

# SILVER ANNIVERSARY EDITION

## Celebrating 25 Years Of Service To Sylva, Jackson County And North Carolina

# The Jackson County Journal

ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE IN THE COUNTY

SYLVA, NORTH CAROLINA, MARCH 24, 1938

\$2.00 A YEAR IN ADVANCE OUTSIDE THE COUNTY

## Twenty-Five Years Of Progress Bespeak A Bright Future For The Mountain Region

### County Has Made Great Educational Progress In 25 Years

By M. B. Madison, County Superintendent Of Schools

Education progresses ordinarily measured purely by the progress exerted in training the children in the fundamental subjects of general information, and in general intelligence. Since to determine the progress, it would require considerable amount of time and money, we must be content with the progress of the educational conditions some years ago with respect to the physical equipment, the size of the schools, the training of the teachers, and the length of the term.

It can be understood that progress, which is made in a general spirit or sense, is at least a reflection of the earnest and practical people who are for the cause of education in earlier days. It may be said that the progress of those who have trained in our schools today is not so great as that of the training in the past, and work.

March 10, 1913, most of the schools were closed for the average school term was only 99 days. The term was not uniform. In Beta Bridge school was in session 90 days while Johns Creek was 100 days, Sylva, Beta, Webster and Cullowhee had terms of 105 days. The other schools had terms ranging from 77-154 days. The length of term depended on the amount of money which each district had at its disposal.

As to the training of the teachers, there were only five in 1913 who had college diplomas. There were five teachers who had received normal training at all. The remaining twenty-five teachers had some normal training.

Today we have only five teachers who do not have college diplomas. The training of the other 123 range from 1-3 years of college work.

In 1913 there were 31 one-teacher schools, 9 2-teacher schools, 5 3-teacher schools, 2 4-teacher schools, 1 5-teacher school, and 1 7-teacher school. Today we have only 10 1-teacher schools, 4 2-teacher schools, 3 3-teacher schools, 3 4-teacher schools, 2 5-teacher schools, 1 12-teacher school, 1 13-teacher school, and 1 22-teacher school. This, we consider, is the outstanding indication of educational progress in Jackson County during the 25 years.

The enrollment has increased from 1913 to 1938. The number of students has increased from 81 in 1913 to 128 in 1938.

The increase in enrollment and the resulting increase in the teaching force have naturally called for better school buildings. During this 25 year period, new, fire-proof buildings have been erected at Sylva, Webster, Cullowhee, Johns Creek, and Glenville. This progress has not just naturally followed. Under the able leadership of such county superintendents as David H. Prown, J. N. Wilson, L. Madison, and O. S. Dillard Jackson County has gone forward.

Western Carolina Teachers College, a fine faculty has aided wonderfully in this advancement.

In enumerating the various persons and agencies responsible for this progress, we must not forget the support of the various boards of education, the boards of commissioners, the public spirited senators

### County Possesses Much Mineral Wealth

(By Thomas A. Cox)

The general strikes of the mineral veins of Jackson county follow the strike of the Appalachian mountains in a north-east and south-west direction with some cross fissure leads, the highly mineralized zone being through the central part of the county over 20 miles in width extending from the Cowee mountains on the south-west to the Balsams on the north-east, this zone carrying most of the metals, while mica, kaolin, feldspar, talc, soapstone and associated minerals are general over the whole county.

In bulletin No. 740, "Mica Deposits of the United States," 53 mica mines are listed by name and location in Jackson county, many of these having produced large quantities of the highest grade of mica and are still producing. The average yearly production for the past five years was about \$15,000, though at different times the value has often been twice that figure. Some of the mica mines produce large quantities of high grade feldspar which is used in the "Ceramic Industry" and as a flux in smelting as it produces a liquid slag at a lower temperature than any other flux, thereby giving a better recovery of the metals smelted.

There were over 100 varieties of minerals listed by name and location in Jackson county in May, 1932, by Lynd Hendry, geologist, formerly with the Ducktown Chemical and iron company. A number of these are of commercial value, especially the Nickel "Webster-Addie" outcrops which are said to be one of the largest deposits of nickel in the world. This outcrop has been traced for 75 miles from its most southwestern known limit in a northeasterly direction, with the highest mineralization and largest deposit in Jackson county.

