

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press At Franklin, North Carolina Telephone No. 24

VOL. XLIX Number 12 BLACKBURN W. JOHNSON, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter. SUBSCRIPTION RATES One Year \$1.50 Eight Months \$1.00 Six Months .75 Single Copy .05

A Good Sign for Democracy

IT WAS a fine meeting the Young Democrats of the Eleventh Congressional District held in Bryson City Saturday night. Anyone who witnessed the enthusiasm of the gathering could not help but feel that it augured well for the future of the party.

Both in the district and the state the organization has capable leadership. William J. Coker, Jr., one of the most prominent young lawyers of Western North Carolina, is the district chairman, while the president of the state organization is a young woman of rare ability, Mrs. May F. Evans, of High Point. Both are already well known, but they bid fair to attain positions of even greater prominence and responsibility.

Mrs. Evans sounded the keynote of the meeting when she said the purpose of the Young People's Democratic Clubs is to foster Democratic principles and supply a training ground for good citizenship. She pointed out that the club's chief aim is to promote principles, not individuals, explaining that their constitution prohibits the organization from lending its influence to any particular faction, group or candidate within the party.

The principal address of the evening was delivered by a veteran Democrat, Judge Philip C. Coker, of Asheville, who proudly traced the party's record in North Carolina since Zebulon Vance defeated Judge Thomas Settle, the Republican nominee for governor, in 1876. In reviewing the political history of the commonwealth for this period the speaker also pointed to the great progressive strides the state has made under Democratic leadership. It was an address both enlightening and inspiring. If any of the junior members of the party who heard Judge Coker were Democrats solely by inheritance or unreasoned allegiance, they left that meeting with a clearer understanding of what Democracy really means and imbued with some of the speaker's well founded political convictions.

More Orderliness Needed in Conducting County's Business

PEOPLE with business to transact with the county board of commissioners frequently experience considerable difficulty in doing so because of the haphazard manner in which the meetings are conducted. Usually the commissioners gather for their deliberations in the office of the registrar of deeds; but the initial would usually suspect that a meeting was in progress, for the board's business is transacted with little semblance of order.

One brings a matter to the attention of the board usually has to buttonhole each member separately and corral them in a corner before obtaining their undivided attention. Even then, he is likely to have difficulty in getting the board to take some formal action.

This makes for disorderly, time-wasting, inefficient meetings, which sooner or later are bound to be reflected in the county's business affairs.

Already the board has fallen into the bad practice of "star chamber" meetings. Instead of always conducting their business in an open meeting, where the public can observe, they sometimes go into the vault adjoining the registrar of deeds office to discuss matters before them and formulate their decisions. We hardly think they do this to escape public scrutiny; but, nevertheless, such a practice leaves room for suspicion. Certainly it is a bad precedent.

It would be a simple matter to correct these evils and we hope that our suggestions will be accepted in the spirit in which they are given, one of constructive helpfulness, rather than of personal criticism. The board would be doing justice to itself and the people who elected the commissioners to office by conducting its meetings in accordance with parliamentary law. The chairman should act as a presiding officer and see that business is transacted in an orderly manner so that anyone present might understand what is taking place and so the clerk to the board can record these transactions in a complete and intelligent manner. Anyone with business to bring before the board is entitled to a respectful hearing and he should not be required to hang around the courthouse all day waiting for an opportunity to broach his subject. The board would save itself much valuable time, time which could be well devoted to weightier matters, by entrusting to the assistant county accountant the disposition of such matters as the allowance of bounties on wildcats and crows. One more suggestion, when possible the board should post a notice in advance of special called meetings, setting forth the matters to be taken up, so that anyone interested might attend.

CHEROKEE LORE

By Margaret R. Siler

Article VI

CHIEF RABBIT'S CLASPED SILVER HANDS—RECOLLECTIONS OF MRS. ANNA INGRAM HARRINGTON

MRS. Anna Ingram Harrington, who still lives at her girlhood home, the old Ingram place in the Rabbit creek section of Macon County, tells me that the two small creeks which run through the meadows near her home were named for two Indian chieftains—Chief Rabbit, or Chief Chees-to, and Chief Wild Cat. So the highway signs pointing to Rabbit creek and Cat creek are perpetuating the names of these Indian chiefs of long ago, although few people are aware of the fact.

These Indians lived before Mrs. Harrington's time, but she recalls hearing of the death of Chief Rabbit through "Uncle" Joshua Ammons, a Baptist minister who was an old man when she was a girl.

There evidently was an Indian town in this beautiful little valley surrounded by protecting mountains and fed by the two clear and bold streams when Jacob Siler and William Britton came across the mountains and settled in this section. Arrowheads, broken bits of pottery and other Indian relics used to be so plentiful in this valley that the white settlers paid little attention to them and simply plowed them under when they came across them in tilling their fields. A number of beads and arrowheads are still found near the old Ingram place.

