

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
"Established in 1885 As The Franklin Press"

BOB S. SLOAN Publisher
J. P. BRADY News Editor
WEIMAR JONES Editor
BOB S. SLOAN Advertising Manager
MRS. ROBERT BRYSON Office Manager
MRS. BOB SLOAN Society Editor
CARL P. 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

Let's Show Our Pride

For Maconians, Sunday night will be "our night" on TV. For it is Sunday night (at 8 o'clock) that our own Macon County group, the Smoky Mountain Cloggers, will appear on Ed Sullivan's show.

It'll be a proud moment in the lives of these youngsters from the Otto community. It'll be a proud moment, too, for all the rest of us; for we can be proud of these youthful products of Macon County, and of the recognition they have won.

It is a deserved recognition for a Macon County (and Western North Carolina) art. But it is not the only thing we have in this area that warrants recognition.

Let's show our pride—and our appreciation of the recognition — by telephoning, telegraphing, or writing Mr. Sullivan to tell him we're proud of our boys and girls and grateful for the big chance given them.

Fortunate

We here in Macon County are extremely fortunate — more fortunate than most of us realize.

We are blessed with weather that usually, summer or winter, is mild. While this has been a severe winter here, compare our situation with the tremendous economic losses and personal suffering this season has brought to other areas.

We are fortunate not to be beset with terrible problems of unemployment. In Detroit, one man out of eight is without a job; for the entire state of Connecticut, the figure is one out of twelve. It is true there aren't enough jobs here to go around; but we are not so narrowly specialized here that, if a man loses his job, he is unfit for any other. Furthermore, most of us here can count on our own gardens and deep-freezers or can-houses, milk our own cows, and eat our own chickens and eggs. By comparison, the man here who hasn't a job is still independent.

And we are doubly fortunate in our young people. To us, it seems incredible there could be such conditions as those in the New York schools, where the crime—not simply delinquency, but the crime—among children has become a national problem and disgrace. Almost equally incredible is the situation reported in Washington, where teen-age toughs make it dangerous to go on the streets at night, even in the shadow of the capitol.

Our weather is an act of God. We can't control it, and so we are not responsible for it.

But that isn't true of the other two. For we can avoid acute problems of unemployment by making certain we never over-industrialize. (Wonder why we hear so much about "under-industrialization", but never any mention of the evil of "over-industrialization"?)

And the problem of juvenile delinquency definitely is the effect of cause. There probably are

many causes, but the major one is in the home. Where most mothers of young children devote their time and attention to making a home and to rearing the children; where there is discipline and a sense of responsibility; and where there is stress on honesty, loyalty, and consideration of others, things that usually grow out of an atmosphere of religion—where these things exist, there is no problem of juvenile delinquency. And so long—and only so long—as we give our children these things, we will continue fortunate in our young people.

Bouquet

Thirty years is a long time. It is a long time to do the same job. And when the job is done without financial remuneration, it could be an interminably long time.

For James L. (Jimmy) Hauser, though, the thirty years he has worked with Boy Scouts has not been long, we are sure. Because he did the job for the love of it; he must have, since it was entirely voluntary.

This long-time service to this community places the community deeply in Mr. Hauser's debt. And it was fitting that he was given a standing ovation at a recent Scout court of honor.

It will not be that well-deserved tribute, though, that will linger longest in Jimmy Hauser's memory. For, like all those who work with youth, his most genuine satisfaction has come from seeing, and helping, boys grow into men—in the finest sense of the latter word.

Letters

Promote Athletics

Editor, The Press:

At the outset, I want to say that as chairman of the Athletic Committee, which, along with five other committees, is to start operating soon, I am answering last week's letter to The Press with what I believe in my own mind, not necessarily that of my fellow committee members. Our committee has not as yet been called into action by Mr. Bueck.

Obviously, it seems to many people that high schools throughout the country are providing everything but the curriculum that prepares the students to enter one of the many engineering fields. I am the first to agree that many, many courses seem somewhat trivial in comparison with mathematics, for example. However, because of the tremendous amount of publicity given to athletic endeavor, quite naturally that portion of the high school program has received the brunt of the criticism.

