

ISSUES, TOO

The Town Election

Through the years, Franklin usually has been fortunate in the character and ability of its mayors and aldermen. That is true of the present officials; and nothing that follows is intended as a reflection on them or on any other candidates in the May 5 town election. Past experience suggests that, whoever is elected, we probably will have good men in office.

But does Franklin's growth present issues that go beyond the question of personal character and ability? We think it does. And we suggest these issues, among others, on which we believe the people have a right to know where the candidates stand:

1. The issue of a clean town. That is a matter on which town authorities should lead, not lag. Parents do not expect children to set the example; it goes the other way 'round. Nor is poverty any excuse for being dirty. It's easier to take a bath in a tub, with running water, but it can be done with a bowl of water and a cloth. Franklin can be kept spotless.

2. The issue of water. There really are two phrases of that issue, it seems to us:

(a) The quality of the present water supply. There are housewives in Franklin who have to scrub lavatories and toilet bowls every single day, to keep the "red water" stain from settling into the porcelain. There are women who dare not wash their clothes because of that same stain. There are people who have to go to a dentist frequently, solely to have the iron stain cleaned from their teeth. All that doesn't make sense. Especially it doesn't, in an area that could have the best water anywhere.

Here's what a recent analysis of a sample of the town's water, made by the State Laboratory of Hygiene, showed:

Sediment—heavy. Should be none.
Color—very high. Should be none.
Turbidity—slight. Should be none.
Alkalinity—excessive. (That means hard water).
Iron—high.
Iron bacteria—not found.

There's a solution for this problem. We think it can be found. We'd like to see candidates for the town board pledged to find it.

(b) There should be some long-range planning, for an abundant supply of water, of the highest quality. It is true, the next town board probably could not carry out such a plan. It is true, too, that it's planning would not legally bind the following board. But if a plan were made, and approved by the voters in a referendum, future boards would be morally bound.

3. Streets. We haven't enough streets, and most of those we have were narrow even in the ox-cart age. (Franklin folks will realize how narrow, if they'll take a look at the streets in our sister town of Highlands.) Every year we wait, it will cost more to cut new streets and to widen the ones we have. Both are going to have to be done. Again, it's time for some town-wide, long-range planning.

4. We believe Franklin is big enough to warrant a city manager. We are sure a good city manager would more than earn his salary in increased efficiency. We suspect he could save enough that his salary would cost the taxpayers little or nothing. The town now has an annual budget of approximately \$150,000. That's too much money to be spent by part-time management—and, obviously, the mayor and aldermen cannot be expected to devote full time to their official duties. Town Clerk Charles O. Ransey, though lacking a city manager's authority, and though confined to his town hall office, in recent years has shown how much can be accomplished along this line.

Those are issues, it seems to us, that need debating; issues on which candidates for town office should tell the voters their position.

Get ALL The Facts

A proposed investigation by the National Labor Relations Board of the labor situation here should be welcomed.

It should, that is, if it is to be a thoroughgoing investigation, to bring out all the facts on both sides. It should not stop, it seems to us, at determining whether or not the Franklin Hosiery Company violated the labor laws. It also should



determine whether a labor organizer was beaten, or whether, in broadcasting the story of the alleged beating, he libeled a whole community.

The rights of the public, that is, are even more important than those of either labor or management.

An Oath And A Vote

When members of the North Carolina General Assembly take office, they swear to support the state Constitution.

Why is that necessary? It is because the Constitution is a sort of compact between the people of the state and those who govern them. The Constitution outlines what those in power may do, and when and how; it sets forth what they may not do; and it says what they must do. All this is for the protection of the people.

One of the things it says the General Assembly must do is to re-draw state senatorial district lines and to reapportion the 120 house seats, after each 10-year federal census, to conform with population changes. It does not say the General Assembly may do this, or should do it; it says it "shall".

Every member of this General Assembly must have known about that provision in the Constitution when he sought office; because it has been discussed, repeatedly, over a period of years, in the state's newspapers, including this one.

Yet, in four successive Assemblies, the legislators have ignored this plain mandate of the Constitution they have sworn to support—in 1951, in 1953, in 1955, and in 1957.

In the past, bills to carry out this command have been killed in committee. This year, though, a bill to reapportion the House was given a favorable committee report, so that house members had a chance to vote to do what they were sworn to do. When that opportunity came, they defeated the measure, 61 to 50.