At one time Chief Rabbit must have been the most important of the Cherokee chieftains in this section, for the government, in dealing with the Cherokees about their land carried on their negotiations through him. One of his most prized possessions was a pair of clasped hands, wrought of silver, presented to him by the government in token of the brotherhood of the white and red men.

"Uncle" Joshua Ammons, it is related, saw these silver hands many times, for he was a frequent visitor at the cabin made of huge logs which was the home of Chief Rabbit. The chief held the preacher in high esteem and sent for him when he was dying. The cabin yard was filled with the chief's people, who were crying and lamenting the prospect of losing their beloved leader.

Mr. Ammons sat by Chief Chees-to's side while he was dying. When the old Indian's eyes closed in death, the members of his family and others who were in the room filed out of the door, were joined by those on the outside, and went wailing down to the banks of the creek named for their chief. There they washed their hands and faces in the waters of the stream and they wept no more, for the running waters had carried their grief away.

Then two or three returned to the cabin to prepare their chief for burial, while others left to prepare his grave. One group went into the forest, returning later with slabs of birch bark. These were sewed together with leather thongs to fit the dead man's form.

Buried with Chief Chees-to were his most valued possessions, including the clasped silver hands, his hunting equipment and his beloved dog, which had been killed so he could accompany his master to the "happy hunting ground."

In talking with Mrs. Harrington about Chief Rabbit, I asked:

"If I should tell in my Cherokee articles where the chief was buried, how many people do you think would be there the first night possible digging for the silver hands."

"Well," she replied, "there were too many white people at that funeral for those hands to have remained in the grave for long. There is no telling what became of them."

Others may agree with me that deep underground is the proper place for the silver hands, since the Cherokees have been driven from their homes and the emblem no longer is a sincere token of brotherhood and friendship.

Elias Ammons recalls hearing how his grandfather, Joshua Ammons, taught Chief Rabbit to keep the Sabbath. He bored seven holes in one of the big logs of the Indian's cabin, placing a wooden peg in each hole. The chief was instructed to take out one of the pegs each day and on the day he pulled out the last peg he and his people were not to fish, or hunt or work in their fields. The chief was a good Christian and saw that his tribe scrupulously observed the Sabbath.

Mrs. Harrington recalls little concerning Chief Wild Cat, but it is thought he was Chief Rabbit's successor and was probably the head of the tribe when it was taken away from its beloved valley. Mrs. Harrington remembers her mother speaking of that sad day. The Indians were made drunk before they were led away. A negro girl working in a garden which the Indians passed made an insulting remark. A young brave, his anger heightened by intoxication, jumped the fence and started chasing the girl, who fled to the basement of the nearby house. The Indian picked up an axe and, shouting, "Dam gantny-gay," started for the basement. Mrs. Ingram, realizing the predicament of the negress, called for help and white

men arrived just in time to save the girl's life.

"Gantny-gay" was the name given negroes by the Cherokees and it is thought the word meant "black face."

Mrs. Harrington recalls a few of the Cherokee words and phrases. "Cho-la," she said, was their word for tobacco. When they saw a train approaching or leaving they said, "che-la tuck-a-lay-lah." When they came to tell someone of a death among their people they said mournfully, "Ca-nickity-you, ca-nickity-you. Nog wah, nog wah. A-lew-yah."

Why they repeated the first two words, or phrases, no one seems to know; but I have been told that some of their words had no meaning unless repeated.

(Mrs. Siler's next article will concern the mystery of the Indian mound.)

Public Opinion

P. T. A. DOING FINE WORK AT COLORED SCHOOL

To the Editor:—

Please permit us to say a few words in your valuable paper about the colored school of Franklin and our splendid Parent-Teachers' Association. As principal of this school, I am closing my third term. I found the school greatly in need of many improvements within and without. It is still so, notwithstanding the fact that we have a very active Parent-Teachers' Association.

During my first term we laid plans for a number of helpful and progressive changes, but our plans went awry during the vacation. However, we improved the grounds, planted trees and flowers and made some much needed internal improvements.

During the following term we planned to buy many much-needed supplies for conducting our class work, but a lack of funds on the part of the state and county forced us to make all necessary repairs, within and without, thus consuming most all the money we could raise. But despite this handicap, our P. T. A. forged ahead, purchased a large school bell, put up twelve dollars worth of swings for the primary grades, paid for all janitor service and made many helpful improvements inside. The principal did all the mechanical work free of charge. It was remarkable to see how willingly and courageously all shouldered a responsibility which belonged rather to the state and county. Moreover, a number of patrons came together with their teams and worked on the grounds free of charge. The P. T. A., headed by Mrs. Carrie Stewart, though small, is one of the most faithful to be found in any community. Almost anywhere else its labors would be more highly appreciated, and more generously rewarded.

During the present term, we have wired and equipped the school house with electric lights, paid for all janitor service, and met a large portion of the fuel bill.

