

NEED ANSWERING

Before Rates Go Up

It may be that Nantahala Power and Light Company is operating, as it says, at a loss. It may be it must have an increase in rates in order to earn a profit. It even may be it is entitled to a general rate increase.

We don't know.

Because such things as rate structures and corporate profit-loss statements are highly complicated, no layman can know.

What any layman does know is that Nantahala's application for higher rates raises some pertinent questions that ought to be answered before there is any increase, big or little.

Here are a few of those questions:

—Who is to benefit from this proposed increase? Is it to be Nantahala? Or is it to be Duke Power Company, to which Nantahala says it still plans to sell its distribution facilities and franchise?

—If it is to be Nantahala—that is, if Nantahala intends to continue to operate the system—then why has that company waited so long to ask for a general increase in rates? In order to earn a profit, its application says, it must have rate increases that will bring in an additional million dollars a year. If it will take an extra million to give it a profit, then surely it has been operating at a loss for years. Why, then, the long delay in asking for the general increase necessary to get out of the red?

—If the rate increase is for Duke's benefit, why not let Duke speak for itself? After all, hasn't Duke said it could deliver power here cheaper than Nantahala can? Hasn't it said, in fact, it could operate profitably at present Nantahala rates?

—Is there a connection between this proposed rate increase and the long-pending proposed Nantahala sale to Duke? If not, why have the two companies delayed for 16 months filing an application for approval of the sale? Why, after 16 months, do they still make no move to file an application?

—Why has Nantahala asked for increases that are unreasonable on their face? They are unreasonable in two ways. First, in the sale of all other commodities, the greater the amount bought, the lower the rate per unit. But this application seeks a residential rate increase that will get higher and higher the more power the customer uses. Second, it seeks not reasonable increases of 10 or 15 or 20 per cent, but increases ranging up to 80 per cent! Nantahala must know that no utility commission would ever grant such an increase to any public service corporation. Why, then, ask for it?

—Has this wholly unreasonable request a hidden purpose? Is its real purpose to so frighten customers that they will withdraw opposition to the Nantahala-Duke deal?

Miss Daniels

For years, it had been her dream, someday, to retire from business in New York and come back to her native Franklin, to live in the shadow of her beloved mountains.

She looked forward to it, planned for it, worked for it. Each vacation here, she lavished money and thought and affectionate effort on the big old house that had been her grandparents', so it would be comfortable and attractive for her family when at last it became possible for them to come back home.

Last June, she made the dream reality. But her return coincided, almost to the day, with a breakdown in health. Now, six months later, she is gone, without ever having had the opportunity to enjoy "the real living" she had so happily anticipated.

Seems ironic, doesn't it?

Yet, to Miss Evelyn Hope Daniels, we may be sure, it didn't. For life can be tragic or cruel or ironic only to those who are self-centered; it can never really hurt those whose thoughts and interests and hopes are centered in others. And so we may be sure she took this as she had learned to take all the problems and difficulties

and disappointments—with a smile.

It does seem ironic—or, at least, unfortunate—that the Franklin and Macon County she loved should be deprived of the great contributions she could and would have made to them. Yet what greater contribution can anyone make to a community than the example of a good life? And here was one of those rare lives that can be described, accurately, as selfless.

Why Criticism Hurts

(Greenville, Ill., Advocate)

Criticism wouldn't be so hard to take if it weren't so often right.

Especialty Then

(International Shoe Company Bulletin)

Thrift is a wonderful virtue — especially in an ancestor.

LETTERS

Plans Highlands Guide

Editor, The Press:

I have in progress *A History and Guide to Highlands*, which is planned for publication May 1, 1961. The book will be paperback (except for a small edition in cloth for libraries and collectors), modestly priced, and will include drawings, maps, and photographs. Mrs. Polly Knipp Hill has been commissioned to do a special series of vignettes.

Because so little of Highlands' formal history since the founding by Kelsey in 1875 has been set down in printed form, except in the newspapers that have sporadically flourished in Macon County, I am very much dependent on the memory of the oldest citizens of the town and on the documents (letters, scrapbooks, journals, photographs, newspapers, books etc.) in the possession of the descendants of the first settlers. Thus, I would sincerely welcome the help of anyone with an interest in Highlands' tradition as a village of most unique and uncommon qualities. We know, for instance, that De Soto passed near the present Highlands in 1540, that William Bartram, the great naturalist, came near in 1778, and that Vachel Lindsay, the poet, visited with Dr. Harbison in 1906 during a walk from Florida to Asheville. These are almost legends. I also want exact facts — of famous visitors, occupations, organizations, celebrations, disasters, ghosts, etc.

