The Franklin Press
and
The Highlands Maconian

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Problem For All

There is no reason why use of the basement space in the Town Hall, now occupied by the Youth Center, should be confined to that one organization. It easily could be used by a variety of young groups for a variety of activities. And the trend is in that direction; already it is the meeting place for several Girl Scout troops.

As long as we have youth, we shall have the problem of providing an outlet for youth's energies; and that problem has been multiplied many times by the fact that mechanization has eliminated many home chores that once kept young people busy. Too, it's a problem for town authorities, as well as private citizens; because it's a form of insurance against juvenile delinquency.

But the town has asked the youngsters to vacate the space by February 1, to make room for another, adult organization. Even if that were necessary and desirable, at the least, it seems to us, the young people should not be turned out until another, satisfactory place has been found for them.

Why Not?

In connection with the Civil Rights Commission's investigation in Alabama, U. S. News & World Report has come up with some interesting facts about the qualifications for voting set up by the various states. They are interesting without respect to racial problems.

While the 15th and 19th Amendments to the U. S. Constitution forbid a citizen to be denied the vote because of race or sex, there is no constitutional guarantee of the right to vote to anybody, the magazine points out; and each state fixes its own qualifications.

The significance of the facts, it seems to us, lies not in what is required to be permitted to vote, but in the laxness of the requirements in many states.

Forty-one states, the magazine ponits out, forbid insane persons to vote. Then seven (before Alaska) do not. In seven states, it would appear, anybody can vote, without reference to sanity; theoretically, at least, the inmate of the asylum has an equal vote with the president of a university.

Forty-one states forbid criminals to vote. That, surely, is not significant. But it is significant that seven states allow criminals to vote.

And 19 states have literacy tests for voters. That's right; only 19. The other 29—23 of them outside the South—have no educational standards whatever. The illiterate can vote along with the literate.

Voter regulations, says U. S. News & World Report, are being tightened all across the South. Well, the absence of qualification requirements in many states would seem to suggest they need tightening elsewhere.

For surely voting is not an inalienable right; instead, it is primarily a sacred responsibility.

Before a youth—or an adult—is permitted to drive an automobile, he is required to pass an examination, to make sure he understands the mechanism of the car well enough and has a sufficient sense of responsibilty, to be trusted to drive a car. Why would it not be equally sensible to make sure the citizen (since he is the ultimate "driver") has some understanding of the mechanism of government and some sense of responsibility, before allowing him to register to vote?

Do You Remember?

A portion of an old photograph, found at The Press, has been made into a cut and is being used for the first time this week to illustrate the widely read feature, "Do You Remember?", that appears regularly on this page.

When was the photograph made? We don't know, but would like to. Who can tell us?

Here are some hints that tend to place the time:

The location is the south side of Main Street, where the Carolina Pharmacy is now.

The stairway, just to the right of the oil street lamp, is still there; it is between the two entrances to the pharmacy.

Note the size of the maple tree. That tree, long gone, had a good big trunk when it was cut.

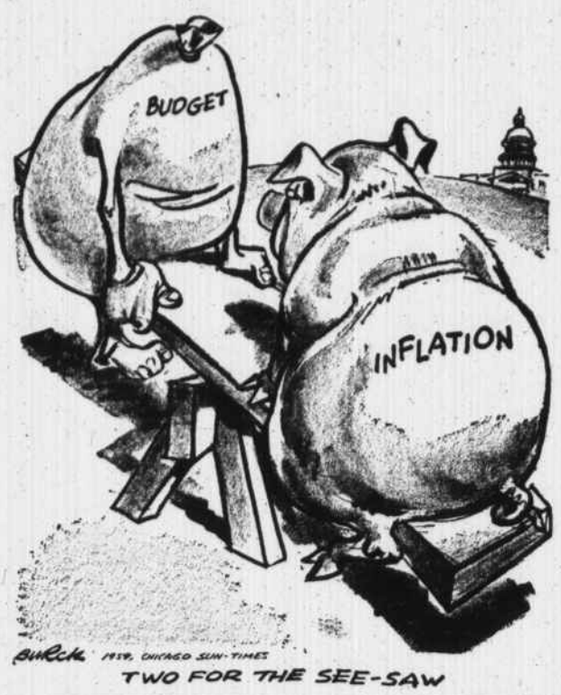
Appearing in the picture, but not shown in the cut, is an upstairs window bearing the lettering, "W. H. Higgins, Dentist".

Also not shown in the cut is a board walk crossing the street.

Note that the building just east of the pharmacy (now housing Dryman's and the Quality Shop) hadn't been erected.

Who can give us the date, or even the approximate date, this old photograph was made?

Write us a letter, saying about what year you think this picture was made, and why you hit on that year. Let's get this bit of local history pinned down.



TWO FOR THE SEE-SAW

Thomas C. Harbison

Thomas C. Harbison was one who thought in terms of the general welfare. A man of high standards, fine mind, and broad interests, he was always ready to give his time, his thought, and his energy toward the building of a better community and county; and he served often and well in local government, in civic affairs, and in his church.

It is doubly tragic for Highlands and Macon County that the life of so useful a citizen should have been cut short at the relatively early age of 49. He will be sorely missed.

Uncomplimentary Conclusion

(Oowa State Traveler)

A lady motorist was driving on a country road when she noticed some telephone men in the act of climbing telephone poles.

"The fools," she muttered to herself. "They must think I never drove a car before."

Love Affair

(Wall Street Journal)

He looked out of the window and called to his wife, "There goes that woman Bill Jones is in love with."

She dropped the cup she was drying in the kitchen, hurtled through the door, knocked over a lamp and craned her neck to look. "Where?" she panted.

"There," he pointed, "that woman at the corner in the tweed coat."

"You idiot," she said. "That's his wife."

"Well, of course it is," he replied.

Looking Beneath The Surface

(Southern Pines Pilot)

There is always much more to a news story than is revealed on the surface. When people get into trouble with the law and are brought into court and tried, for instance, reporters normally can put little more than the facts of the case into their stories. The nature of reporting and the requirements imposed on a reporter by time, space in his paper, and other considerations make it practically impossible to get into print one-tenth of the drama or the social significance of actions or attitudes that were revealed during the trial.

We have been led into these thoughts by a statement sent to North Carolina newspapers by Blaine M. Madison, commissioner of the State Board of Correction and Training, which has jurisdiction over the Morrison Training School for Negro boys, at Hoffman, and other state correctional institutions.

Two Negro boys from Union County, James Thompson and David Simpson, were commited to that school in October by a juvenile court for assaults on seven-year-old girls, the boys now being aged 10 and 11. Mr. Madison notes that he has seen newspaper reports that the NAACP plans legal action to obtain release of the boys from the school. He says that some out-of-state newspaper accounts reported the action of the juvenile court as a "criminal conviction"—which under law it is not—and that the boys had been "sentenced to prison for life."

Then Mr. Madison goes beneath the surface—that surface on which newspaper reporters work and from which so many inadequate interpretations are made.

He cites the case histories of both boys as compiled from welfare, police and other sources by the Board of Correction and Training.

Neither of the boys has been encouraged by their families to go to school and both have been frequently picked up by police, while roaming the streets at night, and returned to their homes. The mother of one of the boys had one legitimate child about 1940 and then had nine other children while living with a succession of men.

Of seven children born to the other boy's mother and father, four have court records. The boy's father died several months before he was born—and the mother was then already married to another man. The children rarely attended school and the mother apparently permitted them to come and go at will. Prior to the assault incident, both the boys had been arrested for stealing.

At Morrison Training School, however, both boys are attending classes regularly, and progress for both is reported good.

Observes Mr. Madison: "While the training school is never an acceptable substitute for a good home, it is definitely better for the child than a poor home, with irresponsible, and often immoral, parents." Under laws covering the commitment of children, the school cannot release them until "it is determined that the child's family will not neglect him and will give reasonable protection, guidance, and home care for the child."

Have these boys been unfairly treated by the authorities? We don't think so. Such cases should not be ballyhooed into a cause celebre—though, having been allowed to look beneath the surface, people of good will should do all that they can gradually to eliminate the causes of such a way of life as that to which the two boys have been subjected.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
(1894)

Sheriff and Mrs. C. T. Roane came over from Aquone last Monday.

The weather has been so warm during the past week that we actually heard the old familiar chir-rup of one or two Sons of Rest on our sidewalks.

Col. L. Howard, ex-County Commissioner, who lives in Smith's Bridge Township, called in to see us Friday. The Col. pays for three subscriptions to The Press, sending two of them to relatives in the West.

35 YEARS AGO
(1924)

Miss May Carpenter, who is teaching at the Black Place on Nantahala, spent the last week end with her parents here.

Professor M. D. Billings has returned from a several weeks' trip to Florida.

The Highlands bank reports total assets Dec. 31, of $51,228.70.

15 YEARS AGO
(1944)

Mr. and Mrs. Lex Penland have five sons in the armed forces.

In a simple ceremony in Clayton, Ga., Miss Mabelle Bryant and Dr. Edgar Angel were married Tuesday evening, January 16.

Allen Siler has moved his family from Asheville to Bluefield, W. Va., where he will take charge of a large contract.

