

### LETTERS

#### How To Save The T. F.

Your reprinting of Mr. Barker's editorial from The Clayton Tribune about the Tallulah Falls Railroad brings to my mind what Mr. Shaw and Mr. Maloney said the other day in Franklin.

A number of us were discussing the needs of Macon County. One said: "Why doesn't someone buy that road and 'keep it in operation like the 'Tweestle' at Boone?"

I have thought many times that if the Tallulah Falls road were operated in the old-fashioned way, with steam locomotives and the old-fashioned coaches, I believe it would pay.

Macon County, North Carolina and Rabun County, Georgia, could form a company, buy the road, and keep it in operation. I am from the tall timber of Nantahala, but I believe in Macon County. One thousand men take \$100 stock, you have \$100,000. How much it would cost, I don't know, but it could be done.

WEIMAR COCHRAN

Nantahala.

#### Ready To Help Fight

Editor, The Press:

I received the notice that Nantahala Power and Light Company sent to all their customers concerning rate increases, and have since asked them how the rate change would affect me.

It seems that in the wintertime, based on my last bill for 3630 kilowatt hours, my bill will change from \$31.91 to \$57.85 — an increase of about 80%. For the months in which we do not use very much in the way of house heating, the increase is about 70%.

As in all my lifetime I have never heard of such radical increases I would like to join forces with your paper in any way I can to oppose such increases.

Also, I strongly question whether Alcoa, the largest customer of Nantahala Power and Light Company, is receiving such increases. I strongly suspect that the cost of transmission from Glenville Dam to our house is not anything near the cost of transmission from Glenville Dam to the Alcoa plants.

I have always been in favor of the Government keeping out of the public utility business. However, it is my opinion that this will drive a lot of people over to the other side of the question — in favor of Government ownership.

OVERTON S. CHAMBERS

Highlands.

#### Urges Joint Effort

Dear Mr. Jones:

Your editorial, "A Raise in Rates?" is excellent. You have hit the nail on the head and hard where it hurts.

If Nantahala is going to sell, they do not need an increase in rates for the simple reason that Duke Power Company announced long ago that the deal had been agreed on — subject to the necessary commission approval. The rates now in effect were satisfactory to Duke then — why are they not satisfactory now?

Is there nothing that can be done to arouse the users of electric power being sold by Nantahala to the realization of what this means to the entire community and every one in it?

As you suggest, joint efforts by the counties, towns, and the users of electric service is most necessary if the true and unbiased facts are to be brought into the open.

I still stand ready to assist financially if a responsible and representative group will offer organized resistance to both the proposed rate increase and the sale of the distribution system of Nantahala to Duke Power. These are one and the same problem and must be treated as such.

LEE SKIPWITH

Pompano Beach, Fla.

#### Greetings From Finland

To all my friends in Franklin:

Now that the time has come when all of us start sending or planning to send Christmas greetings, my thoughts have been so often in the past, the time before Christmas a year ago. What an excitement and anxious wait it

was to me to be one of you, preparing everything for Christmas to come into the town and homes. What a fun it was to go to the woods for finding a Christmas tree and hollies. I think Mr. and Mrs. Pangle on Lake Emory Road won't get any pretty Christmas tree this year, because I among others cut the best looking tree from their backyard! I shall always remember also the Christmas Eve, when I went with my American family, the Earlys, to the Episcopal Church to attend a candlelight service and sing Christmas carols. And finally the Christmas morning with all the exciting presents and the joy of giving and receiving. Wasn't that a time to remember!

Just a few words about my doings since I left Franklin last summer. As many of you know, I had a long and wonderful trip through the Eastern United States, with several days in Washington, D. C., and New York before taking a plane for home. During those four weeks I really saw people and places so much that even now I sometimes doubt whether I really did experience this all or didn't. I came home just at the end of July and had about two and a half months' time before I was due to enter the Army of Finland, which I did in the middle of October. And since that time I have been wearing the dark grey uniform of our army and having it quite rough. But that's the way it is in all armies, I suppose, and fortunately our service lasts only 11 months. I have been since December 5th in a school and here one really knows what it is to be in the military service with about half an hour free time daily (except Sundays). But the five days Christmas vacation isn't too far any more, so that it gives some excitement to the everyday life.

My family is doing fine. I haven't had a chance to see all of it since I left, though. A week ago I had one and a half days free and went to Raabe, to my aunt's. There wasn't, however, enough time to go to the farm which is a little farther southwards. Any way, I had a big time and it was kind of hard to come back here. My little sister is having the 5th grade at school and is being so active in social life that she cannot be found at home except during the meal times. She mostly stays with her girl friends in the neighborhood. My younger brother is having a year in college, which is just general education but not for any degrees. He seems to be having quite a good time there, because he hasn't often time to write me! He is the "wild one" in our family.

