

### SOME POINTS

## Before We Forget

We can, if we will, learn from every unhappy experience.

That labor incident here some three months ago was no exception; and maybe, before that incident is put out of mind, it is worth while to make clear a few points about it.

First, though, let it be said that this newspaper always has been pro-labor. It has, that is, in the sense that it always has been for the small man, who sometimes has been exploited, and who sometimes has had nobody to help him fight his battles. It has been for the small man, whether he worked for the other fellow or for himself; whether he was a plumber or a farmer or a day laborer. In that sense, we are still pro-labor.

What we are not for is abuse of power. And abuse of power by a labor union is equally as bad as abuse of power by a corporation.

Here, it seems to us, are some of the more obvious points suggested by our own experience here in Macon County; points we'd do well to keep in mind in the future:

Point No. 1. In this country, we have freedom of movement and freedom of speech; and you and I cannot long stay free unless we are willing for the other fellow to be free, too. A labor organizer has every right, so long as he violates no law, to be here; and every right to advocate unionism.

No. 2. Whatever it was that happened to the labor organizer who was here last February, it probably was wrong, and it definitely was foolish. When a small group used pressure, no matter how slight, to get him to leave town, the door was thrown wide open for the charges he made—charges that went from one end of the country to the other. No matter how flagrantly he libeled this community—and the evidence is he did libel it—and no matter how wrong it is for a labor union to countenance such misconduct, the initial fault lay with Macon County people.

No. 3. Heavy industrialization and labor-management problems go hand in hand. It is rare indeed that a community has one without the other. For even if the employes of a plant get a completely fair break, and thus have no need of a union—and sometimes they do, sometimes they don't—a big pay roll offers the perfect target for the union organizer.

No. 4. As a community gets one or two, or three relatively big plants, it adapts its economy to those big pay rolls, and soon becomes dependent on them. That is to say, the community loses a part of its freedom. No matter how fair-minded and public-spirited the plant management, the community's own self-interest leads it to go to almost any lengths to make sure the plant management gets from the community whatever it wants. ("Suppose they closed down; we'd be ruined!")

No. 5. There is a way to provide jobs and at the same time avoid both unionism and plant domination—a lot of small, varied industries, preferably employing not more than five or ten men each.

And that type of industrialization would have many other advantages, among them these: (a) The closing of one or two or three such small plants would not seriously affect the community's economy; and (b) since such small industries would be widely varied in what they do, a nationwide economic "bust" in any one line of manufacturing would not cripple the community. (Remember how hard hit the North Carolina Piedmont was, not so many months ago, when the bottom dropped out of textiles?)

## Our Blood Boils!

Rep. Watts Hill, Jr., of Durham, has introduced a legislative bill that would raise the tax on juke boxes and turn the revenue so raised over to the N. C. Symphony Orchestra.

Commenting on the measure, the Greensboro Daily News remarks that the "Hill bill is anti-hillbilly"; that it seeks to make hillbilly music pay the freight on music of a more cultured type.

Maybe so. We have no serious convictions about that. Nor are we stragglingly either "for or against" Mr. Hill's measure. But we do take violent exception to something else—the Daily News' assumption that what comes out of today's juke boxes is hillbilly music. It ain't! It's about as close to genuine mountain music as "Sweet Caroline" is to a Bee

thoven sonata. Imagine comparing "You Ain't Nothin' But A Houn' Dawg" with "Sourwood Mountain".

If folks want to listen to Beethoven from the N. C. Symphony, we say let 'em; if they want to listen to bebop or rock 'n' roll, maybe that's all right, too. But our mountain blood boils at putting the racket that comes from juke boxes in the same class with the mountain classic:

"Down the road, down the road,  
Can't get a letter from down the road."

That, at least, makes some sense.

## How To Make Scholarship Stylish

(Greensboro Daily News)

The Franklin Rotary Club up in Macon County has taken on an annual project that ought to interest other civic clubs.

Last month it sponsored a scholarship banquet honoring the 40 students who scored highest in scholastic ratings at the Franklin High School—10 from each of the four classes. Roy Armstrong, former director of admissions at the University of North Carolina and now executive secretary of the John Motley Morehead Foundation, spoke. He urged students to "pledge to yourself that you will make scholarship at Franklin High School stylish."

Roy Armstrong can say that again.

The Franklin effort, as Weimar Jones notes in The Franklin Press, was no effort to downgrade other important aspects of the school curriculum. There is a place for athletic prowess, leadership, good citizenship, et cetera.

But today's schools, in the mad rush toward extracurricular activities, have forgotten their central mission. Part of it may be education of "the whole child." But the focal point remains the teaching of reading, writing and arithmetic.

