



The Franklin Press



and
The Highlands Maconian

PROGRESSIVE — LIBERAL — INDEPENDENT

VOL. XLIX, NO. 42

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, OCT. 18, 1934

\$1.50 PER YEAR

JOINT SPEAKING TOUR PLANNED

Republicans, Democrats To Hold Debating Campaign

Details of a joint speaking campaign between Democratic and Republican nominees for Macon county offices were worked out Thursday morning by the county executive committee chairmen of the two parties, Dr. W. A. Rogers, Democrat, and Walter Dean, Republican.

A challenge to a joint campaign was given to the Republicans Saturday following a caucus of Democratic leaders in the county courthouse Friday night, at which time the Democratic speaking tour planned by the Young Democratic organization was called off. It was decided that greater interest could be developed in the campaign and larger crowds gotten out to hear the candidates by a joint campaign and the Democratic nominees, confident of their ability to state their cause attractively, agreed that they were willing to meet their opponents in open forum.

Meetings Scheduled

A schedule of joint speakings to carry the candidates into every voting precinct in the county was mapped out by Dr. Rogers and Mr. Dean. The schedule follows:
Monday, Oct. 22, Millshoal township.

Tuesday, Oct. 23, Higdonville school in Ellijay township.

Wednesday, Oct. 24, Pine Grove school in Sugarfork township.

Thursday, Oct. 25, Highlands school.

Friday, Oct. 26, Flats school.

Saturday, Oct. 27, Otto school in Smith's Bridge township.

Monday, Oct. 29, Slagle school in Cartoogechaye township.

Tuesday, Oct. 30, Aquone in Nantahala No. 1.

Wednesday, Oct. 31, Otter Creek school in Nantahala No. 2.

Thursday, Nov. 1, Burningtown school.

Friday, Nov. 2, Cowee school.

Saturday, Nov. 3, courthouse in Franklin.

All of the speakings in the county are to be at 7:30 p. m., except the one in Franklin on Saturday, Nov. 3, which is scheduled to start at 1:30 p. m.

The registration books were opened for new registrations last Saturday and will remain open through Saturday, October 23. The registrars will be at their polling places in each precinct on Saturdays, but they may accept registrations during the week if a person qualified for voting applies for registration. Persons already registered need not do so again. Saturday, November 3, has been set aside for challenge day, when any names appearing on the registration books may be challenged.

School Fair To Be Held Saturday Afternoon

The annual vocational fair of the Franklin high school will be held Saturday in the high school auditorium and the public is invited to attend between noon and 4 o'clock in the afternoon. Interesting exhibits for the fair are being prepared by the agriculture and home economics students under the supervision of E. H. Meacham and Miss Florence Stalcup, respective teachers of the classes. Prizes for the fair have been made possible by the merchants of Franklin and a donation by the county commissioners. A list of the prizes, their donors and winners will be published in next week's Press-Maconian.

KICKED BY HORSE

Robert Fulton of the Bethel community was kicked in the stomach by a horse Saturday. His condition was reported serious.

Petitions Circulated Urging TVA To Keep Hands Off Mellon Interests

Mellon or TVA? AN EDITORIAL

Leaders in the movement to obtain signatures to petitions informing the Tennessee Valley Authority that it is persona non grata in the benighted territory of the Nantahala Power and Light company are doubtless motivated by good intentions. Doubtless, too, the hundreds of individuals who have signed these petitions have done so in the sincere belief that it was all for the best in this and future generations.

But we wonder how much the leaders in this movement know about the purposes, plans and policies of the TVA, and how much less they know about the purposes, plans and policies of the Nantahala Power and Light company, a subsidiary of the Aluminum Corporation of America, whose virtual monopoly has made untold millions for Andrew Mellon.

Do they know that the Aluminum Corporation of America is primarily interested in the manufacture of aluminum? Do they know that the main object of the Nantahala Power and Light company is to develop current for the manufacture of aluminum? Do they know that the electricity retailed by the Nantahala company is only a "drop in the bucket," to quote Mr. J. E. S. Thorpe, Mellon missionary, as compared with its total output? Do they know that the future development of the many undeveloped hydro-electric properties, owned by the Mellon interests in Western North Carolina will depend largely upon increasing demand for aluminum?

We wonder if Mr. Thorpe could inform us when this demand will be sufficient to warrant construction of the Fontana dam, the Needmore dam, the Nantahala dam? As far as we know, he has never stated when, if ever, these dams will be constructed.

The TVA has done nothing to obstruct completion of the Nantahala project, upon which much work already has been done. If the Mellon interests need more hydro-electric power, why can't they proceed with the Nantahala dam instead of setting up a great howl about interference by the TVA in the Fontana basin?

It is very evident that the immediate need for more power is not the cause of the Nantahala Power Company's alarm. Officials of that company, we venture to say, will admit that they have more power than they need and that it will be a long, long time before they will fully develop all of their great holdings in this area.

Nevertheless, the petitions being circulated contain a cleverly veiled inference—but, mind you, no promise—that only the TVA's action in making two small land purchases in the Fontana basin is holding up construction work on this and other hydro-electric projects of the Nantahala company. The impression is unmistakably given that if the TVA will get out and stay out of this territory, the Mellon crowd will turn loose millions of dollars on these projects, put thousands of men back to work and add many millions of dollars to the taxable values of Macon, Swain and Graham counties, whereas the TVA, should it come into this territory, would greatly diminish tax valuations, supplying nothing in its place, and send taxes sky-high on all privately-owned property.