I am sending a letter of this kind, because I, being now in the Army, am not able to write nor mail all the letters and Christmas greetings I would like to. Therefore, I hope very sincerely that each and everyone of you takes this as a personal letter from me with my best wishes for a joyous Christmas time and a happy New Year. Not wanting to forget anybody, I'd like to direct, however, my thanks and greetings to a few people, especially, to whom I still feel to owe many thanks. First, of all, to the Franklin Rotary Club and Mr. Brooks as a member, and now the president of it, for making it possible for me to come and study in Franklin, and to having such a grand year; second to the Franklin Lions Club and Mr. Corbin as its president and my school principal for their help, which I received in many ways. Next to Mr. Bueck for his special friendliness to me. With him I was able to see most of the beautiful North Carolina, from Bryson City all the way down to Raleigh. Then a special thanks to all my teachers in Franklin High. Wasn't it lots of fun to draw in Mr. Clayton Ramsey's mechanical drawing class, as well as to drive with Mr. Frank Ramsey on the Georgia highway and to see the Spring coming to Macon County. Mrs. Crawford's smiling face was the one to wake me up every morning while I entered her typing class, and Mrs. Matthews and Mrs. Perry had always a friendly word for me, although I didn't learn the "Gettysburg Address" or the "Ship of State" too well. And last but not least, I want to send my best wishes to Adam, who is attending the Franklin High this year. I hope very truly and I know that he'll bring lots of wonderful memories from America to his home country.

Now I think that it is time to close up. In my thoughts I still wander very often on the streets of Franklin and see the breath-taking sunset above Wayah Bald and the Nantahalas. I also see the foggy clouds climbing up the sides of Teague's Pasture and hear the many sounds of night around the old, attractive Methodist Parsonage, which once was my home and where I received so much love; just like from my own family. "Oh, I wish I was in the land of cot'on, old times there're not forgotten..." No, they surely aren't!

With my best wishes,  
MARTTI HAAPAKOSKI

Oulu, Finland.

#### DO YOU REMEMBER?

Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK (1895)

We had a light snow on last Thursday. Mr. T. J. Christy, we learn, has left Balsam and has taken charge of the popular Sam Bryson hotel in Andrews. Mr. H. H. Jarrett happened to the misfortune last Wed-



### STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WEIMAR JONES

I found it the other day, when I was digging in an old Franklin Press for 65-years-ago this-week items.

It's an expression that was common, when I was a boy here in Franklin, but one I hadn't thought of, much less heard, in many, many years.

It was in a two-line personal item on an inside page of a mid-December issue of The Press, back in 1895. It said Mr. So-and-So had come home from his work in Asheville.

Today, we'd have reported that he had come home "for Christmas" or "for the Christmas holiday" or "to spend Christmas"—meaning Christmas day, or, at most, the Christmas week end.

The item on the yellowed page put in another way. It said he had come home "to take Christmas."

To take Christmas. How much that word says!

He wasn't here just for a visit with his family, though that was part of it; he was here for the special occasion that Christmas was then—very special because it was one of the few special occasions in the year. He wasn't here just for the day, but for a week or ten days—or maybe two or three weeks. And he wasn't here on a leave-with-pay given him by his employer; there was no such thing as paid vacations then. No; this was time he was taking off from his work, without pay. And he was going to take it, come what may. Unhurried, he was going to enjoy the long period of food and fellowship and fun, that might start as early as the 20th of December and last through New Year's, or even beyond.

He was here to "take" Christmas; the only way you'd get it, then, was to take it.

And because Mr. So-and-So took Christmas, I'll bet he had a grand time.

That little item reminded me of other things about Christmas—not quite that far back, nesday night to get a kiln of lumber burned. He lost about 4,000 feet valued at about \$60.

Married, at the residence of S. M. Dills, Dec. 4, Mr. B. I. Patton and Miss Martha Hopper, all of Cartoogechape township, H. H. Dills, esq., officiating.

35 YEARS AGO (1925)

December 9 Dr. Furman Angel began work on his new hospital, to be located in the beautiful grove adjacent to his present hospital on Riverview Street.

President R. A. Patton, of the Macon County Progressive Club, has announced a big banquet to be held Friday, in celebration of the recent opening of the new Georgia road.

15 YEARS AGO (1945)

The \$400,000 county-wide school bond issue was approved in Tuesday's special election by a vote of 973 to 216, or more than 4 to 1. The bond issue is to build eight new buildings and add to the present facilities at the Franklin school.

Macon County this week experienced the coldest weather of the winter so far, with the temperature dropping to five above zero. Tuesday the third snow in a six-day period fell.

