

WEIMAR JONES
Editorial Page Editor

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 1959

DIFFERENCE OF OPINION
Thinking Going On

It may be the voters of this county should have indorsed all nine of the bond issues passed on in the election of a fortnight ago. Maybe they should have voted against all nine.

We don't pretend to know. That's a matter of opinion—as the differences of opinion revealed by the vote totals showed.

What seems to be most significant about that election was not how it went here, but the diversity of opinion reflected in the precinct-by-precinct vote totals.

A majority of the voters in three Macon precincts — Franklin, Highlands, and Millshoal — favored all nine of the bond issues. Majorities in four precincts — Smith's Bridge, Burningtown, Flats, and Nantahala No. 1 — were against all nine. And in the other eight precincts, the issues favored or disapproved by the majority of voters varied.

There can't be that much difference of opinion without some thinking going on; thinking, most likely, by the individual voters.

It's only when there is that sort of thinking, that sort of diversity of opinion, that democracy works. When the individual voter doesn't think for himself, democracy can — and often does — descend to something approaching mob rule.

Elias Ammons

Elias Vance Ammons typified the best traits of the mountain man.

While he was a leader—he helped found the Holy Springs Baptist Church; he served it as a deacon from the time of its organization; for several terms, he was a member of the board of county commissioners—he will be remembered as Elias Ammons, the man. His influence would have been felt, had he never held any position of leadership.

Coming from a family of solid, substantial citizens, he was quiet, unaffected, unassuming. Always ready to pull his share of the load—plus, he did it unobtrusively. On any question where principle was involved, on any matter of right or wrong, there never was any doubt of where he stood.

Those who knew him best, in fact, say of him that no word better describes him than "dependable". Dependability is a great virtue, characteristic of a person of strength.

The contribution to this county of the strong, quiet man called Elias Ammons will live on in the lives of its people long after his name is forgotten.

Our Best Manners

Our best mountain manners to our neighbors across the Cowees in Jackson County on the opening of their fine new hospital.

With a capacity of 50 beds, the overall cost neared the million dollar-mark. And the facilities and the beautiful location are things to be proud of, as well as the cost.

While the bulk of the money came from federal and state funds, the new hospital never could have been built without local support, including a generous gift from the late C. J. Harris and a fund-raising drive, back in 1956, that netted some \$87,000.

How much it is regarded as a community institution, something that belongs to all the people of Jackson County, was indicated by the eager hundreds who stood in line, at the open house Sunday afternoon, to go through the new hospital.

It was a long, hard pull. Now that it is finished, it is more than a place to treat the sick. It stands as eloquent testimony to what can be wrought by faith, backed by hard work and sticktoitiveness.

Wise men talk because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.—Plato.

The \$64,000 Answer



Prize Youth, Too

As usual, Macon County F. F. A. and 4-H boys and girls "did us proud" at last week's W. N. C. Fat Stock Show.

First place in the best group of three calves, second place in the best group of five, 19 blue ribbons, and other honors were convincing evidence the Macon County youngsters had some fine calves at the annual event.

The results represented hard work by the boys and girls, good teaching by their advisors, encouragement by their families, and, back of all that, fine training, through the years, of the young people by their parents; for it takes ambition and intelligence and determination and energy to do anything worth-while.

Macon County not only had fine calves at the show; there were also fine boys and girls there.

Smaller Umbrella

(Holyoke, Colo., Enterprise)

Money saved for a rainy day buys a much smaller umbrella than it used to!

Something Forgotten

(Raleigh News and Observer)

The picture drawn of the difficulties of children getting to school in Cherokee (County), as painted by Representative Lillian Cover, sounds almost like the days of the pioneers. The solution proposed, however, doesn't seem exactly like the bold, self-reliance supposed to have existed in earlier days.

The lady representative from Cherokee came all the way to Raleigh to ask the Highway Commission for a footbridge or "at least a log" across a creek near Andrews which 12 children have to wade every day to catch a school bus.

