

The Franklin Press
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES

(Subscriptions Payable in Advance)

One Year	\$1.50
Eight Months	1.00
Six Months75
Three Months40
Single Copies	5c

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Entered at the post-office at Franklin, N. C., for transmission through the mails as second-class matter.

Foreign Advertising Representative
THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

THE FRANKLIN PRESS PLATFORM

- Extension of the sewer lines.
- Beautify the school grounds.
- Two hundred summer cottages.
- A sewage disposal plant.
- More official activity in the sale of surplus power.
- The construction of business blocks.
- Plant trees along the State highways of the county.
- Make a white way of Main street.
- An excellent school library.
- Courteous treatment for visitors.
- Improvement of county roads connecting with State highways.
- A fish ladder at the municipal dam.
- Co-operation, vim, push, work-everything for the good of Franklin and Macon county.
- New court house and jail combined.

With the summer season ended the water tanks are filling.

Why should not N. C. State College confer degrees upon a certain number of master farmers in the state?

It will be interesting to learn what the next grand jury will say about a jail and court house.

We presume that the town board has revoked the order which prohibited the chief of police from leaving town.

The schools of Macon are making remarkable progress, but two things are yet needed—an eight-months term and a school supervisor.

Hoover is sadly handicapped because he is not a politician, yet he would make an ideal President.

Just what has the solicitor of this district done about investigating the recent kidnaping case in Franklin? Or is it a part of his duties to investigate crimes in his jurisdiction?

Don't get "all het up" about the canary, but prepare to feed it tons of produce next season. The cannery will take care of itself provided the people will furnish it something to can.

Though no figures are available at present, Franklin High school with more than 300 pupils probably has more students than any other high school in Western North Carolina with the possible exception of Waynesville.

The Nantahala Creamery company is selling approximately 1,000 pounds of butter locally per month and shipping from 12,000 to 14,000 pounds to Asheville each month. Prospects appear bright for a considerable increase in the creamery business here from month to month. Recent prices on butter fat reached 43 cents.

Back up the football team. Boys who will fight as ferociously against great odds as ours did last Saturday deserve the support of every one in the county. Coach Kesler is to be congratulated on the initial game of his team and on the fighting spirit he has instilled into the Franklin boys.

The two hogs on exhibit at the county fair surpass the razorback to a greater extent than modern weapons of warfare surpass those used by the English at the battle of Balaklava. Yet the razorback is still a familiar sight in Macon county, though he is fast disappearing. Let us hope that he will be as extinct as the dodo within a few years.

It takes a little money to support a football team. Due to the fact that there is no enclosed field in Franklin a few dead beats take advantage of the situation to see the games free of charge. In the future an officer should attend the games and see that admission fees are paid or that the dead beats leave the vicinity.

Considering the circumstances the county fair was a huge success. If nothing else was accomplished, the fair showed the people of Macon the possibilities in future exhibitions of this kind. The county agent assures the people that there will be \$1,000 available next year for prizes, etc. Such being the case naturally more interest will be shown by exhibitors. Begin preparations now for displaying your prize articles, live stock, poultry, etc., next fall.

Miss Helen Moses, teacher at Nantahala, has recently received quite a bit of publicity, concerning the excellent attendance record of her pupils. Miss Moses is to be congratulated as are the parents and pupils living in the vicinity of her school. Perhaps there are other schools in Macon with good attendance records. If so, The Press would be glad to hear from the teachers. No doubt there are children in Macon who have not missed a day at school in several years. It would be interesting to know their names.

The law pertaining to roads in the county should be changed to make the county the unit instead of the various townships. Until this is done the feeder roads to the highways in the county will always be in bad condition. With the county as the road unit proper road machinery could be purchased, a full-time road superintendent employed and other necessary steps taken to build, maintain and repair county roads. We are convinced that most of the money the townships now spend on their roads is wasted. This also seems to be the opinion of a considerable number of road trustees in the different townships.

