

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
ROSE NEILL, Reporter
MRS. ALLEN SILER, Society Editor-Office Manager
MRS. MARION BRYSON, Proofreader
CARL F. CABE, Operator-Machinist
FRANK A. STARRETTE, Composer
CHARLES E. WHITTINGTON, Pressman
G. E. CRAWFORD, Stereotyper

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

JUNE 6, 1957

About Time?

This community needs an adequate auditorium.

That need was emphasized anew at last week's Franklin High School graduation. It's an improvement, of course, to be able to hold the exercises on the school campus, instead of having to go to a downtown theater. But that doesn't change the fact that the gymnasium is no auditorium. The very word "auditorium" means a place where you can hear; the gymnasium does not fit that definition.

It was a little pathetic to think how much work the young people on the program had put into their speeches, hours and days of preparation and other hours and days of practicing—and then have them unheard.

In all this community, there is not one suitable place, that is large enough, for a concert, a public address, a dramatic performance, or even a high school graduation!

The need has been with us for many years. Isn't it about time we did something about it?

You Can Go To . . . !

Urging passage of the new tax bill to ease the burden of corporations, Governor Hodges the other day told the General Assembly approval of the bill would give the state a good chance to land an industry "as large as any in North Carolina".

He quoted an executive of the company as saying there was no positive assurance the plant would come, even if the Legislature enacted the tax bill, but that "we won't come if you don't".

That, to us, sounds perilously close to intimidation, to blackmail, even. We don't like it.

And we'd have felt better about it if Governor

WARNS OF BOMB DANGER

Nuclear Explosions Endanger Generations Unborn

Dr. Schweitzer Declares

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This warning to the world of the dangers of continued explosion of nuclear bombs is excerpted from the recent Declaration of Conscience issued by Dr. Albert Schweitzer, under the auspices of the Nobel Prize Committee in Oslo, Norway. Dr. Schweitzer, scientist, theologian, philosopher, and musician, who has devoted much of his life to helping the people of French Equatorial Africa, is generally considered one of the greatest men living.)

Since March 1, 1954 hydrogen bombs have been tested by the United States at the Pacific Island of Bikini in the Marshall group and by Soviet Russia in Siberia. We know that testing of atomic weapons is something quite different from testing non-atomic ones. Earlier, when a new type of giant gun had been tested, the matter ended with the detonation. After the explosion of a hydrogen bomb that is not the case. Something remains in the air, namely, an incalculable number of radioactive particles emitting radioactive rays.

Since radioactive rays of sufficient amount and strength have harmful effects on the human body, it must be considered whether the radiation resulting from the hydrogen explosions that have already taken place represents a danger which would increase with new explosions.

The material collected, although far from complete, allows us to draw the conclusion that radiation resulting from the explosions which have already taken place represents a danger to the human race—a danger not to be underrated—and that further explosions of atomic bombs will increase this

danger to an alarming extent.

The explosion of an atom bomb creates an unconceivably large number of exceedingly small particles of radioactive elements which decay like uranium or radium.

May Last For Years
Of these elements some exist for hours, some for weeks, or months or years, or millions of years, undergoing continuous decay. . . . How long it will take before everything carried up in the air by the explosions which have taken place till now has disappeared no one can say with any certainty. According to some estimates, this will be the case not earlier than thirty or forty years from now.

Of what nature are these radioactive elements, particles of which were carried up in the air by the explosion of atom bombs and which are now falling down again

Particularly dangerous are the elements combining long life with a relatively strong efficient radiation. Among them Strontium 90 takes the first place. It is present in very large amounts in the radioactive dust. Cobalt 60 must also be mentioned as particularly dangerous.

Danger In Breathing
The radioactivity in the air, increased through these elements, will not harm us from the outside, not being strong enough to penetrate the skin. It is another matter with respiration, through which radioactive elements can enter our bodies. But the danger which has to be stressed above all the others is the one which arises from our drinking radioactive water and our eating radioactive food as a consequence of the increased radioactivity in the air.

What are the diseases caused by internal radiation? The same diseases that are known to be caused by external radiation.

They are mainly serious blood diseases. The cells of the red bone marrow, where the red and the white blood corpuscles are formed, are very sensitive to radioactive rays. . . . If the cells in the bone marrow are damaged by radiation, they will produce too few or abnormal,

Hodges, instead of holding this bait (or threat) before the legislators, had told the industry: "We'll enact our own tax laws. We want no dictation from you. You'll have to take us or leave us as we are. If you don't like us as we are, you can go to . . . another state."

Behind The Times

Most of us are ashamed of last week's reported "drag" race here.

Ashamed, first of all, at this open violation of the law.

Ashamed, second, that we have even a few people that childish and stupid; for "drag" racing is silly, a mark of immaturity.

Ashamed, finally, of being so far behind the times. For "drag" racing is not new; it is on the way out. If we have so little originality that we can't do any better than pick up every fad that comes along, at least we should be up to date, not trailing the procession.

Wake up, kids; this is mid-1957!

Praise For Mr. Bueck

(Cherokee Scout)

The high school graduation exercises at Murphy's new gym Thursday night will be old stuff to at least one man there. It will be his 25th such ceremony—and also his last.

H. Bueck, for the past 25 years has been superintendent of Murphy city schools, announced his resignation a few weeks ago. He has accepted a position in Franklin.

The fact that it will mark the end of his service here no doubt will be foremost in the mind of Mr. Bueck as well as many of the other people during the graduation ceremonies. For he will be missed in Murphy.

