

# TABLET HONORS FIRST TEACHER

(Continued From Page One)

D. Billings, superintendent of schools of Macon county, who was the principal speaker on the program.

Mr. Billings spoke of Mr. Curtis' life in Franklin and his service as editor of The Franklin Press. He also had much to say of Mr. Curtis as a man of tolerant and liberal views, but with strong principles and a sane outlook. He spoke of him as a "man with his feet on the ground," who could not be stampeded by wild theorists with utopian schemes. He further said that Mr. Curtis was known as a man who stood always for what he believed to be right and never knew the meaning of fear.

### Markers Unveiled

At the conclusion of Mr. Billings' address, Dr. J. K. Coit, of the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee school, spoke for a few minutes, paying tribute to Dr. Ritchie and asking those present to insist that the Doctor write a history of Rabun county after his retirement from active work with the school on July 1. The crowd then proceeded to the entrance where the little granddaughter of Dr. Ritchie pulled the cord and unveiled the memorial tablet to Mr. Curtis which is set into one of the brick columns. In the opposite column another memorial tablet is imbedded to the memory of Elizabeth Ritchie, sister of Dr. Ritchie, and her husband, John Howard, who were students of Mr. Curtis and were helpers in the founding of the present school.

The tablet to Mr. Curtis reads as follows:

In Memory of  
Our First Teacher  
W. A. Curtis  
Founder of the First  
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School  
1873

Here He Lived and Taught  
For Nearly Twenty Years  
Erected By  
His Pupils Who Were  
Living in 1939

The other tablet is inscribed:  
Here Lived Two Students  
Of Mr. Curtis  
Elizabeth Ritchie and Her  
Husband, John Howard  
A Faithful Helper in the  
Founding of the  
Rabun Gap-Nacoochee School  
Erected in Their Memory  
By Survivors of the Family  
In 1939

### Bountiful Dinner Served

After the unveiling a barbecue and basket dinner was served which the crowd enjoyed to the utmost.

There were several of Mr. Curtis' old students present in the gathering, two of them, Mrs. Z. B. Dillard and Mrs. W. T. York, having attended his first class.

Three of Mr. Curtis' children were present on this occasion, H. O. Curtis, of Sylva; Mrs. Florence Hampton, of Bryson City, and W. F. Curtis, of Franklin. Three others live so far away they could not attend. Three grandchildren were also present, Mrs. Buckner and William Curtis, son and daughter of H. O. Curtis, and Robert, son of W. F. Curtis. All of them were asked by Dr. Ritchie to stand and be introduced to the crowd.

The memorial exercises were arranged by a committee appointed by Dr. Ritchie which was composed of the following pupils of Mr. Curtis: Z. B. Dillard, J. E. Rickman, B. R. Dillard, Mrs. W. T. York and Mrs. W. E. Powell.

### Mr. Curtis a Remarkable Man

W. A. Curtis was without doubt one of the most talented men this mountain country ever produced. He was born and reared in what is now Clay but was then Cherokee county, North Carolina, and received his education under that remarkable pioneer teacher, John O. Hicks, who was known far and wide for his learning and ability.

When the Civil War came, Mr. Curtis volunteered at once for service and fought gallantly for the Confederacy for four years. He returned after Lee's surrender and determined to enter the teaching profession and went to Rabun Gap with his old teacher, John O. Hicks, who recommended him to the people. There was no school and one was badly needed, and the citizens of the community worked together with Mr. Curtis and enabled him to secure 100 acres of what

is now the 1600-acre property of the splendid Rabun Gap-Nacoochee school. A residence and school house were built, and for nearly 20 years the boys and girls of Rabun and adjoining counties in Georgia and North Carolina went to the Rabun Gap school and received there the essentials of education, religion and good citizenship.

### Moves To Franklin

About 1887 Mr. Curtis went back near his boyhood home and taught in Hayesville for two years. He had often visited Franklin and knew many of the people, and when an opportunity offered in 1889 to buy The Franklin Press from F. S. Johnston, who desired to give up the paper, he moved here and assumed control.

The first issue of The Press under the management of Mr. Curtis appeared on July 4, 1889, and is now in the files at this office. He remained as editor and owner until his death in March, 1910.

Mr. Curtis is well remembered by the older residents as an unassuming man of wide information and many talents. He was an able editor, an expert printer, an authority on the science of music and a photographer who thoroughly understood the art. In addition he was a cabinet maker, many pieces of whose fine work are highly prized by their owners in this section. He was also a scientific farmer and horticulturist, and it is said that he could master any trade or science that appealed to him.

But the greatest of all the memorials to this remarkable man is to be found in the lives and work of his former pupils, such as George Truitt, one of the most eminent of living preachers, and others whose fame has been nationwide, and also many solid and substantial citizens throughout this immediate section who were his pupils, and whom he inspired with his example and his teaching.