And contrary to the belief of many teachers and parents, enrichment of the primary and high school curriculum is not more important than a sound groundwork in the essentials. A child must learn the basic subjects first whether he intends to go to college or not.

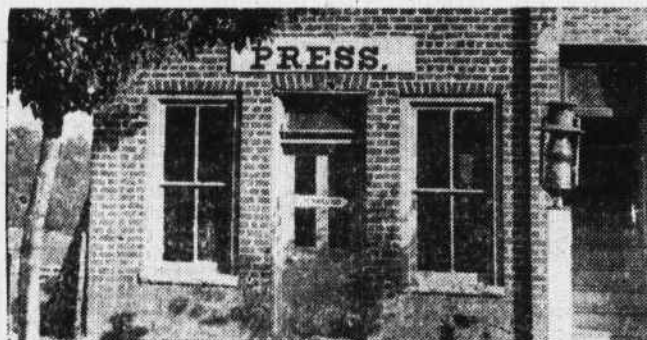
The Franklin Rotary Club has set a meaningful example for other civic clubs, many of which are searching frantically for worthy projects.

What could serve better purpose in our time than to put the emphasis on scholarship in a time when the free world is engaged in a competitive race for survival?

"Education is the greatest adventure we can experience."

## DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK  
(1894)

The colored Episcopal school at St. Cyprian's will close tonight with a public entertainment.

We made a visit to Clay County last week, and found the road across the Nantahala Mountain in as good condition as we have ever seen it. The mile posts put up on this side of the mountain are very convenient, and we would suggest the propriety of putting some on the other side, and on the road across the Tusquittee Mountain. Clay County might expend a small amount for powder and fuse to blast out some of the large boulders that stand out in the middle and jut out from the banks. . . . One of the greatest needs in this section is a daily mail route from Aquone to Hayesville. There is no direct mail communication between Macon and Clay, and it requires two or three days for mail to pass from Franklin to Hayesville, although they are only one day's travel apart.

35 YEARS AGO  
(1924)

Mr. and Mrs. Andy Reid, of West's Mill, were visitors in Franklin last Friday.

Miss Elizabeth Johnston has returned to her home here from Winston-Salem, where she has been teaching the past winter.

15 YEARS AGO  
(1944)

A memorial service and decoration of the graves at the Sugarfork Baptist Church will be held Sunday.

2nd Lt. Charles R. Hunnicutt, a navigator on a B-17 Flying Fortress, was recently awarded the Air Medal.

5 YEARS AGO  
(1954)

A large tract of land in the Tesenta section has been purchased as the site for a new camp for Boy and Girl Scouts.

## FREEDOM IS EVERYTHING

## Here's Story Of Stanley Yankus' Fight Against Government Bureaucracy

(EDITOR'S NOTE: A chicken farmer named Stanley Yankus, Jr., has appealed his years-long fight against government bureaucracy to the court of public opinion. What that fight is all about is told in the statement, below, which he recently made before a Congressional committee.)

Mr. Chairman and Members of the Subcommittee. Permit me to express my deep appreciation for the opportunity given me to very briefly call attention to one of the inevitable results which follow the enforcement of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended.

The following is a very brief statement of what I would like to say and I hope that after it is read, I may be permitted to elaborate upon the present situation.

What will happen if the present trend in government continues, in my opinion, based upon my experience, is that the people of the United States of America will no longer be free and independent, nor will this be a "free" nation.

My name is Stanley Yankus. I have lived on my 100 acre farm since April, 1943. I raise wheat and barley and feed it all to my chickens. I have never signed an agreement with the A.S.C. (Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Board). I have never accepted any subsidies. In the fall of 1953 an A.S.C. agent said I could not raise wheat and feed it to my chickens. I thought this was contrary to everything American. I asked the A.S.C. man how I would be able to make a living if I couldn't use my land. In 1954, my wheat fines equalled my entire net income. That particular year 1100 chickens died in 10 days from a bad disease. Eggs were cheap and feed was high, due to support prices. My wife and I made only \$1,000 that year.

In the year 1955 I was fined about \$1,054.09. The March issue of Readers Digest magazine has an article entitled "The Strange Crime of Stanley Yankus." What is my crime? A man does have to commit an offense to get fined or punished. I did not sell any wheat. Then my offense had to be using land for producing crops.

Now, Congressmen, I would like to put the shoe on the other foot. You have passed laws permitting the Bureau of Reclamation to put new land into production. In the year 1955 alone, the Bureau of Reclamation added 136,000 acres of land into production. So who is more guilty of the strange crime of producing crops? The Bureau of Census also states that 6 million bushels of wheat were imported in 1955. I did not add to the surplus of wheat, but you did, since you have the power to regulate imports.

