

THURS., NOVEMBER 27, 1953

BOB S. SLOAN Publisher and Advertising Manager
WREMAR JONES Editorial Editor
J. P. BRADY News Editor
MRS. ROBERT DRYSON Office Manager
MRS. BOB SLOAN Society Editor
CARL P. CABE Operator Machinist
CHARLES WHITTINGTON Operator
FRANK A. STARRETTE Compositor
G. E. CRAWFORD Pressman
HOWARD JOHNSON Stereotyper
E. CLEVE KINGSBERRY Salesman
DAVID SUTTON Commercial Printer

SUBSCRIPTION RATES	
INSIDE MACON COUNTY	OUTSIDE MACON COUNTY
One Year \$3.00	One Year \$3.50
Six Months 2.00	Six Months 2.25
Three Months 1.25	Three Months 1.50
Two Years 5.25	Two Years 6.25
Three Years 7.50	Three Years 9.00

Unnoted Omission

A good deal has been said, in recent discussions of the U. S. Supreme Court, about the fact that the men appointed to the Court often lack the qualification of previous judicial experience. At one time, only one of the nine justices had had any judicial experience before going on the Supreme Court; and even now, only three of the nine had had experience as a judge before being named to the highest court in the land.

Yet, in all this discussion, a strange omission with respect to the Supreme Court seems to have been overlooked.

The U. S. Constitution is careful to specify qualifications that a man must meet to be eligible for other offices. To be a Congressman, he must be at least 25 years of age and have been a citizen of the United States as much as seven years. To be a Senator, he must be not less than 30 years old and must have been a citizen for nine or more years. To be President or Vice-President, he must be not less than 35 years of age and must be a "natural born citizen".

But the Constitution is silent about members of the Supreme Court. It prescribes no qualifications whatever for that office. Not only is there no requirement of experience. A man need not be of a mature age to become a U. S. Supreme Court justice. He need not be a citizen, even. Nor is there any word on the subject in statute law. Anybody can be a justice of the Supreme Court!

Whether the authority of the Supreme Court should be restricted, as many persons believe, may be a debatable question. But surely, if its authority is to be limitless, there can be no debate about the need to set up some standards for those appointed to the most powerful tribunal in the world.

Athletics For Students

In this space a few weeks ago, the statement was made that "high school athletic contests are becoming more and more spectacles, staged for the entertainment of the public". Then we raised what seemed a logical question:

"By just what process of reasoning have we arrived at the conclusion that it is a function of an educational institution to entertain the public?"

Nobody, we believe, can seriously doubt the truth of the statement. And we have yet to hear a satisfactory answer to the question.

The trouble, of course, is nation-wide, not local. And the chief trouble, we'd guess, is not with the coaches and not with the players, but with the system. Why, then, not change the system?

Wouldn't the sensible way out be athletic competitions not between schools, but between groups within the same school? That would rob the contests of the present semi-professional atmosphere, created by crowd pressures. Even more important, it would have the virtue of making it possible for a far larger number of students to participate in athletics.

They'll Be Missed

Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Biddle, who are moving to Lakeland, Fla., are citizens Franklin could ill afford to lose. Invariably, they stood ready to give of their time, their energy, and their enthusiasm to any effort to build here a better community. Friends will wish them well in their new home—but hope the tides of Fate will bring them, sooner or later, back to Macon County.

Nothing splendid has ever been achieved except by those who dared believe that something inside them was superior to circumstances.—Bruce Barton.

"Then We're Agreed, Men! This Year We'll Bell The Cat"



Other Counties Follow Macon

(The State)

Macon County with its ruby mines was the first of the resort counties to capitalize on the rockhound craze. Now Mitchell, with even more opportunity in this field, is anxious to get into the act. "Mayland" — Mitchell, Avery, Yancey — is the mineral center of North Carolina, and has hundreds of mines, active and inactive, which are hungrily eyed by specimen collectors.

The first move up here was reopening of the old Emerald Mine this summer near Little Switzerland. Once a producer, it is the only emerald mine in this country. It long since was abandoned and allowed to fill up.

But last summer owners pumped it out and hired a man to bring up truck loads of ore. Mineral fans were permitted (for a fee) to paw over this ore, and it is reported several of them found nice gems.

Linton Greene, pioneer mineral fan of the area, told me that Spruce Pine is planning some sort of rockhound festival next season. Plans are indefinite, but would include guided tours of the mines where prospecting would be allowed.

