

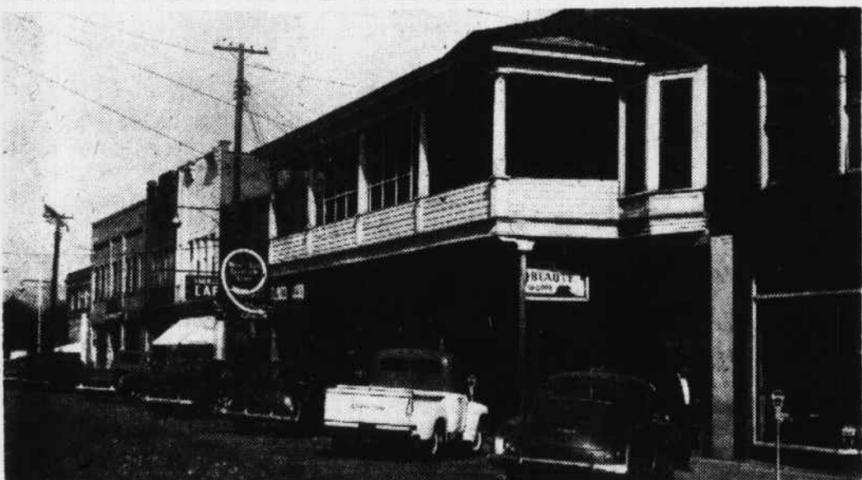
These Franklin Landmarks Still Stand . . .



Franklin's Indian mound has been noted for more than a century. And always it has been a subject of speculation. What was its origin? Even today, nobody is sure.



This is "the house at the foot of the hill", the oldest home standing in Franklin. When Jesse R. Siler, who came here about 1820, built his house, he incorporated into it an Indian log cabin. Those logs still are within the walls of the old house. It has been enlarged and remodeled many times, but always it has been owned and occupied by Jesse Siler descendants. It is now the home of his granddaughter, Mrs. George A. Jones, and her son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Jones.



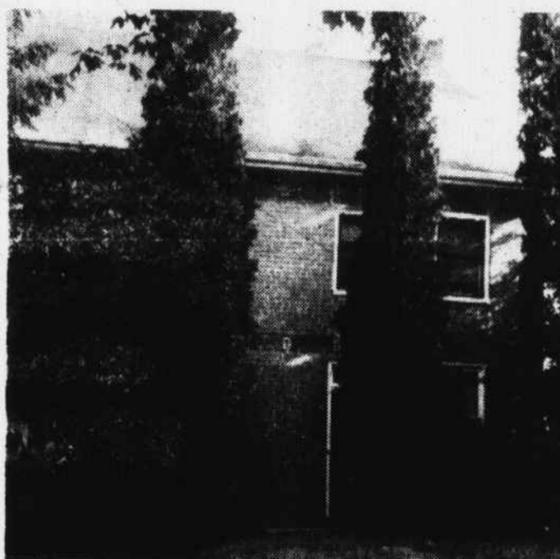
This is the old Jarrett Hotel. Though it no longer is used as a hostelry, the second floor porch remains.



Everybody who's ever been in Franklin remembers this old home, "Dixie Hall", situated just west of the courthouse. There is no doubt about its age, because the figures "1860" appear on the old gutter. It first was the home of Julius Siler, then of his daughter and son-in-law, Lt. Gov. and Mrs. James Robinson. Their granddaughter, Miss Hope Daniels, of New York and Franklin, is the present owner.



This was the first brick business building — probably the first brick building of any kind — in Franklin. The bricks were burned on the ground, and it is said were made by slave labor. Here was the post office in the early days, and it is said the stamps were "made" on the second floor. Now the Munday building, it formerly was known as the McCoy store. Like all stores of that period, it was in the yard of the owner's house, below.



The Munday home, on West Main street, is one of the oldest buildings in Franklin. Its exact age, though, is not known. It has been owned by the McCoy and Nimrod Jarrett families, and later by Mr. Jarrett's grandson, S. A. Munday, whose daughters own it now.