Of course, no children ought to have to wade a creek to catch a school bus. But if all they need is a log footbridge to cross a creek, it seems strange that a politician has to cross the State to get it for them. It's fine for the State to educate the children, but it seems too bad that adults have forgotten how to do anything at home for themselves.

LETTERS

Not Too 'Citified'

Editor, The Press:

Getting The Press really means a lot to me. I used to live in Atlanta and could visit you all often, but rarely can now, because of distance. Reading The Press is the next best thing! Don't try to get too "citified", though. Everybody loves Franklin as it is—except for the courthouse.

JOHN M. BRAGG, JR.

Durham, N. C.

'A Good Place To Live'

Editor, The Press:

Don't anybody ever say Macon County is not a good place to live! Especially Patton Community. We still have good, kind folks left in this world.

To prove it, when Mrs. Elizabeth Blaine Emory celebrated her 100th birthday, October 21, she asked me not to have a "big dinner" or a crowd. We didn't have said dinner, but friends and relatives called throughout the day and part of the night, with loads of gifts and good wishes.

She wants especially to thank Mrs. Harley Stewart, Mrs. Ted Blaine, Mrs. Lois Krickbaum, and Mrs. R. D. Wells for taking time out of their busy day to make her a pound cake and to come "sit a spell" with her.

Just because people have been in this world a long time is no sign they still can't appreciate being noticed and reminded they are still on earth.

Among all the cards she received was one from the Governor of North Carolina. Where, or how, he knew about it, we don't know, but do appreciate it.

MRS. LEONA D. EMORY

Franklin, Route 1.

Strictly Personal BY WEIMAR JONES

There's a lot of sense, it seems to me, in a facetious comment of the Rev. Jack Waldrep, director of religious education for the Farmers Federation.

Says Mr. Waldrep: "There's such a thing as being so broad minded you forget to be high minded."

This is strictly personal. It's one man's opinion — and he could be wrong. Nobody may agree with me. Some people, in fact, may think I ought not to say it.

But I think it's true. And I think it's high time somebody said it.

A lot of land in Western North Carolina, and specifically in Macon County, is being bought up by folks from out of the state, particularly from Florida. Some of it is being bought by people for homesites, and that's fine. But most of it, I'd guess, is being bought as speculation; and by people who aren't interested in living here, aren't interested in Macon County. Their sole interest is to sell at a profit.

Well, I hope these speculators lose their shirts. Not because they are from out of the state; some of the finest people we have here are relative newcomers, who came from Florida and other states.

But because the speculator, generally speaking, isn't interested in the community at all. He doesn't care who buys the lots in his subdivision; he doesn't care what they do with them; he isn't interested in whether they put up attractive homes or shacks and honky tonks. All he's interested in is selling the land at a profit, and then taking the profit and

going his way. Yet one of our greatest resources, one of the things that makes this community attractive to the type of newcomer who is a desirable resident is the people who live here now. While our climate and our scenery make this a pleasant place to live, it is the people that make it a good place to live.

And these speculators easily may cause great influx of people who won't — as most of our newcomers to date have — make this a better place to live, but a far worse one. A boom, created by speculation, could destroy the things that make Macon County a good place to live.

And it would be my guess the

amount of speculative buying that's going on here right now, by people who don't live here and who have no interest whatever in this community makes that a very real danger.

It's true the speculator has every legal right to do what he is doing. There's no law against buying, and then selling at a profit.

Nevertheless, I don't think this community should be forced to stand by, helpless, and see a good place to live ruined — just so somebody who doesn't give a hang about Macon County can make a fast buck.

Surely there is something that can be done to halt this thing before it goes too far.

Pennsylvania Petticoat Crisis

CHAPEL HILL WEEKLY

Together there is at a premium in Charleroi, Pennsylvania. The flaring bulk of girls' petticoats is claimed to be the reason for overcrowded buses, because the girls won't let the boys sit next to them for fear of crumpling their starched underclothing.

