

Across The State

Last week Hugh Morton, of Wilmington, brought a photographer from Life magazine to Macon County to make pictures of the flame azalea on Wayah Bald.

Now there's no doubt, in our mind, that the Wayah azalea, said to be the finest stand in Eastern America, deserves to be pictured to the world. It's barely possible, though, that we are a mite partial to the Wayah flowers because they're in Macon County. Furthermore, there must be a score of other interesting spots Mr. Morton could have guided the photographer to. We're grateful he chose to bring him here.

And so, from this southwestern tip of North Carolina, across the state to Hugh Morton at the southeastern tip, we make our lowest mountain bow.

Basic Problems Remain

It is hardly surprising that this regular session of the General Assembly should have refused to do anything about court reform and constitutional revision. It is not, because the legislators were absorbed by a multitude of problems and were split on such controversial issues as the withholding tax and teachers' salaries.

Court reform, though, is still needed. And this state's constitution, adopted in carpetbagger days, to fit the post-Civil War period, is hopelessly out of date.

The chances are the next regular session of the Legislature, two years from now, also will be absorbed by many problems and also will be split by controversial issues. The chances are it, too, would refuse to act on these two basic problems.

The best way—perhaps the only way—to get action on court reform and constitutional revision is to have a special session of the Legislature, to deal exclusively with these two needs.

What Do YOU Think?

Members of the Board of County Commissioners have expressed a desire to learn from Macon County taxpayers what they want done about this county's courthouse problem.

Should we build a brand new courthouse? Or should we completely remodel, modernize, and do a face-lifting job on the present one?

What do you think?

The Press will welcome letters on this subject.

The Two Greatest Inventions

(Marietta, Ohio, Daily Times)

After the wheel—which is usually credited as mankind's greatest invention—there is no single discovery that has influenced mankind more than that of printing. An obscure German named Gutenberg printed the first books from movable type.

It is impossible to imagine the depth of ignorance in which men lived before the discovery of printing. Written records, painstakingly copied by monks in monasteries, were the only reading material. Before the discovery of printing, the King of England's library consisted of five manuscripts, mostly legends and troubadours' tales. These were kept in a stout, well-locked chest. They were rarely read.

The first book to be printed in English was a history of Troy, a sort of romance, and it appeared in 1474. The printer was William Caxton. Two years later this wandering Englishman set up a printing press, using wooden type, near Westminster Abbey.

Books gradually became popular. Men's minds reached out for this new method of learning and spreading ideas. Inevitably, printing became linked with man's fight for freedom. When men read, they thought of being free, and rulers opposed the growth of new ideas which threatened their establish-

Science is a good piece of furniture for a man to have in an upper chamber provided he has common sense on the ground floor.—Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.

JOHNNY'S FATHER WON'T READ

If He Would, He'd Learn He's Ignorant, Might Get Educated

BIGNALL JONES in Warren Record

During the current examination of the American educational system, accelerated by the launching of Sputnik by the Russians, some consternation was caused by the publication of a book, "Johnny Can't Read."

The fact that many Johnnies can't read is a cause for dismay, for the ability to read is the beginning and the bedrock of education. Incidentally, many of the larger high schools are doing something about it through the installation of remedial reading classes, but these courses are beyond the means of the small schools, and as a result many Johnnies never learn to read and never attain an education. Many never even obtain a diploma.

But what disturbs me as much

as the fact that "Johnny Can't Read" is the fact that Johnny's father won't read. In thinking of this state of affairs which is often forced upon me, I recall a remark made to me by the late William T. Polk. Bill said, "I don't care how much formal education a man has, how many degrees, if he doesn't like to read, he is not educated."

Most persons with any kind of education read to some extent, but mostly their reading is confined to newspapers, with particular attention being focused on the headlines of the front page, to the sports page, and to the comic sections; to the digests, where culture is supposed to be made easy; and to escape literature. There is nothing wrong in itself in such

lished position.

This battle for the right to express ideas still continues, as the world has seen recently in Soviet Russia where the famous writer Pasternak was penalized by his government for writing a novel the authorities disagreed with.

What Is Our Welfare Goal?

(Shelby Star)

Editor Jay Huskins of the Statesville Record puts his finger on a sensitive point in the public welfare picture when he questions proposals made by Dr. Ellen Winston, state welfare commissioner.

Dr. Winston says North Carolina lags behind every state in the Union in support of public welfare. She will ask the Legislature to set up a \$500,000 "matching fund" for a general assistance program. This is a program North Carolina does not have at the moment.

More money should be spent, too, on aid to needy children, she says, so that we can attract more federal funds.

