

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

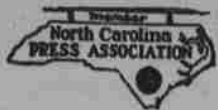
Published every Thursday by The Franklin Press,
At Franklin, North Carolina
Telephone No. 24

VOL. XLVIII

Number 6

BLACKBURN W. JOHNSON.....EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

Entered at the Post Office, Franklin, N. C., as second class matter.



SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year	\$1.50
Eight Months	\$1.00
Six Months75
Single Copy05

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"Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.—Psalm 34:13, 14.

(This is the second in a series of editorials jointly presented by the four newspapers in the territory served by the Tallulah Falls Railway.)

A Square Deal For the T. F.

THE problems of the Tallulah Falls Railway cannot be divorced either from the territory which it serves or from the Southern Railway system, of which it is a feeder and which is not only its only stockholder but also its principal creditor. Even if it were possible to separate them, it would not be in harmony with our present spirit which properly looks upon utilities as servants of the public, entitled to fair consideration and reasonable profits but not to a disregard of common welfare or a "public-be-damned" attitude.

The Tallulah Falls Railway has, according to the best information which we have available, made a fair profit even up to a time extending well into the years of depression. It can, we believe, under economical operation, again be made to show a reasonable profit with the future development of resources along its line. With this we shall deal in a future article.

It has been and will be in proportion to its own welfare a feeder for the Southern Railway, surely justifying extension of reasonable credit, possibly even a subsidy in times of stress. That the Southern Railway like all other major systems does subsidize certain of its operations we know. Its through passenger trains, every layman knows, are not paying their own expenses by many thousands of dollars, and we are sure that the statement will not be challenged that the loss incurred on any one of them in its yearly operation will far more than take care of the deficit incurred by the Tallulah Falls road.

The Tallulah Falls Railway, in our belief, has not had a square deal. In its days of comparative prosperity, little thought was given to lean times that might be expected. Expenses were not cut, trestles were not built for permanency, little effort was made to build business or to cement the relations of shippers to the railroad. In too many respects it has seemed that the receivership, representing the Southern Railway, has for some inexplicable reason served neither the public, the Southern Railway, nor the Tallulah Falls Railway; the impression is strong throughout this territory that it has seen its task not in the constructive light of building for the future but rather only as preliminary to eventual and inevitable discontinuance of the railroad.

We believe and we shall develop our ideas in succeeding articles, that the interests of both the public and the Southern Railroad demand:

1. A new attitude toward the Tallulah Falls Railway, looking upon it as a patient, seriously sick but capable of convalescence—not as inevitably moribund.
2. Utmost economy in operation extending to every item of expense and salary from trackman to receiver.
3. The help and cooperation of the Southern Railway through extension of reasonable credit and in every other way that it can be extended.
4. An effort to secure, through the Reconstruction Finance Corporation or any other source that may be available, funds for permanent reconstruction of trestles now most expensive to maintain.

There's Some Consolation

WHAT we regard as one of the most significant items published in last week's Press was the report of Dr. Fred W. Morrison, state relief director, showing that destitution in Macon county is relatively small. A table giving the percentages of destitution in the various counties, based on reports from local welfare workers and other relief agencies, showed that only 7.2 per cent of the inhabitants of this county could be classed as destitute or "lacking the necessities of life." This placed Macon sixth from the bottom in a list where bottom really means top.

Many counties which boasted greater prosperity than Macon in the mad days before 1931 were found to have much larger percentages of destitution. Want was found to exist on a greater scale in many of the

large industrial counties. Even now, if the amount of capital wealth were taken as an index, Macon county might not rank so well. But it is a fact to be proud of: Macon county people are more provident than many of their brethren in supposedly richer sections. Our farms may not be the most fertile, and as for industry, we haven't any to speak of; but we have the means of making a sure, comfortable existence. And, strange to say, many of us have found out that we can live very well in these hills with very little money. "Keeping up with the Joneses" doesn't bother us a great deal. In fact, simple living is one of the cardinal virtues hereabouts.