While the school stands in great need of almost everything, its greatest need at present is modern desks. We do not have a comfortable desk in the building, and many children in the district have never seen a modern desk! The Parent-Teachers' Association is very anxious to change this deplorable condition, and will do its full share, if the authorities here and at Raleigh will act favorably. May we depend on The Press to say a good word for us?

The present term will close with exercises two nights—March 27 and 29. Should any white friends wish to attend, they are cordially invited to do so. Special seats will be provided for them.

R. B. Watts, Principal, Franklin, N. C. March 20, 1934.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

NATIONAL FOREST TIMBER FOR SALE

Sealed bids will be received by the Regional Forester, U. S. Forest Service, Washington, D. C., up to and including April 20, 1934 for all the live timber marked or designated for cutting and all merchantable dead timber located on two areas embracing together about 185 acres on the headwaters of Turtle Pond Creek and Big Creek, tributaries of the Cullasaja River, Highlands Township, Macon County, Nantahala National Forest, North Carolina, estimated to be 2,500 M board feet of hemlock pulpwood and 1,000 tons of hemlock bark, more or less. No bid of less than \$1.55 per M bd. ft. for the pulpwood and \$1.10 per ton for bark will be considered. \$1,000.00 must be deposited with each bid, to be applied to the purchase price, refunded or retained in part as liquidated damages, according to the conditions of the sale. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved. Before bids are submitted, full information concerning the timber, conditions of the sale, and submission of bids should be obtained from the Forest Supervisor, Franklin, North Carolina. M22-2tc-M29

NOTICE OF SALE

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a deed of trust given by D. Robert Davis and wife, Mary Davis, to the undersigned

LEGAL ADVERTISING

Green & Clover's land; thence East with Clover's land, to the beginning, being the same land described in a deed from S. L. Hill and wife, to J. R. Hare and wife, dated May 30, 1917, recorded in Book A-4, at page 199. Being the FIRST TRACT described in a deed from C. K. Hughes, Trustee, to Guy Weaver, dated 25th day of November, 1925.

This the 15th day of February, 1934.

JOHN B. ANDERSON, Trustee. M1-4tc-DY-M22

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of S. E. Cabe, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of February, 1935, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 19th day of February, 1934. W. H. CABE, Administrator. F22-6tp-M29

EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of S. H. Lyle, deceased, late of Macon County, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 16th day of February, 1935, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 16th day of February, 1934. ELLA T. LYLE, Executor. F22-6tc-M29

NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE

On Monday, the 26th day of March, 1934, at 11 A. M., at the courthouse door, in the Town of Franklin, Macon County, North Carolina, I will sell at public outcry to the highest bidder for cash the following described lands and premises, lying and being in Macon County, being more particularly described as follows:

All the lands described in a deed from T. B. Green to W. H. Roane, dated the 18th day of September, 1929, and recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Macon County, in Book O-4, at page 201, Record of Deeds of Macon County, to which book and page reference is hereby made for a full and complete description of the same by metes and bounds.

Being the same lands conveyed in a deed in trust by W. H. Roane and wife, Minnie Roane, to Gilmer A. Jones, Trustee, for the Bank of Franklin, and W. B. McGuire and C. W. Dowdle; the said deed in trust being recorded in the Office of the Register of Deeds of Macon County in Book 32, at page 277.

The sale made pursuant to the power of sale conferred upon me by the said deed in trust, to which reference is hereby made for all the terms and conditions of the same. This the 26th day of February, 1934.

GILMER A. JONES, Trustee. M1-4tc-J&J-M22

NOTICE OF REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

The Macon County Republicans are hereby called to meet in convention in the Courthouse in Franklin at 1 o'clock P. M. March 31, 1934, for the purpose of electing delegates to the State Convention, and to transact any other business that may properly come before the Convention.

The Precinct conventions are called to meet on March 24th, 1934 for the purpose of sending delegates to the County Convention.

This the 12th day of March, 1934. W. J. WEST, Chairman Macon County Republican Executive Committee. M15-2tc-M22

NOTICE OF SALE

Whereas, power of sale was vested in the undersigned trustee by Deed of Trust from I. V. Ramey to R. S. Jones, Trustee, dated the 9 day of March, 1929, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County, in Book No. 31 of Records of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust, page 182, to secure the payment of a certain indebtedness in said deed of trust set forth; and whereas, default having been made in the payment of said indebtedness:

I will, therefore, by virtue of the power of sale by said deed of trust in me vested, on Friday, the 6th day of April, 1934, at 12 o'clock, sell at the court house door in Franklin, North Carolina, at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, the following described property:

Being all that tract or parcel of land described in a deed from S. P. Brabson to I. V. Ramey, said deed bearing date of 27th day of April, 1927, and registered in the office of Register of Deeds for Macon County in Book O-4, page 106, to which special reference for fuller description is hereby made. Said tract containing 29 acres, more or less.

This 6th day of March, 1934. R. S. JONES, Trustee. M15-4tc-J&J-A5