Mr. Moses' Letter

LAST WEEK'S Press carried a letter written by Mr. Ray N. Moses who voiced his opposition to the construction of a court house and jail at the present time. Mr. Moses is one of the county's best citizens and his opinions are not to be taken lightly. Mr. Moses frequently expresses his views on public questions in the columns of The Press and as a general rule his views are sound and constructive. Most certainly he held progressive ideas in August, 1926, when as foreman of the grand jury he signed a report that recommended a new court house and jail. In effect that report stated that the jail was unfit for human habitation and that the clerk and register of deeds did not have sufficient room to conduct properly the business of their offices. In these statements the grand jury's report was correct. Any fair minded man will admit that such is the case. Each grand jury within the past seven years has recommended a new court house and jail, a new jail, or has commented adversely upon these two buildings. The report of the grand jury of which Mr. Moses was foreman was particularly severe in its references to the county jail. On top of all this we now find Mr. Moses "shocked" because the county commissioners have undertaken to carry out his recommendations.

Let us quote from Mr. Moses, letter of last week: "Can it be shown that the county's business is conducted in a poor way, or that the officials are seriously inconvenienced because of the size and arrangement of the present buildings?" And yet the grand jury's report of August, 1926, said that the clerk and register of deeds did not have sufficient room for the proper conduct of the county's business. Just how is the public to reconcile these two statements? The clerk and the register of deeds are in the same old rooms and the rooms have not grown one bit in size and neither has the business of these two offices decreased to any appreciable extent.

Again, Mr. Moses wants to spend a few thousand dollars on the present jail to make it habitable and safe. Money spent on the present jail is money wasted as all fair minded men will admit.

The Court House

AT ITS meeting Monday the board of commissioners decided not to build a court house and jail combined. It was not learned what the commissioners will do toward a jail. To repair the present jail is a waste of money. Neither can it be made to comply with the law governing jails in the state. To build a new jail will require approximately \$100,000, possibly more or perhaps a little less. By building a jail and court house combined a saving of around \$40,000 or \$50,000 can be made on the two structures. However, the

commissioners evidently consider that the people do not want a new court house and jail combined. The present jail can no doubt be made safe in so far as the escape of prisoners is concerned provided reasonable care is exercised in guarding the prisoners. But no jail in the world will hold prisoners unless reasonable precautions are taken for their safety. One thing is certain: No amount of money spent on the present jail will make it sanitary. Therefore, the same old conditions are destined to obtain. Society will continue to throw human beings into a prison comparable to those of the Dark Ages. Such action of course will reflect upon the Christian spirit of the citizens of the county. Spend what money you wish on Macon county's jail and it can never be made a fit place in which to confine men and women. Put a man in that vile place and if he doesn't come out and avowed anarchist we will be surprised. Instead of making him a better man society has sent him on his way to hell. Yet in this fight against a decent court house and jail men have taken no account of the teachings of the lowly Christ, but have let dollars rule their actions. In fact this whole question seems to have resolved itself into a case of souls versus dollars—and the dollars have won.

Others' Comments

GOOD BREEDING IN BUSINESS

A RECENT newspaper article comments upon the "agreeable politeness" of telephone operators, and wonders that the thousands of religious and social organizations in this country do not try to improve people's manners generally.

Probably the editor did not take into account that many religious and social organizations are in a position where they have their own axes to grind, and politeness is not one of them. Their position is secure; they feel safe even from adverse comment. And so, they do not bother to improve either their own or "the people's" manners.

The telephone company, being farsighted, sees the virtue of politeness in promoting good will and improving service. Their girls speak millions of times a day to their customers, and soothe them by modulated musical voices. Telephoning is a pleasure under the American system.

Contrast the telephont operator's voice with the brusque, unpolished utterance one must often endure after a telephone connection has been made. The comparison is odious and obvious.

The newspaper struck nothing new in its comment. But it again called attention to the general competence and good breeding of the present-day efficient business corporations and their employes, from office boy to president. The result is good service and valued public esteem.—Industrial News Bureau.

STOP IT NOW

FOR SOME time floggings by masked bands have been bringing disgrace upon Georgia, Alabama and other states and upon some parts of eastern North Carolina.

Now this ugly thing has raised its hideous head in our own Western North Carolina, where we pride ourselves upon law and order and our all-American citizenship.

Over in Franklin, Tuesday night, a 15-year-old Negro boy was taken from an automobile, at a point of a pistol, by masked men, carried to a point some five miles from Franklin and severely beaten, warned not to tell and to leave Macon county.

The officers of Macon should spare no pains nor expense to bring to justice the masked men who perpetrated this cowardly crime. A thing of this kind grows, and when it gets started there is no telling where it will end. Western North Carolina has no place for masked men who administer corporal punishment.