Linton said there was no doubt about the value of the rockhound to the resort industry.

From Another Franklin

(Franklin, La., Banner-Tribune)

Franklin, North Carolina, is a community that is pretty well known to many vacation-minded St. Mary Parish, Louisiana, people. What they and most of the rest of us may not know about is the Macon County Rural Community Development Contest held in that area.

In its Nov. 6 edition, the Franklin (N. C.) Press carried an interesting story about the outcome of the contest.

It seems that the merchants and the other business people and rural leaders contribute towards the contest. The winner each year gets \$200, second place winner receives \$150, third place \$100 and there are ten incentive awards of \$50 each.

A glance at the type of awards presented gives an insight into the nature of the contest. One small community receives a cash award for increasing income, another for the best accomplishment in youth activities, another for the best home food supply, one for community beautification work, one for best programs, one for outstanding religious activities, best 4-H garden, best community project, best health program, and so on.

Each of the small areas participate in the competition and do battle for the cash awards and the recognition received at the end of the year when 100 to 150 townspeople meet with rural representatives. The fellowship of the annual meeting is important towards cementing urban-rural relationships, but the contest itself is the most significant contribution made towards better understanding. Better small communities mean a better county, and a better county builds a better North Carolina. A similar contest here would be worthwhile to consider.

Letters

Praise For Carson Dancers

Editor, The Press:

I should like to compliment the Carson Square Dancers. I enjoyed watching them on Carolina Promenade Party Saturday (November 15) night.

Several of my friends here watched them, too, and everyone said: "They're swell!"

(MISS) EDNA SANDERS

Tamassese, S. C.

Church And State

Dear Mr. Jones:

In your editorial, "Strange Doctrine," in last Week's Press, I feel that you have missed the significance of the action of the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, when, in their annual Convention last week, they accepted the Progress Report of "The Committee of 25", and in particular the Committee's report on "Policy on Separation of Church and State."

You were correct in saying that the report was "adopted by overwhelming vote." However, the implications of the editorial are incorrect. You make way for these incorrect implications by overlooking, or not mentioning, what was perhaps the most important part of the report. That is the "findings" of the Committee which precede their recommendations in their report. These "findings," and the Wendell Davis amendment to the pertinent motion for acceptance of the report, explain that the situation, and intention, of the statement in question was not as your editorial implies it to be.

The Baptists are not departing from their traditional posi-

tion on the separation of church and state, and we still believe, and preach, that there is an "absolute separation of righteousness and sin." Since before Roger Williams strove for "absoluteness" in the separation of church and state, we have known that that qualifier magnified a theoretical desirability rather than a practical possibility. On the surface of the question is the obvious fact that "absolute separation" is impossible simply because the same persons are involved in both Church and State. As long as the church members are citizens and the citizens are church members, the quality of "absoluteness" is impossible.

The "findings" of the Committee explain this fact better by stating: "This fact (that there is no such thing as 'absolute' separation of Church and State) in reality is attested by such things as tax exemptions on church properties, ranging all the way from church buildings to such Convention properties as headquarters, camps, assemblies, etc.; preferred rates and mailing privileges enjoyed and accepted by religious publications; freedom from sales tax laws, accepted by churches on their purchases all the way from literature to food supplies for the church kitchen; preferential interest rates, payment schedules, etc., on loans that are sought and accepted by virtually all types of church-owned institutions everywhere; operation of R.O.T.C. units on college campuses; sundry kinds of institutional and individual subsidy practiced by hospitals, orphanages, homes for aging, and similar church-related institutions; the military chaplaincy; church interest in and influence upon various kinds of legislation and law enforcement; outside support, governmental and otherwise, for many kinds of educational, investigative, and research programs, ad infinitum." Now, with the existing situation thus defined, the report of the Committee seeks only to set up principles by which this fact shall not harm either church or state but shall be a "potential for good for both."

I know that in your editorial you are not implying that the Baptists have accepted this report because they are seeking to receive state monies. But, I think that some people may infer that from your editorial. Please let me make clear that this is not so. The "recommendations," which are the items accepted by the action of the Convention, make this point clear. Requirement number 3 under recommendation III states: "The Convention and/or its institutions and agencies may accept assistance from government only in such cases as will enable it or them to render service commensurate with that assistance." Not satisfied with this and other requirements, the Convention voted, also by "overwhelming vote," to accept the "Wendell Davis Amendment." This amendment was to the effect that "North Carolina Baptists stand on the principle that any services its institutions render for which any public tax money is accepted should always be for services to humanity in general and never for services to further denominational objectives."

