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New Macon Theatre Ready for Opening

LIONS SPONSOR OPENING SHOW

Performances Sunday To Go To Fund For Aiding Blind

The opening of the new Macon Theatre will be in the hands of the Lions Club, as the sponsor of a benefit performance, on Sunday afternoon and evening, January 28.

At the meeting of the Lions Monday evening, Garland Tomlin, of the Rabun Amusement company, lessee of the theatre, proffered the use of the building on Sunday, the day before their opening picture, to the Lions to raise funds for aiding the blind and those with poor vision. Cooperating with the state commission for the blind, all Lions Clubs have adopted this cause as a special objective.

With the permission of the town board, the Lions are taking advantage of this opportunity to raise funds for immediate needs in Macon county; chiefly for glasses for school children unable to do their work, whose names are already in the lists of the welfare department. The management of the theatre makes clear that it is not their intention now, or in the future, to open the theatre on Sundays for commercial showing of films. The use by the Lions of the new theatre marks their desire to extend the use of their fine building for community benefit whenever possible. The auditorium is available during morning hours and other times not in use, for civic or benefit gatherings.

The feature that has been secured on this short notice is new—by that droll favorite of the radio—Charley McCarthy, entitled "Charley McCarthy, Detective"; of course supported by Bergen and others. News reels, a musical feature, and a Walt Disney Technicolor cartoon will complete the program. The hours for showing will be 2 p. m., 8:45 p. m. and 10 p. m. The hours have been arranged so that they will not conflict with any church services.

Snow Caused Local Schools To Close

After being retarded one week in reopening schools after the Christmas holidays, it seems that four days will be lost again this week due to heavy snow. Although it is just as hard to make a correct prediction in this matter as it is to predict the future weather conditions, it seems that it will be Monday before schools in Franklin will reopen.

Patrons who live in the town or near the school are sometimes unable to understand why school does not open sooner after it snows. The high school is made up of students who live over a wide area. Most of these high school students are transported by buses from rural areas. Many of the bus routes are covered by snow and ice after all streets and important highways are safe. Due to the danger of accidents by the rural buses, all bus drivers have been instructed to wait until their routes are free from snow and ice.

Although school is getting somewhat behind its schedule, no Saturday school is planned. Since there are only eight months of school, school can finish its schedule without work on Saturday by a very reasonable date in May. As a matter of fact, the North Carolina school machinery act prohibits school on Saturday unless a state of emergency is declared by the local school committee.

More Contributions For Finnish Relief

Two contributions have been received for the Finnish relief fund. L. H. Page left \$2.00 at The Press office and James L. Averell came around with \$1.00. It is understood that other contributions have been made and sent in direct.

Miss Hester Conley Dies In State Hospital

News was received here Monday morning of the death of Miss Hester Conley, daughter of W. L. Conley and the late Mrs. Conley, which occurred in the State hospital in Morganton on Sunday afternoon, where she has been a patient for several years.

Miss Conley is survived by her father, one sister and three brothers.

Macon Theatre

In Hands Of Experienced Personnel

The new Macon Theatre will be in the hands of an experienced personnel, which promises efficient management.

The lessees of the building are Garland Tomlin and L. J. Duncan, forming the firm under the name of the Rabun Amusement company. Garland Tomlin is well known in Franklin, having married Miss



GARLAND TOMLIN

Margaret Ingram, daughter of the late Sheriff Ingram and Mrs. Ingram. Born in Demorest, Ga., Mr. Tomlin has lived for many years in Clayton, where for eight years he was local manager of the Georgia Power company. For five years he has been in the motion picture business associated with Mr. Duncan of West Point, Ga., owner of a number of chain theatres. The firm operates the Rabun Theatre in Clayton, Ga.

Clyde Gailey, the popular local manager, and Mrs. Gailey, have made a place for themselves in the community. Mr. Gailey has proven his ability to successfully carry on the growing business.

Howard Duncan, son of L. I. Duncan, is now assistant manager. Mr. and Mrs. Duncan came to Franklin from West Point, Ga., about five months ago.

Hoyt Ledford has been the efficient operator for a decade, almost since the beginning of movies in Franklin.

Miss Johnnie Nix holds the position of box office cashier.

A high standard of pictures has been sustained by this management, which books a large proportion of new and first class productions.

No Basketball At High School This Year

Although the high school faculty includes very capable basketball coaches for both boys and girls, there will not be any basketball at the school this year due to the fact that there is no gymnasium. The destruction by fire of the high school gym last November shattered the hopes of the student body, the local fans and the boys and girls who would have been on the teams. They had hoped for a successful season because there are a number of boys and girls in school who have had good experience during past years.

Although the high school auditorium had been used for basketball last year, the county board of education, who has final responsibility of all school property in the county, deemed it unwise to use it for that purpose any more. A regulation to prohibit its use for athletics was passed by the board. It was pointed out that the auditorium is already used to over capacity because of all the other regular school activities. In addition to other objections, the use of the auditorium for basketball would require the daily removal of chairs and other school equipment. This, it was feared, would cause a great damage to school property which could not be afforded.