Huskins raises a timely question when he asks if low rating in state welfare expenditures is necessarily an unhealthy thing. It might be, he adds, that North Carolina's position should be described as a "lead," not a "lag."

The theory behind Huskins' question is a good one. The ideal situation would be one that left no need for Dr. Winston's job or those of other welfare workers in North Carolina.

In other words, the faster the people of North Carolina can become self-sufficient, the better off they'll be.

Unfortunately, the matter is not that simple. Under present conditions, a rise in population seems to automatically mean a rise in the size of our welfare bill.

And, as the state becomes more prosperous, the natural tendency is to make the checks of individual welfare recipients larger.

But we, like Huskins, have always been a little bit wary of assistance programs in terms of what other states are spending.

It makes it sound as if our goal is to spend as much money as possible on welfare programs. Actually, our goal is the opposite.

What we in North Carolina want to do is to make sure that needy adults and children are adequately taken care of. Aside from that, our aim should be to secure as many new jobs as possible for our people and raise our per capita income.

In the process of providing good welfare care, we should be diligent to weed out the undeserving—the so-called "freeloaders."

In the final analysis, our state can truly be called a leader in the public welfare picture when it is adequately providing for those in need and yet spending a smaller proportion of its income for this purpose than any other state in the Union.

If Dr. Winston's proposals come from a compassionate feeling for North Carolinians living in abject poverty because of our miserliness, we are for whatever appropriations are necessary to correct this condition.

But we are not interested in a statistical race with other states as such, nor in drumming up appropriations simply to attract more funds from the federal government.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1894)

There was a picnic at the new Wallace school house last Saturday. Miss Mary Lyle opened school there Monday.

Water was shut off at the splash dam at the Black Place Friday. Mr. C. W. Sagle sold to Messrs. Swan the hemlock timber on five acres of land on Nantahala to build the dam. We are told that 75,000 feet of lumber was cut and put into the dam, and about one-third of the hemlock timber remains on the land, as the trees were too large for use.

Caroline West, colored, who was sold as a slave and taken to Texas 42 years ago, has arrived back in Macon County, her son here having learned where she was, and having gotten up enough money to bring her home.

35 YEARS AGO (1924)

Robert Armour, prominent New York tenor, will join the Musical Colony of Franklin and conduct a six weeks' course of vocal instruction, beginning July 1.

Mr. W. P. Landrum, of Cullasaja, was in town on business Friday of last week.

For ice, call 41. Franklin Ice Co., Paul Newman, Prop.—Adv.

15 YEARS AGO (1944)

Lee Roy Roper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Roper, is one of 13 boys from this state to make such outstanding records as Future Farmers as to receive checks from the Firestone Rubber Company.

5 YEARS AGO (1954)

Mr. and Mrs. Nondus Fouts have announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Betty Lou Fouts, to George Edward Crawford, son of the Rev. and Mrs. Lee Crawford.



STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Visitors and people who recently have moved to Macon County express amazement at the courtesy, the thoughtfulness, the kindness, shown them by people here, often people they have never met. Folks here still are, as the old word had it, "accommodating".

They remain so remarkably "accommodating", in fact, that people who have lived here a long time still find themselves surprised.

E. C. Kingsbery, for example, was telling me the other day that two mornings in a row he had left his car at the garage for repairs, and started to walk to work. But each time, almost immediately he was offered a ride.

That reminded me of my experience recently with a flat tire. It was just this side of Cowee Gap.

Well, it was flat; nothing to do but change it. And how I hate to change a tire!

So I pulled off the road, put it in gear, and went around to get the spare out of the trunk.

I had a spare, all right; but not a tool — not even so much as a screw driver.

If that had happened to me in California, or Illinois, or even Eastern North Carolina, I'd have felt desperate. It's a long walk from Cowee Gap to Franklin.

But it happened in Macon County. And so I not only wasn't worried; I really was relieved there were no tools. That gave me

a perfect alibi for not changing the tire.

Then what happened?

The very first car that came along stopped. It was a young couple and they had more children packed into that car than I've ever seen in the same amount of space.

Could they help? Well, were they going to Franklin?

No, just a couple of miles down the road.

O. K. Thanks.

But, before that car was out of sight, a second came around the bend, stopped, and wanted to know if they could help.

They were going to Franklin, and within five minutes after I'd stopped, I was on my way again.

And, so far as I know, neither of those drivers had ever seen me before! It would have been the same, had I been a tourist from Maine or Florida, just passing through.

It's things like that, rather than the progress measured in statistics, rather than the amount of our wealth, rather than our fine business buildings and beautiful homes, that make me proud to live in Macon County, and that make me hope I'll never have to live anywhere else.

After all, such things as statistical progress, wealth, and fine business buildings and beautiful homes can be found anywhere.

