership, particularly in his own community. He has a special responsibility to defend the weak, to prod the public conscience, and to speak out against the injustices of which a majority can sometimes be guilty.

IV

The primary function of a newspaper is to report the news.

"It's — Er — A Little Chilly, Isn't It?"



The good reporter strives constantly to find and write the truth. This task, no matter how difficult, is his unescapable responsibility.

To be true, a story, together with its headlines, must be honest. To be honest, it must be fair. To be fair, it must be accurate and complete.

Honesty demands objectivity, the submergence of prejudice and personal conviction. Fairness demands regard for the rights of others. Accuracy demands courage, painstaking care, and perspective to assure a total picture as true as its individual facts.

V

The final test of every story, every headline, every editorial, every newspaper is:

- Is it honest?
- Is it fair?
- Is it accurate?

To the end that they can more frequently answer these questions in the affirmative, the newspapers of North Carolina adopt this statement of principle.

## Letters

### Old Names And Places

Dear Mr. Jones:

Appreciate your paper very much, although all names are not as familiar as when I was in Macon County. Places are the same and I remember most of them.

Sometimes I think I would like to purchase all the Bend of the River as I knew it, and come back to live there.

Here's my subscription for another year, and I do wish you and your entire staff and your family many happy and prosperous years.

E. P. JARRETT

Long Beach, Calif.

### Liked Letter

Editor, The Press:

The letter from Mrs. Gilmer Setser ("God, The Russians, And Us", issue of January 3), was so timely, I wish many people could have a copy. I've thought of a number of ways it could be done, but if there should be a demand sufficient, I know you will find a way. One way would be to make reprints and sell them. If there was any profit in it, perhaps you would be glad to give it to the Hungarian relief. Maybe people of churches would buy them by fifties and hundreds.

MRS. F. E. MASHBURN

Norfolk, Va.

## 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.)

### He Pays The Taxes

(Steamboat, Colo., Pilot)

When you shop at home you know you are going to get fair dealing and the merchant is going to stand behind what he sells you. And it should be realized that it is your home town merchant who supplies much of the tax revenue that keeps your schools going, your roads repaired and helps provide many of the other services you expect from your local government.

## VIEWS

By

BOB SLOAN



This Spring there will be an election to select members of the town board and a mayor. Have you ever stopped to think of some of the problems that will be facing the persons we select? Furthermore, these people will have to solve these problems in their spare time, (as if anybody had any spare time these days).

The water problem is one of the biggest and most pressing. To give Franklin an adequate water supply, we are obviously going to have to spend at least \$300,000. Any time you authorize the spending of that much money it should require a lot of thought and study.

The sidewalk problem is also acute. Sidewalks are desperately needed to the school in East Franklin, on Palmer street from its intersection with Phillips street to the intersection with Maple

(See Back Page, 1st Section)

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

If J. H. Mincey will call at our office he can find something of interest to him.

Mr. J. S. Sloan is handling the yard stick in R. L. Porter's store these days.

Mr. Lyle has introduced a bill to protect the iron bridges of Macon County.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Plans for a Macon County ministerial association will be discussed at the next meeting of the ministers.

Mr. and Mrs. Lawson Shook and family have moved to the John Collins farm. We are glad to have them in this section. — Gneiss item.

The warm weather doesn't appeal to J. L. Smith so well at the present. He has a hog ready to kill that will weigh around 600 pounds. — Telleco item.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Macon County will go to the polls May 10 to vote in the first alcoholic beverages referendum in this county in 14 years, if a bill pending in the General Assembly becomes law.

Macon County farmers last year sold more than two million pounds of milk.

Mr. and Mrs. K. F. Montague, who recently returned to Franklin, have announced the purchase of Arnold's Grocery Store from Lester Arnold. They will run a restaurant in the building, to be called the Dixie Grill and Sandwich Shop.