We should not take pride in the fact that others are suffering more; but we should be thankful and take comfort in the knowledge that we are suffering less.

Public Opinion

ADVICE FOR MR. GRAY

To the Editor:—Here is some information about another railroad which was in trouble which may show a way to keep the Tallulah Falls Railroad in operation: I am informed that some ten years ago the Alabama Northern Railroad, eight miles long, running from Ashland, Alabama, to Pyriton, where it connected with the A. B. & C. Railroad, was turned over to the bond holders, as it had proved to be unprofitable after all of the timber had been hauled out.

This road was built by the citizens of Ashland and the vicinity at a cost of some \$150,000, in order to have a railway connection with a main line of the railroad. For several years these bond holders had received no dividends.

When the road was turned back to the bond holders they elected C. B. Allen, a large bond holder of the road and president of the Ashland Bank, as president and general manager. He went to Atlanta and purchased an old engine, a flat car, a coal car and a box car; also one Cadillac sedan and one Cadillac truck on which he had flanged wheels placed. He dispensed with the several office employees, retaining only the agent at the Ashland end, two trainmen, (the engineer and fireman) to operate the freight train, these men acting also as conductor and trainmen. The Cadillac sedan was used for hauling passengers and the Cadillac truck for hauling mail, express and light freight. The agent at Ashland would close his office and run the Cadillac on their schedule. Mr. Allen received little or no salary for managing the road.

The road was put on a paying basis and even during these depression years the bond holders have been receiving their dividends.

Four passenger trips per day each way are made. When there is a small amount of express this and the mail is carried on the passenger Cadillac. The freight train makes one round trip per day.

You will find this railroad listed in the official guide of railroads, which shows that it is recognized as a railroad. This is evidence of what can be done to save a railroad to its patrons. Some such drastic method must be employed to save our Tallulah Falls Railway. One mixed train each day, the elimination of the expensive receiver and his assistant, and all but one or two of the office force, would enable the T. F. to operate at a profit, if I am correctly informed.

Very truly yours,
A. A. JAMESON.
Wiley, Georgia
January 31, 1933

SOLESBEE DENIES REPORT

Mr. Editor:—It becomes my painful duty to call your attention to a mistake which appeared in last week's Press. In discussing the town council

bill introduced by Mr. Ingram you stated that a similar bill was introduced four years ago by Solesbee and was defeated after being discussed by Mayor Patton. Here are the facts:

(1) I was not in the assembly four years ago, but was a member of the house in 1927.

(2) While there I did not introduce a bill of any kind that affected the number of councilmen; neither did Mr. Patton argue against any bill that I introduced.

I am trying to believe that your mistake was sincere, but we would do well to observe Crockett's rule: "Be sure you are right, then go ahead."

It was also rumored that I had the late Mr. Teague appointed as road commissioner, which is absolutely false. This act was two years later, after I was in the assembly.

Please give space for the above and accept my best wishes for The Press.

Alvin S. Solesbee.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The Press is always glad to correct errors appearing in its columns and it especially is glad to print a communication from Parson Solesbee. However, it feels justified in making the following defense:

As to the plaintiff's first point, the deponent admits he was in error but pleads that the question of time is not a real issue. What matters it, now in 1933, whether said plaintiff was a member of the General Assembly in 1927 or 1929.

As to the plaintiff's second allegation, the deponent wishes to quote the following from The Franklin Press, issue of February 3, 1927, while this newspaper was under the editorship of S. A. Harris:

"Other local measures introduced by Mr. Solesbee follow: 'To amend the charter of The Town of Franklin, cutting the number of Aldermen from six to three. The measure has passed the house, but has been held up in the Senate committee. Mr. Solesbee said, 'because they didn't seem to want it' here at Franklin. He intimated that he had requested the senate committee to 'pig-eon-hole' it."

The deponent further wishes to state that Mayor Patton told him last week in the Town Hall in the presence of witnesses that "Solesbee introduced a bill to cut down the number of members of the council but I went to Raleigh and got it killed."

