



The Franklin Press



and
The Highlands Maconian

PROGRESSIVE

LIBERAL

INDEPENDENT

VOL. XLIX, NO. 39

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, SEPT. 27, 1934

\$1.50 PER YEAR

450 ON RELIEF ROLLS DROPPED

Emergency Work Ordered Discontinued in Rural Areas

All emergency relief projects in the rural districts of North Carolina are to be discontinued immediately, according to an announcement received from the office in Raleigh of Mrs. Thomas O'Berry, state relief administrator.

The announcement said this action was prompted by the fact that hundreds of calls for farm labor were being received daily and it was felt that emergency relief was no longer necessary, at least during the harvest season.

Drop 450 in Macon

This order means the dropping from emergency relief lists in Macon county, it was stated at local relief headquarters, of approximately 450 persons and the discontinuance of relief funds amounting to approximately \$4,000 a month. All relief projects, including the sewing room recently established for the employment of women, are to be dropped. No direct relief, it was stated, will be given those listed as "employable." Less than 20 persons on the Macon county relief list are classified as "unemployable," or unable to work. Relief for them will continue as hitherto, it was stated, unless there is someone in their family who can take care of them adequately.

Removal from relief rolls in the state of all farm workers classified as "employables" was ordered by Mrs. O'Berry to take effect not later than Sept. 26.

Work Now Available

"During the height of the harvesting season," the state administrator said, "when the need for additional farm workers is so urgent, the need for work projects and direct relief to care for unemployed people is reduced to the minimum.

"With few exceptions, we are suspending all work projects in the rural areas (Macon county is classified as rural) and removing farm laborers from relief rolls in order that farmers and others offering private employment may be assured adequate help during the harvest season."

Work projects to be excepted, it was stated, are those dealing with the handling of the 100,000 cattle brought into the state from the drought-stricken areas of the Midwest and the canning projects.

Mrs. O'Berry said discontinuance of work projects and removal of employable people from relief rolls was in line with the administration's general policy of rehabilitation.

"We make every effort," she added, "to see that our relief clients return to private employment where they may continue in the work in which they have been trained, or work which they have been accustomed to do, when the employment is available. We believe that employment is now available to the large majority of farm workers on our rolls."

Browning To Speak At 2 Meetings Saturday

Vance Browning of Bryson City, Democratic nominee for state senator in the 33rd senatorial district, is scheduled to speak at two meetings in Macon county Saturday.

At 2 o'clock in the afternoon he is to be the principal speaker at a meeting sponsored by the Young Democratic clubs of the county in the courthouse. There also will be other speakers.

At 8 o'clock Saturday night Mr. Browning will speak again at a meeting of the Iotla Young Democratic club in the Iotla school. Vance Fouts, president of the Iotla club, said arrangements had been made for a program of string music.

Inspect Streams

Biologists Making Fish Survey of County

A party of four biologists of the federal bureau of fisheries started a survey of Macon county streams this week to determine how many fish each stream can accommodate and what species of fish is most adaptable for each body of water.

Robert B. Burrows is chief of the party and his associates are A. D. Holloway, E. J. Dinzler and Ernest Welch.

One of the first streams examined was the Cullasaja river. A member of the party said it was one of the finest trout streams he had seen in the Nantahala forest. The upper reaches, he said, are best suited for brook trout, while below the Highlands dam the water is more suitable for rainbow trout. He recommended small mouth bass for the lower end of the river.

The party will spend two weeks in this county, making Franklin as headquarters. It plans to make a study of all the principal streams in the Nantahala forest area in Macon county. A similar survey of the streams on the eastern slopes of the forest was recently completed.

Parish Supper

Episcopalians Discuss Plans for Winter

With 40 persons present, a parish supper for the congregation of St. Agnes Episcopal church was held Tuesday night at Trimont. Plans for the church's activities during the coming winter were discussed.

Reports were made by the rector, the Rev. Frank Bloxham, the church treasurer, Mrs. W. H. Sellers, and by the president of the Woman's Auxiliary, Mrs. J. W. Cantej Johnson.

The congregation approved plans for holding morning services at 11 a. m. the first three Sundays of the month and evening services on the last Sunday of each month at 8 p. m. Morning services will be held at Highlands at 11 a. m. the last Sunday of each month, and afternoon services on other Sundays.

Mr. Bloxham will conduct a Bible class at St. Agnes each Wednesday night and the Young People's Service League of the church is to meet each Sunday night.

