

# The Franklin Press

and  
The Highlands Maconian

WELMAR JONES

Editorial Page Editor

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THE FLORIDA CLUB

## Good Mountaineers, Too

It's interesting to note that the Florida Club already has in excess of 90 members.

The figure, which undoubtedly is only a fractional part of the club's potential membership, suggests how many Floridians are coming to Western North Carolina. It suggests, too, how much this influx may contribute to this area, intellectually and culturally, as well as economically.

They come, most of them, first for vacation; then to spend the summer; finally, to make this their permanent home.

But why a Florida Club? Don't they plan to become a part of this mountain community?

Well, we welcome not only these Floridians, but the growth of the Florida Club. After all, the fellow who isn't loyal to his former home isn't likely to be loyal to his new one.

If we realize they can contribute much to us, surely they are smart enough to realize we can contribute to them, too. The fact they remain good Floridians, as evidenced by the Florida Club, doesn't mean they can't and won't become good mountaineers, too.

## Ironic

Owners of Levittown, N. J., which was intended to be an all-white housing development, must sell to Negroes as well as whites.

A New Jersey court so ruled, and now the U. S. Supreme Court has upheld that ruling. It did so by the expedient of refusing to review the lower court's decision.

Since the Supreme Court repeatedly has held that segregation violates the U. S. Constitution, and thus is a federal, not a state, matter, this latest action is hardly surprising.

There is a touch of irony, though, in the reason it assigned. It declined to interfere, the court explained, because the case involved no substantial federal question.

## Salute

Franklin Future Farmers came home recently with an impressive number of prizes won in state competition at Raleigh. Included were three first places for the local chapter.

These are only the latest in a long list of wins that go back over a period of a decade or so. It has, in fact, become almost routine for the Macon County farm boys to bring back honors from almost every competition, near and far.

These things do not just happen, though. They are the result of a lot of intelligent effort by the boys; of a lot of intelligent leadership by their teacher, Mr. Wayne Proffitt; and, back of all that, by a lot of dedicated and intelligent training by their parents.

Without subtracting any credit from the honors that have come so deservedly to the boys, it is not amiss to remember that a salute to them also is a salute to the homes and the Macon County community that produced them.

## Cart In Front?

We in the United States must produce more wealth, we are told. And not only must our gross material product this year be greater than last year's — we must speed up our rate of increase.

But why? Why must we produce more wealth, and produce it at a constantly faster rate?

Haven't we more now than we know what to do with? What about all the gold we have stored underground? What about all the farm surpluses that are a burden? What about the ever-growing number of gadgets that are nice but not necessary?

In the end, will it be dollars that win the cold war? Will it be goods? Will it even be the number

of bombs and missiles? After all, somebody has to fire a bomb or launch a missile.

Aren't we, perhaps, putting the cart before the horse in all this emphasis on wealth, on goods, on purely material things?

In the final analysis, won't it be such factors as the intelligence of our thinking, the honesty of our motives, the strength of our national character, the will to win — won't it be these things that decide the cold war?

## Travel Now, Pay Later

"Travel now, pay later." That's the latest in installment buying.

The Southern Railway, ever progressive, has just announced details of its installment-payment travel program.

Want to go on vacation? You can take as much as ten months to pay for the trip by rail. (That leaves you two debt-free months to accumulate funds for next year's vacation.)

Anybody can travel on those easy terms. Maybe even a country editor could finance a vacation.

But wait a minute! here's a hitch. The Southern, darn it, wants one-fourth down. Let's see, we could go about as far as Prentiss, or maybe all the way to Otto.

We could, that is, if there were passenger trains on the T. F. railway. Well, there aren't.

But say! maybe there's a compensating factor. If we went by handcar, maybe the Southern, owner of the T. F., wouldn't demand any down payment. That way, we could take a really long vacation trip.

Look out, Clayton, here we come!

## 'Amaze Your Friends . . .'

(Christian Science Monitor)

We are amazed—but not for the desired reason—the number of ads that start out: "Amaze your friends . . ." or "Imagine your neighbors' surprise when they see your new . . ." We are amazed, all right—and annoyed.

