

WEIMAR JONES
Editorial Page Editor

THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1959

MAIN JOB HERE

What Police Are For

That shake-up last week in Franklin's police department presumably was prompted by a desire for greater police efficiency. The effort of the town board to obtain greater efficiency prompts this suggestion:

We hire and pay policemen to protect lives and property, with first emphasis, of course, on lives. The greatest danger to life in Franklin is the speeding automobile; and speeding may be observed on Franklin streets every hour of the day and night. Until and unless the police department protects the public from speeders, it is failing to do the primary thing it is paid to do.

Under False Colors?

The 1959 session of the North Carolina General Assembly is well in the past, but the laws it made remain with us in the present—and will remain with us for at least two years in the future.

One of its most extraordinary enactments was the law giving the State Milk Commission authority to fix retail milk prices—the prices you and I pay when we go to the grocery store.

This is not legislation for the protection of the farmer—the commission already had authority to regulate the wholesale prices paid the man who produces milk. And certainly it is not legislation for the protection of the consumer; it's avowed purpose is to prevent price-cutting wars—that is, to keep competition from lowering the prices the consumer pays.

It is legislation for the protection of the big milk distributors.

It is based on the philosophy that you must protect big business in order to protect those who benefit from big business.

It is the same philosophy that prompted a tax gift of millions, in 1957, to the corporations, because the corporate tax was considered unjust; but that left undisturbed a double-taxation that is far more unjust, a state income tax on even that part of a man's income he already has paid Uncle Sam as federal income tax. (Nobody has defended that double-taxation except on the grounds that "the state needs the money". So, sometimes, does the hold-up man!)

It is the same philosophy that dictated, in the 1959 session, the imposition of a withholding tax on individuals, but left most corporations exempt from that law.

Scores of other similar enactments have been made by North Carolina Legislatures in recent years.

Now it may be that this program of protecting big business so the individual may not suffer is the best plan for getting what we want.

The point is that, for a hundred years, that has been good Republican doctrine. And in North Carolina we're getting all this Republican legislation enacted by a Legislature that always is overwhelmingly Democratic!

Why A Courthouse?

In all the discussion of Macon County's courthouse problem, little seems to have been said about a rather pertinent question: How big a courthouse do we need?

That question leads to another: What is a courthouse for? That is, what purposes is it supposed to serve?

Well, there should be room in a courthouse for the offices of such county officials as the clerk of the court, the register of deeds, and the county accountant. (Generally speaking, it is more convenient and efficient for the sheriff's department to be housed under or over the jail.)

Second, and much more important, it should provide ample space, that is fire-proof and efficiently arranged, for county records.

Finally, there should be a place for the holding of courts.

Those three are the only things it is really necessary for a courthouse to do.

In one respect, the purposes a courthouse is supposed to serve have changed. For there was a time, here and in other towns, when the courtroom was supposed to serve for all public meetings, entertainments, plays, etc. Today, in most places, a courtroom is rarely used for such events, the reason being that a courtroom, by its very nature, is not suitable as an auditorium. Most towns now have auditoriums for public meetings, etc.; and even in Franklin, though it lacks—but badly needs—an auditorium, meetings today rarely are held in the courtroom when any other place is available.

There's been another change in customs. At one time, sessions of superior court provided something in the nature of public entertainment—court was a spectacle that drew most of the male population. That no longer is true; today few people ordinarily go to court unless they have business there. And so a big courtroom is no longer necessary—the present one, in the present courthouse, rarely is more than half filled.

Along with a courtroom, of course, there is need for some auxiliary space—a grand jury room, a jury room, a room for the presiding judge; and possibly some other office space.

The need for space is likely to grow for only one purpose. Records will continue to be filed, and there should be plenty of room not just for today's records, but for those that will accumulate as the years and decades pass.

Bouquet

Our best bow to the Franklin Jaycees for initiating a series of square dances at the Slagle Memorial Building.

Too often, there is substance to visitors' complaint that "there is nothing to do in Franklin". This gives them something to do.

And it is a desirable kind of entertainment. For it is something not to be found everywhere, and it is something thoroughly indigenous to this mountain area.

Children Need Responsibility

(Stanley News & Press)

The young folks won't like us for the suggestions we are going to make, but we will make them just the same.

It seems that boys and girls are not taught to work as much around the home as they used to be, and are not given as much responsibility for household chores as they were formerly.