The copper leads, "Cullowhee-Gunstocker," "Way-ye-hutta - Panther Knob," and "Savannah" give promise of being very valuable for copper, sulphur, iron, gold and silver and are located on both sides of the nickel lead. The latter is considered by some geologists as the "Mother-Lode" for the minerals of this section, gold being found in paying quantities in nearly all metal veins, and also "native gold" and some platinum having been washed out of the gravel beds in Panther-town on the East fork of the Tuckasegee river. It is a matter of history that in the late Forties and early Fifties more than one-half million dollars of free gold was mined in this section.

There are other copper leads, some being cross fissure leads which often prove of higher values than the leads on the regular strike, the "Double-Top," "Sugar-Loaf," "Old Bald," and several others on Caney Fork Creek.

The kaolin industry was at one time the biggest mining industry in the section and produced the highest grade kaolin to be found in the United States. There are still deposits of kaolin that should produce this in paying quantities, though at present none are being worked.

Jackson county has some of the best building stone to be found in these mountains, though it is located too far from transportation at present to make it commercially valuable. A large "Slip" quarry is located in the Panther-town basin, where can be found any size blocks from a few inches in thickness to several feet and almost any width and length desired of fine grained granite. Corundum, spinel, rhodolite and garnet are found in a number of places and some very fine gems have been found including sapphires, rubies, and beryls, in mining for corundum both at Sapphire and on Pressly Creek and on top of the Blue Ridge. Chrome and cobalt are found associated with the nickel and should prove of commercial value.

### President Roosevelt Sends Looking Backward For A Quarter Of Century His Greetings



FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Washington

Mr. Dan Tompkins, Editor,  
The Jackson County Journal,  
Sylva, North Carolina.

My dear Mr. Tompkins:

It gives me pleasure to join your other friends in extending hearty congratulations to you upon the completion of twenty-five years as editor of The Jackson County Journal. I trust that you may long be spared in health and strength to maintain through your paper the highest traditions of American journalism.

Very sincerely yours,  
FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

### To Sponsor Exhibit

The National Youth Administration of Jackson County will sponsor a county-wide exhibit of handicraft, weaving, school furniture, cabinet work, and of other worth while crafts constructed by NYA youths and other youth organizations of this county. This exhibit will be held at the Sylva Community Club House, April 14 and 15.

Much interest and enthusiasm is being shown by local organizations through out the county. A large public attendance is expected.

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### BALSAM

(By Mrs. D. T. Knight)

Mr. Charlie Coward died suddenly Monday morning. Although he had been in ill health for some time his death was unexpected. His sister, Mrs. Ellen Barnes was with him. He was 68 years old. He leaves one son, Frank, who lives in Washington, and several grand-children. Also the following brothers and sisters: John, George, Mrs. Pallie Warren, Mrs. Ellen Barnes, Mrs. Delle Kenney of Balsam, and Mrs. Candace Parker of Cherokee.

Funeral was held in the Baptist church Tuesday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Kay Allen. The body was laid to rest in Oakmont cemetery.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Knight, Master William Balfour and little Miss Georgia, Mrs. D. T. Knight, Miss Nannie Knight and Mrs. W. B. Farwell visited friends in Waynesville Sunday afternoon.

Mr. Vernon Hoyle of Rome, Ga., is conducting a singing school in the Baptist church.

The second issue that we published of the Journal carried the information that the people of Sylva had voted a special tax of 30c on the \$100 valuation and only 10c on the poll for the purpose of establishing a high school in the town.

One of the first things advocated in the Journal was the increase of the production of poultry in the county.

On September 26, 1912, the Journal carried the story of the opening of the Jackson County Fair with the parade of 1500 Confederate veterans and school children, and an address by Col. Sanford H. Cohen. The Journal approved the fair, but criticized the fair officials for permitting an exhibit of the Great Northern Railway, designed to attract people from the mountains to the West.

In October, 1912 a letter from Mr. Charles L. Allison appeared, offering a day's work toward building a road from Aykva to Dillsboro, and many others followed Mr. Allison's example.

One of the first things that the Journal advocated was better health conditions, and supervision of those conditions by the State Board of Health.

The season of 1912 was the longest growing season on record, there being no frost for 237 days. The first killing frost came on November 3.

In 1912, Fred Bryson grew 173 bushels of corn on one acre of ground at Beta.