In areas where the TVA already has begun its work local economic conditions have improved greatly. Not only have electricity rates been greatly reduced and many men put to work on

(Continued on Page Ten)

Power Case Petition

Here is a copy of one of the petitions circulated in Franklin, together with the signatures appearing thereon:

NORTH CAROLINA
MACON COUNTY
PETITION TO TENNESSEE
VALLEY AUTHORITY FROM
CITIZENS OF MACON COUNTY,
NORTH CAROLINA

Honorable Harold Ickes,
Secretary of Interior,
Washington, D. C.

The citizens of Macon County, North Carolina, do hereby respectfully call the attention of Tennessee Valley Authority to certain conditions arising from the recent action of the Authority, in its purchases of land in the Fontana basin of the Nantahala Power and Light Company; which, in the opinion of these citizens, will adversely affect the interest of the county.

The company owns large areas of reservoir lands included in the Nantahala and Needmore basins in Macon County.

In 1930, the Company commenced the construction of the Nantahala Development and, before it suspended operations, had graded a nine mile railroad from a connection with the Southern Railroad to the dam site at Aquone; had driven one and one-quarter miles of a five-mile tunnel; had relocated the government highway, taking it out of the proposed basin; built bridges and cofferdams, and acquired more than ninety-five per cent of the area needed for the development.

In addition, it had completed transmission lines for the transmission of power from the site when completed.

We, the citizens of Macon County, are anxious to have the Company resume construction and complete the development at an early date, and also to continue its purchase of land for the acquisition of the remaining area for the Needmore Development, so the construction of it can be undertaken.

We look with disfavor upon any action of our government, or its agents, that would in any way hamper or discourage the Company from carrying out its plans to completion.

We have faith in the integrity and ability of the Company to go forward with its plans.

Macon County urgently needs more taxable assets from which to obtain revenue to meet its several outstanding obligations.

We do not send this petition with any intention of expressing disfavor with the policies of TVA as enunciated by President Roosevelt; or, as we understand, were the intentions of Congress, when it passed the act creating the Authority.

Respectfully submitted,

Walter Dean, Chmn. Republican Ex. Comm. Macon County; W. A. Rogers, Chmn. Democratic Ex. Com. Macon County; Walter Gibson, E. W. Long, Gus Leach, County commissioners; George B. Patton, County attorney; C. T. Bryson, register of deeds; Harley R. Cabe, assistant clerk of superior court; A. B. Slagle, sheriff; M. D. Billings, county superintendent of schools; J. Frank Ray, mayor, Town of Franklin; R. D. Sisk, member of board of aldermen; J. H. Fouts, member of board of aldermen; J. B. Pendergrass, member of board of aldermen; R. S. Jones, town of Franklin attorney; R. F. Henry, chief of police of Franklin.

Highly Organized Campaign Launched in Three Counties

A highly organized campaign got under way in Macon, Swain and Graham counties this week to obtain signatures to petitions which, in effect, call upon the Tennessee Valley Authority to "play hands off" in these counties.

The Press-Maconian was unable to learn who started the movement or who wrote the petitions, which varied somewhat in their phraseology in each of the counties. It did learn, however, that plans for a campaign to get signers in Macon county were discussed at a meeting in Franklin last week and that J. S. Conley, local agent of the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, was made chairman of the committee to push the drive.

A statement emanating from Bryson City, headquarters of the Nantahala Power and Light company, a subsidiary of the Mellon-controlled Aluminum Corporation of America, declared:

"It is understood that the Nantahala Power and Light company is taking no active part in respect to the origin or circulation of the petitions."

Many Signers Reported

Circulation of the petitions began in Franklin Tuesday or Wednesday. In Wednesday morning's Asheville Citizen it was reported that 2,000 signatures had been obtained in Macon county, 700 in Graham and 800 in Swain county. R. D. Sisk, Franklin attorney and a member of the petition committee, said it was planned to get at least two-thirds of the voters in this county to sign.

Mr. Sisk said two men had been put to work circulating the petitions in each of the 11 townships in this county and, upon investigation, The Press-Maconian learned that in many instances one was a Democrat and the other a Republican.

Some Circulators Hired

Asked whether anyone was being paid for their activities in the campaign Mr. Sisk replied:

"Well, nothing about money was said to me. It is purely voluntary. Yes, I did hear Jess Conley tell some of the men carrying the petitions that he personally would see that they were paid for their time."

It was reported that some of the men had been promised \$4 a day; but this statement could not be confirmed and it could not be as-

(Continued on Page Ten)

Artists Paint Scenes In and Around Franklin

Mr. and Mrs. George Melville Smith, of Chicago, and Dr. George Lusk, of Wilmette, Ill., have been recent guests at Kelly's Tea Room. Mr. Smith and Mr. Lusk are artists and while here made a number of crayon sketches and oil paintings, including a crayon sketch of the county courthouse which attracted much attention among the guests at the tea room. The visitors were delighted with the scenery here and expressed a desire to return later and paint other mountain scenes.

Betty Tippet Winner In Baby Contest

Betty Jane Tippet, 2-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Tippet of Route 3, was one of the babies winning a blue ribbon and a large natural color reproduction of a picture of her submitted in the recent Sears, Roebuck baby contest. Pictures of more than 100,000 babies were submitted—said to be the largest baby contest ever held.