Aside from the fact that this is a ridiculous practice for girls to engage in — cutting their wheels to spite their yen for men

— it is clearly a setup situation for wall-flowers. The plain Janes of Charleroi who don't have enormous crinolines, or tiers upon tiers of voluminous petticoats, obviously are in a position to cut out all the competition and start nailing football heroes, basketball stars, and other High School Wheels, simply by virtue of the fact that the heroes, stars, and wheels need not stand and sway beaux to spite their yen for men to do their school bus courting.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

How To Get A Grade Of 'A'

Bergen Evans in THIS WEEK

I think one of the most fruitful moments in my life came when my old zoology professor, Dr. Stephen Williams of Miami (Ohio) University, whom I greatly respected, told me that he would give any student an A in his course who asked one intelligent question.

Up to that time I had assumed that intelligence consisted of giving answers. Now I began to see that the question is as much a part of knowledge as the answer — often the more important part. Because it's the question that shows us what we don't know.

Men had assumed from the beginning of time that a heavier object fell faster than a lighter one — until Galileo said, "Does it?" Men had marveled at the giraffe's neck for thousands of years before Darwin asked

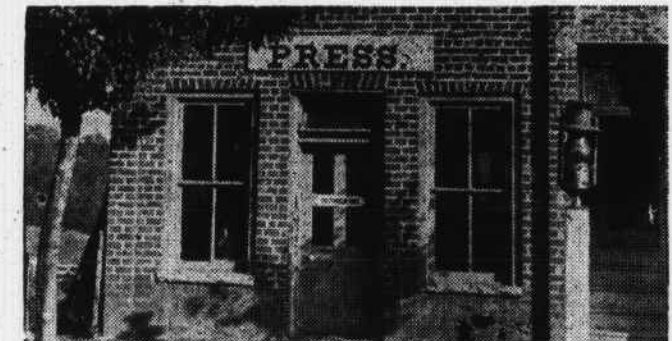
"Why?" But it isn't just scientists who should ask questions. No one knows all the answers and if he thinks he does he has stopped thinking and growing. Part of being alive and in touch with the world around and within you, lies in searching for your own answers, in asking your own questions.

ONE OF THE SAD PERILS OF AGE

Older workers are warned to start practicing for the golden years of retirement. Try, for example, to imagine what it will be like going all morning without a coffee break. — Vancouver (B. C.) Province.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1894)

A larger proportion of the colored people than usual, of Franklin township, voted the Democratic ticket in the November 6 election.

We learn that a cabin on Sugar Fork was burned last week with all the contents, and the family was left destitute. A subscription paper was circulated in town Saturday and contributions were taken to help the family.

I had in my pocket 26 coins composed of pennies, nickles, dimes, quarters, halves and dollars, amounting to \$13.91. How many pieces of each denomination? A prize for the first correct answer sent to The Press.

35 YEARS AGO (1924)

Mr. Byrd Jacobs has sold his

farm on Iotia to Mr. Perry Swafford.

Chief of Police Coffey has been attending federal court in Asheville this week.

Mr. W. L. Higdon and bride moved into Mr. Higdon's handsome new residence on Main Street last Monday.

15 YEARS AGO (1944)

The Home of Fred Guest, on the Highlands highway, just a short distance across the river, was destroyed by fire Friday morning.

5 YEARS AGO (1954)

A Franklin 4-H club member, Otis Stiwinter, has been named territorial winner of 4-H farm and home electrical projects.

Something To Give His Creditors

(Commercial Dispatch)

The doctor finished his examination of the man and shook his head regretfully.

Doctor—"I'm sorry, but I'm afraid you have a bad case of smallpox."

The patient turned weakly on his pillow and said to his wife: "If any of my creditors come pestering around now, Mary, you can tell them I am finally in a position to give them something."

Newspapers In The School Rooms

(Christian Science Monitor)

Newspapers have become increasingly useful in recent years as a supplement to the basic textbooks in grade schools, junior high and high schools in many parts of the United States. This is not entirely a new development, since some teachers have made use of newspapers for 30 years or more to vitalize such subjects as English, natural science, and social studies.