"Be the envy of your neighbors," says the come-on for chrysanthemum plants.

"Stun your visitors," urges another, selling blueprints of guided missiles (presumably obsolete or unsuccessful) to mount in one's den or playroom.

"Mystify other motorists," crows a third, about a simulated police antenna stuck to a car roof with a suction cup.

All this implies that customers should not only buy what they may not need or want, but should do so entirely to affect someone else.

## In Second Place?

(Randall Henderson in Desert Magazine)

In one of the chamber of commerce brochures gotten out by a Southern California community I read: "The cultural life of a community holds a place of scarcely less importance than that of the commercial."

Unfortunately, this is a viewpoint held by well-meaning men in nearly every community — dollars first, the art of living second. Basically, that is the philosophy of Karl Marx—that if man's economic interests are well served, then cultural man will emerge as a matter of course. That is the materialistic basis of socialism, and there is increasing evidence that it is more and more becoming the creed of capitalism.

I know one small community which recently raised a storm of protest against the levying of a small tax for the construction of a new library — and then endorsed the raising of a \$20,000 fund for advertising ballyhoo to publicize the town's commercial opportunities.

For my part I cling to the faith that if the chamber of commerce would devote its energies and resources to the cultural aspects of community development, the cash register would take care of itself. I have confidence that eventually a more enlightened generation of businessmen will understand this.

## Free Speech For Everybody

(Winston-Salem Journal)

Mayor Robert F. Wagner of New York faced an agonizing decision in ruling on the application of George Lincoln Rockwell, self-styled commandant of the American Nazi party, to hold a rally in Union Square.

The Mayor knew that New Yorkers have no patience with Rockwell or his teachings. As Mr. Wagner said, "not a decent, re-

sponsible citizen in the city would follow him in his preaching." And the Mayor also may be correct in saying that if the people of New York were left to their own devices they would stone him out of town.

Faced with the possibility that a riot might result from Rockwell's planned Fourth of July rally, the Mayor announced that Rockwell's application would be denied.

A case like Rockwell's puts to the hardest kind of test the effectiveness of the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of speech and "the right of the people peaceably to assemble."

For Nazism in any form is nauseating and repulsive not only to New Yorkers but to all intelligent and decent Americans. But the fact remains that those who style themselves Nazis have the right under our Constitution to a free expression of opinion. True freedom of speech means not merely freedom for accepted opinions but freedom for the thought we hate. And the persons who hold unpopular views also have the right of peaceable assembly.

In denying Rockwell's application, Mayor Wagner has declined to give an unpopular group the right to meet for fear of violence against it on the part of its enemies.

It would be foolish to minimize the problem that Rockwell's rally would present for New York police. But Mayor Wagner would have been better advised if he had followed the counsel of Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress and an expellee from Nazi Germany. Dr. Prinz had urged that Rockwell's right to speak be respected but that police should be alerted to arrest him if he or his followers caused a disturbance. Surely New York's police force is sufficiently competent in handling crowds—even hostile ones—to deal with this situation.

Such action would have robbed Rockwell of the right to claim that he was being victimized in his effort to convert others to his way of thinking. It would also have given him an opportunity to show his true colors of hatemonger for all to see.

## LETTERS

### Seeks Data On McDowell

Editor, The Press:

I am making a study of the life of Silas McDowell (1795-1879), who lived in Macon County from 1830 on. A very versatile and imaginative man, Mr. McDowell was perhaps best known for his writings on mountain scenery and for originating the "thermal belt" concept. I am now making a search of the literature, but I should deeply appreciate hearing from anyone who can throw additional light on this fascinating figure.

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### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



#### 65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1895)

Clean up your premises and prevent sickness.  
A large proportion of our colored population went to Rabun (County, Ga.) Saturday to attend a big meeting.  
A company of Franklin's elite young people went picnicking to Burningtown Falls on the Fourth.  
Mr. W. C. Hough, of Conn., arrived last week and will spend the summer at the gem mines on Cowee.  
The town council should take some steps to have our streets cleaned up.