One report is that the cause of the whipping was certain impudent remarks said to have been made by the Negro boy to white girls on the streets. If this is true, some white man should have taken him, openly, and in daylight upon the public streets of Franklin and administered a sound horse whipping. The white people of this country will tolerate no such conduct.

But the two most cowardly cowards in the United States are the writers of anonymous letters and the men who mask themselves and administer floggings in the night time. When they do such an act they not only whip their victim; but they make a mockery of law, and

throw black stains upon the good name of the county, the section and the state.

The Macon officers should show some of their vigilance in this case. Scotch the thing before it gains headway in Western North Carolina.—Jackson County Journal.

PERTINENT QUESTIONS FOR MACON COUNTY

IN ITS issue of last week The Franklin Press asks the authorities of Macon county and of Franklin why nothing has been accomplished toward the punishment of the men who seized and flogged a Negro boy of Franklin a few weeks ago. Says The Press: "Macon county has been grievously disgraced and the authorities should leave no stone unturned in their efforts to bring the kidnapers to justice."

The Press asks these pertinent questions:

Just why was a deputy sheriff drumming up trade for his taxi and offering to transport four Negroes for a total of 25 cents when the regular charge would have been not less than one dollar? How did the kidnapers know that John Daley would be on a certain street at a certain hour? Why did not the four Negroes in the case see the pistol which the deputy alleges was thrust into his face? Does this case bear any earmarks of collusion between a deputy sheriff and the kidnapers? Why was not John Daley held here as a material witness instead of being allowed to leave town the day after he was whipped? Is it possible that his presence here might have had a tendency of force action? If the Negro really insulted any white girls, isn't it more likely that there would have been a lynching instead of a whipping? Is there any truth in the theory that the victim knew of some disgraceful acts on the part of the kidnapers and that they, consequently, took measures to run him out of town? Has the sheriff dropped the case entirely or is he still investigating? If the latter, what progress is being made in solving this crime? Since the kidnaping took place in the city limits, what are the town authorities doing to apprehend the members of the mob?

For the honor of Macon county, whose people have long enjoyed throughout the state the good name of being upholders of law and order, these questions should be answered.—The Asheville Times.

THE BROTHERHOOD OF THE SOUTHERN STATES

IF GEORGIA is to justify her proud claim as the 'Empire State of the South,' then every state that touches Georgia must be something of an empire itself. A Georgian empire surrounded by a decrepid and backward Alabama, Tennessee, Carolina and Florida would be an empire to no purpose," said Mr. James B. Nevin, editor of the Atlanta Georgian, in an address last week to the "Believers in Jacksonville" Club in Jacksonville, Fla.

"Through mutual goodwill and understanding, through that rationally developed acquaintance which makes for tolerance, peace and appreciation between states, will come a magnificent measure of prosperity and glory to those Southern states. Of the common brotherhood of the Southern group, 'all for one and one for all,' must come the abiding prosperity of this Southland," he continued.

We quote further from Mr. Nevin's admirable address:

"We are not going to lift ourselves by our boot-straps. Whatever good comes to us will be of the things we do to raise the standard of citizenship among our own people, while we seek to attract, through honest advertising of opportunity, new people and new enterprises!

"We want no Chinese wall around these Southern states. I despise the 'professional Southerner' who goes about with a chip on his shoulder and seeks to exploit his people as a clan or a class, snobbishly apart and vastly different from other Americans.

"We have our history and traditions, and grand and glorious they are; and ours has been a land of sorrows, too, bitter and prolonged. From the wreck of a devastating war and through a period of misguided and mean 're-construction' we have passed until today we stand splendidly upon the threshold of our grandest era.

"We have the respect of all of the nation and the real affection of most of it.

"We should be foolish, indeed, if we were not willing to march shoulder to shoulder with our fellow Americans today under our common flag.

New England is viewing the loss of her long-cherished textile supremacy, perhaps with some degree of regret; but even she is wishing us well, as we grow in that regard down here.

"I spent some time in New England in the spring, and I want to tell you that, no matter what may have been the case a good many years ago, Georgia and Florida and all this Southern group have some splendid friends up there nowadays!

"Manufactured products in Georgia last year more than doubled in value Georgia's agricultural products. As our agricultural captains envision a return of \$400,000,000 for this year, our manufacturers are well within speaking distance of \$1,000,000,000!"—Industrial Index.