There is one other fact which I believe to be pertinent to the subject of your editorial. That is that this report of the Committee, which was accepted at the recent Convention by the vote of more than 2000 messengers from Baptist churches all over North Carolina, was a progress report. At the same Convention, and previous to the action referred to, they had voted to convoke a special Convention meeting to be held in Greensboro next May 5 and 6 for the only purpose of hearing and acting upon the complete report of the "Committee of 25," which report covers every phase of Baptist activity in the state of North Carolina. What Baptists say about their own work in this state and the principles which govern them in that work can be heard as the voice of the churches in convention only after that meeting next May.

Please let me thank you for what I know to be your strong and accurate convictions on the necessity for separation of church and state. We Baptists hold such convictions, too. Accept my warmest personal regards.

(REV.) ROBERT R. STANDLEY

Franklin.

FOR WOMEN ONLY

Recipes: The Man Of The House Gets His Comeuppance

Lu Cashwell in The State

Four consecutive TV Westerns had just finished shooting up the living room. The blond husband leaped idly through a woman's magazine while awaiting the fifth.

"Why don't you make some of these Short-Cut Ring-A-Lings?"

He passed me a double-paged spread showing mouth-watering orange and yellow sugar rolls tumbling out of a blue-napped wicker basket.

I braced for the blow and read the recipe. Sure enough it was one of those all-afternoon step-after-step jobs. I visualized how it would be. Do one thing and wait for it to cool. Do another thing and let stand 30 minutes. Add something, cover, and let it

double its little self in a warm place at 85 degrees.

Meanwhile, back at the stove, keep stirring a mixture of butter and sugar with hazelnuts that have somehow been purchased, shelled, and chopped.

Then let that cool while you get down on all fours and search the back of the cabinet for a 22 x 12-inch rectangular pan. When pan is scrubbed free of rust, spread half of dough along the 22-inch side with the nut mixture that scorched while you answered the phone.

Cover with other half of dough and cut into 1-inch strips (crosswise). Twist each strip 4 or 5 times before curling one side around its own right end. Make like a pinwheel tucking other side

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WREMAR JONES

We in the United States come to this season of giving thanks with many blessings that are distinctly American; we are fortunate in ways no other country is. That has been true for so many generations, we tend to take credit unto ourselves for all our blessings.

Perhaps that is why we Americans so often are inclined to be thankful we are not as other men.

Thanksgiving presupposes humility, and we in this country might acquire a bit of humility by taking stock of the blessings for which we can take no credit, blessings that we owe to other lands.

Each person, according to his experience and temperament, probably would come up with a different list. Here is my personal one.

I am thankful for our religion — which is the whole basis for our Thanksgiving observance. And whether we Americans are Protestants, Catholics, or Jews, our religion is not an American product. It came to us from the Middle East.

I am thankful for our system of justice — the presumption that a man is innocent until he is proved guilty, and that he has a right, no matter how bad his reputation and no matter how great the evidence against him, to a fair trial before a jury of his peers. Evolved through the centuries, that came to us from Great Britain.

I am thankful for a government of laws. That we owe, originally, to Rome.

I am thankful for our freedoms guaranteed to us by our Bill of Rights; for our faith in the intelligence and honesty of the plain citizen, and our conviction that he is entitled to be treated with dignity. For much of that

concept we are indebted to the France of the French Revolution.

I am thankful for the painstaking thoroughness that has had a big share in making America great. That trait comes to us largely through our German ancestry.

I am thankful for the American sense of humor that keeps us sane. Much of it was transplanted to this country from Ireland.

I am thankful for the great literature of the world. While we can justifiably take pride in our American writers, what we have accomplished in this field is microscopic when put alongside the world's great body of goodness and truth and beauty, as put on paper. How poor would life in America be without our legacy from Dante and Shakespeare and Hugo and Tolstol and Browning and Tennyson and many more — not to mention the Bible!

I am thankful for the world's great music. Some of it is American; but, by comparison with the music of Italy and Germany and Austria and Russia, most of ours is like something warmed over,

in a lukewarm oven.