## Not Pleading Guilty

U. S. News & World Report tells what happened, in last month's elections, to the state legislatures.

The Republicans gained. As a result, the line-up now stands like this:

Democrats will control both houses in 27 states; Republicans will control both in 14 states; and the legislatures will be split in seven — that is, the Democrats will control one house, the Republicans the other.

That adds up to 48. What about the other two states?

Incredible as it may seem, they have non-partisan legislatures. The two are Minnesota and Nebraska.

Well, why not a nonpartisan legislature? That sort of government works for the Town of Franklin, which has long had a nonpartisan board of aldermen. Why not in a state? After all, what have the broad domestic and foreign policy issues that divide the two parties on a nation-wide basis — when there are real differences — what have those broad issues to do with the government of a state?

To many, we're sure, the mere asking of that question constitutes a form of treason. We won't plead guilty, though, till we hear a good answer.

## Good Business

Congratulations to the Macon Theatre on its showing last week of "Home From The Hill". One or two or three such pictures wouldn't do it, but if Hollywood should make a habit of turning out pictures of such high quality and if the theatres should make a habit of showing such pictures, the movies might recapture the audiences they have lost to TV and other attractions in recent years.

## Can't Stop Progress

Now they're having "sit-ins" in Africa.

Just goes to show you can't stop progress; it's downright contagious.

Next thing you know, these "under-developed" countries will be catching up with the United States in such areas as high divorce rates, teenage gang wars, and slaughter on the highways.

### THE FIRST CHRISTMAS

## Good Tidings: Ye Shall Find The Babe Lying In A Manger

AND there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: and the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the Lord.

But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of these shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel: whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting.

Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel.

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

THE angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, "Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women."

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the angel said unto her, "Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favor with God. And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be

great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

Then said Mary unto the angel, "How shall this be, seeing I know not a man?"

And the angel answered and said unto her, "The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the son of God. And, behold, thy cousin Elisabeth, she hath also conceived a son in her old age; and this is the sixth month with her, who was called barren. For with God nothing shall be impossible."

And Mary said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word." And the angel departed from her.

NOW the birth of Jesus Christ was on this wise: When as his mother Mary was espoused to Joseph, before they came together, she was found with child of the Holy Ghost. Then Joseph her husband, being a just man, and not willing to make her a public example, was minded to put her away privily. But while he thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, "Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save the people from their sins." Then Joseph being raised from sleep did as the angel of the Lord had bidden him, and took unto him his wife: and knew her not till she had brought forth her firstborn son: and he called his name

JESUS.

AND it came to pass in those days, that that there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that all the world should be taxed. . . . And all went to be taxed, everyone into his own city.

And Joseph also went up from Galilee, out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea, unto the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, (because he was of the house and lineage of David), to be taxed with Mary his espoused wife, being great with child.

And so it was, that while they were there, the days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born son and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger; because there was no room for them in the inn.

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flocks by night. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shown around about them; and they were sore afraid. And the angel said unto them, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger."

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

And it came to pass, as the angels were gone away from them into heaven, the shepherds said one to another, "Let us now go even unto Bethlehem, and see this

thing which has come to pass, which the Lord hath made known unto us."

And they came with haste, and found Mary and Joseph, and the babe lying in a manger. And when they had seen it, they made known abroad the saying which was told them concerning this child. And all they that heard it wondered at those things which were told them by the shepherds. But Mary kept all these things, and pondered them in her heart.

And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all the things that they had heard and seen, as it was told unto them.

NOW when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying, "Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east; and are come to worship him."

When Herod the king had heard these things, he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him. And when he had gathered all the chief priests and scribes of the people together, he demanded of them where Christ should be born. And they said unto him, "In Bethlehem of Judea: for thus it is written by the prophet, 'And thou Bethlehem, in the land of Juda, art not the least among the princes of Juda: for out of thee shall come a Governor, that shall rule my people Israel.'"

Then Herod, when he had privily called the wise men, inquired of them diligently what time the star appeared. And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, "Go and search diligently for the young child; and when ye have found him, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also."

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw

in the east, went, before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was. When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

And being warned of God in a dream that they should not return to Herod, they departed into their own country another way. And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

When he arose he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt: and was there until the death of Herod: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, "Out of Egypt, have I called my son."

Then Herod, when he saw that he was mocked of the wise men, was exceeding wroth, and sent forth, and slew all the children that were in Bethlehem, and in all the coasts thereof, from two years old and under, according to the time which he had diligently inquired of the wise men. . . .

But when Herod was dead, behold, an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt, saying, "Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life." And he arose, and took the young child and his mother, and came into the land of Israel. . . . And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth.