

Election Postscripts

In retrospect, Franklin's 1957 town election was one of the most interesting in decades.

Among the factors that make it of interest, three stand out.

THAT SETTLES THAT

On the question of two-way vs. one-way streets, the people of Franklin have spoken. In last week's advisory referendum, they indorsed the one-way system by a vote of nearly two to one.

That ought to settle that. And this question having been taken out of the realm of debate, we as citizens would do well to give the time, thought, and energy we've been devoting to this topic to other, more pressing problems.

The very emphasis of the voters' indorsement, though, underlines the responsibility of the incoming town officials to make the system work. Making it work would seem to involve three things:

(a) Construction of possible new cross-streets.
(b) Careful study, with a view to possible modifications, at least to ameliorate injustices to individuals or any groups of businesses.

(c) Elimination of the speeding the one-way traffic invites. A single serious accident, due to speeding, easily could shift public sentiment in the other direction. We respectfully suggest to the new board that safety is far more important than enforcement of parking-time regulations; if half the attention were paid to speeding that is now paid to checking meters, the speeding that has become almost the rule instead of the exception could be stopped.

STATISTICALLY SPEAKING

As usual, the statistics are interesting—and contradictory.

The heavy vote here was encouraging. Of 961 Franklin citizens registered, 691 voted. That's 72 per cent, or something like half-again as many of those registered voting as is usually true for the country as a whole.

It looks good, too, when compared with the then-record vote of ten years ago, when the total was only 551.

The increase would seem to reflect the growth of Franklin.

It would, that is, until registration figures are compared. Ten years ago, more people were registered than now; for the election of 1947, 1001 were registered—or 40 more than for last week's election.

The chances are, though, the apparent discrepancy is accounted for by a more thorough purging, this year, of the registration list—the marking off of citizens who have died or moved away.

MYTH EXPLODED

A hoary and hard-dying myth was exploded last week; that was a by-product of the Franklin municipal election.

"Unless you're a native, you have no chance, in Macon County, either to be anybody or to get anywhere."

How often have you heard that dogmatic statement! Well, take a look at the election results:

Of the seven winning candidates, five were born elsewhere; only two are natives.

And of the eight defeated by the voters, only two are non-natives, while four were born here.

Taking the two-sets of figures together, it would seem that Franklin voters prefer non-natives by a ratio of two to one.

Actually, the voters probably took no account of where the candidates were born, just as, in our nonpartisan town election, they take no account of a candidate's party affiliation. Instead, they voted for those they thought best qualified; which, of course, is exactly as it should be.

Done For Fun

It had the attractive title of "A Pretty Girl Is Like A Melody", but an equally appropriate name for last week's Macon County Home Demonstration Clubs' dress review would have been "How To Be Well Dressed With An Outlay Of Little Or No Money". It well might have been called that, because many of the articles modeled were made from remnants, left-overs, or even feed sack.

That is important, because (a) it gives all of us a psychological boost to feel we are well dressed; and (b) most of us suffer from an inadequate supply of money.

And there is another reason why this annual event, which reflects so much credit upon those responsible, is important: It is amateur. The articles of apparel are made by the women themselves, and are modeled by them. And, usually, one of the differences between a professional and an amateur job is that one is work, the other fun.

Up To County Now

Because the situation in Nantahala Township is a peculiar one, we are inclined to believe the Macon County Board of Education was right in refusing the request for a special election on voting a supplemental township school tax.

The peculiar situation, of course, is that two or three taxpayers pay the bulk of the taxes in that township; thus it would be very easy for a majority of voters to impose an unfair burden on a minority of taxpayers.

It is only in extraordinary circumstances, though, that an over-all governmental body should deny the people of the community the chance to vote extra taxes upon themselves, especially when the tax is to provide better schools.

There can be no question of the Nantahala School's need for equipment. Since the school board (quite properly, it would seem, since a special tax would have been an extreme of the many imposing most of it on the few) has said "no" to the petition for a township special tax election, there remains only one way for the equipment to be supplied. It must come from county funds. The county authorities, therefore, ought to take whatever steps are necessary to provide for the need — and do it promptly. And in view of the years the Nantahala community was neglected, the county should provide in a fashion that is generous.

Letters

Praise For Mr. Bueck

Dear Mr. Jones:

We, the faculty of the Murphy City Unit Schools, desire to express through the columns of The Press our sincere appreciation for the work of Supt. Hieronymus Bueck.

We can enumerate his many services to the school, the town, county, and state, but we can never evaluate the power of his influence for good in our community.

As an administrator, he has been ever mindful of the good of his school. He has been far-sighted, capable, and wise in his policies.

In relations with his faculty, Supt. Bueck has been highly ethical, sympathetic, understanding, and loyal.

He was loved and respected by the student body for his

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NEW MEMBER TO BE NAMED

FRIENDS OF TVA FEARFUL FOR ITS FUTURE

By George H. Hall

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Hall, a Washington correspondent for the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, reports the results of an on-the-spot study of the Tennessee Valley Authority. The following is excerpted from an article in the Post-Dispatch.)

Friends of the Tennessee Valley Authority are fearful that TVA, now 24 years old, is in imminent danger of losing its identity as the world's pre-eminent example of effective and reasonable river basin development.

This apprehension is based on doubts as to the type of man President Eisenhower will appoint to the three-man TVA board of directors when the term of Harry

A. Curtis expires this week (May 18), and on the difficulties the agency has been experiencing in obtaining capital for continued growth.