As to the plaintiff's reference to Crockett's rule, the deponent wishes to say "Amen, Brother Amen! But where must we go now?"

Concerning the Teague matter, "the deponent sayeth nothing," being a disinterested and uninterested party.

Blackburn W. Johnson
(Sometimes Editor of
The Franklin Press)

Baptist Church Notes

BY REV. EUGENE R. ELLER

The Sunday school will meet at 9:45 a. m. All who are not in Sunday school are invited to attend. Teachers and pupils are urged to look after the absent pupils and uninitiated people. Sunday afternoon the Sunday school will conduct a religious census of the town and community just as last year, the cards will be divided and those belonging to the other churches will be turned over to the pastors of the various churches.

Dr. Oscar E. Sams, vice president of Mars Hill college, will preach at 11 a. m. next Sunday. While here Dr. Sams is anxious to get in touch with all the high school students who are interested in going to Mars Hill. It is hoped a large number will hear him preach.

The B. Y. P. U.'s will meet at 6:30 p. m. and the evening worship will be at 7:45 p. m. The pastor will use as his subject, "The Blood of Jesus Christ." The

public is most cordially invited.

Wednesday night, February 22, the Rev. James A. Ivey, pastor of the West Asheville Baptist church and State B. Y. P. U. president, will preach in the Baptist church. This service is being sponsored by the B. Y. P. U.'s of the church. The public is invited to hear Mr. Ivey. He will bring a great Gospel message.

Gneiss

Mrs. S. E. McCoy and children—Mitchel, Homer, Oivine, Evalyn—of Gold Mine, have been welcome visitors here.

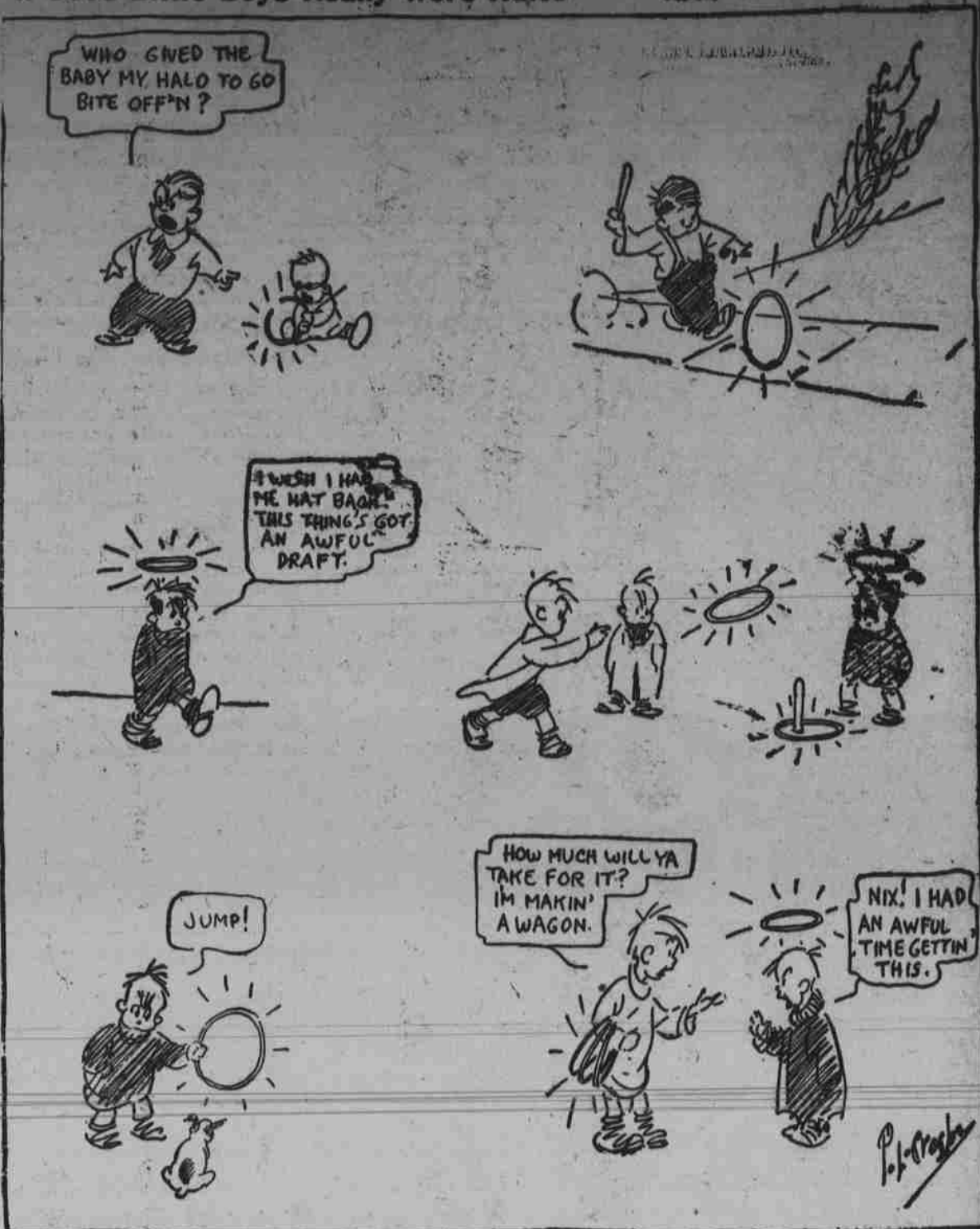
Mr. and Mrs. Nath Daves have a new son in their home. Mrs. John Holland, of Peck's Creek, and Miss Clarabelle Stanfield spent Monday night at A. A. Mashburn's home.