The school will feel the loss of Mr. Bueck because he is a fine educator and the teachers because he is an outstanding leader. He will be missed by the community because of his civic work and by the people because he has been a good neighbor.

But these things, by comparison, are trivial. The greatest loss will be to the children who will not have had the opportunity to learn under this outstanding man. There is no way to measure that loss.

No Place For Brush-offs

(Windsor, Colo., Beacon)

Our official spokesmen need to acquire a new attitude and learn some new words to go with it. To every "peace" overture from Russia, their answer is: "It's only propoganda."

What if it IS propoganda? Then why not answer it with propoganda of our own?

The trouble is, American diplomacy is still battling the shadows of McCarthyism. Our diplomats feel obliged, above all, to convince congress that they are not being taken in by Soviet propoganda. And our elected officials, most of them, feel that they have to keep reminding the people back home that they are not soft touches for Moscow. Consequently, their answers to Russia overtures are not directed to Russia at all, but to congress or the electorate.

This situation obviously cannot make for good diplomacy. Answers to peace and disarmament gestures should not be phrased primarily to please congress, nor even to please unthinking voters. This nation simply cannot afford to give any peace overture the brush-off, whether we regard it as sincere or as the merest propoganda.

We should meet these approaches in such a way as to convince allies and neutrals—and the communist nations as well—that we are always ready to talk peace.

"—And When They See This Sign, New Industries Will Rush In And Give You A Hand—I Think"



STRICTLY

Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

Attending an editorial writers' conference at Chapel Hill recently, I heard an interesting panel discussion on segregation.

One of the three speakers represented the viewpoint of the Southern conservative; the second presented the liberal attitude; the third was a Negro who long has crusaded for prompt integration. Naturally, they disagreed on nearly everything; even the white liberal and the Negro had trouble getting together.

But on one point there was complete agreement. In almost identical words, all three emphasized that whatever is done must

be done within the law, and that order must be preserved.

Now nobody, I am sure, would quarrel with the idea that law and order are desirable. But all through the discussion, I found myself wondering at the almost reverent tone in which they spoke of law and order, as something, infinitely sacred.

"Well," I asked myself, "what's wrong with that?" Then, toward the end of the discussion, the answer came to me. It came in the form of a question:

How much freedom would any of us, white or black, have if we had not had ancestors who were willing to throw law out the window and precipitate violence? Take, for example, some rather highly respected citizens who, along about 1776, defied law and started violence that lasted some seven years. The law, in that case, was clear; and it was enacted by the duly constituted authorities. But that did not deter men like Washington, Franklin, Adams, and Jefferson.

The same was true of those who defied King John and wrested the Magna Carta from him. And it has been true down through history; most freedom has been won by men who had a feeling of something less than reverence for either law or order.

Maybe I have a somewhat twisted sense of humor, but I still want to ask those men:

"So you hold law and order as something sacred? Then what are you going to do with all the heroes who have refused to accept that thesis? Are you going to repudiate them? Were they all criminals?"

Black-eyed peas on New Year's are supposed to bring good luck through the year, writes W. E. (Bill) Horner, in The Sanford Herald.

Well, where did that folk custom come from? he wants to know. How did people get that idea in the first place?

Mr. Horner was interested enough to write the Encyclopaedia Britannica for the answer. But the learned men who edit that vast compendium of knowledge didn't know.

Well, I'm no encyclopedist, much less a compendium of knowledge, but I'll hazard a guess:

January is a long time from harvest. Anybody, in the old days, who had anything to eat, come New Year's, was lucky. And if they had such a delicacy as black-eyed peas, they really were in clover.

And surely, if one were that lucky on January 1, he'd be lucky all through the year.

If he had hog jowl to go along with peas—well his fortune was made!

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
(1892)

Mrs. Mary Bell met with a serious accident last Thursday morning before day. In attempting to pass from one room to another, where she had to step down some distance, she fell and broke her right arm and hip, inflicting very painful injuries.

Mr. J. D. Curtis, of Clay, father of the editor of The Press, arrived in Franklin Sunday morning and will remain some time.

Mr. Geo. Bidwell is getting lumber on the ground to build a fine large barn at his place on the east side of the iron bridge.

25 YEARS AGO
(1932)

Walter Gibson, Gus Leach, and Erwin W. Long were nominated as the Democratic candidates for county commissioners in last Saturday's primaries, while John H. Dean, Robert H. Rogers, and the Rev. A. S. Solesbee were successful in securing the Republican nominations.

The Old Maids' Convention, which was given at the school house on May 28, was enjoyed thoroughly by all. The proceeds amounted to \$32. "Uncle" Wiley Caldwell, 89-year-old Confederate veteran, declared the show was worth a dollar of any man's money, and he is anticipating seeing it again when it is presented at the courthouse June 11.—West's Mill item.

Messrs. John Bolick, Earl Wood, and Bennett Barnes, of Marion, spent the week end with home folks.—Shookville item.

10 YEARS AGO

The Franklin board of aldermen voted Monday night to install 115 parking meters in the business district of the town. The mica properties of Andy W. Reid and others have been acquired by R. G. Lichtenstein, of Oil City, Penna., and associates, and a corporation is being formed to mine and process mica here. The firm's original investment will approximate \$300,000, according to Mr. Lichtenstein.

From a beautifully decorated stage, the 23 piano and voice pupils of Mrs. O. F. Sumner, Mrs. Jack B. Davidson, and Miss Marion Lester were presented in recital Thursday night of last week at the high school auditorium.—Highlands item.