During the years 1954 to 1958, inclusive, I was fined \$4,562, plus interest and costs. Because many of the farmers in my situation had been through courts and received adverse decisions, I decided to appeal through the press to the American people. The Detroit Times was the first large newspaper in the nation to champion my cause.

The Division of power—legislative, executive and judicial—has been a fundamental concept of English and American law.

The A.S.C. has nullified this concept, because a bureaucrat in the Department of Agriculture can write a regulation through the Federal Register which has the effect of law. The A.S.C. can and does execute and administer these laws, and the A.S.C. acts as judge and jury in determining a farmer's guilt. I am not fighting for the right to grow wheat. I am fighting for the right to own property. If I am forbidden the use of my land, then I do not own it. My rights do not extend much beyond the right to pay taxes. This is tyranny.

The Fifth Amendment of the Constitution says "no person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law." The right to trial by jury is one of the due processes of law which has been denied me.

My right to liberty should certainly be my right to earn my own living on my own farm.

Federal law should apply equally to all citizens. Yet in 26 states

there are wheat restrictions, and in 12 states there are none. Thus, I am a second-class citizen because I live in a state where restrictions are imposed.

For five years my wheat allotment has been 10 acres per year. Since I began to seek publicity, the A.S.C. gave me an allotment of 28 acres for 1959. This is ample proof that allotments are established arbitrarily.

Not only have I fed all the grain I have raised, but I have purchased \$12,000 worth of commercial chicken feed each year. This feed contains wheat and so I have been reducing the surplus of wheat.

I have not harmed any other farmers. I have earned my own living. I have paid my taxes. How can you Congressmen justify the laws which have destroyed my means of making a living?

Many people have told me that I would lose everything by opposing these wheat laws. What is everything? Money is of no value to a slave. I think freedom is everything.

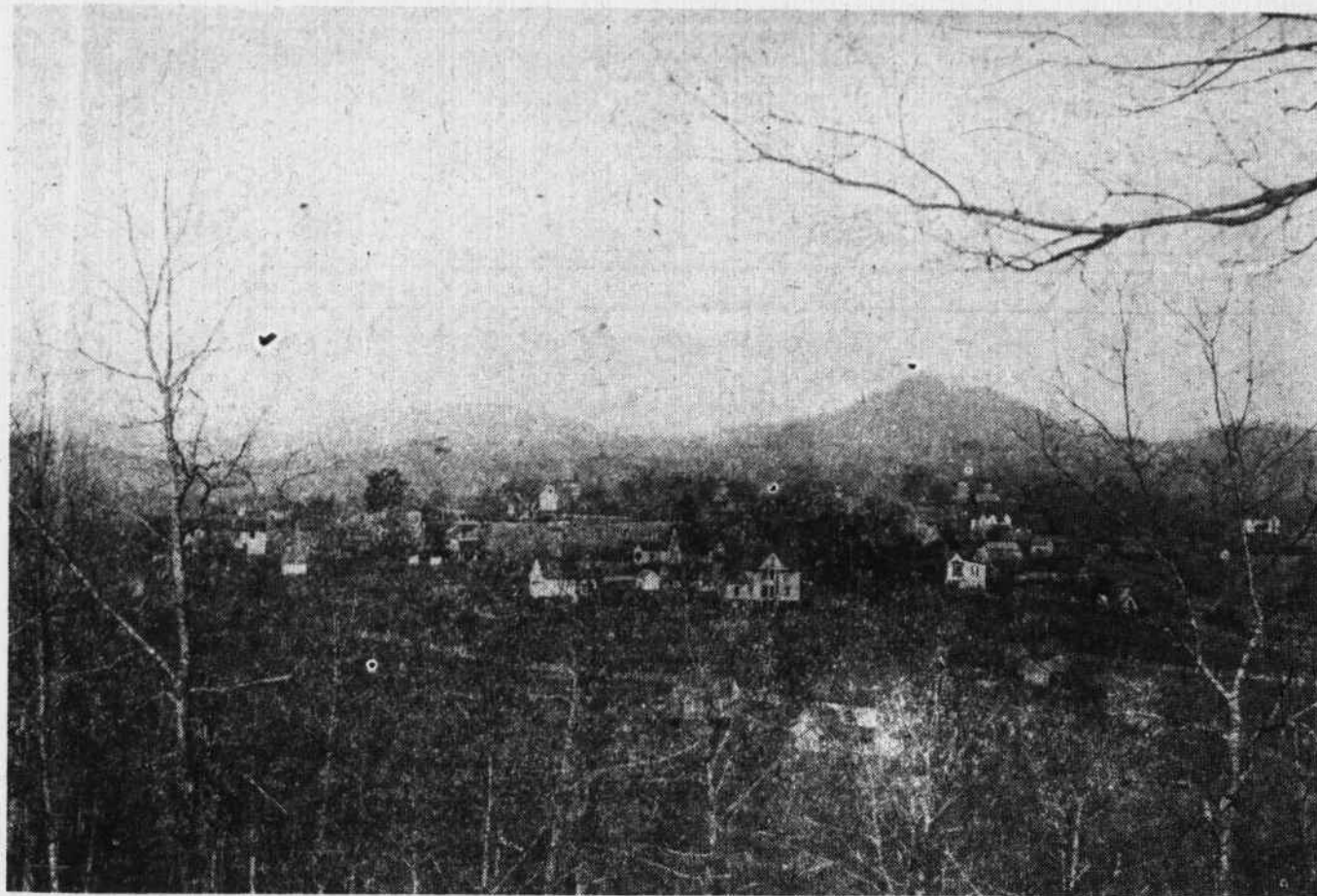
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FRANKLIN ONCE LOOKED LIKE THIS — This picture of Franklin, taken from Rogers' Hill, was made in the early 1900's. In the right background is Trimont, with the old Academy (now the Terrace) appearing as though it sat at the foot of that peak. At the skyline, a little to the left of the center, is the tower of the courthouse. In the foreground, to the right of the center, is the old Palmer home (now Wood's Motor Court), and to the right of it is the Palmer wagon and blacksmith shop, in about the spot where

