

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

ADVERTISING RATES

Very reasonable, and will be made known upon request.

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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.

How About It?

Plant not the cannery, but stuff for the cannery.

Grow truck for the cannery and watch the cannery grow.

The state health officers will be around again pretty soon. Then some of those who voted against bonds for sewer purposes will

of hundred dollars each for septic tanks. However, 'twas ever thus from childhood's happiest hours.

Prices offered by the cannery are too low say the lazy ones who want to go out and spit on an acre of ground and reap a flock of gold nuggets. The price offered will bring the growers anywhere from two to six times as much as for their labor as they have been getting. The cannery is no mint but it will help those who are willing to help themselves.

There are still quite a few here and yonder in Macon county who belittle "book farming". It might help such men to read on the farm page in this issue the article headed, "Helping to Balance Rations with Proper Kind of Protein". That article explains what the government chemists are doing for the farmers. Those with open minds can profit by "book farming" and those whose brain cells ceased to function years ago are hopeless anyway.

Just a little more than two months till the summer visitors begin to arrive. They will find the town without adequate water and go hence, thither and elsewhere, not to say yonder, there and on and on. May we suggest that the town try again to issue ten or twelve thousand dollars in bonds with which to bore another well? It's foolish, of course, but it appears to be the only way for a temporary solution of the water difficulty.

Growth of Citizens Bank

WE INVITE attention to the advertisement of the Citizens Bank of Franklin appearing in this issue showing the growth of this bank in one year. This bank is making a remarkable record in increased business, and no small part of the credit is due to its genial cashier, Bill Moore, and to his assistant, Lawrence Limer.

Smile

SMILE and the world smiles with you is a true statement. Within the past few months Macon county have been somewhat short on smiles, but the dawn of a happier era is noticeable. Several things, among them the assurance of the Smoky Mountain National Park, have conspired to place the citizens of the county in a happier frame of mind. Read the full page ad in this issue of The Press advising the people to smile. This ad is signed by twenty-five of the leading business firms in Franklin. That these men believe in the town and county is evidenced by their expenditure of good money to advertise once each month the advantages of this section. Let's all join with these public spirited men in making Franklin a town of miles and miles of smiles. Such firms in boosting the town also deserve consideration from the public when it comes to a matter of business.

Macon's Yosemite

ELSEWHERE on this page appears an editorial from the facile pen of that valuable friend of Western North Carolina, Col. Wade Harris, editor of the Charlotte Observer. Col. Harris refers to the gorge of the Cullasaja in Macon as a Yosemite. The Colonel should know what he is talking about since he has seen this incomparable bit of scenery. Such scenery as this is a valuable asset not only to Macon county but to the state, and Mr. Stikeleather is right when he recommends to the State Highway Commission that No. 28 be routed up the river so as to pass near the Upper or Dry Falls where the scenery is still more wild and rugged than at the Lower Falls. Col. Harris is correct in his surmise that "the extra cost would be wiped out in a month of tourist travel." Mr. Stikeleather may rest assured that he has the backing of Macon county in his efforts to route the road along the Cullasaja all the way from Franklin to Highlands.

More About the Power Plant

WE UNDERSTAND that an invitation has been extended to one of the big power companies of the South to send a representative here with a view to negotiating for the purchase of the municipal power plant. When he arrives a mass meeting should be called at the court house to give the people an opportunity to get both sides of this matter thoroughly in mind. During the month of February the gross income from the local plant was a little over \$2,100 or at the rate of about \$25,000 per year. The interest on the bonds is \$18,000 per year and the running expenses amount to around four thousands, leaving a net profit of \$3,000. This does not take into consideration the depreciation of the plant. Make this five per cent and the tax payers have another charge against them of \$15,000 per year. Even the poorest kind of a mathematician can see that the town is losing money on its investment. It is also safe to say that this state of affairs will continue so long as the town owns the plant. Moreover and again it is only a question of a year or two until all the lines in the city limits will

expense. It is true that the revenue of the town from the sale of power and light increased about six thousand dollars last year and there will continue to be an increase as the town grows, but whether or not this increase will justify the town in holding on to the plant is a question that should have the consideration of the people. The town now has seven bosses not one of whom is responsible for the sale of power. Consequently such increase as is evident has come about through natural causes which shows that Franklin is growing regardless of depressed conditions. However, with the power plant in the hands of an individual or a corporation we believe that power and light lines would be built along each highway in the county and that new industries would be brought to Franklin to utilize the surplus power. As a result the county would soon find itself with much more taxable property on its books.