A great wave of sadness passed over our community Tuesday a. m. when Verlon Mashburn passed from this life.

Eighty-five per cent of the \$8,662.50 loaned to 226 farmers in Alexander county from the government seed loan fund has been repaid.

If Good Little Boys Really Wore Halos

By PERCY CROSBY



Your Farm - How to Make It Pay

Tanning Hides

FARMERS who compare the price of hides with the price for purchased leather have become interested in tanning the skins at home and many are doing a successful job. To aid them in this work, Earl H. Hostetler, in charge of livestock research at State college, has worked out some methods which may be used to advantage.

Mr. Hostetler says the principles of home tanning are very simple and may be mastered very easily. First the hide must be carefully "fleshed" or scraped on the flesh side to remove all particles of meat or blood. Then, the hair side needs to be thoroughly cleaned. This should be done, he says, whether the hide is to be tanned with the hair on or off. He suggests using a package of some washing powder to one gallon of warm water. Next trim off all rough edges including the parts around the feet.

To cure the hide or pelt, only common salt is needed. Allow the skin to cool thoroughly and then spread, flesh side up, on a clean floor which has been sprinkled with salt. Cover the flesh side with salt and rub in, using plenty of the salt. Curing will be complete in one to two weeks.

To tan the cured hide, use three ounces of commercial sulphuric acid, two pounds of common salt and one gallon of soft water. Make up this solution in a wooden bucket or barrel using enough of the solution to cover the number of hides to be tanned. Small thin hides should be left in this solution from 12 to 24 hours and the heavier cow hides from two to three days. Stir every few hours to insure uniform tanning and wash well when removed.

Value of Garden

A farm garden, one-half acre in size, is worth exactly \$168.33 in cash to a family of six persons and its value probably exceeds this when the better health of the family is considered.

"We usually do not think of the cash value of a garden in a system of self-sustaining farming but records kept for us last year by 75 farm families show this plot of land to be an important asset," says H. R. Niswonger, extension horticulturist at State college. "The average size of the family from which the records were secured consisted of the farmer and his wife and four children. The garden plot averaged one-half acre in size and cost \$4.77 in seeds and fertilizer to get in shape. The returns in fresh vegetables were valued at \$168.33 above the cost of the seeds and fertilizer."

Mr. Niswonger believes it more than ever important to have a good garden this season. The one-half acre size is all right for the small family but larger families need an acre given over for the production of vegetables. In addition, other land should be planted to watermelons, cantaloupes and sweet potatoes.