The big question in my mind is this: Is that criticism justified? "De-emphasize athletics, emphasize mathematics" may sound easy, but is that the solution? It seems to me that if this were the solution, then such colleges as Georgia Tech, Notre Dame, North Carolina State and North Carolina University are not turning out engineers, doctors, lawyers, etc. You must admit they emphasize athletics to the very hilt. It must also be admitted that these schools are also turning out a host of excellent men, well prepared to enter their chosen fields.

It is my contention that you cannot take a plug out of the back part of a boat to plug a hole in the front part. About the only thing accomplished is confusion. To further illustrate, there is no mathematical formula that proves that high schools with high won-and-lost percentages are graduating poorly prepared students while, at the same time, schools with low won-and-lost percentages are turning out well prepared students. You might be able to prove quite conclusively that schools that emphasize subjects of the "progressive education" nature ARE sending students to colleges poorly equipped to become engineers.

Now getting back to this Latin word, curriculum. I know it must be very exasperating to college professors to get a gang of students with a very meager knowledge of pre-engineering subjects. But shouldn't the artillery that is being blasted at athletics be directed to the bulls-eye instead?

Richard M. Nixon, Vice President of the United States, recently made a statement that is being widely quoted and it goes something like this—"We must not allow the Sputniks to suddenly divert us from our good, sound basic American way of life into a frenzied rat race that would make scientists of all of us—Our American heritage is much too rich."

Athletics is a vital part of our overall high school programs. More college scholarships are provided by athletics than any other source. Think of the thousands of educations that are provided every year, educations that might otherwise go down the drain. So we must realize the tremendous amount of good that is derived from an athletic program and look to state education departments, school boards, superintendents, and the people who are responsible for what is being taught in our schools.

Locally, we are fortunate in having a man of high calibre, Mr. Allan Brooks, as chairman of the curriculum committee. I am sure his committee's report will be of great interest. I hope that I can provide at least a similar degree of leadership to my committee on athletics.

BOB CARPENTER, Chairman,
Athletic Committee
Citizens Committee for Better Schools.

Franklin.

"Just Be Calm, Men—And For Goodness Sake Don't Bare Your Fangs"



Strictly Personal

By WEIMAR JONES

I had the privilege last Thursday of being a guest at a county-wide home demonstration club meeting to discuss world peace. That discussion prompted these strictly personal musings:

I am just one citizen of Macon County. And Macon County is but a fraction of North Carolina, but an infinitesimal part of the United States, and not even a speck on the map of the world. So what can I (or any other one citizen) do toward promoting world peace?

The answer appears to be, nothing. And the temptation is to accept that answer, and so be relieved of the burden of thinking about so big and so complicated a subject. But, in the light of what a war would do to our chil-

dren or grandchildren, has any one of us the right to just lean back and be comfortable, accepting no personal responsibility? Sometimes the best way to find out what we can do is to list, and eliminate, the things we definitely cannot do—and see if anything is left.

Well, the average citizen is neither able nor equipped to have much say-so about what machinery is best fitted to bring about peace. How many of us, for example, have the time to study the situation and reach an intelligent opinion about whether the United Nations Charter needs amending, and if so, how?

And no one of us, alone, can appreciably influence the course of events that will decide whether the future shall bring war or peace.

Finally, you and I surely can do little about what happens tomorrow or next week or even next year.

But if you and I can do nothing about determining what the peace machinery shall be, we can contribute our bit toward creating the spirit that is the first essential to peace.

And if we, as single individuals, can do nothing effective, we can, as members of small groups, help influence public opinion. And public opinion is powerful—even the Kremlin has shown it has a healthy respect for it.

And, if we cannot as individuals, or as groups, work miracles today or next week or next year, it is worth remembering that nothing of value ever yet has been accomplished in a hurry. All true progress has been slow; what you and I think or say or do today may have its effect five or ten or twenty years from now.

Today we have some things to build upon that no past generation had:

Never before has war been so senseless. In a war today, there might be a vanquished, but there would be no victor—everybody would lose. There is abundant evidence even the rulers of Russia realize that.

There is abundant evidence, too, that the people of no nation want war. If there should be war, it would be the rulers, not the people, who would start it, and you and I have no quarrel with the John Smith's of Soviet Russia, and they have none with us. Somehow, some way, it must be possible to get that idea across to the people of Russia. And if they really are convinced of that, it will be hard for the men in the Kremlin to persuade them to fight, and put their hearts in it.

One more thought. Many of the actions of our government, as well as those of the Russian rulers, are dictated by a single emotion, fear. And that is the most demoralizing, the most paralyzing, the most unreasoning of all emotions.