5 YEARS AGO
(1954)

J. P. Brady was named Macon County's "Young Man of the Year" Monday night at the local Jaycee annual awards dinner.

Adolph Zoellner has retired after 31 and a half years with the Nantahala National Forest.

HARD QUESTIONS

This Congress Faces Major Responsibilities And Decisions

Smithfield Herald

Unusually heavy responsibility rests upon the 86th Congress — a Congress which will be dominated by Democrats (there are 64 Democrats and 34 Republicans in the Senate; 284 Democrats and 152 Republicans in the House).

Strong leadership in the White House is lacking. It has been lacking since Mr. Eisenhower became President six years ago. It is not likely to show itself in the remaining two years of Mr. Eisenhower's term. For we now have a "lame-duck President." He is constitutionally barred from running for a third term. His political influence is thus curtailed.

The 86th Congress must go beyond the traditional responsibility of the legislative branch of the government. It must move into the area of leadership vacated by the presidency under Eisenhower. And it must provide unusual national leadership at a critical time in U.S. history.

The Russians have just accomplished the most astounding feat of the space age. They have sent a huge rocket into space beyond the moon. They have moved well ahead of the United States in the conquest of outer space. And their demonstrated superiority has given them at least a psychological advantage in what has come to be known as the international "struggle for men's minds."

The achievements of the Soviet Union space science indicate that the Russians have developed powerful machines that are capable of launching deadly missiles and directing them to targets across continents and oceans. Airplane warfare seems destined to become outmoded.

There is fear in the United States of Russia's growing military power. But fear of communism is not confined to the military realm. Communism holds out hope to backward countries (those still "living in the middle ages"), promising to provide them a short cut to the twentieth century. Communism employs the technique of dictatorship in ushering in revolutionary economic development, but this does not seem bad to the oppressed of backward countries who have never experienced any economic or political liberties to speak of. Communism thus does not have to rely on military might for expansion.

There is also fear in the United States, though it is often subdued, that our own capitalistic system might not be strong enough to stand up under the stresses of modern society. Even as we take pride in the unprecedented prosperity which Americans have experienced in the Fifties there is a widespread feeling of insecurity. There is suspicion that our economic system is propped up unnaturally by our enormous military spending. There is also a great dread of sickness, not simply because of the personal discomforts of bad health but because disease is costly and is a threat to economic security. Amid all the comforts of middle twentieth century living, there is much discomfort that stems from the mad race to keep up with the standard of living exhibited by the Joneses, or from the even more maddening race of the business world to "keep up with itself"—that is, the anxiety-ridden struggle of business to keep sales from falling below the level of the preceding year.

How should America meet the challenge of Russian science? How should America meet the threat posed by Russia's growing military might? Should we put our faith in an ultimate U.S. triumph in the aramaments race? Or should we work harder for international disarmament, for peaceful settlement of issues between us and the Russians, for international cooperation in using scientific discoveries for the enrichment rather than enslavement or destruction of humanity?

How should America deal with the popular appeal that communism makes to backward countries? What do we have to offer the backward countries that will work better than a communist economy?

Is the U.S. economic system as healthy as the statistical reports indicate it is? What do we need to do to strengthen our economic system, to reduce the tensions within the system, to lessen the anxieties that are widespread among us even in times of prosperity?

These are among the important questions that confront the nation in 1959, and they are questions that the 86th Congress cannot evade if it is to fulfill its extraordinary responsibilty.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

There's a tiny minority here that still holds out against TV.

Two or three of them were discussing their situation, and the problems it presents.

Said one: "Without a TV, you don't know what people are talking about. You just can't enter the conservation."

Replied another: "And with a TV, there is no conversation."

* * *

After making a study of American high schools, Dr. James Bryant Conant confirms the widespread popular suspicion that our high schools aren't all they should be.

First of all, he says, most of them are too small. To make it possible to offer the necessary variety of courses, he thinks every high school should be large enough to have 100 in its graduating class each year.

And he believes the course of study is too easy. He'd raise the curriculum standards. For graduation from high school, he would require:

Four years of English.
Two years of history.
At least one year of mathematics — usually algebra.
At least one year of science.

Well, all that reminded me of my own high school days; and that recollection set me wondering.

I attended a tiny high school that, the year I finished, had exactly four in the graduating class. Only 11 grades were provided, and the school year was eight months. Too, the school lacked, in plant and equipment, nearly everything that today is considered absolutely essential.

Yet more was required scholastically even than the tougher course Dr. Conant proposes. For we had to take substantially everything he suggests, plus. Over and above his suggested minimum, we were required to have two years of Latin, one year of a modern language, and more mathematics. As I recall, we had not one year of algebra, but two; then we had to go on and do both plain and solid geometry.