Albert Made Supervisor Of Ocala Forest

Frank A. Albert, for the past year assistant supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest, has been transferred to Lake City, Fla., where he will serve as supervisor of the Ocala National Forest. Mr. Albert was with the Ocala forest before coming to Franklin.

"Bob" Barnett Dies At Home Near Aquone

Robert L. Barnett, 52, prominent farmer of the Aquone section, died at 8 o'clock Monday morning at his home after an illness of several months.

The body was taken to Bull Creek cemetery, near Mars Hill in Madison county, for burial. Mr. Barnett formerly lived in Madison county. Surviving are his widow and several brothers.

Mr. Barnett, known to many simply as "Bob" Barnett, had a wide circle of friends. He had the reputation of being a good fisherman and guide and sportsman frequently visited his home in the Aquone section.

Longest Police Beat

The longest beat in Britain extends over the 93,000 acres of the New Forest, and is patrolled by two leaf-green coated policemen, who report all transgressors of the forest laws to the 1,000-year old Court of Swainmote.

Macon County Land Badly Damaged by Soil Erosion, Report by Expert Reveals

Many thousands of acres of land in Macon county have been seriously damaged by erosion, according to a report just made public by the Soil Erosion Service of the United States Department of Interior following a survey of soil conditions in the 10 westernmost counties of North Carolina by W. D. Lee, soil specialist.

Out of a total area in this county of 332,800 acres, mostly in forest land, 25,400 acres were reported seriously eroded; 9,680 acres abandoned; 15,460 acres less severely eroded, and 7,140 acres eroded to only a slight degree.

Mr. Lee said the section most seriously damaged by erosion is the valley of the Little Tennessee river.

The report indicates that erosion in the 10 western counties investigated by Mr. Lee is worse than expected. Out of a total area of upwards of 2,800,000 acres, about 215,000 acres are reported very seriously eroded with gullies, and an additional 210,000 acres of formerly productive land are abandoned due to excessive erosion.

Around 60,000 acres in Buncombe county are severely eroded with

deep gullies; Haywood county is second with 33,500 acres, and Macon county third with 25,000 acres.

Buncombe county also leads in area of land abandoned, having 28,000 acres of untenable land. Jackson county follows Buncombe with 17,500 acres, and Cherokee county comes third with 16,385 acres abandoned.

The survey is part of a statewide survey being made to determine the general land condition in North Carolina. A similar study is being made in every state by the Department of the Interior, and on completion a report will be prepared for presentation to congress this winter.

In addition to the severity of erosion and wasteland the report brings out areas of cultivated, idle tillable, open pasture, and forest land, and the topography, according to Dr. J. H. Stallings, regional director of the Soil Erosion Service with headquarters in High Point, N. C.

The 10 mountain counties included in this report are Macon, Buncombe, Transylvania, Clay, Swain, Jackson, Henderson, Cherokee, Graham, and Haywood.

2,500 EXPECTED AT RALLY HERE

Both Reynolds and Hoey Accept Invitations To Speak

Clyde R. Hoey, of Shelby, regarded as a likely candidate for governor two years hence, and Senator Robert R. Reynolds have definitely accepted invitations to speak at a Democratic rally and barbecue to be held here Saturday, October 6, under the sponsorship of the Young People's Democratic clubs of the eleventh congressional district. Congressman Zeb Weaver, Democratic nominee for reelection, also is expected to be present to address the gathering.

John W. Edwards, chairman of the Young Democratic organization in the district and in charge of plans for the barbecue, said plans were being made to accommodate a crowd of 2,500 persons. The barbecue will be held back of the Franklin school. Barbecued beef, mutton and pork will be served.

Juniors To Hold Memorial Service Oct. 14

A memorial service for members of the Junior Order of the United American Mechanics who have died in the past year will be conducted by the various Macon county councils of the order at the Sugar Fork Baptist church on Sunday, October 14.

Arrangements for the service are being handled by a committee composed of J. L. Higdon, of the Higdonville council; B. W. Justice, of the Mill Shoals council, and Jack Stribling of the Franklin council.

An all-day program is planned. Mr. Stribling said, and those attending are requested to bring picnic lunches. The program is open to the public.

Rev. J. L. Moore Holds Service Here

The Rev. J. L. Moore, a native of this county but who has been living at Lake Wales, Fla., for some years, came to Franklin last week for a visit with friends and relatives.

