

Now for the next hundred years!

But before we start that, please, time for a deep breath!

Talk about working together: Even the weather was cooperative.

Well, we "lived through it", but the be-bonneted and the be-bearded literally "never will look the same".

Progress picture of the week: Town officials, along with employes, after a hard day's work, out between midnight and 2 a. m. scrubbing the streets.

## Our Centennial

Well, it was Franklin's birthday, but it was all Macon County's party — and what a party it was!

It was everybody's celebration, and everybody helped make it the outstanding success it was. From the lowliest citizen at the head of the farthest Macon County creek to the governor of the state, from the tiniest baby in the parade to Franklin's five nonagenarians (what memories they must have had as they paraded, heads held high, to the cheers of a thrilled crowd!), there was perfect cooperation.

And so this piece will list no particular individuals as due the credit. Not that there aren't names that should be singled out for praise; the trouble is there are so many who did so much, a complete list would have no end. A few persons, of course, had to carry most of the responsibility and do more than their share of the work, but they would be the first to say that all their planning, all their efforts, would have been valueless without the ready cooperation and the enthusiastic interest of people throughout this county.

As the chairman of one important feature of the observance put it, when he was congratulated on its success: "Don't congratulate me; congratulate the people of Macon County—they did it."

Three full days, with Franklin crowded as it has never been crowded before — thousands of people here for three full days, with never a fight, never an accident, never even the semblance of disorder.

What a commentary that is on the character and the high standards of citizenship of Macon County people!

The celebration not only was what one tourist called it, "a good show"; it demonstrated a lot of things.

Among others, it proved, once again, that people here are quick to recognize ability and worth, regardless of other things; and that this community has a remarkable facility in absorbing new blood and new ideas, and making them its own.

Because it so happens that the co-chairmen of the event — the men who got such marvelous cooperation from the people of the entire county — are both relative newcomers here. Yet no fifth generation descendant of the pioneer settlers could have been more insistent than these two that the celebration should be genuine, should reflect the real traditions and flavor of this tradition-respecting and flavorsome place.

Perhaps the parade was no better than other features; perhaps it came in for such lavish praise because it was the most spectacular feature. However that may be, persons who had seen mammoth parades, costing tens of thousands of dollars, in great cities remarked that this one was as fine as any they had ever seen. It was so fine because it was in such perfect keeping with the spirit of the occasion, because it so truthfully portrayed the history of a century in this particular spot.

That parade, incidentally, quite possibly was the last link between a Franklin and a Macon County long afflicted with an inferiority complex and the confident, wholesome, happy Franklin and Macon County of the future. Because people here proved to the world, and to themselves, that, with no outside aid, they have the originality, the ingenuity, and the willingness to take painstaking care that make it possible for them to do a really superb job, whatever they set their hands to.

## A Good Neighbor

One of those who would have delighted most in the Centennial celebration lacked a few days of living to see it. Though he was not a native, Rufus Coleman Green was the very embodiment of some of the finest traditions, some of the distinctive traits of Macon County people.

Born in the Green's Creek community, in Jackson County, he spent most of his life here. Self-taught, he became a fine craftsman in wood and an expert machinist, one who was satisfied with nothing short of excellence. He was something of a pioneer, too, in experimenting with new gadgets and methods, adding to the skill of his hands the aid of whatever was best and latest in equipment.

Another side of his nature was not so well known, perhaps, because of his retiring nature. It was illustrated, a good many years ago, when he learned a competitive shop was about to open here. Immediately he called on his competitor to offer aid in setting up the new shop.

"And", recalled the competitor the other day, "he always was ready to help, anybody, at any time" — a true good neighbor.

## Letters

### A HAND FOR MR. BRADY

Editor, The Press:

I think the people of Macon County should be proud of and take their hats off to J. P. Brady and Holland McSwain for being head and putting over one of the best events Franklin has ever had, the Centennial celebration. It was a great success.

While a lot of people are due credit, all agree that Mr. Brady was on the job, all the time, everywhere. Let's give him a hand.

PRELO DRYMAN

### SAYS MASON'S DON'T OWN IT

Dear Weimar:

Seeing that the Masons are planning to tear down the old hall reminds me of the story I am going to tell you:—

It seems the Masons do not own the Masonic Temple. Many years ago, Jule Robinson and I tried to buy the building from the Masons. We were part of the group which started the Franklin Library and kept it going for many years. Uncle John Cunningham, who will still be remembered by many of our older Franklin residents, told us that the land had been donated by Captain Addington. The building was put up by an organization called "Sons of ..." (I cannot remember the rest of the name, but Uncle John was the last survivor of that group). He said that the lower floor was to be used as a schoolroom, and the upper for the Masonic Temple. According to the terms of the gift of the land, if at any time the building was abandoned for school purposes, it was to revert to the Addington heirs.

With that information, Uncle John urged us to see if we could buy it for the Library while he was still alive to vouch for this story. We approached prominent members of the lodge, but they were not willing to turn loose of something, even though they did not own it.

I can understand people not wanting to see the old building torn down, and I have always wanted the library to own it. I feel that now is the time for the Masons to get out and go build their own. I can swear to the truth of what I am writing.

Very truly,  
KATE R. HOBART

San Diego, Calif.,  
June 12, 1955.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The name of the organization to which Mrs. Hobart refers was "Sons of Temperance".)

### OTHERS' OPINIONS

## About Our Centennial

### HEART OF AMERICA

(Asheville Times, June 15)

THE THREE-DAY celebration of the centennial of Franklin, countyseat of Macon County, starts tomorrow. In that excited community this is a stupendous event packed with thrills and historical significance, pride and love for a noble past, fond hopes and courageous plans for a brighter future. All of North Carolina, and particularly this great mountain region, has a deep interest in this gala birthday party.

The entire program for this great shindig is typical of the town of Franklin and the independent folks thereof. This affair is strictly of and by the people of the community. They're putting on the whole show themselves. They wouldn't consider professional direction, high pressure promotions, gaudy carnival stuff or a honky-tonk midway. If it's a bit homespun, says the Centennial committee, so much the better—that'll be the Franklin spirit of 1855.

The Franklin Press, edited by Weimar Jones, has published an elaborate "Franklin Centennial Edition" which is not only a magnificent program and promotion for the celebration but an attractive and comprehensive history of the Franklin community from its earliest days until now.

Everybody, everywhere, of course, is invited to this celebration. Read a portion of the official invitation which takes up a full page of The Franklin Press:

"An invitation . . .  
"Perhaps there is no better way for us to phrase this invitation than to revert to the picturesque Elizabethan English once common here in the mountains.  
"In that sturdy mountain speech of the long ago, then—

"This here's yore invite to our Franklin Centennial Celebration, June 16, 17, 18.

"We'd shore be proud to have ye.

"Hit'll start soon in the mornin' on Thursday, so aim to git here the day before. And they hain't no tellin' when it'll wind up Saturday night, so don't be in no hurry to git back home.

"Fact is, when you get here, we hope you'll set a spell. Stay all summer, why don't you?

"So . . .

"You'uns come, and bring the young'uns—and if you can't come, write—

"Franklin Chamber of Commerce, Franklin, N. C."

This century-old town, by the way, now has a population of 2,550. In 1920 the population was 773, in 1890 it was 281. It's a growing place these days. Governor Hodges will dedicate Franklin's new town hall tomorrow.

One of the grandest things about Franklin is that it has a community flavor, spirit and character all its own. Editor Jones has put it in these words in his Centennial Edition editorial:

" . . . of all the things bequeathed to us by the old Franklin, the most important were intangible—a sense of honesty and of honor, the courage to face and overcome obstacles, and thirst for knowledge and respect for the free mind. From the very first, parents here have sent their sons and daughters to college. And always there have been among us those who questioned, those who refused to accept a thing just because somebody said it was true.

"In travall, yesterday gave birth to today. And today is the parent of tomorrow.

"The first of these truths inspires gratitude.

"The second carries with it responsibility."

Hello, free America, come over and get acquainted with a magnificent little mountain town chip off the most independent and courageous portion of the old block. Where is the real heart and spirit and glory of the true America today?

It can be found in a lot of places all over the land. But for the next three days, at least, there's no more promising spot to look for it than in Franklin, N. C.

### FAITHFUL TO SPIRIT

(Asheville Citizen, June 18)

" . . . of all the things bequeathed to us by the old Franklin, the most important were intangible—a sense of honesty and of honor, the courage to face and overcome obstacles, and thirst for knowledge and respect for the free mind. From the very first, parents here have sent their sons and daughters to college. And always there have been among us those who questioned, those who refused to accept a thing just because somebody said it was true."  
—Editorial, in centennial edition, The Franklin Press.

Today is the first of the three days of the celebration Franklin, countyseat of Macon County, is holding as that thriving town's centennial. Those who have observed some of the preparations will tell you that it is not to be just another municipal anniversary occasion. And those who have read even casually the centennial edition of The Franklin Press will support the verdict that not often, indeed rarely, have a community and its newspaper so well succeeded in transmitting to the outward and visible program the inner spirit and tradition of that which they celebrate.