Fathers expend their energies at work all day, seeking to supply the money to satisfy the budgeted needs. He either mows the yard after work or hires it done.

Mothers work hard doing the dishes, cooking, cleaning and making beds.

Children—some of them well into their teens—wander about, bored with life and wishing for something exciting to happen.

There is nothing fundamentally wrong with having children help with the work in and around the home. They learn useful skills. They relieve their parents of some of the time-consuming drudgery, and they find they have less time in which to feel bored.

This idea of allowing young Johnnie and Susie to go their merry ways, free of all home responsibilities, may be advocated by some—but we're against it.

LETTERS

Lower Phone Rates

Dear Mr. Jones:

In the June 4 edition of The Franklin Press you published an editorial entitled "Lower Phone Rates" in which you suggested that Western Carolina Telephone Company devote a part of the savings in labor costs made possible by the dial conversion of the Franklin exchange to a reduction of telephone rates. You possibly assumed that the dial system replaced all operators utilized on the manual system. As you know, all toll and information service for Franklin and Highlands was handled by the Franklin operators, along with local service for Franklin. Coincidental with the dial conversion of the Franklin exchange, toll and information service for Franklin and Highlands was transferred to Sylva. Actually, the number of operators replaced by reason of the dial conversion at Franklin were only those required to provide local service on a manual basis. A minute and unmeasurable savings might be obtained and attributed to the consolidation of the toll center at Sylva. The maximum reduction in operators' wages that can be realized by reason of the dial conversion will not exceed \$25,000.00 annually, and the annual increase in two expense items alone—maintenance and depreciation—will practically offset that savings. If you will consider further the requirements for earnings on the company's ap-



©CONNECTICUT MUTUAL LIFE INSURANCE CO.

Little Fella

His friends didn't wait for him. He wants to go up to his room and be by himself. Soon he'll feel better. Don't question him. He's trying to act like a man. Let him.

proximate additional investment in the amount of \$250,000.00 in the Franklin exchange, you will realize that your exchange was not converted to dial operation for economic reasons.

The primary purpose of any dial conversion today is to provide more efficient local exchange service and to prepare for future subscriber Direct Distance Dialing. The tremendous investment required to provide this modern and more efficient service, and the continuing increase in other operational expenses, more than offset the savings realized by a reduction in the number of operators.

We are sure that you would be among the last to deny our company, or any other utility, a reasonable return on its investment. Most state regulatory bodies in recent years, including the North Carolina Utilities Commission, have granted rate increases to telephone companies calculated to produce rates of return on net investment ranging from 6 1/4% to 7%. For the year 1958 Western Carolina Telephone Company earned less than 6% on average net investment, and we can assure you that the dial conversion of the Franklin exchange will not improve our earnings position.

THOMAS H. SAWYER,
Vice President,
Western Carolina Telephone Company.

Weaverville, N. C.

Build A New One

Editor, The Press:

As I ride from Highlands to Franklin, I see fine modern houses going up and many new homes that are already built. I always think of the difference in today and twenty-five years ago. There's no doubt Macon County is progressing and will continue to do so. Then are we, the people of Macon County, content to stand by and watch the old courthouse crumble and fall? We hear people gripe about high taxes and these people would think nothing of spending from ten to twenty-five dollars on a fishing trip or a big picnic party.

We taxpayers do or should have the right to know where our tax money is spent and how it is spent. As for myself, I would like to see the old courthouse torn down and a new, modern one built in a different location, far away from the noise and bustle of Main Street.

By being a carpenter for several years, I have learned something about the cost of the repair work to an old building. And what is there there to repair to? Nothing but crumbling brick.

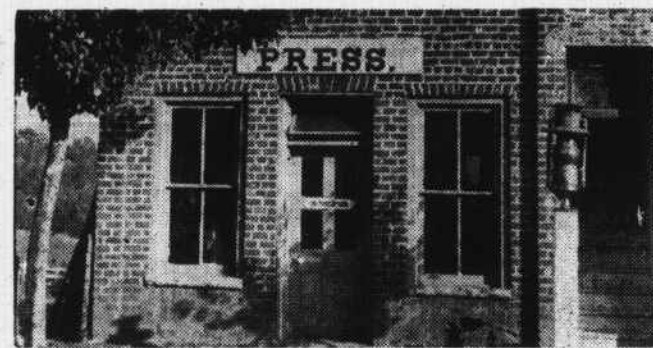
If other counties, both in our neighboring states and in our own state, can have modern jails and courthouses, then why can't we?