It is my belief that a knowledge of Highlands' past years and current beauties will help prevent a curious tendency towards "progress" which seems devoted to the cutting of trees and making the town look like one of the shoddy suburbs of Atlanta. Some diseases are also "progressive". My contention is that Highlands will have to offer tourists and summer visitors something beyond relief from the heat. Those that do more than drive through town (hurriedly, let us say, as one might drive through Rosman) will want information about the uncommon things that so distinguish this plateau: the trails, the waterfalls, the flowers and trees, the minerals, the native industries, local customs, foods local to the area, etc. For this reason I have long felt the desirability of such a history and guide.

The editor simply is the one who compiles the given material. The real success of the book is up to those who will help. All assistance will be gratefully acknowledged in an introduction to the text. And all those who supply useful information and lend their documents will receive complimentary copies.

May I ask anyone concerned to write me at the address below.

JONATHAN WILLIAMS, Publisher

Postal Drawer 344,
Highlands.

What Greenland's Like

Editor, The Press:

For the benefit of Maconians who have never heard of Sondrestrom Air Base, Greenland, and who think Macon County has rugged winters, here are a few facts about this base.

Some Maconians, who are World War II or Korean veterans, may remember this base which was formerly called "Blue West-8".

In 1941 during World War II, the United States, by agreement with the Danish government, which holds sovereignty over Greenland, built an air strip on the present site of Sondrestrom. Many airplanes stopped here on their way to Europe during the war and it was a vital link in ferrying aircraft to that theatre. The geographic position of Greenland provided information about weather, permitting weather men to forecast conditions long before it was possible farther south. The famous Arctic aviation expert, Bernt Balchen, now a retired Air Force colonel, was one of the original party that founded the base, then called by its code name, "Blue West 8" or just plain "BW-8".

After the war, BW-8 was closed down, and returned to

Danish control. When the Korean War broke out, it became apparent to our military planners that the strategic position of Greenland should be used for defense against possible over-the-pole aggression. To accomplish this, the Northeast Air Command was activated. BW-8 was reopened in March, 1951, at which time Denmark relinquished control of the base to the United States. In 1958, the base was named Sondrestrom (Danish for South Stream) because it lies at the head of Sandrestromfjord, the second longest fjord in the world.

The Northeast Air Command was deactivated and the Strategic Air Command assumed control of Sondrestrom Air Base on 1 April 1957. On 1 July 1960, the Air Defense Command's 4684th Air Base Group took control of Sondrestrom.

One of the reasons for Sondrestrom's existence is the excellent flying weather experienced during 97 per cent of the year. This may come as a surprise to those who began to shiver when they first heard of the word "Greenland".

This base is located within 12 miles of the ice-cap. It is found on the map, by following the west coast of Greenland north. The Arctic Circle is the approximate point where the fjord runs into Davis Strait from a northeastward direction. The point where the fjord begins is where Sondrestrom is located.

Being so close to the ice-cap, the base is affected by the world's largest natural air conditioning system. During the winter, (January and February are generally the coldest months) the temperature may go down as low as 40 degrees below zero. Sustained temperatures of -20 to -40 are not uncommon during this period. However, the cold is a dry cold with hardly any humidity.

Sondrestrom is never totally dark for 24 hours around the clock. In December, when the days are shortest, there are still several hours of daylight. It is during these winter nights that the beautiful Aurora Borealis, or Northern Lights, can be seen. Of course, in the summer, if it is a nice day, it's a nice day all night. Summer is a delightful time of the year with temperatures ranging from 50 to 60 and occasionally even up to 70 degrees.

Hope this will give some people a general idea of what it is like in the "Far, Far North."

I would much rather be back in good old Macon county.

Sondrestrom Air Base,
Greenland.

S/SGT. CHARLES CURTIS, JR.

DO YOU REMEMBER?

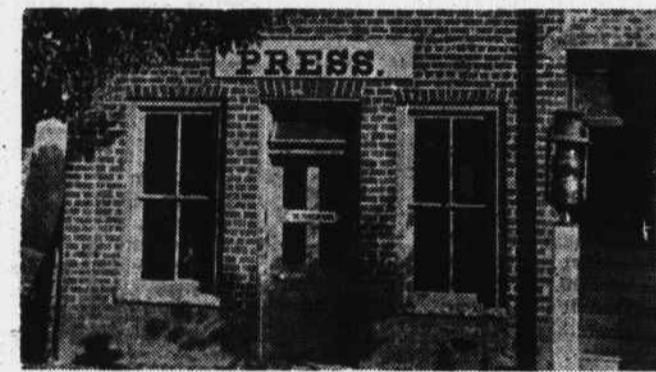
Looking Backward Through the Files of The Press

65 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
(1895)

The Sunday School at the Methodist Church last Sunday contributed three dollars for the Oxford Orphanage Asylum.