The student body has shown a very commendable attitude toward the school this year. Among other things, every home room in the high school building, has participated in raising funds which have played a part in getting all rooms in the building painted. As a reward for this excellent school spirit among the student body, it is hoped that a new and better school gym will soon replace the one that was burned. Plans for this new building are now under way.

The New Macon Theatre



Architect's Drawing Showing the Front of the Beautiful New Playhouse Which Will Open Sunday Afternoon

HOUSE MODERN IN EVERY WAY

Has Seating Capacity Of 575 — Erected By W. C. Burrell

Franklin's new Macon Theatre, a playhouse that would do credit to any city, will open its doors to the public for the first time next Sunday afternoon. The management has donated the new building for the use of the Lions Club at this time. A committee of Lions will have charge of three benefit performances in the afternoon and evening.

The Monday matinee and evening picture will be a premiere showing of "The Shop Around the Corner", a Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer production, starring James Stewart, who is fresh from his triumph in "Mr. Smith Goes to Washington"; Margaret Sullivan and Frank Morgan. The theatre was fortunate to secure "The Shop Around the Corner", one of the latest film releases, and rated by critics as "splendid", and "one film that belongs on everybody's 'must see' list."

Work on the building has been carried on day and night since Christmas except when the temperature was too low, and now last minute touches are being made so that the building may be in readiness—although not entirely finished in some details—to accommodate the first performance on schedule time.

Modern Structure

The new theatre, with a seating capacity of 575, representing an investment of approximately \$35,000, has been erected by W. C. Burrell, and leased by the Rabun Amusement company, which has operated the Macon Theatre in its present location for the past three years. The company is owned by Garland Tomlin of Clayton, Ga., and Franklin, and L. J. Duncan of West Point, Ga. Other theatres operated by them are located in Clayton and West Point. Clyde Gailey is the local manager in charge of the theatre.

Modern in every detail, with furnishings and equipment of the latest design and comfort, this beautiful building was planned and decorated by Norman F. Stambaugh, architect, of Atlanta, Ga. The building is constructed of tile and brick on reinforced steel, the interior decorated in striking coloring in modernistic design. The walls are built of insulating material that also assures good acoustics. The installation of the sound projection equipment is of the latest and most improved quality. Electric equipment and fixtures are also of the latest design in modern lighting systems, including spot lights of different colors controlled from the projection room. No expense has been spared to furnish the best technical equipment for perfect showing of films.

The building is equipped with a modern heating system of the blower type, and air conditioned. The seats are the best obtainable for luxurious comfort, in the latest design, upholstered in velour. The stage is built to provide for stage shows, with footlights, scenery tracks and lighting effects. The series of curtains of velvet

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BLIND GUESTS TALK TO LIONS

James Penland And Judge Sam Cathey Tell Of Work For Blind

On Monday, January 22, the Franklin Lions Club crowded into Cagle's Cafe and after dinner heard two blind guests tell about eye sight conservation and progress being made to alleviate the problem in the state.

The guests were Lion Jim Penland, of Hayesville, president of the Hayesville and Robbinsville Telephone company, who introduced Judge Sam Cathey, of the Asheville city police court and president of the North Carolina State Blind commission. Both men are blind.

Judge Cathey told some surprising facts about North Carolina: That it was one of the last states in the union to form a state blind commission, but good progress has been made in the last 10 years. A census of the blind shows there are over 2,000 in the state, and 90,000 people need glasses to correct defective eyesight. One-third of these are financially unable to buy the glasses and it is people such as these that the Lions Clubs throughout the state have been helping.

He also mentioned that North Carolina is attempting to pass a law to prevent the sale of fireworks to children, for the commission has found that over one-fourth of the blindness in the state has been from this cause.

In order to raise money for the Franklin Lions club to go forward with their sight conservation and other programs, several auto plate signs saying "Franklin, 1940" were distributed to each member to be sold for \$1 each to Franklin citizens. Any one wanting a Franklin plate is urged to contact Joe Dowdle or any Lion with his quota of plates unsold.

Elmer Crawford, junior case worker for the state welfare department, was welcomed as a new member.

Polio Fund

Entertainments Will Be Given In County

Several entertainments are scheduled within the next few days in Franklin and Highlands for the benefit of the Infantile Paralysis Foundation.

Lester L. Arnold, chairman for Macon county, announces that a square dance will be given in the agricultural building in Franklin Saturday night, and Miss Lassie Kelly, chairman for Franklin, states that she plans to give a bunco party on Tuesday night, January 30. Both of these entertainments, of course, are contingent upon weather conditions.

Jack Potts, chairman for Highlands, states that there will be a dance at Helen's Barn Saturday night, and that a movie, "Indianapolis Speedway," will be shown at the Highlands School Theatre on Tuesday, January 30, for the benefit of the fund. A combination keno and bridge party is also planned, the date to be announced later.