And that represented a retrogression!

Because I recall that my older brothers and sister had to meet an even higher standard. For them, the curriculum included still more math — trigonometry. And, in addition to two or three years of Latin, they studied Greek!

All of which leads me to wonder not if we are progressing, but in which direction?

* * *

I have always believed that one of the truly great Americans was Charles B. Aycock.

Usually referred to as North Carolina's "education governor", he is known, of course, for the magnitude of his achievements in that role, despite the state's dire poverty at the beginning of this century.

He would have been a great man, though, had the opportunity for these achievements never come his way; the greatness lay within.

How true that is is illustrated in this brief word picture of him, drawn by Isaac Ervin Avery in The Charlotte Observer half a century ago:

"I have seen him in an old dressing-gown, smoking a short clay pipe; have seen him surrounded by flattering women; have seen him stand within four feet of the President of the United States and make a speech that was admittedly better than the speech of the President; and yet I could see no difference in the Governor or the man. He is a rare being who is absolutely devoid of pretense or affectation, and this is so simply and strongly marked in him that it must immediately impress a stranger or a child. . . ."

UNCLE ALEX'S SAYIN'S

Want a youngun to remember somethin'? Then let him work hard a-l'arnin' it.

A man does best what he likes, and he likes what he's learned to do best by a heap o' tryin'.

AT TOP . . .

Macon Native Heads Duke Power

. . . He's Unpretentious

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This sketch of a Macon native who made good is written by a former Macon resident. Mr. Neill for a year was a reporter on The Press. The article appeared in The Charlotte Observer January 11. Mr. McGuire is the son of Mrs. W. B. McGuire, of Franklin.)

By ROLFE NEILL

The mountains' finest products are not handicrafts. They are people.

W. B. McGuire comes from the mountains.

At 48, the youngest president ever to head Duke Power Co., he is a man who likes to hunt, enjoys

Mr. McGuire

the creative solitude of the Western North Carolina hills, and puts emphasis on the rewards of family life.

His mother remembers well those formative days when Bill McGuire was growing up in Franklin, a county-seat town that lies on a bumpy but beautiful valley floor southwest of Asheville.

"We spent our winter Sabbath afternoons reading aloud, gathered around a blazing fire with a basket of apples, a bag of chestnuts, and our books and papers," she says.

And Duke President McGuire remembers, too . . . of building forts in the backyard, of breaking a pair of calves and being dragged through the dirty barnyard on a winter's day.

And the good times at the family camp over in the Nantahala Mountains. It required three-fourths of a day's journey to get there and offered a youngster adventures Tom Sawyer would envy.

At 16, there was Davidson College. The high school year book had sent him off with the estimate: "An outstanding student, an orator, and a friend to all."

Ironically, some of McGuire's classmates in Franklin remember him by the nickname of "Duke." He doesn't recall it at all.

As might have been expected of a high school valedictorian, Bill McGuire left Davidson with a Phi Beta Kappa key. In his sophomore year he'd come to the decision that ultimately led him to Duke Power, via Duke University:

To major in a pre-law course with emphasis on economics and political science. He chose law, he says, because he felt it offered the best entry into the maagement field.

After getting his law degree at Duke, he went with the company for whose founder the institution is named. For 23 years (until 1956) he was assistant general counsel. Then, after a break-in period of two years, McGuire was named president to succeed Norman A. Cocke.

He and his fourth floor office in the Duke Building go together — both are unpretentious. He's likely as not to answer his own phone. His business suits are neat, conservative. The plain glasses he wears do not hide the sparkle of his eyes when he smiles, which is often. He speaks quietly.

Off the job, McGuire likely will be found at home with Mrs. McGuire and the four children, three boys and a girl between 10 and 16. A mechanical inclination leads him to the tool chest, maybe for a repair or perhaps for a simple piece of furniture or a cornice board.

The chief pleasure of his elevation to the presidency, he says, was the "renewal of so many friendships which had fallen into disuse." Congratulatory letters fill a file nearly the size of an unabridged dictionary.

One of his interests outside the home, and beyond the dove field, is the church. He is an elder at Myers Park Presbyterian.

How can a young man entering corporate management today expect to get to the top?

"Work hard and tend to his own business."

McGuire's business involves responsibility for nearly 6,000 employes in two states with an equipment investment of $118,000 for each employe.

How will achievement affect him?

His mother remembers the first successes of his teens: "When honors began coming his way he said, 'Mother, if I show any signs of becoming cocky will you please take me down.'

"'I will certainly take you down, good and hard,' I replied. But it was never necessary."