

Poor Swain County!

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It had to battle the federal government for 17 years to get that government to agree to build the Bryson City-Fontana road, which it had contracted to build, back in 1943.

Now, just as that battle seems won, it appears that Swain County, a tiny speck on the U. S. map, must fight all the wildlife and conservation enthusiasts in America. For word comes that North Carolina opponents of the road have enlisted the support of national wildlife and conservation organizations, and that these organizations are preparing to oppose any Congressional appropriations for the long-promised road.

"Don't despoil a natural wilderness!" is the battle cry. It's a cry that strikes a responsive chord with most of us. Hence the reported widespread opposition, even by people who've never been near North Carolina, to this road through the Smoky Mountains National Park.

It strikes a responsive chord with us. Furthermore, we do not question the sincerity of these enthusiasts. What we do question is whether they have any factual basis for their crusade.

We began to doubt that when Tar Heel opponents fired their first blast. The man who is afraid he can't win an argument on facts usually seeks to throw doubt on his opponent's motives. That's exactly what happened in this case. The very first major blast against the road, fired a few weeks ago, was in the nature of an indictment of the entire population of Swain County, as boorish and unlightened dollar-chasers.

Much more important are the historical facts.

The trouble with this crusade is that it's 50 years late. Once this portion of the park was "a natural wilderness". But it was "despoiled" half a century ago, when the lumberman came in. The area was pierced by roads. It was the scene of sawmills and lumber camps. There were even permanent villages. Today it is "a natural wilderness" only in the sense that, like any other cut-over area, it has grown up again.

The basic issue, of course, remains what it has been from the beginning. The basic issue is not whether the road is needed, or whether it is desirable, or even whether the proposed location is the right or wrong place to put it. The real question is a simple one. It is whether the government of the United States will live up to its pledged word.

Since that is a question of fundamental morality, it is somewhat disillusioning to find wildlife and conservation enthusiasts willing to ignore it. Even if the area in question still were "a natural wilderness", it would be disillusioning to find this group of people closing their eyes to the sacredness of a promise.

And since this is only one in a series of promises the federal government has broken, or has tried to break, it is even more disillusioning that neither candidate for Congress from this district has seen fit to go on record as pledging himself to seek an investigation of the situation.

If what appears to be an utter lack of moral sense, somewhere in Washington, that all this promise-breaking indicates — if this doesn't warrant an investigation, what could?

Maybe Both

In this space last week, we suggested that a top need of this community is a public auditorium. There isn't an auditorium even at the Franklin school.

We hastened to add, though, that first an even more urgent need should be met; that the first need is adequate space for our county records, where they will be absolutely safe from fire.

Well, maybe we can safeguard our records AND have an auditorium!

Among possible ways to make sure our records won't be lost in a fire is the modern process of microfilming — photographing them on film, and then storing the tiny film in a safe place. That done, in case the records should be burned, we'd have a copy.

In suggesting, last week, that microfilming might be an answer to the problem, we admitted

we had no idea how much it might cost. Well, it seems it wouldn't cost anything.

The State Department of Archives and History, we are told, will make microfilm copies of Macon County's records without charge.

We respectfully suggest to our county authorities that surely this is worth investigating — immediately.

Debate Raises Questions

Facts brought out by the Presidential nominees, when they confronted each other over TV and radio last week, raised some questions the candidates themselves did not discuss, but that would seem to demand consideration.

Among such questions were two having to do with the nation's economy.

In discussing the economic situation, Senator Kennedy remarked that "we can't even consume what we produce", and he cited the low rate of steel production. While the two men would do it in somewhat different ways, both see the answer to that problem as further stimulation of the economy. That, inevitably, would mean still greater production. Since over-production is generally considered to have been one factor in bringing on the Great Depression, does the candidates' answer on this make sense?