In connection with the question of rural light and power lines we find that in the Piedmont section of the Carolinas the Southern Light and Power company has built lines into many rural sections and that the farmers have light in their homes and out-buildings and also small motors for use about the farm. This service costs far less than we in Franklin are now paying for similar service. But when the question of building lines into the rural section of Macon is mentioned to any one in authority the person bringing up the question is immediately engaged in the biggest cuss fight of his career. We do not undertake to say that it is practicable for the town to build its lines into the country, but we do say that, in all probability, a corporation owning the municipal power plant, would soon have Macon county "lit up like a church".

"Root, Hog, or Die"

THERE is no question but that pork can be produced in the South cheaper than in any other part of the country, but of the sixty million hogs on the farms in the United States only nineteen millions are doing their rooting on southern farms. Regardless of favorable conditions for growing swine Georgia imports \$18,000,000 worth of pork products per year. We do not have the figures for North Carolina, but it is safe to say that this state sends to the west each year many millions of dollars for pork products. It is estimated that Macon county buys from outside sources each year pork products to the extent of fifty thousand dollars. This is one item of expense that is unnecessary in so far as this county is concerned. Many of Macon's farmers have realized this fact and are now growing thoroughbred hogs and making money. These farmers are feeding by the ton litter method, this method being worked out by the extension service. Call it "book farming" if you wish. Just the same it's producing results. Last year by this method R. N. Buchanan, of Tennessee, made a net profit of \$365 on two litters of ten pigs each and

this within six months' time. E. V. Armons, of Rabbit creek, in Macon county is doing almost as well. Twenty-three ton litters in Georgia last year made an average profit of \$14.51 per pig, or over 100 per cent profit on the investment in six months. Take the case of John Dills on the Cullasaja. For years he clung tenaciously to the mountain rooster or razor back—and failed to make money. A year or two ago he invested in thoroughbreds which brought forth various and interesting remarks from some of his neighbors. "Didja hear about John," said one. "No," said t'other, "what's he went and done?" "Why, he's just paid a outrageous price for one of these here furin' pigs. He ordered off and got it. Poor old John, I reckon he's losing his grip." Now the neighbors are noting that John is by no means ready for a trip to Morganton. He is not only making money on his thoroughbred swine, but has for his own use a smoke house full of good side meat and hams that would make the gods on the heights of Olympus envious. Jar after jar of pork sausage—the kind that makes one want to get up at 4:00 A. M. for breakfast—can be found on the shelves. John had merely misplaced his "grip." Now he has it back and the other fellows are wondering what the Sam Hill has happened.

Regardless of all this, let's stick to the razor back. True he isn't worth totin' to the mountains and turning loose, but then we don't have to tend to him. He can just "root, hog, or die." And besides, some of us want to go coon huntin' now and then and just haven't got the time to look after "furin' pigs."

Others' Comments

AN IMPORTANT HIGHWAY PROGRAM

AT THE MEETING this week of the State Highway Commission, Commissioner James G. Stikeleather of the Ninth District submitted five major projects for Western North Carolina and urged their immediate adoption. A news story in yesterday's Times thus summarizes the five road proposals:

1. Immediate investigation of old route No. 20 from Asheville to Craggy bridge to be extended to intersect the present main highway to Marshall this side of Alexander, with a view to adopting this as an alternate route. The present route from Asheville to Marshall is a highway to the Marshall road.
2. Immediate taking over for maintenance of the 50-mile stretch from Bryson City down the Tennessee river and skirting the Great Smoky Mountains National Park. This project has already been investigated and the facts and figures are now in the hands of the state highway commission.
3. Immediate awarding of contract for resurfacing 8-mile stretch from Biltmore to Arden.
4. Immediate adopting of the plan urged by a Clay county delegation recently that all the resurfacing in that county be done on highway No. 28.
5. Adoption of the routing of the Franklin to Highlands highway to follow the Cullasaja river, to make a magnificent route, rather than accept an easier and less costly route which leaves the river and cuts off the scenic attractions.

Project No. 1 would divide traffic into Asheville and out, on the north, and would, as the Buncombe County Commissioners point out, provide a parallel highway through a locality greatly in need of better travel accommodations. Of the other recommendations made by Mr. Stikeleather, it is not saying too much that the whole state will profit particularly by the adoption of the Cullasaja route from Franklin to Highlands. As Commissioner Stikeleather says, it would be easier and less costly to leave the river and lose the splendid scenic drive made possible by the Cullasaja with its famous Dry Falls. The river route is worth the difference. Residents and visitors will welcome the probability that the Highway Commission will vote for the route-plus-scenery.

The whole program is important to the mountain region of the state and as such is receiving the Highway Commission's earnest consideration.—Asheville Times.