The President has made two points that disturb TVA partisans. He has said he believed the board was required to be bipartisan and that he did not know whether the man going out is a Republican or a Democrat. He also said that a man qualified for the post would have "in general, what I would call a middle-of-the-road philosophy in all this field of Governmental intervention in local affairs."

The board is, in fact, non-partisan. The only requirement, as far as this factor is concerned,

is that the member "profess a belief in the feasibility and wisdom of this act" (establishing TVA). The law specifically forbids any political test or qualification in the hiring of employees and provides for removal of a board member who violates the prohibition. In the debate preceding the adoption of the basic act, the late Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska, "father" of the statute, said it was understood the prohibition would apply to the selection of directors.

Mr. Eisenhower's use of "middle-of-the-road" also disturbs those who believe strongly in the concept of the TVA. These persons recall that Brig. Gen. Herbert D. Vogel, the board member who has

disagreed often with the board majority, said after Mr. Eisenhower nominated him in 1954 that during his 30 years as an Army engineer he had "walked a straight middle line between public and private power projects."

It is widely held here in the heart of the valley that another appointment like that of Gen. Vogel would mean the beginning of the end of TVA as Senator Norris envisioned it, and as its affairs have been conducted since Norris's time.

TVA's friends see in Mr. Eisenhower's recent statements further indications of his lack of interest in and basic knowledge of the Authority's functions. They recall

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STRICTLY

Personal

By WELMAR JONES

To make them comply with some law or other, I hear the parking meters on Main Street are to be fixed so they'll accept a nickel only — no pennies.

Well, far be it from me to suggest we shouldn't comply with the law.

I'll feel a darn sight more kindly toward the parking meters, though — and toward those who put them in — when a new gadget is added to them.

Since the town penalizes motorists, when they park beyond the time they pay for, why shouldn't the town meet the motorist halfway and reward him when he leaves ahead of time? If we're to be penalized \$1 for parking, say, ten minutes overtime, why not reward us with, say, half a dollar, if we leave five minutes ahead of time? There ought to be a —

gadget; one attached to the parking meter, to do just that.

And, at the least, shouldn't the parking meter be equipped with a device to return our change? If I pay a nickel for one hour and stay only 12 minutes, doesn't the parking meter owe me four cents?

Yes, sir, there ought to be a — gadget.

If the growing birth rate means more and more industrial progress, and we build for that progress, what's going to happen to business when the birth rate levels off — or drops?

Times change, it is said. Well, I wonder.

And what prompts the wonder is something that appeared in The Press back in 1892.

But, first, let me explain a difficulty about mail we here at The Press constantly have. Hardly a week passes, we don't get a piece of mail addressed to "The Franklin Times". Now The Franklin Times is published at Louisburg, after.

down in Franklin County; but a lot of its mail comes to Franklin town — and finds its way, naturally, into our box.

Sometimes it's subscriptions; sometimes advertising orders; sometimes checks; occasionally, just junk.

Of course, we carefully and promptly forward it to Louisburg. (Incidentally, it never happens the other way; why no mail, especially checks, for The Franklin Press ever comes to us, forwarded from Louisburg, I cannot guess.)

Well, that has been happening regularly now for the eleven years I've been on The Press. And have times changed? Just read this, from The Press of May 25, 1892:

"The Progressive Farmer last week said: 'The Franklin Press says so and so'. Well, now, we didn't say it. It was the fellow at the other end of the State known as The Franklin Times that said it. Bro. Ramsey (of the Progressive Farmer) should put on his specs and look straight hereafter."

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1892)

We have the promise of a communication next week from a gentleman who fully realizes the importance and benefits that a creamery would add to our town. This is an important matter and the communication should be read carefully and the subject studied well with a view to making the experiment.

Mr. John B. Gray is as crazy as a doodle-bug over the arrival at his home last Sunday of a 12-pound boy to carry the name of Frank Temple Gray.

The Franklin Furniture Company is busily engaged on the new Episcopal school building on Church Street and will have it ready for occupancy within the next two months.

25 YEARS AGO (1932)

This from a correspondent at Aquone: "When reading the papers we see quite a bit about repealing the 18th amendment. It seems as if it had been repealed at Aquone & Kyle already. The market price of corn don't seem to be advancing. Corn seventy cts per bushel in dry form and nine dollars in liquid."

If shelled corn brings 70 cents and distilled gets \$9, as our correspondent states, Aquone has escaped the depression. In other sections of the county, the grain prices range from 35 to 50 cents and the liquid goes for \$1.50 or \$2 at the still and \$2.50 to \$5, delivered.

Miss Mae Warren, nurse at Angel Bros. Hospital, spent her vacation with relatives and friends, at Cornelia, Ga.

Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Fouts and little Frances Ashe recently spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Dover Fouts, at Burnsville.

10 YEARS AGO

Hazel Robinson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Robinson, of Franklin, Route 1, will deliver the valedictory address at Franklin High School graduation. Her four-year average grade was 95.9. Frederick Corbin, who had a four-year grade of 94.6, will give the salutatory. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Corbin, of Cullasaja.

Purchase of Rodney's Cafe, on the northeast side of the courthouse square, by Frank Jamison from T. L. Stanfield, was announced this week.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Roland, of Franklin, Route 3, had all of their children with their Mother's Day, for the first time in nearly five years.

With the coming of Dr. William A. Matthews, Highlands is to have a year-round physician for the first time in a number of years.—Highlands item.