# The Branklin Press

# The Highlands Maconian

nd class mail privileges authorized at Franklin, N. C. Puolished every Thursday by The Franklin Press

WEIMAR JON	ES										Editor
BOB 8. SLOA	N .							Adve	rtisi	ng M	lanager
J. P. BRADY						N	ews	Edit	or-P	hotog	rapher
ROLPE NEILL										R	eporte
MRS. ALLEN S	HLER					Soci	ety l	Edito	r-Off	fice M	anager
MRS. MARION	BRY	SON								Proo	freader
CARL P. CABI			١.				16	Ope	erato	or-Ma	chinist
PRANK A. STA	RRET	TTE								Com	positor
CHARLES E.	WHIT	TIN	GTO	N .						Pre	essman
B. E. CRAWP	ORD									Stere	otyper
											120000000000000000000000000000000000000
and the second second											
DAVID H. SUT	TON				A. (6.)			Con	nme	ctal l	Printer
DAVID H. SUT	TON						٠	Con	nmei	ctal I	Printer
OUTSIDE 1		-1	SUE	SCRIP	TION R	ATES	П	Con		7	Printer
Oursing 1		-1	SUE	SCRIP	TION R	ATES	E M			7	
Oursing l		-1	SUE	SCRIP	One 1	ATES	E M			UNTI	\$2.50
Oursing l		-1	SUE	SCRIP	One !	INSU Year	DE M		Con	UNTI	\$2.50 1.75 1.00
Ourside I One Year . Six Months . Three Months		-1	SUE	\$3.00 1.75	One !	INSU Year . Months	DE M	LACON	Con	UNTI	\$2.50 1.75
Oursing I		-1	SUE	\$3.00 1.75	One Six I	INSU Year . Months	DE M	LACON	Con	UNTI	\$2.50 1.75
Oursing I One Year . Six Months . Three Months Two Years .	MEACON	-1	SUE	\$3.00 1.75 1.00	One Six I	INSU Year . Months	hs	LACON	Con	UNTI	\$2.50 1.75 1.00

# 'Practical' Politics

How can the Democratic party in North Carolina seize the initiative and halt a "disturbing trend" of youth toward Republicanism? State Senator Perry W. Martin came up with an answer in the General Assembly last week. Lower the voting age from 21 to 18, he urged. Senator Martin's argument boils down to this: Give the youngsters the ballot; in exchange for that favor, they will vote the Democratic ticket.

Since that is a practical political argument, let's waive the question of the morality of a party's trying to buy votes wholesale, and consider it on a purely practical basis. Is it good politics? That is, will it work?

We don't think so. We don't for two reasons. First of all, today's youth is both smart and realistic; most young people would accept the favor of the ballot as their right-and then vote as they pleased. Second, today's youth is like youth always has been; it is essentially idealistic. It is likely to join the cause or the party that offers it not a bribe, but a challenge.

How did the Democratic party in North Carolina attract young voters in the past?

It did it with a Charles B. Aycock, a man who had the vision to see it was good business for North Carolina to spend what then were fantastically large sums for education. It did it a little later with a Frank Page, a man who had the granite honesty to spend millions on roads with never a thought of a man's or a county's politics. It did it still later with a Clyde Hoey, a man who, at the bottom of the depression, had the courage to advocate the state's taking over entire financial responsibility for operating the public schools-something no state had done. Scores of similar instances could

Compare that record-compare that this-thingis-right-whatever-the-political-consequences attitude -with more recent history:

The very day Senator Martin was making his proposal, a Democratic-controlled senate committee was denying the people of Burke County the right to elect their county school board. Why? Because the people of that county might prove so untrustworthy as to elect Republicans.

General Assembly after General Assembly has similarly denied the people of North Carolina a wet-dry referendum. Why? Because the people might make the mistake of voting dry. As though it were not the people's state, the people's government, the people's responsibility for their own mistakes!

Gerrymandering of congressional and state senatorial districts for unfair partisan advantagethat is, to defeat the will of the majority—has been almost the rule. Meanwhile, Assembly after Assembly has refused to obey the plain mandate of the constitution requiring it to keep representation in the Assembly fair and honest.

And just a few days before the death of the

Burke school bill, the legislators had gutted the state highway reorganization bill of its anti-politics provision. Democratic legislators had said, in effect, that they didn't slare fight the battle without a highway political machine at their beck and

What has been the result of all this "practical" politics? By the admission of Democratic party leaders themselves, it has been a gradual, but steady, Republican gain. Yet those same party leaders only last Saturday told Governor Hodges that the solution is still more practical politicsmore good jobs for deserving Democrats.

North Carolina Democracy is a great organization, built on great principles, with a great tradition. It can have a great future. But it can have it only if it attracts young voters; it must do that, in fact, merely to survive. And it can appeal to young people only by offering bold and dynamic policies, and by demonstrating faith in the people. For young people are contemptuous of timidity. They can be attracted by the Democratic party only if it stirs their imaginations, commands their respect, excites their admiration.

# Sauce For The Goose

What's sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. And what is fair one way is another; that is, if we're going to reward the well-doers, then we ought to penalize the poor-doers.

This refers to taxes.

A state law requires counties and towns to give discounts to those who pay their taxes early, and to impose penalties on those who pay them late. A number of years ago, a Macon County representative got this county and its two towns exempt from the penalties provision of this state law. That is, the county and its towns must give discounts to those who are prompt in paying their taxes, but are forbidden to impose penalties on those who are late. That doesn't seem to us to make sense; if we're going to have one, we ought to have the

So we applaud the decision of the Franklin Board of Aldermen to seek action by the General Assembly authorizing the town to impose penalties on those who wait and wait and wait. It seems to us it would be wise for Highlands and Macon County to take similar action.

# Letters

### More Macon Kindliness

Late on the night of September 4, 1956, I was passing through Franklin on my way from Florida to a hospital. I was broke, it was raining, and I was trying to get a ride.

A man pulled up alongside me and asked where I was going. I did not know until later that he was the sheriff of Macon County. I was groggy from taking dope, through the day to keep the pain down, but was able to talk enough to tell him I was broke and trying to get to the hospital.

Mr. Thomas took money out of his pocket, gave me enough to buy a bus ticket, and left an officer, a Mr. Ledford, with me to see that I got on the bus.

I feel the people of Macon County should know how a stranger is treated by the man they elected. In my own way, I will repay Mr. Thomas for the kind consideration I received that night. And I will always remember the incident as proving we still have men like Mr. Thomas who will be a friend to a man broke and away from home, instead of be-ing the hard-boiled officer who takes it for granted such a man is a criminal until he is proved innocent CHARLES E. WATSON

Waynesville, N. C.

# Compulsory Insurance?

Editor, The Press:

There is a movement in the General Assembly to make automobile liability insurance compulsory. Many people take it for granted that is desirable. But before such a law is enacted, it seems to me the public ought to take into consideration the following facts collected by the North Carolina Association of Insurance Agents:

Contrary to impressions held by some people, compulsory automobile liability insurance is not a safety measure and, in the opinion of many, compulsory insurance actually diverts everyone's attention from safety. Also, there is a widespread belief that such a law would at least provide monetary relief for all persons killed or injured in automobile accidents. Even this is not true because of certain inherent limitations in li-ability insurance. In a considerable percentage of all automobile accidents, probably as high as 25 per cent, there is no fault on the part of another person and the injured party could not recover his damages.

Under a compulsory system there is no guarantee that all -Continued on Page 3

SIDNEY J. HARRIS

#### One Top, Two Tops, Ten Tops - And Happy Or Bored Children

In Richmond News Leader

endless juvenile junkyard: Dozens nearly everything. of toys, already broken and dis-

They believe in the Law of Di-

dently, in terms of their children. The Law of Diminishing Returns tells us that the more we

somewhat like touring through an we have. The person who has near- with children. ly everything is dissatisfied with

carded in disgust, lay strewn in adults. All of us know successful to bore, confuse and frustrate him every corner. And I reflected how astonishing bored and restless, perpetually choices. it is that so many otherwise intelli- seeking new diversions and just gent people keep their beliefs in as perpetually tiring of them. In kindness is a cruelty in another rate air-tight compartments, our common wisdom we say that sense. For it robs the child of such people get things too easily initiative and imagination, those to appreciate them.

But, in this fantastically child-full personality. centered culture of ours, we seem A child, while he is still relative. What else can we blind to the parallel fact that the ly unspoiled, loves to make and children to become?

To give a child one top is to please him: to give him two is to We can see this quite plainly in elate him; but to give him ten is

Not only that: But this seeming

two most priceless ingredients of

Visiting some friends' homes have, beyond a certain point, the Law of Diminishing Returns works loves to imagine. He makes a helshortly after the holidays was less will we be satisfied with what even more swiftly and more surely met out of a saucepan, and he somewhat like touring through an we have. The person who has near with children. beater is a submarine; in these natural ways, he cultivates' his powers of invention and creation.

But if he already has a helmet and a submarine-along with a dozen other expensive and fabricated gadgets—he soon comes to believe that everything can be bought and that everything will unhappy and ungrateful creatures. What else can we expect such

"Gee, It's A Nice Picture—I Hope It Works"



STRICTLY

# Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

That quotation in last week's through the spectacles of a paper from a visitor's letter, the stranger one that said our sidewalks What looked like they hadn't "been cleaned since Lincoln was shot", tary, set me thinking.

By golly, I thought, it's the truth; the sidewalks and streets are filthy. Why doesn't the town board clean 'em up?

By golly, I'm going to town on this; I'm going to give some-body down the road about it.

Well, I sat down to my type- mean it c writer to do just that. But I casionally. hadn't written a dozen words as our necks was cautioning me: "Wait!". I stopped writing for an instant, and heard it again, louder: "You'd better dirty, broken wall. It would take money to replace or repair it, but it would cost almost nothing to plant vines to cover it up.

Above the wall I hadn't written a dozen words before that sixth sense that so dirty, broken wall. It would often saves our faces as well take money to replace or re-

got up from my typewriter and other litter. walked out the front door of I thought. Then I remembered On the east side of the build-what I'd written last week ing is a plot that's covered with about seeing ourselves as others see us, and I tried to look at been cleaned, I can't remember. it as though I'd never seen it What I do remember is some

#### VIEWS

considerable degree. Virtues that were of a simple nature and therefore go unnoticed.

Lee Roy Berrong had many many friends because he only had good to say of people and he was always cheerful. Though not so much a leader, smiling, cheerful, friendly Lee Roy who was always willing to help, will be missed by many of us common, everyday people

The lines, "Let me live in a house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." were very true of Lee Roy.

Within the next few days we should know whether or not the foreign policy of the United States government has a purpose and a backbone. If Egypt is allowed now to occupy the Gaza strip as she is threatening to do after we forced the forces of Israel out, then it will be evident to the world that the only policy the United States has is, "Peace at Any Price." If we use our influence to see that this area remains out of the hands of Egypt then and only then can we be said to be on the side of right.

Thursday night( tonight) the people of Franklin are invited to attend a meeting. The purpose of to make Franklin, a town that is be given to him. The grownups known for its cleanliness. Can who believe these things are cold, you think of any better goal for a town? The meeting will be held at the Town Hall at 7:30 p. m. If you are interested and would like to help, please come.

What I saw wasn't all good; it was anything but complimen-I saw, first of all, the park-

ing. It's been cleaned since Lincoln was shot; it's been cleaned, in fact, within the last year. But it's dirty, plumb dirty. And the fact the pavement is broken and thus is hard to sweep, I had to admit, doesn't mean it can't be scrubbed oc-

gain, louder: "You'd better Above the wall, I saw some of ait!" last year's weeds, still uncut. For no particular reason, I And at its bottom, paper and

On the east side of the buildall sorts of trash. When it's before; tried to look at it very definite plans I had for planting flowers there; it's been five years since I made those plans, and the first flower seed is yet to be planted.

I saw some windows that self?" • By BOB SLOAN surely could stand some soap,

water, and elbow grease.
A little deflated, I went back He certainly was not without into the front office. With a fault, but he possessed virtues to pang, I remembered I'd been planning to paint the walls; been planning it ever since we moved in, more than five years

I went into the news room That congoleum on the floor had been faded, I estimated for three years; completely worn out for two. And so it went.

By that time, I was in a bad ing space in front of the build-mood. Why hadn't somebody ing. It's been cleaned since cleaned this place up? Why, Lincoln was shot; it's been after really looking at it, I'd be ashamed to show it to anybody.

Then I thought of something that didn't improve my disposition a bit. For I asked myself: Who is responsible for this state of affairs? And the answer came back: The guy chiefly re-sponsible is a fellow named

I went back to the typewriter, out somehow I couldn't get up any steam on those clean-up-the-town editorials. I kept hearing that old saw about the pot calling the kettle black

Sure, I thought, the streets I saw an old, ugly door that are dirty. Sure, the sidewalks The Press office. I took a look we've never painted because are a disgrace. Sure, it's inexat the place where we work. It we've been planning to replace cusable for the board of alder-looked just like it always does, it—some of these days. keep 'em clean. Somebody ought to tell 'em so.

But that sixth sense was speaking again:

"Are you certain", it was asking, "that you're the fellow to tell 'em about it? Are you, that is, until you've done a bit of washing behind the ears your-

Looking through a stranger's spectacles at your own back yard is a remarkable experience. I don't guarantee it to be a pleasant one, I do promise it will be revealing.

If you don't believe that, try

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

#### 60 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

About midnight Friday, in the eastern part of town, Deputy I. J. Ashe succeeded in capturing a wagon and team and 15 or 20 gallons of blockade which was in charge of a citizen of Macon.

D. C. Cunningham is repairing the old telephone line as far as Furman Henry's on Watauga and will have communication that far towards Dillsboro.

Messrs. George and Erwin Patton, who have been handling stock in Georgia all winter, returned home Thursday.

#### 25 YEARS AGO

Macon County farmers who wish to apply for loans from the \$50,000,000 crop loan fund established recently by the U.S. may do so by filing applications with Fred S. Sloan, farm demonstration agent.

Braving the biting winds of the recent semi-blizzard, residents of Macon County, have responded so actively to revival services being held at the Baptist Church, that the Rev. W. L. Griggs and John Kermit Blackburn have decided to continue the services through next Sunday.

Claude H. Bolton was elected secretary-treasurer of Nantahala Power and Light Company at a board of directors' meeting here Monday.

The bill to extend the corporate limits of Highlands was killed in committee Wednesday.

Dr. J. H. Fouts, practicing physician here for more than half a century, died last Saturday at 82 years of age. Active to the last, he had written a prescription only shortly before he was fatally stricken.