Vice President Nixon, in speaking of the so-called civil rights issue, made the point that the government can bring pressure to bear toward fair employment practices, since one-fourth of the nation's employees now are working, directly or indirectly, on government contracts. If one-fourth of all the nation's workers are now engaged in government work—that is, defense work—what would happen if we were able to achieve what everybody is praying for—a real peace, with resulting disarmament? If three-fourths of the work force, that is, is now producing more than we can consume, as Senator Kennedy said, how would we provide jobs for the other one-fourth if world peace permitted us to stop making arms?

Those questions, undiscussed by the candidates, are perhaps quite as important as any they did discuss.

Old-Timer Defined

(Rushville, Ind., Republican)

An old-timer is one who remembers the assurance that relief measures would be abandoned when prosperity returned.

Camera As Poll Watcher

(Mooresville Tribune)

A number of election contests on November 8th will have photo finishes — and they won't have to be the neck-and-neck type of race, either.

A new kind of camera called the Identograph, and using Polaroid film that produces a finished picture in one minute, will provide a silent and incorruptible watcher at the polls, in a number of test areas across the nation, and is expected to eliminate expensive physical recounts that may cost thousands of dollars.

The camera is held in position by a rack attached to the face of the voting machine and photographs up to 70 candidate names and their total votes simultaneously. In fact, one camera may be used to photograph the tally on several machines. Lighting, aperture, shutter speeds and distance are all present for operation by laymen election officials without technical knowledge of photography. The Identograph also documents each picture by photographing the name of the county, the precinct, ward and machine numbers and the election clerk's signature as well as the names of candidates and votes cast for each.

Officials of the Shoup Voting Machine Corporation of New York, builders of this one-eyed policeman, note that it will eliminate the need for an official canvass after every election and will provide a permanent record of all election results. And, most particularly, in the case of a recount, the complete election tally can be made from the Identograph photos on file instead of resorting to the present costly, time-consuming procedure of individually rechecking voting machines at

Group Of Baptists Issues 'Declaration Of Conscience'

RALEIGH — A Declaration of Conscience on the religious issue in the Presidential campaign was issued last week by a group of Baptists, through Dr. Clarence Poe.

Signers include Irving Carlyle, of Winston-Salem, Judge Hubert Olive, of Lexington, the Rev. Eugene Olive, of Wake Forest College, Lacy Williams, Raleigh attorney, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Belk, of Goldsboro, and many others.

The text of the Declaration follows:

- From a deep and irresistible sense of conscience, we, the following Baptists (coming chiefly from one small circle of personal friendships out of the many who might join us) feel it our duty to voice a solemn warning about a regrettable and, we think, unjustified trend toward bitterness and a disunity that could hinder our work and progress for a generation to come. We refer of course to the fiercely debated so-called "religious issue."
- To begin with, we would suggest thanks rather than criticism for those who sincerely and openly minded and with a willingness to be shown, asked, questions about religious aspects of the current campaign. Only by raising

those questions could they have been brought promptly and squarely into the open, met, and faced. Now we think those who raised these issues should be gratified that they have received frank and courageous answers—answers we think adequately candid, explicit and unrestrained. Indeed we think it should be a matter of congratulation for all our people of both parties that these five things now seem to have been made clear about both candidates for President:

- 1) Both have emphatically and repeatedly pledged full support to the separation of church and state.
- 2) Both oppose government aid to parochial schools.
- 3) Both oppose an American embassy to the Vatican.
- 4) Regardless of conditions in other countries and centuries, both regret and deplore the restrictions on freedom of religion wherever they exist.
- 5) Both would oppose any attempted church control of any President in his official duties.

We can only ask whether these solemnly given assurances are at variance with our Baptist views—or actually in strict harmony with them? And with either candidate

polling places or back in the warehouses after Election Day.

Like the Kansas Citizens in that song from Oklahoma, we would say the makers of this device "have gone about as far as they kin go" in reducing the expense of actual vote-gathering and in protecting our individual vote from misappropriation — through skulduggery or human error.

But we would like to emphasize that it is still the voter's 100 per cent responsibility to judge which candidates are most deserving of his confidence — and then to register his choice at the polls — with or without the voting machine and/or Identograph.