#### 35 YEARS AGO (1925)

Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Peek spent the week end in Macon County and left Monday for their home in Sunburst.

#### 15 YEARS AGO (1945)

W. E. (Gene) Baldwin, co-owner of Baldwin-Liner Market and Grocery, has been appointed by the two members of the Board of County Commissioners as chairman of that board, to fill the unexpired term of the chairman, Gus Leach, following the latter's death.  
The first service in the new St. John's Episcopal Church, on Cartoogechaye, is to be held Sunday morning, July 15.

#### 5 YEARS AGO (1955)

Alabama's Gov. James Folsom and his family have rented the Ronald Baly home on Mirror Lake, in Highlands, for the summer. Gov. Folsom plans to spend the week ends there with his family.  
Temperatures here during the past week ranged from a high of 89 to a low of 64.

## ROLE OF THE UNIVERSITY

### To Find Truth, Men Must Be Free To Examine The New, Re-examine The Old

By William B. Aycock

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This is from an address by Chancellor Aycock, of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, delivered at a recent alumni luncheon there.)  
On a cool October day in 1957 when I took the oath of office of chancellor, I deemed it important to express my convictions about the importance of freedom. I was aware that during the long history of the University there were periodic attacks on its freedom. In 1925, as some of you will recall, opposition arose in the state to some of the lecturers who appeared on the campus and to certain articles published in the Journal of Social Forces.

Moreover, in the same year a resolution was introduced in the General Assembly which was designed to restrict the freedom to teach and publish. The alumni and friends of the University joined hands with President Chase and the faculty and saved the institution from a sentence which would have imposed a slow death; a death even more horrible than the tragedy of 1871. It is far better to close the doors of a University than to kill its spirit.  
Today I feel impelled to repeat the substance of what I said in October, 1957. On this campus and throughout North Carolina we have certain fundamental freedoms — including freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of religion. These fundamental freedoms protect teachers, authors, editors, reporters, publishers, broadcasters, and motion picture producers from controls and regulations which interfere with their mission to seek and to state the truth. Indeed, they protect each of you and every citizen throughout this commonwealth.

These freedoms are not absolute. There are limitations, such as the laws of libel and slander

which apply to all and statutory prohibitions against the use of public buildings by any person for the purpose of advocating, advising or teaching a doctrine that the government should be overthrown by force, violence or any unlawful means.  
In addition to legal limitations, there are pressures of various types — economic, social and political — both direct and indirect — which can be brought to bear on people engaged in seeking and stating the truth.  
We recognize and accept the legal limitations such as the laws of libel, slander and the use of public buildings, but we reject economic, social and political pressures which would fetter research, publication, teaching and learning. If we do not reject these pressures, we forfeit our claim to be a university.

A true university must seek out, examine, assemble and interpret facts. It must seek new ideas, new forms of knowledge, new values and new artistic standards in order that mankind may continue to grow in understanding and wisdom. A part of this creative mission is the duty to examine the bases, the foundations, and the assumptions on which present knowledge rests. This duty is not limited to certain categories of knowledge but extends to all.  
An institution engaged in higher education cannot be a university if it undertakes to fix or freeze knowledge or doctrine merely because it is suitable to some individual or group, however highly placed. By what authority, may I ask, can a person say that he has found the final truth for the youth of our land?

History does not record a single successful effort to fix or freeze knowledge or beliefs. A university must provide an environment in which diversity, controversy and

STRICTLY

## PERSONAL

By WELMAR JONES



What are the hardest of all words for the human tongue to say?

The answer may vary from person to person; but if we were all completely honest with ourselves, I suspect we'd agree: The hardest words for any of us to say are: "I am wrong."

We probably are wrong; for most of us are wrong much of the time. We know it in our hearts. We are reminded of it by the high price we must pay for our mistakes.

But to admit it to the other fellow — that takes some doing. It is a confession not only to our error. It suggests that, since we are wrong, the other fellow may be right, and hence that we are inferior to him.