Highlands.

HERMAN WILSON

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
(1894)

Sheriff C. T. Roane came over from his home at Aquone Monday.

Supt. L. H. Garland conducted his annual examination for teachers' licenses for the public schools last Thursday and Friday. There were about 50 applicants examined, of whom six were colored.

Transylvania county has voted to issue \$60,000 in bonds to build a railroad from Brevard to Asheville or Hendersonville.

35 YEARS AGO
(1924)

At a meeting held at the courthouse July 12, it was decided to organize the Macon County Telephone Company, to be capitalized at \$25,000.

A party of engineers is preparing to start the survey for a hard surfaced road from Tallulah Falls, Ga., to the North Carolina line.

Mr. Fred Corbin, of Cullasaja, and Miss Addie Crawford, of Cartoogechaye, were married at Clayton, Ga., last Wednesday.

15 YEARS AGO
(1944)

Miss Dorothy Reid, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Reid, of Franklin, became the bride of Ensign George Tessier, son of Mrs. Reby Tessier, of Franklin, in a ceremony July 10 at the Methodist Church.

On this week's Red Cross surgical dressings roll of honor are Miss Merrily Brooks, Miss Daisy Caldwell, Mrs. E. J. Carpenter, Mrs. W. W. McConnell, Miss Edna Jamison, Miss Mary Frances Page, Mrs. Frank Higdon, Mrs. J. E. S. Thorpe, Miss Peggie Ann Rimmer, Mrs. R. M. Rimmer, Miss Olive Leighton, Miss Ruth Angel, and Mrs. Zeb Angel.

5 YEARS AGO
(1954)

The annual Macon County Farm Tour will not be held this year. Instead, the Agricultural Council is planning a day-long Farm-Home Field Day at Franklin High School.

'RIGHT THING TO DO'

Compromise Suggested On Reapportionment

SMITHFIELD HERALD

Most Eastern North Carolina legislators in the 1959 session of the General Assembly were opposed to legislative reapportionment. They feared that under reapportionment the agricultural East and the sparsely populated counties would lose representation to the urban areas of the state.

Representative Iltimus Valentine, Jr. of Nash County was an exceptional member of the 1959 Legislature. He voted for reapportionment. When a reporter asked him why, he replied, "It is just the right thing to do, and I think it is our responsibility under the Constitution."

Of course reapportionment is "the right thing to do." And of course the State Constitution does charge the Legislature with responsibility for changing legislative representation according to population shifts.

Still, legislature after legislature has refused to vote for reapportionment. The Constitution, it has been repeatedly disobeyed. The legislators have rejected

moves toward adoption of a new system of apportionment.

Refusal to reapportion means continued domination of the Legislature by the small counties, the ones that aren't heavily populated. The legislators from small rural counties may consider such domination a good thing. But the urban counties understandably regard it as a form of "tyranny." The urbanites increasingly feel they are the victims of "taxation without representation." And it may be recalled that our forebears fought a revolution over that kind of tyranny.

The Charlotte Observer, published in the largest city in North Carolina, doesn't like the idea of "a wholesale citizens' rebellion in the urban areas against paying taxes to Raleigh." Such a rebellion "would be out of character with the North Carolina tradition," the Observer says. But the Observer warns that a rebellion "is a possibility, indeed a probability, if the Legislature persists in its flagrant disobedience of the con-

There's something in the Bible about a soft answer turning away wrath.

Most of us, of course, don't really believe it'll work, as proved by the fact we so rarely apply this bit of shrewd psychology that's as old as Proverbs.

I suspect the trouble is, we've always thought of it as an injunction to us, to give the soft answer, as the best defense against the other fellow's wrath.

Well, when you've had the experience I had the other day, you'll know that this technique works. For I had it applied in reverse. I got the soft answer, and what happened to my wrath was well, let me tell you the story.

First, though, I'd better be honest enough to admit something. I like people, and I usually can get along with them. But when I have to deal with an impersonal mechanism, I feel helpless. Take a thing like the dial telephone. You can't reason with it, you can't bawl it out, you can't ask it a question, you can't even get results by giving it a soft answer. And when it comes at you with a "this is a recorded message," I slam up the receiver in something just a shade short of good humor.

So when I have trouble, nowadays, with the phone system, I probably am not the reasonable human being I try to be when dealing with other human beings.