LETTERS

Likes Franklin

Editor, The Press:

My wife and I are spending our second summer in one of Mrs. Hattie Mann's cottages outside of Franklin, in one of the most beautiful settings I have seen anywhere. Perched on the side of the mountain, with two beautiful lakes on either side of a lane, it is truly an artist's dream, and so quiet and restful. We are also impressed by the friendliness of the people here.

Franklin is such a place as is not to be found much any more. Saturday seems to be visiting day, with little knots of people talking to each other.

Would also like to extend thanks to the personnel of the various business establishments, particularly the Post Office, the Bank of Franklin and the Conley Motor Company for courteous and efficient service, and the radio station for reports on Hurricane Donna, which did so much to assure us our home in Florida was in no danger. So, thanks to all you nice people. Hope to see you again next summer.

HORACE L. CLARK

Jansen Beach, Fla.

P. S. Also, we have enjoyed your editorial page very much. All the items are so very interesting.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press



65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

(1885)

He who shuns the public gaze thinks advertising never pays.

Mr. I. J. Ash showed us some nice Leconte pears Monday from his orchard.

The frost Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings of last week killed an abundance of cane and injured some corn.

Misses Maggie Crawford and Kate Robinson left for Greensboro last Wednesday, the former to enter the Normal and Industrial School, and the latter to enter the Brockman Music School.

At E. K. Cunningham's: Coffee, 5 lbs. for \$1.—Adv.

35 YEARS AGO

(1925)

Headline:

WATER OF LITTLE TENNESSEE NOW FORMING MUNICIPAL LAKE IN CITY LIMITS OF FRANKLIN — Waterways Closed Oct. 8 — Lake Will Cover 225 Acres — Seven Miles of Boating — Power House And Lines Nearing Completion.

The school is getting along nicely with Mr. Ray Moses as teacher — Lower Tesenta Item.

15 YEARS AGO

(1945)

Misses Mary Raby, Hazel Morgan, Ida Mae Dowdle, and Evelyn Norton, of Macon County, are among those recently elected officers of the Woman's Home Government Association at Western Carolina College.

5 YEARS AGO

(1955)

A long-range program for developing a city park in Franklin is being investigated by the Franklin Teen Center organization.

Tomorrow morning Macon County will be presented a Green Pastures flag, as one of the outstanding counties in the state in this activity.



STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

Twice recently this column has been devoted to strictly personal opinions about politics. Two more comments, this week, and I promise these Strictly Personal discussions will deal with other subjects.

The first comment is serious, the second not so serious.

Many people must wonder—because some people have asked me, point-blank: "Who are you for, Kennedy or Nixon?" or "Why don't you get on one side or the other" or "Why don't you tell Press readers how they ought to vote?"

To answer that last question is to answer all three.

I don't tell Press readers how they ought to vote for these reasons:

First of all, I'm no second Solomon. Second, I'd be wasting my breath to try to tell them: because, if I know my Macon County neighbors, they'll do their own thinking—do it, with or without unasked advice either from a newspaper editor or a politician. Finally, I don't consider that my job.

I don't think it's the job of a newspaper editor to try to do his readers' thinking; his job is to try to stimulate them to do their own. And the only way he can do that, in my opinion, is to discuss the issues and the candidates as objectively as possible, praising either side, when praise seems due, and criticizing either, when damn seem due.

Now for the second comment.

I'm sorry, deeply sorry, for both Mr. Nixon and Mr. Kennedy. I'm sorry for them because of the physical strain a modern Presidential campaign puts on the candidates. I'm sorry for them because, as the nominees of their parties, they must feel a heavy responsibility—and whichever is lucky—or unlucky—enough to win will have a back-breaking responsibility.

I'm sorriest of all for them, though, for a wholly different reason. I'm sorry for them because, under our present-day Madison Avenue approach, they are expected to smile, all the time.