We call ourselves a Christian nation. And if there is any one characteristic of the true Christian, it is courage. The real Christian is so sure of the ultimate triumph of such things as truth and right and justice, he is unafraid of the immediate danger, because he recognizes it as but a single incident in the long war, the final result of which is in the hand of God.

In no way, perhaps, could you and I better strengthen our own government, as it seeks a road to peace, than to give it courage, by letting it feel our own courage—and such things are felt.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1893)

The town of Highlands desires to engage two teachers for a graded school for the year 1893.

Go to Thos. L. Sisk if you want your boots and shoes repaired. He is located in the late Dr. Love office—Adv.

A runaway team caused Mrs. William McKee and Mr. Will Waldrop to be thrown from a wagon last Saturday. Mrs. McKee's ankle was dislocated.

Another boy baby at Mr. T. R. Gray's.

25 YEARS AGO (1893)

A new musical composition, "Under the Light of Western Stars", by Miss Carolyn Nolen, of Cartoogechaye, is to be broadcast from Hollywood, Calif., March 2.

It is now possible to reach the top of Satulah Mountain, near Highlands, by motor. The forestry service has had a gang of men at work on the trail, broadening it into a road, and it was opened about ten days ago.

10 YEARS AGO

During the year 1947, a Press survey shows, at least 16 new business firms began operations within the Franklin city limits.

Only twice during the eight-day period ending yesterday (February 25) did the temperature drop to the freezing point, and twice during that period the mercury soared to 70 degrees or higher.

Two Ellijay boys, Sanford and Billy Peek, aged nine and 11, had the thrill of their lives recently when they brought home a four-foot long bobcat, which they had killed with a shotgun.

Hendersonville Times-News

Are There Any Really Good Children's Books Today?

Speaking to the Friends of the Library at a meeting here last week, Winston Broadfoot of Duke University lamented the absence of any good literature in the current production of children's books.

Mr. Broadfoot can be considered something of an authority on books, because he is director of the George Washington Flowers Memorial Collection of Early Americans at Duke.

Though the manufacture of children's books is at an all time high, there is precious little of lasting value in it. Today there are no great authors of children's books and no classics for children. Authors like Lewis Carroll, Mark Twain, Louisa Alcott and books like Black Beauty, The Land of Oz and Peter Pan. This is a partial list of the greatness that was

the latter part of the nineteenth century. The present century is more than half over, yet we have not a single author or title comparable to those named," he said.

Mr. Broadfoot thinks that "young people's books today preach and moralize so much there isn't room left for a good story. I'm sure moralizing is good for the soul but it makes for lousy literature."

With Mr. Broadfoot's sentiments we are mostly in accord. We do think, however, that he proves one thing of value. If the production of children's books is at an all time high, this must be because children, pre-teen children, are reading more. We agree that much of what they read is of no lasting value and that much of it is turned out at the rate of about a book a month by authors, but some encouragement can be taken from the fact that small children are forming the habit

of reading. Whether it is good or not, it must be interesting to keep the audience.

We feel that what Mr. Broadfoot has to say about children's books might also be said of those produced for adults. In the field of fiction, we doubt seriously if anything that stands a chance of becoming a classic has been produced in quite a few years. In the field of biography and history, yes, but in the field of fiction, no. There are exceptions, such as Carl Sandburg's Remembrance Book.

Much of what is written today (and of what becomes best sellers for a time) is produced in the name of realism, but is actually a glorification of rot and filth. Even the critics, who have devoted a great deal of lavish praise to this type of stuff in the past, seem to be becoming a little upset in the stomach.

James Jones' Some Came Running was reviewed by one critic

who titled his piece "By Sex Obsessed" and Time Magazine titled its review "Life Is a Four-Letter Word." Unfortunately, such criticisms usually result in larger sales, which may in itself be a condemnation of our reading habits.

Many books that have become classics have been realistic, have looked unpleasantness in the face, and have moralized and crusaded. But even some of the more ardent supporters of this new realism have begun to wonder if enough, after all, isn't enough.

The publishers take what appears to be a realistic viewpoint—the stuff sells, so we publish it. Whether the public would buy something else if it were offered we would not know with any more certainty than whether the public would buy a shorter, higher, narrower and cheaper automobile with less chrome, if one were offered.