

The Franklin Press
and
The Highlands Marionian

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. F. BRADY News Editor-Photographer
BOLFE NEILL Reporter
MRS. ALLEN SILKE Society Editor-Office Manager
MRS. MARION BRYSON Proofreader
CARL F. CABE Operator-Machinist
FRANK A. STARRETTE Compositor
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON Pressman
G. E. CRAWFORD Stereotyper

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

APRIL 11, 1957

Which Do We Want?

While members of the board of education have made no public statement, it becomes increasingly clear that they propose to make a change in the school superintendent.

Why? There must be a reason.

Certain charges are made against the present superintendent.

It is charged that he is slow to commit himself, is not always decisive. One or two or three instances are cited.

It is charged that he sometimes is dilatory about doing what needs doing. One or two or three instances are cited.

It is charged that he has spent school funds unwisely. One or two or three instances—all involving small sums—are cited.

Assuming that the superintendent occasionally has been guilty of all three, are these things alone sufficient reason for dismissal? The best way to answer that question is to ask another:

Does the man live who is not sometimes guilty of all of these?

* * *

Is it reasonable to believe that any superintendent would be dismissed on such relatively minor grounds? And is it reasonable to believe that this one should be, when these occasional failures and mistakes are weighed against his record of accomplishments? Three illustrations of the amazing school progress here are close at hand—last week's excellent N. C. E. A. program, which would have been impossible without a spirit of harmony and cooperation among the teachers; the fine school exhibits in Franklin store windows in recent weeks; and the number of Macon County students winning scholarships—two within a single week. Things like that don't just happen; they, and scores of other similar evidences, are proof of progress.

* * *

These charges against the superintendent are not the real reasons — they are merely the reasons given.

What, then, is the reason?

It could be cheap politics. It could be personalities. It could be any one of half a dozen other secret and unworthy motives.

But the members of the board of education —

A REPUBLICAN VIEW

HOW TO CAPTURE THE HOUSE AND SENATE NEXT YEAR!

New York Herald Tribune

The Republican National Committee, under the stimulus of its new chairman, Meade Alcorn, has begun none too soon its preparations to elect a Republican Congress in the fall of 1958.

There is every merit in the plan to conduct a series of regional conferences throughout the country during the next two months to bestir initiative and strengthen the organization to try to give President Eisenhower a Congress controlled by his own party during the last two years of his second term.

It is logical and proper that Mr. Eisenhower should endorse and support this end with all the prestige of his office. The objective is not small-minded partisanship; the objective is the most effective functioning of the two-party system where-by one party, when it is in charge of both the executive and legislative branches, is

made wholly accountable because it is wholly responsible. We welcome the force and vigor with which Mr. Alcorn is taking hold of his job. He is making an excellent beginning. But we are only candid in saying that this is no more than a beginning because the galvanizing and strengthening of the nation-wide Republican organization is dealing only incidentally with what will need to be done to bring a Republican Congress into being.

Let us not cover over the fact that the Republican organization and the Republican campaign were just as vigorous as the Democratic organization and campaign—or more so—in 1954 and in 1956. Yet the Democrats took Congress in 1954, after Mr. Eisenhower had been in office only two years, and again in 1956 when the President was drawing a majority of 9,750,000 votes to his second-term candidacy.

The diagnosis of what went wrong in the past two Con-

gressional elections will have to go deeper than the matter of mere organization and campaign—and so will the cure.

As the voters have twice demonstrated, they will not automatically elect a Republican House and Senate because they are electing a Republican President, however popular. They will only elect a Republican House and Senate when it is evident that by so doing they will be clearly strengthening the support for the legislative programs of the President they overwhelmingly endorse.

The key to Republican success at the polls in 1958 is not in the hands of the Republican campaign managers, however dedicated and effective they may be. The key to success in electing a Republican Congress is in the hands of the Republican leaders and members of Congress. They will be judged by the genuine and sustained support they give the President and will, we are convinced, be rewarded accordingly.

Thus the real battleground for control of Congress in 1958 will not be at the polls; it will be in Congress itself. And the test will be rank-and-file support of the President's respected leadership.

We are not talking about Old Republicans or New Republicans or Old-New Republicans. We are talking about all Republicans. Every significant item in the Eisenhower legislative program—aid to education, highway construction, civil rights, farm relief, mutual-security aid, etc.—is explicitly set forth in the 1956 Republican national platform. Every Republican member of Congress is explicitly committed to fulfill that platform. Its half-hearted, half-way support can only mean another half-hearted, half-way success next year.

The Republican party's battle to win the House and Senate can never be won at the polls until it is first won in Congress itself.

Here in Franklin we are greatly concerned about the routing of traffic. We are inclined to think that any bypassing of the town by traffic would practically ruin us. I have always agreed with this. But a trip to eastern North Carolina makes me wonder. As soon as you leave the mountains, town after town is bypassed. There would be a great hue and cry from these towns if their business had been damaged as much as I thought it would. But this cry has not been forth coming. We should talk to these people and find out what their experience has been.

Next week will be our clean-up week. Remember if you are interested in making Franklin known all over the country as a town that is outstanding for its cleanliness, LET'S WORK, NEXT WEEK. If we show people that Franklin can be cleaned up, I believe that will go a long way towards seeing that it stays clean.

Could We Have Done Better?

Dear Weimar,

In the last several issues of your paper there have been four articles to which I wish to say a fervent "amen".

The first was the editorial which asked if members of the board of education were sure they could get a better man for superintendent.

The second was Mr. Kingsbery's letter, expressing the hope that the board members will not be "misled by criticisms that are secondary to the main objective".