On January 3, 1913, the Journal began a campaign for the protection of the forests of the county, in order to prevent erosion, and advocated careful forestry methods.

The Journal's first editorial advocating a State wide school system in order to give the boys and girls of the farms equal advantages with their brothers and sisters in the towns and cities appeared on January 10, 1913.

The Journal's campaign for better roads in the county began in January 24, 1913.

On February 12, 1913, the bill authorizing an election on the question of the removal of the county seat from Webster to Sylva, passed the House of Representatives by a vote of 79 to 21, on its third reading. The bill called the election in the county to be held on May 8, 1913.

On February 28, the Journal announced the passage in the General Assembly of the Sylva - Dillsboro-Cullowhee road bill authorizing the issuance of bonds by those townships to construct good roads connecting up those three parts of the county.

On May 30, The Journal carried extracts from a speech by the Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt, delivered before the North Carolina A and M College. Mr. Roosevelt said: "Stay east young man. Here at our feet lies opportunity. Let us be, as the President has said, 'forward looking men, workers for the common good' "

August 15, 1913, The power plant of the Dillsboro and Sylva Electric Light Company has been temporarily moved from Dillsboro to Sylva, while the big dam on the Tuckasegee is being constructed.

The Tuckasegee Bank moved from Webster to Sylva, in November 1913.

On November 5 and 6 the people of Sylva met in the Love field and began grading the road to Cullowhee. This was the beginning of highway 108 which is to be completed this year.

On June 26, 1914, the Journal boasted that the county is 50 miles long, 20 miles wide, had a population of 13,000, two courthouses, two jails, and not a single prisoner.

On June 26, 1918, the Journal got out an edition welcoming Camp Jack-

son to Sylva. This was a fine camp school, on the fair grounds and a large number of fine boys, some of them now prominent in the South, spent the summer there. Mr. Jordan H. Sanford was manager of the camp.

May 8-The new dam and power house of Dillsboro and Sylva Electric Light Company at Dillsboro is completed.

August 7, 1814 The God of War Hold Europe in His Grasp-- Wilson offers to Mediate.

In October 1914, advocating a road from Asheville to Atlanta, through Sylva, the Journal said: "On to Atlanta. Atlanta or bust."

In January 1915, the Journal began the opposition of a plan in Asheville for the establishment of a teacher training college there, taking the position that the State would not long support three such institutions in the west, and that it would mean the decline and eventual abandonment of the schools at Cullowhee and Boone. This was a real scrap, by copies of the Journal placed on every desk in the General Assembly, made an impression, and the movement was defeated, before it got a good start.

On September 18, 1915, the monument to the Jackson county men and women of the Confederacy was unveiled, and the largest crowd ever assembled in the county, up to that time, witnessed the ceremonies. The beautiful inscription on the monument was written by James H. Cathers. January 28, 1916—Work on the extract plants being pushed as rapidly as possible. There are already about 100 men at work and more will be put on as fast as they can be used to advantage.

March 1916—The Champion Fibre Company buys all the acid wood on the watershed of Dark Ridge and other boundaries in the county.

May 1916—Western North Carolina Press Association met in Sylva, was entertained at Cullowhee school, and made a trip through the county to Fairfield.

June 1916—Summer school at Cullowhee opens with 150 students attending.

July 7, 1916—The new Baptist church at Sylva was dedicated with Dr. A. E. Brown preaching the dedicatory sermon.

July 21, 1916—The greatest flood in the history of Western North Carolina cost eleven lives and a million dollars property damage. For a week or more the Murphy line was the only railroad leading into Asheville.

November 1916—Woodrow Wilson reelected President. After days of suspense during which nobody who would be president, California's returns gave the election to Wilson.

March 2, 1917—A one hundred percent enlargement in the C. J. Harris Tannery is to be made, according to officials.

March 1917—Another attempt is made by Asheville to establish a State Teachers College there, and the Journal opened up its big gun in defense of the Cullowhee school.

April 6, 1917—The following editorial appeared on the front page of the Journal. The die is cast. The hour was struck. The battle flag of America is unfurled. The Congress has spoken. The Republic is at war. The conflagration, started in Serbia, has crossed the Atlantic and is upon upon our shores. There have been differences of opinion as to what was best to do under the trying circumstances through which we have been laboring; but that must all be laid aside. Our government has decided, and we are now at war.