the Wood apartment house, just west of The Press, now stands. Other identifiable old buildings are the Everitt Franks house, the home of Mrs. Laura Robertson (earlier the Charlie Smith house), and the John Trotter house. The picture, loaned The Press by the Rev. and Mrs. L. B. Hayes, was found by Mrs. Hayes among the possessions of her mother, the late Mrs. Sam L. Rogers. The photograph, Mrs. Hayes assumes, was made by the late Green Trotter, the only photographer here half a century ago.

Roy Armstrong told the Franklin Rotary Club.

And of course he is right.

How many other communities have wide-awake civic organizations willing to honor the cause of scholarship in the public schools?

### STRICTLY

## PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES



## Canton To Have City Manager

(Waynesville Mountaineer)

The Canton board of aldermen and the mayor climaxed several weeks of screening of applications and of interviews before arriving at their decision on filling the post of city manager. The new program begins May 25, approximately 60 days since the citizens of Canton approved the project of putting Canton under a city manager form of government.

The Mountaineer said before the election and right afterward that the city manager form of government has been most satisfactory in Waynesville and we have high hopes of its being equally satisfactory at Canton.

The record of W. Gary Head, who will fill the position, gives every indication that he has many things in his favor for making a success of the new program in Canton. He has been well schooled, thoroughly trained, and has dedicated his life to this important field of city government. While he is reported to be "aggressive," he is still young enough not to be "set in his ways" and to work hand in hand with city officials as they map a program of progress together.

## Where There Is No Unemployment

(Laurinburg Exchange)

The problem of unemployment continues to plague the country, despite the fact that production is at a high peak and business generally is said to be good. And the unemployed, like the poor, we seem always to have with us.

But there are areas in our economic and social framework where there is no unemployment. Many of the trades and professions are short of recruits, and many employers find it hard to get competent help.

Unemployment is largely limited to the unskilled, or the less efficient worker. And there is a class known as "unemployables." The machine age, the age of automation, and the age of special skills, makes it hard on the worker who is not qualified for a special task, or who "can do anything."

For that reason young people of today should look long and hard at the facts before quitting school, or foregoing an opportunity for a college education. Or at least, they should prepare themselves for some particular work, or master a trade or skills which will always make their services in demand.

The man or the woman who can do a worth-while job and do it well is not likely to be out of work for long. Excellence always commands a premium in the labor market.

## Aggravating Factor

(Matador, Texas, Tribune)

Frequently a delicate constitution is aggravated by chronic laziness.

G. H. ENFIELD

## How Mustaches Originated

In Morganton NEWS-HERALD

The wearing of mustaches began centuries ago, when the Christians were driving the Moors,

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a horde of invaders of the Mohammedan faith, from Spain.

Many of the Moors were being converted to Christianity, and in the frequent encounters between the Christians and Mohammedans, it was often impossible to distinguish between the adherents of the two religions. As is often the case in such situations, many Moorish Christians suffered at the hands of their brethren.

To avoid these fatal mistakes, it was decided that all Christians should shave their beards, and leave only the hair on their faces which should be worn to form as nearly as possible the figure of a cross. To effect this the hair was allowed to grow on the upper lip and in the center of the chin under the lower lip.

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