CREDIT GOES TO MRS.

A Smart-Looking Man

W. E. H. in SANFORD HERALD

Other day I was uptown in a new suit.

This isn't noteworthy; I buy about two a year.

What struck me was the number of folks who said the suit looked good on me.

The credit for it looking good goes to the wife, to whom I have delegated the job of picking out my clothes.

Many men have a phobia against their wives interfering in selection of suits, sports coats and what have you. Not me. I learned long ago women folk have much better taste than the men. They are more color conscious for one thing. They have more

balance and proportion, too. They remember what color and pattern are the suits and coats you already have; and when the time comes up for a new one, they can steer you right so you won't have duplications in colors and weaves.

The world is full of men folk who buy clothes without letting their wives pass approval first. Some of them come out looking like race-track touts. Some have that gosh-awful bold and garish look. Some have that too-conservative appearance. Some have colors that just don't go with the wearer's complexion.

Strange thing about the whole business is that the clerks in men's stores brighten up considerably when a wife comes in with a husband. After all, the seller wants his customer to look well turned out. When the wife passes judgment, the haberdashery clerk knows his customer's going to look sharp and be a credit to his store.

This is no boot licking for the wives. Better believe me, they know clothes better than 99 out of the next 100 males you'll meet.

ONE PROBLEM, THEN THE OTHER

Parents spend the first part of a child's life getting him to walk and talk, and the rest of his childhood getting him to sit down and shut up.—Frederick, Colo., Farmer & Miner.

WE KNOW A SECRET!

Of Stupidity, Pills, And Newspapers

SMITHFIELD HERALD

Anti-stupidity pills have been peddled in Germany, but no peddler has been convicted of fraud. Can't get a purchaser to sign a complaint. "Would be a sort of written confession of his stupidity.

The News and Observer doesn't have faith in anti-stupidity pills, but its mouth waters at the thought of such medicine. It knows a lot of senators, representatives, governors, neighbors, promoters, and members of prevention societies who would need varying degrees of dosage if such

pills were available and effective.

An N. and O. editorial writer gives further up his imagination. He can hear some customer exclaiming to a drug clerk, "Gimme a big, economy size jug of the anti-stupidity pills!" And he can hear the customer erase embarrassment by adding "Gotta git 'em for my wife's brother that's coming visiting."

Which reminds us Smithfield Herald folks of countless men who have come into our office through the years to subscribe to the paper. After ordering the economy size (that would be a year's subscription for \$4 instead of six months for \$2.50 or three months for \$1.50), the male subscriber is likely to remark "My ole lady says she just can't do without The Herald."

It's the male's way of letting us know that while his wife may be short on brains, he isn't so stupid that he would wish to spend valuable time reading The Smithfield Herald.

But, ah! We have spies. And we know. Men, too, are stupid. They have been seen reading the ole lady's paper.

SOUNDS HEARD AT A CAT-FIGHT

An actress at a party, seeing an authoress whom she disliked, went over to congratulate her on her latest book.

"I enjoyed it, my dear," she said. "Who wrote it for you?"

"Darling," replied the authoress, "I'm glad you like it. Who read it to you?"—Montreal Star.

Alice In Wonderland

Whether a withholding tax is good or bad, in principle—and there are valid arguments both for and against such a plan—there are certain hard facts about the tax withholding law just enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly that cannot be evaded.

In the first place, there's that tricky tax "windfall", estimated to yield some 27 million dollars next year. Where does that windfall come from? The state will get those extra millions by requiring individuals to pay both this year's and next year's income taxes in 1960—two years' taxes in one. With that windfall, the state, theoretically, will have a "balanced budget"; without it, it would operate in the red—millions in the red. What's it going to do when that windfall is spent? The obvious answer is that the 1961 Legislature will have to face what the Hodges administration and this Legislature closed their eyes to—the need either to reduce state services or levy more taxes.

The second fact: The reason we need more money now is that, two years ago, the Legislature made a tax gift of millions of dollars to North Carolina corporations. It may be, as was argued then, that fairness to the corporations demanded that revision of the tax law. The point is that that Legislature, like the current one, dealt in Alice in Wonderland financing. It pretended you could clip millions off your income and still have the same amount to spend. We've been in a tax jam this year because of that pretense, and this Legislature, instead of tackling the problem, has merely put off the evil day for two more years.

The third fact is that the new law will require you, starting next year, to pay your individual income tax as you go along, week by week or month by month; but it exempts all but the 41 biggest corporations from this pay-as-you-go feature. The state, that is, will have the use of your tax money all during the year; but it will permit the corporations—except for this handful of big ones—to use their tax money till the end of the year. That, of course, is discrimination.