With world developments moving ever faster, it is more and more difficult to keep standard textbooks up to date. But by paralleling textbook fundamentals with events of the day from the printed page, teachers not only show the application of school subjects to current living, but equip pupils in the use of a source of information for their adult lives.

This trend is almost sure to have a three-way effect. A generation of trained readers will look to their newspapers more and more for significant facts and logical interpretations of the world about them. Editors, conscious of such a segment in their readership, will be stimulated to turn out an even more meaningful and reliable product. And educators, it may be hoped, will find journalism a progressively more acceptable ally in their work.

The newspaper profession must regard the use of its product in the schoolroom as both a compliment and a challenge.

People Are Funny

(Charlotte Observer)

We are funny, we Americans.

We charge the French and the Latins with a vast emotional immaturity, yet we:

—Spend ourselves into bankruptcy trying to "keep up" with neighbors we actually despise and whose habits we criticize.

—Kill ourselves at a record rate trying to prove we can get there fastest.

—Maintain a marriage contract through all sorts of major emergencies and then split over such questions as whether "opera" is plural or singular.

—Raise kids who are milder prototypes of ourselves at identical ages, but mourn their "delinquency" in a time of relative definition.

—Drink for no good reason, to frequent excess, because it's something to do.

—Raise all sorts of Cain about exorbitant taxes and spend inordinate time in trying to beat the system, yet continue to demand lavish services from our government units.

—Crucify a friend on the competitive market, but invite him to dinner as an honored guest.

—Clamor for judicial reform, but hire a lawyer with reputed "pull" to represent us in court.

No point in further itemization; we are a paradoxical people.

Or maybe it's a quality we have in common with almost everybody everywhere.

MOST EFFECTIVE WEAPON

Needed In U. S.: 'Constant Flow Of New Ideas'

SMITHFIELD HERALD

When a top Republican and a top Democrat agree on an idea about ideas, it must be an idea that the rest of us should listen to.

Here is Arthur S. Flemming, the Administration's Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, speaking at Brown University: "Our educational community is failing to insist on the pursuit of excellence in communicating ideas."

And here is Democratic Candidate John Kennedy in a recent speech: "What we need now in this nation most of all is a constant flow of new ideas."

Are we encouraging "new ideas" in our public schools and in our colleges?

The public schools seem caught

in a bind of pre-sputnik and post-sputnik pressures. Before the Soviet sputnik soared aloft and made us re-examine our educational policies, schools of America were tending more and more toward excursions, projects, life-adjustments, and learning to get along well with other people — to the detriment of learning reading, writing and arithmetic. After the sputnik, there has been a tremendous surge toward making courses harder, adding more mathematics and science, "challenging" the children to their utmost in order to keep up with the Russians.

If the child is crammed into a double mold — one to give him the hard core of basic education, the other to give him all the frills

of life-adjustment — will he have time to think, time to dream, time to conceive this "constant flow of new ideas" that Senator Kennedy believes our nation needs?

And what about ideas at the college level? The student editor of a Southern college newspaper recently reported a classroom incident that shocked him. A professor asked members of his class to write down five issues that they were concerned about in the world today. Some complied with alacrity. Others were hesitant. Finally one puzzled girl said: "But, sir, suppose you are not concerned about any of the issues?"

This seemed to be the kind of apathy the college editor had been meeting, from the student body

when he wrote editorials on world affairs, on the Cold War, on educational weaknesses. He deplored apathetic students. "You are like a malignant growth slowly covering the campus and the nation", he scolded editorially.

Is the college editor right? Are we, as a nation, stopping the flow of new ideas? Are our colleges encouraging fresh thinking or do they try to fit their students into a conformist mold?

In the new era of "tepid war" that seems to be replacing the Cold War, we will be competing with Russia for the friendship of the uncommitted world. Economic strength will be one of our weapons. But will we have the "constant flow of new ideas" that must be our most effective weapon?