Among those who voted against reapportionment was Macon's representative, Mr. J. M. Raby.

Here's a "reform" we don't expect anything to be done about. We probably wouldn't do anything about it, if we were on the town board. We think, though, it has merit: Why shouldn't the Town of Franklin give uptown merchants a percentage of the money it collects from its parking meters? That's the only way we can figure the merchants will ever get paid for all the time they spend making change for the motorists who haven't any pennies or nickels!

'KNEE-JERK' LIBERALS

They Seem Out To Kill Off Any Democrat Who Might Be Elected

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. White, whose father was the famed William Allen White, is a veteran Washington correspondent. He also is author of the book, "The Citadel", considered one of the best ever written on the U. S. Senate. This column is reprinted from The Charlotte Observer.)

By WILLIAM S. WHITE

WASHINGTON—The most unsecret of all Republican weapons is never found in any Republican arsenal. This top weapon is a strictly Democratic knife, the knife of discord which some of the Democrats are unable to refrain from sticking into other Democrats before each Presidential election.

True, the Republicans are not always above family fighting. But they seldom start intraparty war without some rational purpose. And in any case they never inflict among themselves wounds impossible to poultice over before election day.

Such self-restraint is not for the Democrats. Their automatic trouble-makers used to be the Southern ultra-conservatives. These old boys went to every convention happily doing their best to shoot down with their squirrel rifles any Democratic nominee who could conceivably carry all of the United States. This breed has largely gone.

Now, Democratic difficulties come from the ultra-liberals. These mainly are allies of a small, grimy, articulate, high-minded, self-righteous and profoundly inept group called Americans for Democratic Action. Most ADA people are knee-jerk liberals; they react automatically to certain slogans.

To ADA, only ADA is competent to decide who is adequately "liberal." The definition, moreover, is reached by incantations which the working Democratic politicians, who are merely professionals, have difficulty in following.

Thus, ADA code processes sometimes exclude politicians whom the unexcited onlooker might have

thought to be pretty liberal, on such humdrum tests as their public records.

ADA, with the best possible intentions and the least possible sense of humor, is now primarily at work to set the Democratic party straight for 1960. And to the pros, it is a case of run for your lives, boys, the dam has burst.

For an immediate result of ADA's earnest efforts is to do a job on the three ablest — and probably the three most responsible — 1960 Democratic Presidential possibilities. Among the amused and gratified spectators is the Republican National Committee.

Item: Three ultra-liberal and highly decent Democrats, Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, former Senator Herbert H. Lehman, and former Air Force Secretary Thomas K. Finletter, have solemnly set out to oust Tammany Boss Carmine de Sapio. He is the only surviving New York Democratic leader of obvious competence. Naturally, he must go; he has been found not to be liberal

enough. It is widely known that Mrs. Roosevelt and Finletter, at least, have been strongly attached to Adlai E. Stevenson.

Few things could be more harmful to Stevenson's chances for a third Democratic Presidential nomination than to be associated, willy-nilly, with this absurd attempted purge of the regular New York Democratic organization.

There is a side jest here, too. It is no secret, except possibly to ADA ultra-liberals, that Stevenson is essentially a civilized conservative.

Item: The ADA is sniping tirelessly at the Senate Democratic leader, Lyndon B. Johnson. Johnson's principal disability is that he neglected to inform his parents that he must not be born in Texas. The ultra-liberals, understandably from their viewpoint, would not want to see him President.

Nevertheless, who would have supposed that they would not pre-fer Johnson in a pinch, at any

LETTERS

In Appreciation

Friend Weimar:

Through your fine newspaper I have followed with much interest the plans for a Youth Center there, and since Mrs. Slagle and I both hold many fond memories of a wonderful few days' visit with friends there in the summer of 1957, it is with genuine pleasure—considered a privilege—that this small check is sent to help along with the project, as a very small token of our appreciation of the many courtesies and pleasures experienced while there.

It had been our hope to make a return visit before now, but work schedules seem to have a peculiar way of sometimes interfering with hopes. Possibly it may be different the coming summer.

Please accept this with our every wish for complete success of this very important project real soon, and we look forward to seeing you and other friends in that vicinity before too long.