Don't misunderstand me; I like to see a person smile. Furthermore, I know it is said that we have to use fewer muscles to smile than to frown, and so smiling is supposed to be easier than frowning. But I don't think a man should be expected to smile when there's nothing to smile about.

Imagine having to smile all the time! Having to smile when you're dog-tired, when you're cut of sorts, when, maybe, you're down-

right mad about something! I take it Mr. Kennedy and Mr. Nixon are human, just like you and I. Well, if they're like me, there's nothing so relieving, sometimes, as to scowl.

The right to scowl is one I have no intention of surrendering, and I don't think a man ought to be asked to surrender it just because he's a Presidential candidate.

Franklin D. Roosevelt, you remember, once enunciated some new freedoms everybody should have—freedom from want, freedom from fear, etc.

Well, I think it's time we added one more.

I think we ought to add freedom from having to smile all the time.

Yes, sir, we ought to add another freedom, and make it apply even to Presidential candidates—Freedom to SCOWL!

For most of us, the mechanical marvels of today are beyond either description or comprehension.

Take the matter of speed, in travel.

One recent Tuesday morning, at her home in San Diego, Calif., Mrs. W. D. Hobart read in The Press that "Aunt Nan" Ray had just celebrated her 100th birthday. Two days later, on Thursday afternoon, Mrs. Hobart visited "Aunt Nan" here in Franklin.

Incredible, isn't it? But what is most incredible of all is not the machine that made that possible, but the human mind that made the machine possible. Back of each of our incredible modern machines is the incredible human mind that first envisioned, then invented, then perfected it.

Even more remarkable, perhaps, are the qualities of the human spirit illustrated by this little incident.

When Mrs. Hobart, the former Miss Kate Robinson, lived in Franklin, she knew "Aunt Nan," of course—knew her well. But there was a wide disparity in their ages, and there was the difference of race. Moreover, it has been forty years since Mrs. Hobart moved to the West Coast, and forty years' absence creates a wide chasm between the closest of friends.

Yet, despite all that—and despite the fact that poor vision makes it difficult for this former Franklin woman to get about—the old friendship, the old loyalty, sent her, almost at once, to see "Aunt Nan."

Modern machines marvelous? They are, indeed. But don't discount the marvels of the human mind, and of the inexplicable human spirit.

LO, THE POOR INDIAN! Blessings Of Civilization

MEMPHIS COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Lo, the poor Indian, is swapping his tepee for an FHA-approved house and mortgage.

Julian Zimmerman, the big boss of the FHA up in Washington, states with pride the FHA has

JUST 2 KINDS OF VOTERS

There are two kinds of voters — those who support your candidate and a lot of ignorant, prejudiced fools. — Washington (Ia.) Journal.

reached out to provide FHA houses to the Navajo and Hopi, and that the agency has its eye on more of the noble tribesmen.

The Indian long has been imposed upon, and it is assumed he may be able to accept philosophically this last outrage as but another indication of the wily ways of the white man.

The Indian will learn that he will have to have a prescribed amount of land for each family wickiup, that a drainage slough will have to go just where he planned to hang his hammock, that he'll have to have so many nails for each board, that side framing will have to be 16 inches on center, and that he will not be allowed to have a nice soft dirt floor but will have to have a sub-floor treated against termites.

He will learn he must have another floor over the subfloor, the roof shingles will have to be of a prescribed weight. He'll have to have a bathtub and be expected to use it. Each room must have a floor plug at a certain distance. He'll have to have a stove and chimney and no longer will be able to cook on an open fire by the front door.

Then, he'll really get a shock. He'll find he has to go to work every day to pay for the danged thing.

No longer will he be able to sit cross-legged in front of his tepee selling blankets made in New Jersey and Indian bead moccasins made in Japan.

There will be no place for his 16 dogs.

Lo, the poor Indian, indeed!

NOW PRICE MAKES IT IMPORTANT

I don't understand how anyone in this democracy of ours doesn't like politics and take part in it. It is the most fun there is. And now that your taxes are higher than your grocery bill, it's important, too. — Englewood Herald.