The Macon County courthouse, at the center of Franklin, is three-fourths as old as the town. In its entire history, this county has had only two courthouses. The present structure was completed in 1880. Today it looks much as it did then. Inside, twin sets of stairs still wind from the first to the second floor. The building's old walls, in their 75 years, have heard a lot of courtroom oratory, witnessed a lot of heart-break . . .

Franklin Ready For 100th Birthday Party June 16, 17, 18

THEY'S goin' to be big doin's in Franklin. A plumb shindig, that'll last three whole days. Franklin's a hundred years old, and it'll be a birthday party for the ole countyseat of Macon. The folks'll start celebratin' 'long about sunup on Thursday, June 16, and it'll be long after sundown on Saturday, June 18, before they quit. The party's not just for home folks. Company's invited, too — the latchstring already's out. And when visitors get here, Franklin folks'll be shoutin' at 'em — just like their great-granddaddies did, when somebody rode up to the hitchin' post, a hundred years ago: "Light, stranger, and come in!"

The Franklin Centennial program will be purely in digenous.

In order to preserve the flavor of this thriving little mountain town, and in an attempt to reflect the spirit of the proud, independent, courageous men and women who first settled this county, outside, professional direction was vetoed when plans for the celebration first began to take shape. There'll be no high-pressure promotions, no gaudy carnivals and honky-tonk midway lights, no Hollywood-like extravaganzas. Instead, it'll be a program of, by, and for the people of Franklin and Macon County. If it's a bit homespun, say members of the Centennial committee, so much the better — that'll be in the spirit of 1855.

Some of the events may be more or less spontaneous; but that, too, is in keeping with the traditions of this community; because Franklin has never gone in for formality or set programs.

Highlights, of course, are definitely programmed. Among them:

Dedication of Franklin's new town hall by North Carolina's Governor Luther H. Hodges, Thursday afternoon.

Earlier on the opening day, the "Miss Centennial" parade of some 30 young women. Governor Hodges has been asked to select the event's "Miss" from the group, and crown her.

The Parade of Progress Friday afternoon. Saturday will be "home-coming day" for former Franklin residents, with the day's events climaxed by a free barbecue in the late afternoon and the crowning of the king and queen of the Centennial — they must be 50 years of age or older — at a dance Saturday night.

And each of the three evenings there'll be a free square dance.

Interspersed between the main events will be a variety of entertainment, including many contests reminiscent of the Franklin of the past century.

Among the contests will be those for the best beards, sideburns, goatees, and mustaches; for the best dresses and bonnets of the period; for the prettiest "belle" and the ugliest "brushy brother"; for the baldest man, for the fattest man, and the woman with the largest "brood".

And there'll be those old arts and skills, like old-timey hymn singing at the courthouse, spelling bees, log rolling, wood chopping, churning, corn shucking, bean stringing, and milking. And mountain sports like mule races, log dragging, muzzle loading shooting matches, and pie eating.

String bands and mountain entertainers, ranging from banjo pickers to jug blowers, will appear at intervals during the three days for short programs.

And between dances, at the nightly free square dances on the Public Square, buck dancers from 8 to 80 or 90 will perform.

The opening day, Thursday, will be "Governor's Day". Governor Hodges' busy program includes the crowning of "Miss Centennial" in the morning and the dedication of Franklin's new \$51,000 city building at the intersection of West Main and US 23-441 in the afternoon.

A Centennial plaque also is to be presented the town.

Another feature of "Governor's Day" will be the burial of a time capsule at the city building.

In Friday afternoon's Parade of Progress there are expected to be more than 40 home-made floats, each carrying out the theme of 100 years of progress.

Following the barbecue late Saturday afternoon, the third free dance will be staged on the square, while another is under way at the Franklin Feed Mill.

At the latter, the "King and Queen of Centennial" are to be announced and crowned to reign over festivities of the evening. King and queen nominees, restricted to those over 50 years, are being chosen in a penny-a-vote contest.

Sunday has been proclaimed "Freedom of Religion" day by the Centennial committee. Ministers throughout the county are being asked to emphasize religious freedom in their sermons.