

St. Agnes To Observe 50th Anniversary Of Founding

(Continued from Page One)

at Donaldson college, Bingham's Military school, Mebane, N. C., Ravenscroft school, Asheville and Trinity college, Hartford, Conn., he came to this section of the country in 1876 and located at Murphy. In 1877 he moved to Macon county where he remained for several months at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Siler, who were the only Episcopalians in this part of the state. It was due to the efforts of this family that Bishop Atkinson was interested in this

ple began in 1882. The Rev. J. T. Kennedy, now retired Archdeacon for colored work for the diocese, was in charge of this work during the entire time covered by this history. In addition to church services, he held a manual training school for colored men and boys and a cooking and sewing school for colored girls. The pews in both St. Agnes church and the Church of the Incarnation at Highlands were made in his shops by the colored students.

In May, 1910, Mr. Deal resigned



ST. AGNES CHURCH TODAY



THE RT. REV. R. E. GRIBBIN
Bishop of the Diocese



THE REV. FRANK BLOXHAM
Rector Since 1934

far-away and well-nigh inaccessible part of the diocese of North Carolina, so that from time to time, before the coming of Mr. Deal, visiting missionaries were sent to minister and hold services in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Beal in Cherokee county and Mr. and Mrs. Siler in Macon county.

Mr. Deal relates of those early days: "There were many hardships to encounter and many problems to be solved. Money was scarce and distances great in those days, but little by little conquering the almost unsurmountable obstacles, we began to realize the fruits of our labours.

In 1880-81 St. Johns Church was built on Cartoogechaye with funds secured in Baltimore and elsewhere. Miss Fanny Siler, later Mrs. Alfred Morgan, gave \$100 and boarded the workers on the church, others gave small amounts in lumber and work. From the fall of 1877 to 1888 Franklin was a mission front which was ministered to by Mr. Deal as often as he could make the trip. The journey of nine miles was made on foot. Sometimes services were held in the courthouse, sometimes in the Presbyterian Church. In 1886 Mr. and Mrs. Bell, of New York City, gave money to build St. Agnes Church in memory of their daughter. The church was consecrated on May 3, 1888, by Bishop Lyman.

In 1891-92 St. Agnes school for young ladies was built in the rear of the church. In 1901 the school was destroyed by fire and having no insurance, the house and furnishings were a total loss.

Work at Cashiers and Highlands

The Church of the Good Shepherd was built at Cashiers Valley in 1881, almost entirely financed by the Hampton family, of Columbia, S. C., and the church was consecrated by Bishop Lyman. This church was destroyed by a fire of unknown origin in 1892. It was replaced by another church on the same spot, built largely from funds raised in the North, and this church was consecrated by Bishop Cleshire. This place, like all others, has suffered by removals, bitter prejudices and wonderful indifference on the part of many.

Work at Highlands began in 1879 and was carried on very irregularly. In 1895 the Church of the Incarnation was built there.

In 1902 Nantahala Mission was established, consisting of three acres of ground and a good school house. Thirty-three persons were baptized and there were 18 communicants. The mission was very difficult of access, the people very poor and illiterate. Mission services were held from time to time in places scattered through Macon, Jackson, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Gaston and Buncombe counties.

The work among the colored peo-

the work and became pastor-emeritus. He and his family moved to Gainesville, Ga., after a residence and pastoral service of 33 years in Macon county.

Such is the record of one man's work for Christ and His church. A pioneer of the highest type who knew no defeat. How he accomplished so much over bad roads and laboring where the church was entirely new is hard to realize in these easier and freer days. We do know that the foundations which he laid were solid. We have with us today the descendants of those first confirmation candidates of his working in and for the church and wherever we travel in the county and beyond, the name and work of Mr. Deal are honored and held in highest memory.

With all his activities and church building here and in the surrounding territory, Mr. Deal found time to minister to the Indians and counted many as his personal friends. Among these were the last of the Indian, Cherokee chiefs, Chutshosih, and his wife, Cunstacic. The chief was one of those who refused to move westward beyond the Mississippi river when the federal government so ordered. He was known also as Chah-Chah, and to his white friends as Jim Peckerwood. The old chief died in August, 1879, and his wife died two days later. They were members of St. Johns church on Cartoogechaye and Mr. Deal administered the last sacrament to the chief. They are both buried in the little cemetery around St. Johns church. Valuable information about this interesting couple has been preserved for us in the papers of the late Rev. J. A. Deal. In July, 1932, a monument was erected over their graves by the women of Macon county. Arthur Toomer, grandson of Mr. Deal, unveiled the monument and the Rev. N. C. Duncan gave an address on "The Rev. J. A. Deal's work among the Indians during his 30 years as a missionary in Macon county."

Subsequent History

As noted above the church is a memorial to Agnes Souter Bell, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bell, of New York. Her parents gave lavishly for the work and in addition to most of the funds for the actual building they also gave the organ, the communion vessels and secured the font. During their lifetime they gave a large annual contribution to the work. That support has been carried on by their sons who have established a permanent trust fund, the interest of which materially aids in the work today.