The Farmer's Question Box

Timely Questions Answered
by N. C. State College
Experts

Question:—When should dairy animals be bred for best results in butterfat production?

Answer:—The price of butterfat is higher during the winter months and dairymen selling milk on a fat content should breed their animals to freshen in the fall. This means that January and February are the months to breed as the animals will then be dry in June, July and August and will freshen during September when prices for fat are on the up-grade.

Question:—What causes the bark on apple trees to split and separate from the trunk and how can this be prevented or cured?

Answer:—This injury is probably caused by the sap expanding during warm winter days and then freezing during the cold nights and is known as winter injury. If the entire bark can be peeled away from the trunk, the tree is beyond recovery. If only small sections of the tree are injured, these areas may be bridge-grafted by inserting one end of a water sprout in to the wood above the damaged part and the other end into the live bark or root below. Cover the grafted joints with grafting wax.

Question:—How should lespedeza Sericea seed be prepared for planting?

Answer:—These seed are sometimes softened before planting by putting them in hot water for a short time but it is much safer for them to be scarified. Attach two sheets of coarse sandpaper to a table or box and one sheet of fine sandpaper to a short board or block. Place seed on the table and rub with block until hulls are removed. This will scarify the seed sufficiently and is much better than putting them in hot water.

Question:—How soon can I transplant lettuce to the open fields?

Answer:—Plants should be put out in the eastern section within the next ten days. In the central and western sections, plantings will be four weeks later for the central, and eight weeks later for the western. Lettuce requires a cool growing season and late plantings will cause the plants to go to seed instead of heading. In transplanting be sure to set the plants straight in the ground. Leave the bud above ground level and pack soil firmly about stem.

More than 4,000 new peach trees have been planted in Lincoln county during the last few weeks.

Gaston county farmers have filled 58 curing houses with high grade sweet potatoes this winter.

Buy Tested Chicks

THE most important question fore the poultryman right now is where and what kind of baby chicks to buy.

"After reviewing all the various hatchery advertisements and noting the glowing descriptions used for some of the baby chicks being offered the buying public, it is easy to see how perplexing this question of securing the right kind of chicks may become," says C. F. Parrish, poultry extension specialist at State college. "I am convinced, however, that the safe plan for the North Carolina poultryman is to get his new chicks from North Carolina hatcheries which are working under the supervision of the state veterinarian's office and where the eggs used come from blood-tested and culled supply flocks. We have a number of good hatcheries in the state where the eggs are secured from flocks that have been officially tested one or more times for the Pullorum disease and such chicks must be hatched separately from the non-tested chicks."

Mr. Parrish says his reason for making this recommendation comes from certain tests which have been made. Reports on 79,686 chicks produced by hatcheries where the eggs were produced by blood-tested birds show that 5,151 chicks died from all causes during the first four weeks of life. This is a mortality of 6.4 per cent.

Reports on 7,958 chicks produced from birds that had not been blood-tested or were produced outside the state, show that 2,875 died from all causes during the first four weeks of life. This is a mortality of 36.1 per cent.

In other words, the man who bought baby chicks from unreliable sources lost nearly six times more during the critical period of the chick's life than did the man who knew his supply.

Early Spring Lambs

Early spring lambs, fattened with home-grown feeds and properly docked and trimmed, will likely sell well this spring.

Reports received by L. I. Case, animal husbandman at State college, indicate that market lambs are selling better than any class of livestock or any other farm commodity at this time. However, packers and local butchers much prefer lambs that have been docked and trimmed and will usually pay a premium for those not handled in this way. This operation is best performed when the lamb is a week or two weeks old.

"There is one thing we must keep in mind," says Mr. Case. "There is a large number of breeding ewes in the country at this time and prices cannot be expected to hold up unless the industrial situation takes a turn for the better. Under this situation, sheen men should take good care of their lambs, fatten them quickly and get them on the early market. To do this, see that the lamb gets plenty of milk from the ewe during its early days of life."