Besides being a Baptist minister, Rev. Mr. Moore is an orange grow-

2 ORDERED HELD IN NORTON CASE

No Bond Allowed Pending Trial of Bradshaw And Howard

Herbert Bradshaw and Edgar Howard were ordered held without bond for trial at the November term of Macon county superior court on a charge of murder at the conclusion of a preliminary hearing Saturday morning before Magistrate Sam Murray. The two men had been arrested September 10 by Sheriff Slagle and Deputy John Dills in connection with the mysterious death of Thomas "Brack" Norton, whose body was found early in the morning of August 21 sprawled on the concrete paving of highway No. 285 near the Blackbird filling station.

The courtroom was crowded to capacity for the hearing. Both defendants pled not guilty.

The principal witness was Sam Howard, who testified he saw two men carry Norton's body to the highway and leave it there. Mr. Howard, an uncle of Edgar Howard, one of the defendants, said some roasting ears had been stolen from his cornfield bordering the highway and he had hidden in the field in an effort to catch thieves. A chicken roast was in progress at the house of Howard several hundred yards distant. The chicken roast broke up about midnight, Sam Howard testified, but he continued to hear voices at the place. He heard blows struck, he added, and then heard someone cry out, "Don't, Ed, don't." A little later, he said, he recognized Ed Howard's voice calling, "Don't leave me."

Howard said he recognized one of the men carrying Norton's body as Bradshaw.

Sheriff Slagle told of finding blood stains at the house where the chicken roast was held.

The defendants were represented at the hearing by Jones and Jones, R. D. Sisk and J. Horner Stockton. J. Frank Ray and George Patton represented the prosecution.

er and has a large orchard at Lake Wales.

Last Sunday he preached at the First Baptist church of Franklin in the absence of the pastor, the Rev. E. R. Eller, who is in a hospital at Winston-Salem.

BOND DEFAULTS TOTAL \$70,260

County Has Book Surplus Despite Debt Service Arrearages

A default of \$70,260 on county and township bonds as of June 30, last, is reported in an audit of the county's books made public this week. The audit was made by R. C. Birmingham, certified public accountant of Charlotte, for the past fiscal year.

This default, the audit reveals, exists in spite of the fact that the books show a "fund surplus" of \$166,471.25. This "fund surplus," one discovers after close examination, is a book estimate of what the county's clear and unincumbered assets would be if it could collect all the taxes, notes and other accounts due it.

Tax Delinquencies

Delinquent taxes comprise the largest item listed in the county's assets, and these date back to 1925.

Mr. Birmingham's report lists these delinquent taxes precisely as follows:

1925—\$2,261.39; 1926—\$16,328.96; 1927—\$8,198.61; 1928, 1929 and 1930—\$88,224.32; 1931—\$28,981.60; 1932—\$4,357.46; sundry taxes Franklin township—\$656.02; sundry taxes Elijah township—\$339.70; making a total of \$149,348.06.

Besides this the county is due \$35,882.62 on land sale certificates for the years 1925, 1926, 1927 and 1932. No land sale certificates are listed for the years between 1927 and 1932 because there has been no sale of land for delinquent taxes for those years, amounting to \$117,205.92.

Certificates Missing

The audit also discloses that some of the land sale certificates for 1925 and 1927 are missing. These are listed as "not on file—unlocated" and amount to a total of \$5,465.17.

Unpaid taxes for 1933 were listed as "current" and totaled \$42,625.94. After setting up a reserve fund of \$36,087.96, contingent upon adjustments in final settlement of delinquent taxes, the auditor reported that the total amount due for taxes was \$191,768.66.

Tax notes receivable were listed at \$5,072.70; sinking fund investment at \$6,629.57; and notes held by the county in connection with liquidation of its deposit in the Bank of Franklin, as \$31,955.27.

Profit for County

The audit also disclosed that during the year the county commissioners had retired \$9,000 in bonds which were not yet due. These bonds were bought at a discount of \$3,490, meaning a profit of that much to the county.

Total assets of the county were listed as \$267,127.20 and total liabilities at \$100,655.95, leaving the estimated "fund surplus" of \$166,471.25.

The county remained within its budget for 1933-34, closing the year with a total operating and budget surplus of \$1,942.78. On June 30 the treasury showed a cash balance of \$10,711.

In concluding his report, Mr. Birmingham commented:

"The affairs of the county under the present administration have been very ably, efficiently and economically carried out; especially is this true under the present day economic conditions prevailing throughout the country.

"All books and records of the funds audited were excellently maintained throughout the year."

Box Supper Planned at Lower Tesenta School

A box and novelty supper is to be held at the school house on lower Tesenta at 8 o'clock Friday night, October 5. Good music will be a feature of the occasion. Everyone is invited to attend.