Most of us spend a lifetime trying to learn to say those three words, "I am wrong" — and never really learn the lesson.

And what are the easiest words for most of us to say? No words come more easily, and in such a rush, as these: "You are wrong!"

Maybe the other fellow is wrong. Well, why not give him time and let him find it out for himself? Chances are, he knows it already — but just doesn't like to admit it. Why then, tell him? As a matter of fact, there is nothing we could say that would make him deny more emphatically that he is wrong than those three words: "You are wrong."

There's nothing that could make him more uncomfortable; or that could make him like us less. Yet, by saying it, we suggest that his being wrong makes us right, and so makes us superior. We just can't resist that. So most of us go through life repeating, over and over, those unfortunate words: "You are wrong!"

That's one way to avoid saying those words that are so hard to say: "I am wrong."

A friend who was reared in a neighboring county, lived away many years, and then came back home for a visit, strikes a nostalgic note in a personal letter: "For those who remember the tranquil days when houses were widely spaced and farming was a genuine if non-lucrative occupation, it disturbs to see what industries have done to a green valley."

Most of us are too quick to criticize and too slow to praise the other fellow.

I think perhaps that has come to be particularly true in the case of public officials. Not that those who hold public office should be immune to criticism — far from it!

But how often do you and I damn these public servants, without real thought! and how rarely do we tell them when they have done a good job! Surely we should give them an occasional pat on the back.

I had that brought home to me only the other day. A member of Congress took a stand that I not only thought was right, but that I was sure required courage. His attitude was, "I'm doing this thing because I know it is right; if it isn't popular, that's just too bad."

I am neither one of his constituents nor a member of his party, but I was so impressed, I wrote him a few lines of appreciation. His reply struck an almost plaintive note.

After thanking me for writing, he commented: "Those of us who are engaged in public service are frequently subjected to criticism on the part of the press and constituents. This is just proper and I am not making any complaints about it. However, an occasional word of appreciation or at least understanding is welcome and helpful."

After reading that, I made up my mind I'd redouble my efforts to do what I think every newspaper editor should do: Vigorously damn the deed, if it seems wrong; but be slow to damn the man.

FROM MODEL T  
**How Auto Service Has Evolved!**  
W. CURTIS RUSS  
In Waynesville Mountaineer

There was a time back in the Model T Ford era when operating a service station consisted of knowing how to turn the gasoline pump handle; fill up the radiator; put the much publicized "Free Air" in the tires, and slap a quick patch on an inner tube. Changing the 30 by 3 1/2 clincher tires was a matter of a quick twist of the wrist to get it off the rim.

Many young people today never saw a "Free Air" sign at a service station.  
Back in the early days of cars, most tires were inflated with a hand pump and motorists seeing a "Free Air" sign would drive in for service and gas. Many stations supplied the hand pump and the customer supplied the elbow-grease was one strong man about the station who would back up to the car, grab the spokes of the wheel routine. You just kept adding oil and with a sigh of great strain in fact, many cars used oil so fast that the supply in the crankcase was always almost new.

Greasing cars then was also simple . . . a little in the hub caps, some on the spindle bolts, and dash of old crankcase oil on the springs, and she was ready for the road.  
Nowadays, one has to be mechanic, oil specialist, a grease analyst, an electronics expert, and a few other things, besides a gen-spook plug would usually put life in the stubborn car.

And speaking of spark plugs — cars then often stopped dead still in a heavy rain, or after plowing through deep water on the streets or highways. Water around the plugs would short out the motor, and then came the tedious period of drying out.

The events of the early days of motoring came to mind, as we watched service station men check the many details it takes today to properly service a car.

ESSENTIAL THING IS THE TEACHER  
The essential event in the educational process is the encounter of the teacher with his students in the classroom. Administration, building, maintenance, all the activities and apparatus of an elaborate school system exist only to make this daily encounter consistently and consecutively significant and fruitful. Clearly, no curriculum, however sound in theory, can supply the want of competent teachers, an orderly classroom, and students eager to seek academic excellence. — From the report of the San Francisco Curriculum Survey Committee.