During the absence of Mr. F. T. Smith, visiting the Atlanta Exposition, Mr. H. H. Jarrett is acting as postmaster, pro tem.

Mr. Jule Robinson of Collector Rogers' cabinet, came



over from Asheville Saturday to take a regular Franklin Christmas with home folks.

The American Corundum Corporation has put up a corundum mill on Ellijay, and the corundum will be conveyed from the mine on the mountain to the mill through a trough two miles long.

35 YEARS AGO
(1925)

Work is now under way on the Onteora Estates, located five miles west of Franklin on Highway No. 28, recognized as the most scenic highway of the Appalachian Mountains.

15 YEARS AGO
(1945)

The Nantahala Power and Light Company is spending more than one-third of a million dollars on an expansion program that will make electricity available to approximately 2,000 additional rural families in Southwestern North Carolina. It was announced this week at the company's headquarters here.

Cpl. Charles Smart, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Smart, of Franklin, has been awarded the Silver Star medal for heroic action in Germany more than a year ago.

5 YEARS AGO
(1955)

Otto community's nativity scene took first place in the annual Christmas lighting contest sponsored by the Nantahala Power and Light Company.

WORKED THINGS OUT WELL

Kennedy Has Put Together Effective Foreign Policy Team

Adlai Stevenson has the knowledge, the executive ability, the personality, and the international stature to serve as Secretary of State, and millions of Stevenson admirers hoped he would be Mr. Kennedy's choice for this key position in the new administration. But reason forbids finding fault with the President-elect for his failure to place Mr. Stevenson in charge of the State Department.

As Secretary of State, Mr. Stevenson probably would have overshadowed Mr. Kennedy in the conduct of U. S. foreign affairs. He is better known than Mr. Kennedy in world capitals. And he is held in high esteem around the world.

Mr. Stevenson's international prestige would be an asset, but it would also be a liability if it tended to shove the President of the United States into the background.

The President should not be in the background in the conduct of U. S. foreign affairs. We have recently experienced an administration in which the Secretary of State overshadowed the President in planning and execution of foreign policy. The late Secretary John Foster Dulles not only was head of the State Department. He took over responsibility that should have been shouldered by President Eisenhower. Mr. Eisenhower, unlike President Franklin Roosevelt did not choose to be "his own Secretary of State." Mr. Eisenhower seemed glad to leave major decisions to Mr. Dulles.

The best interest of the United States is not served when the President delegates responsibility for major decisions to the Secretary of State. The Secretary shares responsibility. The Secretary participates in policy planning. The Secretary executes policy. But the President should be the

key figure in devising foreign policy, as the drafters of the constitution intended.

Mr. Kennedy recognizes the proper role of the President in conduct of foreign policy. He apparently intends to follow the Franklin Roosevelt concept. That is, he intends, in a sense, to be his own Secretary of State.

Mr. Stevenson, by reason of the strength of his personality and his great prestige abroad, did not fit into Mr. Kennedy's plans to establish himself as the real leader of the United States in international affairs.

Nothing said here is meant to imply that Mr. Kennedy's appointee for Secretary of State, Dean Rusk, is a weak personality without stature. Mr. Rusk has the qualifications for making a strong Secretary of State. He has been a thorough student of foreign affairs and has had practical experience in conduct of foreign policy as assistant Secretary of State

for Far Eastern affairs in the Truman administration. He will have much to contribute to policy planning. But he will not overshadow Mr. Kennedy. Nor will there be any Eisenhower-Dulles relationship.

Mr. Kennedy has worked things out very well, not only by appointing Mr. Rusk as Secretary of State but by placing both Adlai Stevenson and Chester Bowles in positions where their judgment can be of great help as the new administration charts the way it will travel in international affairs.

Mr. Stevenson will become ambassador to the United Nations. We may be sure he will be no ordinary UN ambassador. His ability to speak eloquently and clearly is well known. It will stand him in good stead as he seeks to interpret U. S. policy in the UN forum. He undoubtedly will have opportunity to influence decision-making in Wash-



STRICTLY PERSONAL

By WELMAR JONES

In most respects, next Sunday will be just like any other day.

The sun will rise as usual, and set as usual. We'll all get up as usual. We'll go to work as usual, except that, it being Sunday, those ways will be different from the ones we go weekdays, and go to bed as usual.