The third was Mrs. Bulgin's letter, which listed some of the accomplishments in the schools during Mr. McSwain's administration.

And, finally, Mr. Moss's letter, pointing out that no valid reason has been given for making a change in superintendents.

They all express my opinion exactly.

Aside from what it may do to the schools, it seems to me it is unfair to discharge Mr. McSwain at this date, without some definite and compelling reason.

It isn't an easy thing to be a county superintendent and be expected to please everybody. How many of us could have done a better job in the face of petty criticisms? How much have most of us helped him do a better job by giving him our full and hearty support?

(MISS) LAURA M. JONES

Franklin.

Good Water

(Asheville Citizen)

Waters flowing from Western North Carolina's great mountains have many uses besides being suitable for flowing under bridges and distilling white lightning.

Electric power is generated from mountain rivers and towns and cities get supplies from protected watersheds.

The newest plan for utilization of fine Western North Carolina water is the Greenville, S. C., watershed project that embraces more than 16,000 acres and includes construction of a big dam.

Though the land is in South Carolina, waters from North Carolina flow down to and across it. It will all add up to good mountain drinking water—the finest there is—for the people of Greenville. It's worth the cost!

South Carolinians came to Western North Carolina in the early days to escape the oppressive heat of summer. And they have been coming ever since, for they appreciate the mountain scenery, the cool and invigorating air and the fine water.

So for Greenville, the quality of our water is no new discovery. They know a good thing when they drink it.

"He's Still Over A Barrel—In A Manner Of Speaking"



STRICTLY

Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

I had occasion, the other day, to go to Asheville, and preferred to go by bus.

Well, it is possible to go from Franklin to Asheville by bus; but the trip could hardly be made more inconvenient and uninviting. Truth is, it would be easier to go somewhere else—Atlanta or Knoxville or Bristol, Va.—to start!

You can leave here at 5:55 in the morning — and get there long before stores and offices open; or you can leave at 10:25 at night — and get there after midnight.

Since the morning bus originates here, why it leaves at 5:55 instead of 6:55 or 7:55 is one of the mysteries of modern transportation.

And it would be a present-day miracle if the busses, operating on such a schedule, made a profit in this area.

It looks like one of two things is true:

Either the Queen City Trailways management is too stupid to realize it cannot operate profitably when it gives such poor service.

Or it is purposely giving such poor service with a view to be-

ing able to show such a loss it will have a good argument when it asks — as it undoubtedly will — for permission to discontinue one or both of these Franklin busses.

We respectfully suggest to the State Utilities Commission that the first is good reason for cancelling the company's franchise. And the second is an even better reason.

After all, there still are people who are too old or too blind or too sick or too poor to drive an automobile. Such people, in Macon County, are wholly dependent on busses. And one of the first duties of government — including the Utilities Commission — is to protect the weak.

I was interested to learn, in a historical book I've been reading, about mealtimes in the Deep South, in antebellum days.

The work day started at 6 in the morning. Breakfast was at 9. (What they ate before doing three hours' work is not explained.) At noon, they had lunch. Dinner came at 4. And sometime during the evening, they had supper. Four meals a day.

What interested me even more, though, was the length of the work day. It lasted from 6 to 3, with time out for lunch. In other words, even the slaves in the deep South had an eight-hour day, a century ago. Furthermore, everybody, including slaves, took a full week's vacation at Christmas.

That reminded me that, when I was a boy, the work day in Franklin was from 7 in the morning till 6 at night, with time out for dinner at noon.

That is to say, the work day had increased from 8 to 10 hours.

Incidentally, the pay scale in Franklin for a 10-hour day was 50 cents. (Try to hire somebody, today, for a single hour at that rate!)

Today, of course, we have an eight-hour day and a five-day week. I sometimes wonder, though, considering such things as tension and production schedules if we don't do more work in a week now than the slaves did a hundred years ago. Does it take more and more work to earn a living? If so, are we, in this particular field, making progress in reverse?

It's the little things that count.

I was reminded of that again the other night when Mrs. Jones and I had the good fortune to be guests at a meeting of the Higdonville Rural Community Development Organization, held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Higdon.

I was impressed to learn a little of the accomplishments of this, the smallest organized community in the county (in the entire community, there are just 43 families). I was interested in their mail boxes; in a land of red clay, what could make better sense than to paint the posts brick red, so they wouldn't look dirty after the first rain? I felt sure that their enthusiasm, sparked by that of their president, Mrs. Ann Berry, would take them far.

But it was none of these things we remembered when we got back home that night. In-

Continued on Page 3

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1892)

A party of three Indians passed through our community Friday. Old settlers say it looks like the old times to see the red man and his red blanket.—Aquoine item.

George D. Garland returned from Texas last week to his home in Smithbridge Township. He had been in the Lone Star state for several months.

The Rev. R. B. Shelton left Monday on a trip to Haywood County.

25 YEARS AGO (1932)

Upwards of 1,000 persons marveled at the new V-8 Ford on display at Joines Motor and Tractor Company Tuesday. With twice as many cylinders as before, you wouldn't know it's a Ford.

The Asheville Presbytery voted 27-17 Wednesday afternoon to close the Maxwell Farm Home for Boys, near Franklin, at the end of the present public school session.

Elizabeth Polindexter and Fred Eaton won the United Daughters of the Confederacy essay contest on General Lee's surrender.

10 YEARS AGO

The election of a county school superintendent was deferred until April 23 by the new Board of Education.

James McCall was elected to succeed Lester Arnold as governor of the local lodge of the Loyal Order of the Moose last week.

J. Steve Potts and James O. Beale have announced their candidacies in the race for mayor, May 6.—Highlands item.