They are celebrating in Franklin those things which The Press's editor, Weimar Jones, so aptly expresses in the words quoted at the top of this article. They are remembering, and they are also depicting in numerous artistic ways, the life, the environment but above all the character and sagacious courage of the pioneer settlers of Franklin 100 years ago.

With materials for the centennial close around them, and particularly with a community whose people are still in large measure homogeneous, old and new families of the town and county admirably planned and brought forth a centennial faithful to the pioneer independence, to the spirit of do it yourself or with the help of the neighbors.

The centennial reveals no highpower promotion, no up-to-the minute advertising slogans—even the advertisements in The Press are as carefully written as the text of that newspaper's history of Franklin past and present. In pictures and general typography, the centennial edition is marked by a high order of excellence.

The centennial celebration is worthy of big attendance from all the other Western North Carolina communities.

### CONGRATULATIONS FROM HAYWOOD

(Waynesville Mountaineer, June 13)

Our neighboring county seat of Franklin, just across the Cowee Mountain, is all set for a colorful and exciting observance of their centennial on Thursday to Saturday of this week.

The program as published in the current issue of The Franklin Press gives promise of being full of interest from beginning to end. There will be parades, a centennial king and queen, together with the Brushy Brothers and Belles of the Bustle. We have seen a few of the men with their beards and hats which were the vogue 100 years ago, and this much must be said of the citizens of Franklin, they are going all the way in the matter of making the occasion authentic.

Governor Hodges will be the speaker in Thursday afternoon, with festivities every night and activities throughout all three days.

The program should induce hundreds of former Franklinians back home for the three days, in addition to drawing scores of nearby neighbors.

The history of Franklin is extremely interesting, and from recent activities in the business and civic life of the town, the future is extremely bright.

From Haywood goes warm congratulations on this important occasion, and best wishes for many, many successful years of progressive growth and prosperity.

## News Making As It Looks To A Maconite

By BOB SLOAN

The Centennial, to sum it up, surpasses everyone's expectations, I think. The town of Franklin owes the people of Macon County a great big vote of thanks for a wonderful celebration.

Individuals who worked long, hard and unselfishly to get the big job done are too numerous to mention.

It may seem a little out of place, but, be that as it may, I would like to single out one person who I think made the Centennial possible — John Brady. When any phase of the program began to lag, he moved in and got things rolling again.

Early in the planning of this program, an individual, representing a company that makes a business of staging programs similar to the one we had, offered to stage our Centennial for a fee of \$5000. In discussing the matter with Mr. Brady, the company representative said that we could not put on the celebration without some professional aid, that unless some company was hired to do the job, the show would be a flop. Brady, with something of a defiant attitude, told the man he could and would.

Nothing would ever give me more pleasure than to have had that man spend last Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday here. He would not have gone to the barbecue; he would be too full from eating crow. Without belittling the work done by many, many others, I think that we all owe John Brady a big round of applause — Bud, my hat's off to you.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who took part or watched the parade. It was the finest cooperation I have ever seen. Many, many people have spoken of the orderly manner of the crowds who viewed the parade. I have told them it was just our "Macon County manners."

Again, thanks to all the wonderful people who worked so hard to make the parade possible.

## Do You Remember?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

Mrs. J. B. Hardman, of Harmony Grove, Ga., arrived Monday evening to spend a few weeks with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Trotter.

Mrs. James S. Coleman and Miss Sarah Coleman, of Asheville, are here to attend the Elias-Jones wedding, and to visit relatives a few days.

E. D. Franks has resigned as carrier of R. F. D. No. 1, route, and R. M. Ledford has been appointed to succeed him. Mr. Ledford entered upon his duties Friday last.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Miss Emily Burnside, of Troy, S. C., has accepted a position as stenographer to Mr. Frank Cook.—Highlands item.

Mr. Geronimo Ray, brother of J. Frank Ray, Jr., is visiting relatives in Franklin and expects to be here for several weeks. This is Mr. Ray's first visit to Macon County in 11 years. He has been employed in the State of Washington.

Another name for the Franklin Terrace is Honeymoon Hill. Three brides and grooms are spending their honeymoons at this popular resort hotel.

### 10 YEARS AGO

Miss Joan Wickenden, of Chichester, England, and S/Sgt. Rafe B. Teague, of Prentiss, Macon County, were married at St. Bartholomews in Chichester on March 19.

Mrs. Eva Mae Porter, of Washington, D. C., has been spending several days with her sister, Mrs. Carl Cabe, and Mr. Cabe, and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. St. Clair Anderson, before going to Berkeley, Calif., where she will enter the University of California.

Dr. and Mrs. Clark Foreman and children are here for the season and have opened the Foreman summer home in Lindenwood Park.—Highlands item.



Sloan