Well, the other day I had occasion to make a long distance telephone call. Following the telephone book instructions, I lifted the receiver, listened for the buzz, and dialed "O" for operator.

I heard the phone at the other end of the line ring, and ring, and ring. But nothing happened.

STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

I repeated the process. Still nothing happened.

I repeated it again, and again got the same no-result.

Annoyed, I took out my watch to see just how long it was going to take, and then held on. At the end of seven minutes by the watch, the Sylva operator came on the line.

Here, at last, was somebody I could complain to. So I exploded.

I told her I'd been waiting 15 minutes (It had been nearer 10). I wanted to know if she'd had a nice vacation. I wondered out loud what would have happened if this had been an emergency call for a doctor. And I said a lot of other things that, to me, sounded good at the time.

Well, sir, that operator couldn't have been nicer. She spoke as pleasantly as if she were saying "Good Evening." Irritation is contagious, but she evidently had built up an immunity. She never raised her voice. She was courteous herself. She apologized — and her voice said even more convincingly than her words that she really was sorry I'd had to wait.

Then she added the clincher in this miraculous psychological technique. She suggested I write to the telephone company, explaining "we're just worked to death."

Then what happened? You've guessed it already. The same thing that always happens when the turn-the-other-cheek philosophy is put to work!

It was I, then, who was apologetic. For she not only had made me ashamed; she had won my sympathy. I found myself thinking of her troubles instead of my minor ones.

Was my wrath turned away? Heck! it was evaporated!

It Takes Courage

It takes courage:

To live according to your convictions—to be what you are and not pretend to be what you are not;

To say "No" firmly when "No" should be said, though all others around you say "Yes";

To live simply and honestly within your means, and not richly and dishonestly on the means of others;

To refuse to follow a practice that is wrong, even though it is "shrewd business" and customary

in the trade;

To stay at home evenings and improve yourself when your comrades are out having a good time

To remain in honest poverty while others grow rich by dubious methods which you could easily copy;

To refrain from gossip when others about you delight in it, and to defend an absent person who is being abused

But it always pays!

—Author unknown

IN SPACE AGE

Kids Know Nothing Of Hants

BOB RIVERS in Watauga Democrat

Has been said that "all houses wherein men have lived and died are haunted houses." . . . Which could well be, and which reminds that in the space age, the tales of hants and hanted houses have been forgotten. . . . Fact is, a good hant tale was passed on by word of mouth for generations untold, to scare the wits out of the youngsters, and to provide some meat for entertaining the brats in the daytime, when one was sure he could contain one of the grim stories without being scared come nightfall. . . . So somewhere along the way, these

who were in the know about the hants and the houses they made untenable, have gone away with out passing on the word. . . . Used to be our colored friend along with some of the white folks we knew, had tales galore of the hanted houses, where folk couldn't live without hearing the booming steps of the old master as he went about the place rattling a great chain, and moaning and groaning in his never-ending torment.

The youngsters today, so far as we know, are not ever afraid of a church at night, when all quiet, can maybe pass a graveyard on foot in the dead hours without whistling loud and clear to keep up waning juvenile courage. . . . They have never heard our colored friend, Aunt Addie Grime who still resides here, tell of the "old woman with horns on her head"; they missed Venie Grime tales of the goblins; and we never exposed to stories of the queer creatures who dwell under footbridges, and spirited the youngsters away to make hant out of them. . . . A lad of today knows little of witches, and the great hants of the abandoned houses and of the spots where folks had died in violence and the bloody creature which carries its head under its arm. . . . At they've never heard about the sheeted ghost which rises from a certain grave on moonlight nights. . . . They said there was some doubt that the man was dead when they lowered the body. . . . If they knew all these tales the kids would come home earlier 'cause they'd be scared to stay out. . . . And you can always tell a man who believes in the ghosts and the goblins—he never says "hant." . . . Always "hant" and he's the one who's heard all the choicest tales from the shadowy realms of the departed spirits.

WANTED PAY FOR DIALING

When dial phones were installed in the Capitol in 1930, Senator Carter Glass tried to push through a resolution to ban dials. Said he: "I object to being transformed into one of the employees of the telephone company without compensation."—Reader's Digest.

IT'S THING THEY USE FOR TV

It was Junior's birthday and the mailman brought him a box as a present from Aunt Alice. "What is it?" he asked gloomily. "That's what they call a box dear," his mother explained. "I what they make a movie out for television."—American Mercury.