YELLOWSTONE AND YOSEMITE

THE FUNDAMENTAL principle in North Carolina Highway construction of connecting county-seat-with-county-seat has been strictly adhered to and it is this circumstance that has given the state highway system national fame. The connected idea of developing assets in road routing is one that adds value to the system. A good example of what this means is located on route 28, between Highlands and Franklin. Commissioner Stikeleather is a champion of developing scenic assets along that route and would take the road directly through the gorge at the falls of the Cullasaja, where wild "Rocky Mountain" effect is disclosed, but one which has been hidden from the world. The road routed by these falls and through the gorge of the river will unfold the most majestic bit of scenery in North Carolina, a bit unknown to the outside world, or to the state, itself, because it has been inaccessible. Stikeleather, in advocating routing the highway by these falls, has "value"

in view, and it is to be hoped his idea will be of adoption by the commission. The extra cost would be wiped-out in a month of tourist travel. The state has a Yellowstone in the Smoky Mountains National Park; it would have a Yosemite in the gorge of the Cullasaja.—Charlotte Observer.

HEN DAY IN A MOUNTAIN TOWN

ONE OF THE bi-monthly farmers' day sales in Macon county The Observer has been talking about, was held in Franklin one day last week. It was poultry day and the results indicate how rapidly and to what an extent that industry has developed in that particular county. The Franklin Press makes report that 205 farmers of Macon sold 14,000 pounds of poultry, for which they received \$2,730.22. Lyles Harris is the county agent up there, and he holds sales of the kind every two weeks. Incidentally, The Press makes disclosure of the force behind the hen in that county, as in other North Carolina counties. It makes record that as many as 430 boys and girls are enrolled in the 4-H club, and most of these have selected poultry raising as their endeavor. Some of these boys and girls are paying the taxes for the "old man," and pocketing the balance to buy more chicks and to add the bank deposit made possible by attention to the poultry yard and hen nest.—Charlotte Observer.

ROW IN PROSPECT

WE SEE the makings of a big row just west of us, in the report that Cherokee county will attempt to annex that portion of Macon lying beyond the Nantahalas. This region is a province within itself, and though it has been neglected in the matter of roads, is worth a fortune to any county.—Jackson County Journal.

Letters

MORE ABOUT NANTAHALA

Nantahala, N. C., March 19.

Editor Press: We see that a little meeting of the citizens of Andrews and Nantahala township, that convened at Aquone, some four years ago, is just now beginning to attract attention.

You see that Nantahala township and

In the first place, geographically they are the same. In the second place, Andrews has been largely built up by people from Nantahala, the folks at Andrews are our kindred; our boys have gone into business there, and have homes. Andrews is our market. We sell our produce to them, and from them we get our supplies. They are interested in us, we in them. It is our town. Franklin is just Franklin to us, but Andrews is "town." We like the folks at Franklin, but we reason this way. Have they ever tried or made an effort to help improve our township? If we ask for help, we are mostly paid for our trouble, by a smile or perhaps, "Nantahala would be benefitted if this could be done" is all we ever get. Its on and on, year in and year out, the same.

Well, we saw that it was in vain to appeal to our own people. So we, Andrews and Nantahala, began to look over the situation. Andrews was needing us, we were needing them. There was only bare 14 miles of muddy road that separated us, a two-days journey, that could be made in 45 minutes with a good road.

A meeting was held to discuss ways and means with the result that Nantahala voted \$20,000 bonds, Andrews \$25,000 which graded our roads, but they are not hard-surfaced, so half the year they are impassable. What are we to do? There is no use to ask Macon county to help us. We are living in Nantahala, you see, and Macon can not afford it. They say "build your road that you are 'harping' so much about." That is just exactly the thing we are going to do, and without its help too, see?

Then we have just a wee bit of a "hitch," that the state would have brought "28" by the way of Aquone if it had not been for some "wire pulling" by a certain element. We may be mistaken but it looks a little "fishy." It was so planned and mapped, why was it changed?

We all love the name of "Old Macon" and her achievements we adore. We are proud of the glorious record of her sons. We love her sunny skies, beautiful streams, and cooling winds. We have taught our children the sacred precept, "Our Country—Right or Wrong." But some times "patience ceases to be a virtue" and the "parting of the ways" will soon be evident.

The official who has publicly proclaimed the intention of a fight to a finish just as well begin arranging his program, for the fight is on. The first gun has been fired long ago, and he may be assured that if he gains the victory that he can rest with pride on his laurels.

The time has come that "Old Nantahala," the camping place in the sticks, is going to come forward and take her place in the progress of her sister township. It is her natural heritage and she claims it, and by right she will succeed.

Yours for a fair deal,

E. N. EVANS.