I am thankful for those early scientists who were seeking abstract truth long before America was discovered. Daring ignorance and superstition and fear such as we today cannot conceive of, they boldly sailed uncharted intellectual seas, pushing ever farther on beyond the rim of the known. Their thinking, their theories, and their experiments have made possible our every American gadget, from the lowly can-opener to the mighty H-bomb.

And I am thankful for the urge for freedom, for elbow room, for a new start in life. That urge, though we think of it as typically American, is not a product of America. Instead, America is a product of the urge. For it was this hunger for freedom in the hearts of adventurous men and women of the Old World that drove them across the Atlantic to begin the creation of the America we enjoy today.

Surely we Americans of the Mid-Twentieth Century have cause not only to give thanks, but for a Thanksgiving prompted by humility.

BOOK REVIEW

'Soldier In White'

SOLDIER IN WHITE — John M. Gibson. (Duke University Press, Durham; 271 pp.; \$6.75.)

This is the biography of an American doctor who had a big hand in making the world — and the medical profession — germ-conscious, and thus in creating the modern ideas and methods of sanitation and antisepsis.

The book is of local interest, in that the author is the husband of the former Miss Virginia Smith, younger daughter of Franklin's late Dr. and Mrs. Frank T. Smith. Mr. Gibson is librarian of the N. C. State Board of Health, Raleigh.

Ninety-nine Americans out of a hundred probably never heard of Dr. George Miller Sternberg, but the author makes this person alive for the reader. Dr. Sternberg, who spent most of his adult life in the U.S. army, who was surgeon-general during the Spanish-American War, and who is considered one of the world's great bacteriologists, stands out in the book as a doctor and a scientist, but even more, he is a worth-while human being. Thus this is a book not just for doctors, but is a first-rate biography for the general reader.

The research that went into the preparation of "Soldier in White" must have been tremendous. Even the casual reader is impressed by it, and has the feeling that even the smallest incident has been carefully documented. Incidentally, the story of Dr. Sternberg's escape, during the Civil War, from the Confederate forces is interesting enough to have come out of a novel.

The reader can feel, too, how Dr. Sternberg must have felt driven to push on with his bacteriological research by his collection of the "hospital gangrene"

of the Civil War, infection spread through the doctors' ignorance. The doctors operated with dirty hands, and often the same dressing was used for surgical patient after surgical patient, thus carrying infection from one patient to many.

Mr. Gibson also is the author of "Physician to the World", the biography of General William C. Gorgas.

—W. J.

SCHOOL LEARNING VS. PROCESSING

We suggest the careful planning and creation of a "climate" in our school system which will be one in which teachers like to teach and students like to learn. This may be brought about by the recognition of the school as a learning institution rather than one which is required by law to process a large number of disinterested young people for a certain number of years.—From a Statement of Principles recently adopted by the Ferndale, Mich., Board of Education.

UNCLE ALEX'S SAYIN'S

Generally speakin', it's the feller that's got the least to be thankful fer that's the most grateful.

They ain't no sich thing as absolute truth, feller says. Well, that ain't no reason not to get as close to it as you can.

Hair o' the dog is good fer the bite. That must be what them fellers up in Washington is a-thinkin', the way they keep on spendin' money as the best cure fer the big U.S. debt.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1883)

A drove of over 100 turkeys passed through town last week going south in search of thanksgiving.

Mr. John O. Harrison has built a neat barn. Fruit tree agents have been delivering trees during the past week. The farmers continue to buy largely every year when as good or better stock could be raised with a little care at far less expense.

25 YEARS AGO (1933)

The wedding of Miss Evelyn Elizabeth Cleaveland to Mr. George Dewey Hopper took place at the Cleaveland home Sunday, November 26, at 5 p.m.

The total number of unemployed men enrolled since the Franklin office of the National Reemployment Service opened in August is approximately 1600.

10 YEARS AGO

Cash lost last summer has been returned to its owner, Bennie Browning, of Cullasaja, as a result of a "lost" advertisement in last week's Want Ad column of The Press. Quince Shope, employe of Burrell Motor Company's recapping department, found Mr. Browning's wallet when it was lost in August. He had held on to it and the \$152 it contained ever since, waiting for the rightful owner to turn up. Recently a friend persuaded Mr. Browning to try an advertisement, even at this late date, and the unexpected \$152 pay-off was the result.