Kindest personal regards, and all good wishes.

BEN SLAGLE.

Lubbock, Texas.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mr. Slagle, editor of Southwestern Crop and Stock, inclosed a check for \$10.)

First Impressions

(Arapahoe, Colo. Herald)

First Impressions stay with us. Each day we and our town are making first impressions on some new acquaintances. What an overwhelming thought!

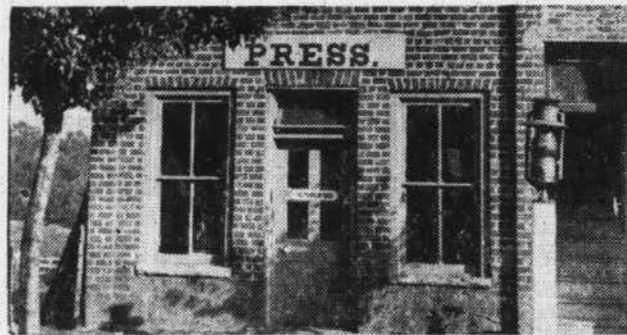
N. C. One Of Four

(Eaton, Colo., Herald)

Forty-five of the 49 states now impose special tax on cigarettes. California, Colorado, North Carolina and Oregon are the exceptions. Rates run from two to eight cents a pack.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1894)

The store building was brought up from Geo. A. Jones' place at the foot of the hill, Saturday, and placed in position alongside of Wright's store.

The following jurors have been drawn to serve at the Spring term of the Superior Court:

C. W. Thomas, I. C. Wishon, H. M. Rogers, B. N. Allen, John Hester, T. A. Downs, T. S. Potts, J. C. Shope, E. Z. Downs, M. E. Welch, Thos. Cabe, J. M. Wild, S. A. Bell, J. L. West, M. N. Long, W. P. Deal, Wm. Howard, Wm. Queen, J. A. Pendergrass, J. B. Addington, J. A. Patterson, R. H. McPherson, R. V. Williams, J. S. Campbell, David Sweetman, J. L. Tallent, L. M. Bradley, W. B. McGuire, H. N. Justice, C. B. Edwards, S. T. Ramsey, W. H. Hasket, J. E. Wooten, J. C. Howard, David Howard, N. F. Howard.

35 YEARS AGO (1924)

It is reported that the farmers of the Sealy section are planning to plant 100 acres to cabbage.

The County Summer School will begin in the courthouse May 21. All teachers and prospective teachers holding certificates below the elementary should plan to attend.

Rev. George Cloer filled his regular appointment at Iotla Baptist Church—Item from Iotla Bridge.

15 YEARS AGO (1944)

Mrs. J. E. Perry has received word that her son, 1st Lt. Alfred Winton Perry, has been awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross.

Miss Dorothy Sloan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sloan, recently gave her graduating voice recital at Woman's College.

5 YEARS AGO (1954)

The grand jury this week recommended the modernization of the county courthouse.

STRICTLY

PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES



Ever notice how, when some people start talking, everybody gathers around to listen? And how, with others, people can't get away fast enough?

I've often asked myself: What makes the difference?

Part of it, I am sure, is personality. The person with a pleasant personality attracts people; and, sometimes, even the one with a domineering personality — even though you or I may be able to see right through him — holds attention.

Part of it, of course, is having something to say. And part of it is facility with words.

Usually, though, I've observed, the thing that makes the greatest difference is whether the one talking is self-centered or is interested in others. (There's even a difference in the way a person tells a funny story — whether he tells it because he wants to be the center of attention and because it amuses him to tell it, or whether he tells it because he thinks it will amuse others.)

Do a bit of observing for yourself, and see if this matter of self-centeredness vs. interest in others doesn't spell the difference between a good and a poor conversationist.

Take the fellow who always wants to tell you what he has done, about how smart his children are, about how much trouble he has had, about — and may the saints preserve us from this! — about his operation. And he not only is determined that you shall know every detail — he never will give you a chance to put in a single word about what you have

done or about your children or about your troubles, or, under no circumstances, about your operation. You don't even have to observe to know he's no good at conversation; all you have to do is remember how often you've crossed the street, or dodged around the corner, to keep from meeting him.