Following Mr. Deal's retirement in 1910 there have been many intervals when there was no resident minister in the field. From these

intermissions the work has suffered many setbacks.

After Mr. Deal, the Rev. Mr. Crosby served St. Agnes for two years, followed by the Rev. John H. Griffith, Archdeacon under Bishop Horner, and resident in Asheville. From 1924 to 1927 the Rev. E. Jerome Pipes gave devoted services to the field, living in Franklin and also serving missions in Murphy, Sylva, Cullowhee and Highlands. A period of four years followed when there were only occasional services by visiting clergymen.

The Woman's Auxiliary of the diocese came to the rescue of the work in 1930 and agreed yearly to support a missionary in the southwestern part of the diocese. Their gifts have made the work possible.

In June, 1931 the Rev. N. C. Duncan came to work as priest in charge of St. Agnes and the Church of the Incarnation, Highlands, also serving scattered communicants as far as Murphy. Under his able leadership cut short by his retire-



THE REV. J. A. DEAL
Just Prior to His Retirement

ment due to illness in 1933, the church's life and influence was rebuilt. He was succeeded by the Rev. Frank Bloxham in January, 1934, and he has since ministered to these mission stations.

May this brief history of the church here inspire many to put forth greater efforts for the extension of the Kingdom of God. In His Name we go forward to attempt even greater things in the days that lie ahead.

Macon County Road Project Approved

The U. S. bureau of roads has approved a state highway construction project in Macon county extending from Highlands toward the Georgia line along the forestry highway project.

The new project will be first to be entered on the next highway letting set tentatively for May 17, according to Assistant Highway Engineer L. W. Payne. He said there would be 10 or 12 projects on the list.

Growers Apply For Seed Certification

Applications from growers who wish to have their fields of small grain certified should be sent to the N. C. crop improvement association at State college by May 1.

Before seed can be certified, said A. D. Stuart, extension seed specialist, the fields in which it grows must be inspected by representatives of the association.

Other tests, such as checking for purity and germination, will be made later.

So far, some 60 or more growers have filed applications covering oats, rye, wheat, and barley grown in all sections of the state.

Hospital News

H. L. Bryant is a patient in the Angel hospital with an injured knee.

Miss Jackie Gerrard, daughter of Paul H. Gerrard, Nantahala national forest supervisor, has been seriously ill in the hospital with an infected ear, but is now greatly improved.

Miss Margie Seay underwent an operation for appendicitis last week. Her condition is satisfactory.

Miss Dolly Hedden underwent a tonsil operation in this hospital Monday morning.

R. I. Beal, of Highlands, is a patient in the hospital, suffering with a fractured jaw.

Mrs. Burdell Hurst, of West's Mill, underwent an appendix operation Sunday. Her condition is satisfactory.

Miss Gladys Woodard, of Etna, also underwent an appendix operation Monday morning.

Robert L. Carpenter, who underwent an operation one week ago has been discharged to his home.

B. W. Breedlove underwent an operation for mastoiditis Sunday. His condition is favorable.

Miss Annie Belle Kirkland is seriously ill in the hospital with a kidney ailment.

Mrs. A. M. Henson, of Otto, underwent an operation Monday. Her condition is satisfactory.

Lancaster Elected To Alpha Gamma Sigma

John Earle Lancaster, a former Franklin boy, has been elected to the Maryville college honor society, Alpha Gamma Sigma, the requirements of which are substantially the same as those of the national

honorary fraternity, Phi Beta Kappa.

membership is limited to 10 per cent of the graduating class and is restricted to candidates for the A. B. degree, meeting certain requirements of scholastic work.

At a recent meeting, Dorothy N. Crawford, '35, was elected president and John E. Lancaster, '38, vice-president.

Offer Scholarships For Best Livestock

Three one-year scholarships to State college which will be offered North Carolina 4-H club members again this year have been announced by L. R. Harrill, 4-H club leader at the college.

One will go to the boy or girl who raises the best baby beef animal this year, another to the member producing the best pig, and the third to the youth growing the best dairy calf.

The scholarships, offered by the North Carolina division of the National Cottonseed Products association, will be awarded under the supervision of the State college 4-H department.

The awards are intended to stimulate more interest in raising good livestock and to increase consumption of a by-product of the south's main crop—cotton.

Contestants will be required to keep accurate records showing the initial weight and cost of the animal; the kind, amount, and cost of feed consumed; and the weight and value of the animal at the close of the contest.

The scholarships will be awarded on a basis of the records kept, the condition of the animal, the member's all-round participation in 4-H activities, and on grooming and showmanship.

In the event that a winner is unable to apply his scholarship toward an agricultural course in college, the money will be turned over to the 4-H scholarship fund.

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Franklin Lodge, No. 452
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S. J. Murray, Sec'y

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