Mr. Potts has interested the student council at the Highlands school in the sale of "Fight Infantile Paralysis" buttons.

Infantile Paralysis Sunday will be observed in the Highlands churches to aid the campaign.

The inclement weather has greatly hampered the drive this year, but it is hoped that enough funds may be obtained to equal last year's record.

Bookmobile Project Is Sponsored By WPA

In the schedule of the bookmobile which appeared in The Press last week we failed to state that this splendid project was sponsored by WPA, and since the omission has been called to our attention, we gladly make the correction.

NO GIRL SCOUT MEETING

There will be no meeting of the Girl Scouts until after school opens, it has been announced by Mrs. Charles Melichar, director of the local troop.

As The World Turns

A Brief Survey of Current Events In State, Nation and Abroad.

BRITAIN CHARGES NAZI TRAFFIC FROM U. S.

Britain has rejected U. S. protests against interference with the mails by disclosing evidence of "organized traffic in contraband on a considerable scale" between Nazi sympathizers in the U. S. and Germany.

FINNS STILL KEEP BACK SOVIETS

The Finns continue to inflict heavy losses on repulsed Red Army units trying to break through to the relief of marooned Soviet divisions on flank of Manneheim line. Red bombers swarm over Fin-

land, bombing and machine-gunning small towns.

SEA WARFARE

An unusual number of ships of both neutrals and belligerents are reported sunk with heavy loss of life during the past week.

A NEW COLD WAVE

A new cold wave is reported moving over a cold-weary nation, still in the grip of the heaviest snow for some years. Tuesday's snow fall in this section was seven inches followed by more zero temperatures.

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BANK REPORTS BUSINESS GAIN

Dividend Of 12 Per Cent Declared; Surplus Increased

At the annual meeting recently held by the stockholders of the Bank of Franklin, all directors were reelected, and at a meeting of directors held Wednesday of last week the officers were also reelected for another year.

The officers and directors are as follows:

W. A. Rogers, president; M. D. Billings, vice-president; H. W. Cabe, cashier; L. B. Limer, assistant cashier.

Directors—C. F. Moody, chairman; M. L. Dowdle, H. W. Cabe, W. A. Rogers, M. D. Billings, Grover Jamison, R. S. Jones.

The bank's business during 1939 was exceptionally good, and the report made by H. W. Cabe, cashier, to the stockholders showed the bank to be in splendid condition.

The deposits at the end of 1939 totaled \$290,000 as against \$248,000 in 1938, an increase of \$42,000.

Total resources at the close of business December 30, 1939, were \$364,000, compared with \$323,000 in 1938, showing a gain of \$41,000.

Loans to customers increased from \$79,000 in 1938 to \$114,000 in 1939.

The bank earned during 1939 22 per cent on the common stock, and a cash dividend of 12 per cent was declared, the remainder being passed to surplus.

When the bank was reorganized during the depression it was necessary to issue \$20,000 in preferred stock which was taken by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation in exchange for funds advanced, and with the provision that it was to be retired as business justified. The last of this preferred stock was retired during 1939, and the surplus was increased from \$20,500 to \$35,000.

The statement published by the bank as of December 30, 1939, shows the institution to be in splendid condition, and the statement compares favorably with the reports made by other banks throughout the state.

Macon People Attend Lord's Acre Anniversary

Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Flanagan, Mrs. Henry Slagle, Rev. R. F. Mayberry, and Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson attended the 10th anniversary of the Lord's Acre movement celebrated last Saturday by a meeting held in the First Baptist church in Asheville. Rural church members and pastors from the counties where the Farmers Federation has sponsored this work attended.

The Rev. Dumont Clarke, who directs the religious department of the Federation, presided at the meeting, which was addressed by President Hoyt Blackwell, of Mars Hill Junior college and James G. K. McClure, president of the Farmers Federation. Many reports of churches that have successfully followed the Lord's Acre plan were made to the gathering.

First Semester Honor Roll, Franklin School

Following is the honor roll of Franklin school for the first semester:

Second grade—Betty Jean Wilhide, Edith Plemmons, Curley Gene Walker.

Third grade—Betty Williams, Mary Alice Archer, Berger Hall, Grady Green, Charles Baldwin, Carol Gene Moore, Elizabeth Anne Phillips, Marie Jennings, Janet Cochran.

Fourth grade—Howard Horsley.

Fifth grade—Mack Duncan, Virginia Lee Porter, Ruth Moore.

Sixth grade—Frances Furr, Anne Flanagan, Shirley Welch, Carolyn Long, Wilma Roberts.

Eighth grade—Vic Perry, Charles Fulton, Sol Sanders, Nat Macon, Mary Frances Page, Barbara Stockton, Clell Bryant.

Ninth grade—Elsie Brendell, Virginia Bryant, Emogene Landrum.

Tenth grade—John Wasilik.

Eleventh grade—Oscar Ledford, Otela Bryson, Henry Cabe.

Post graduates—Edith Cabe, Edith Reeves, Mildred Roper, Zeb Meadows.