Yet we'll pick that day out of all the others for special observance. We'll celebrate it. We'll offer good wishes to our neighbors and friends. We'll indulge in good resolutions. And we'll take thought not for the morrow, but for the next 365 days.

For next Sunday is the beginning of a new year. It is so by a purely arbitrary arrangement.

It won't be the first day of spring. It won't be the first day of winter, even. It won't mark any seasonal break set up by nature. But man has decreed that it shall be the first day of a new calendar year.

Calendars! Strange things, stop to think about it. A way of breaking down and defining and delimiting time. As though time would flow any faster or any slower because man has set bounds and limits to it. As though there'd be any less of it, or any more.

But it'll be a new year. And I, for one, will welcome it.

This last one, it seems to me, has been far from satisfactory. It's been confusing and dis-

couraging, from the viewpoint of one watching the world he must live in. And, unless I'm a lot different from other people, it hasn't been satisfactory, either, from the viewpoint of personal achievement. Maybe you and I could have done worse, but if we're honest with ourselves, we know we could have done a great deal better. So much better that what we did accomplish seems puny indeed.

So, arbitrary or not, it's a good thing for us to have new days and new weeks and new years.

It would be my guess, in fact, that while the fellow who first invented a calendar may have thought he was trying to measure time, what he really was shooting at wasn't that at all. The main reason we all need calendars is to provide us, poor, fallible beings that we are, with the "second chances" we all so desperately need, so often.

So, Nineteen Sixty-One, hurry along! Maybe you won't do any better than Nineteen Sixty has done. Maybe I won't, either. But, at least, we both will have a clean sheet to start with.]

Me, I'll probably have smudges on it, and be trying to erase 'em, by Monday or Tuesday, or the next week at the latest. But it's something to have it clean, even for a little while. Besides, it'll be a long time before it gets as discouragingly smudged as the Nineteen Sixty sheet is.

MISS MARION L. HOAG

Extreme In First-Naming

In SUFFOLK COUNTY NEWS,

It is a reflection of our times and certainly no criticism of anyone, but I wonder what our grandparents would have thought of the First Lady of the United States being called "Jackie," or even Mamie or Eleanor.

This is a development within the last 25 years because I do not remember hearing Mrs. Coolidge called anything but that, nor any of the previous First Ladies. Undoubtedly, they are just as dignified as any of their predecessors, but I can only wonder what they think about it in other countries where, for the most part, so much emphasis is put on formality and pomp. Of course, I suppose, in the South they are so accustomed to names like "Lady Bird" that it does not make them squirm, but I feel

like looking over my shoulder, wondering what the rest of the world thinks about it.

"When you come right down to it, 'Ike' is a pretty undignified appellation for a man in the most influential post in the world, but that was done by headline writers too rushed or lazy to get around 'Eisenhower.'" F. D. R. was not so bad and I hope something can be worked out for Kennedy, but I am afraid that "Jackie" will stick.

(NOTE: No, ma'am, we in the South don't like it, either; we're still much too British to abandon all formality. Of course, if we come to know and feel affection for Mrs. Kennedy, we may call her by her given name, but in that case, it'll be "MISS Jackie." — Editor, The Press.)

THEN AND NOW

Independence Vs. Security

CAROLINA ISRAELITE

There was once a feeling of financial responsibility long before you reached voting age. Today each child needs a quarter of a century to be prepared to earn a living with the equivalent of at least a Master's Degree.

Every ghetto child had to be up and about the business of providing his own share of the family budget. Perhaps it was that attitude that was the making of so many outstanding men. Independence must start early or not at all, and

the latest crop of young people receive security from parents until they are adults, then they go looking for both immediate and permanent security in employment.

In those days you were expected to learn a trade. The great question about the Lower East Side forty years ago was, "Are you learning a trade?" We were all apprenticed to printers, cloak and suiters, cabinet makers, and we learned the trade from the ground up. And if we were apprenticed and learned well, we went into business for ourselves.

And this did not exclude us from the professions. The schools and libraries were open and even while working, the immigrant parents understood America very well. They always said, "In America you can become an anything."

Today you see a successful retailer and he looks insufferably weary. You ask him if his son Norman has come home from Dartmouth yet, and does his daughter Beverly still go to the same ballet master? The poor business man nods an appropriate answer and goes back to his store which he keeps open until 9 p. m. and stands there wondering what the whole thing is all about.

2 THINGS

WE MUST DO

A doctor who was superintendent of the Sunday school class asked one of the boys, "Willie, what must we do before we get to heaven?" "We must die," answered Willie. "True," agreed the doctor, "but what must we do before we die?" Willie: "We must get sick and send for you." — Rockingham Post-Dispatch.