On the other hand, what kind of person do you and I enjoy talking with? It's the fellow who's interested in something besides himself — the fellow who is enough interested in us to ask, with real interest, about us, and to be sympathetic in our troubles and pleased when good fortune comes our way; and, better still, the fellow whose interests go beyond the trivial things he and his neighbors did or said yesterday, or the gossip of the community; the fellow who informs himself about ideas and developments, and gives some thought to what they mean, so that, when he opens his mouth, he has something to say.

Even here, though, that matter of self-centeredness enters in. For who wants to talk to the best informed man in the world, the one with the best brain, if he knows all the answers, and so is interested in nothing but what he himself has to say?

The really good conversationist, in fact, is first of all a good listener.

And that suggests an interesting paradox. In the realm of conversation, and of ideas, the Biblical rule applies in reverse. In that realm, it is more blessed to receive than to give.

ABOUT BIBLE SOCIETY

'Soldiers Of The Word'

Book Review

SOLDIERS OF THE WORD — By John M. Gibson. (Philosophical Library, Inc., New York. 304 pp. \$3.75.)

This is the story of the 143-year old American Bible Society, of its almost fantastic success in making the Bible available to people, of whatever tongue, the world over, and of the moving impredity of its representatives, who faced hardship, danger, and even death in their determination to take the Scriptures to all people everywhere.

Many of today's younger people probably never have heard of the American Bible Society, but it has a special place in the affections of many older persons, who have contributed to it regularly for decades. There is a reason for the difference — difference in conditions. While many people today know almost nothing about what is inside the covers of this book, in most places the Bible

is easily available. That was not always true. In the early years of the Society, in fact, its representatives reported finding whole communities, and even areas, where there were few, if any, Bibles. When a public official was about to take the oath of office, in a town in Louisiana, the ceremony had to be postponed — almost had to be cancelled — until a Bible could be found — the only one, as it turned out, in the town. And later, the Society, with headquarters in New York, found conditions almost as incredible in its own back yard — in Pennsylvania, New York, and New England.

While the Society has translated, printed, and carried the Bible to all parts of the world, and has been active in this country in peacetime, its best known work was during war. And always, in distributing free Scriptures to soldiers and sailors, it has made no distinction between friend and enemy. During the Civil War, it went to extreme lengths to get Bibles and Testaments to the Confederates, and during the two world wars, it took the Scriptures to the combatants of Germany, Austria, Italy, Japan, etc.

HERE'S TIP TO LEGISLATORS

Here's a law the General Assembly ought to revive, amend and strengthen. It was passed by Parliament in 1770 and thus applied to North Carolina, as an English colony:

"That all women of whatever age, rank, profession, or degree, who shall, after this act, impose upon, or seduce and betray into matrimony any of His Majesty's male subjects, by virtue of scents, paints, cosmetic washes, artificial teeth, false hair, Spanish wool, iron stays, bolstered hips, or high-heeled shoes, shall incur the penalty of the law now in force against witchcraft and like misdemeanors; and the marriage under such circumstances shall be null and void."—The State Magazine.

During its long period of service, the Society has enlisted the active aid and support of some of the great men of the nation. John Adams was a member of its board; John Quincy Adams a vice president; John Jay was one of its presidents; John Marshall was a vice president; its work was highly indorsed by Woodrow Wilson; and the list could be continued.

This book has at least two links with Western North Carolina. It's author married a Franklin girl, the former Miss Virginia Smith; and considerable space is given to the Society's first president, Elias Boudinot. That unusual name strikes a familiar note with everyone who has seen "Unto These Hills", since the Rev. Elias Boudinot plays a prominent, and not admirable, part in that drama. They were not, however, as is generally assumed, the same man. The Bible Society president had been dead 14 years when the Cherokee Removal, the story the drama tells, occurred. The Cherokee half-breed of that name, it seems, admired the New Jersey philanthropist, and so simply appropriated his name.—W. J.

GOOD ADVICE FOR SPRING

Spring! Spring fever is when you become totally exhausted by a household chore you haven't begun. . . . This is gardening time. And here's some good advice, it'll pay you to heed—don't plant more than your wife can weed. — Rockingham Post-Dispatch.

WHAT MARVELS RESEARCH REVEALS!

Recent research from a prominent institute reports that parenthood is hereditary. If your parents didn't have children, the chances are you won't either. — North Carolina Education.