## Communications

### MR. SEAY URGES COUNTY FOR MORALS AND ETHICS

I have made a number of requests for help and cooperation in explaining the plan and doing the work of the Spiritual Welfare League of Clayton, Ga. The response has been excellent but more gratifying than ever to receive the whole-hearted cooperation I have in the last few months. I am working through the pastors and not one of them has refused to help.

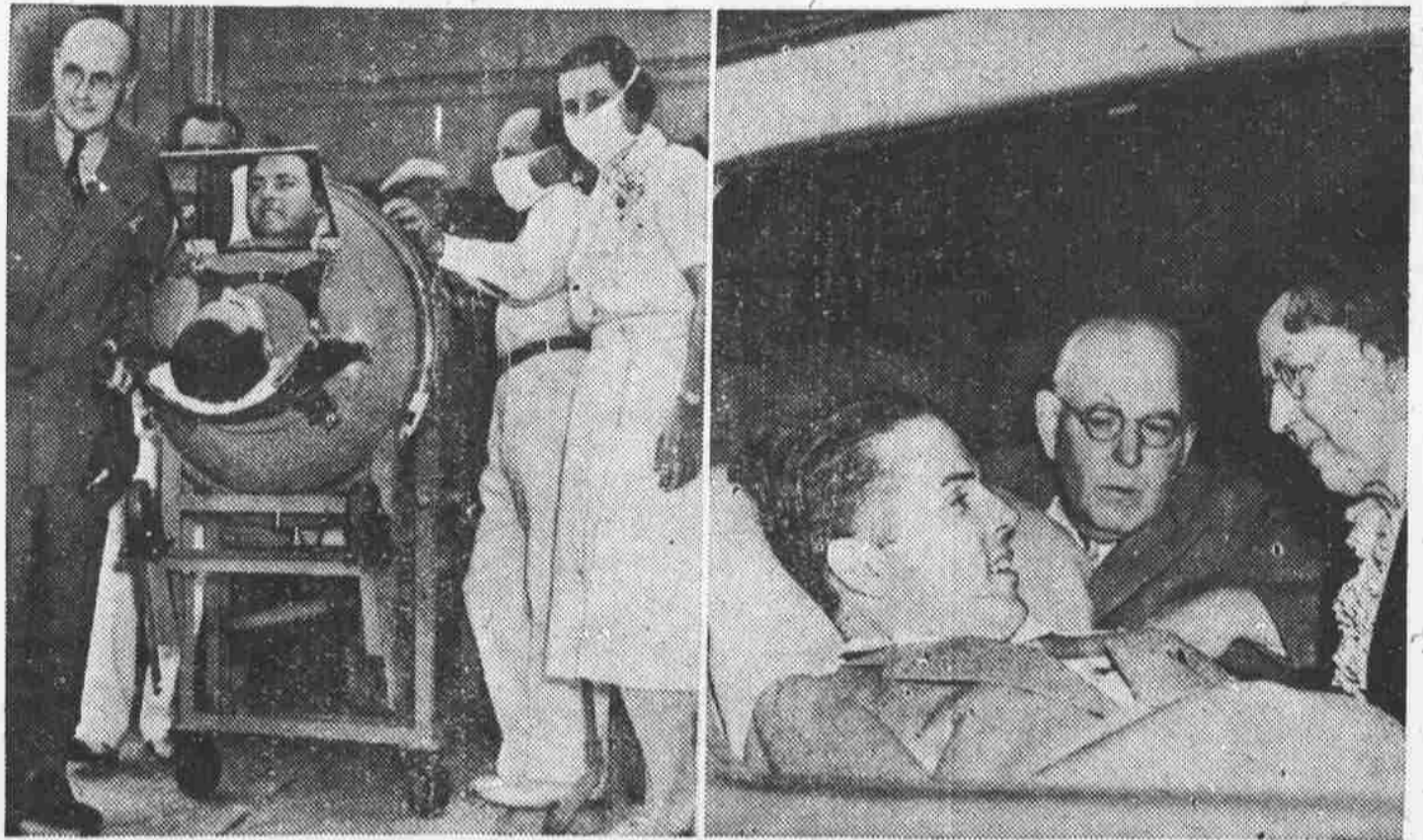
Our next objective is to get a sufficient number of communities to start the group work to organize a county league. The plan provides that when a dozen or more communities start the work they may each send three men to a designated place to organize a county league. This league elects a county superintendent to keep the work going. This superintendent receives a salary but all others render service gratis out of love for their homes and their country. We are persuaders.

With the county organized this way, a number of benefits are at once available. Those to the church are too numerous to name now. We name one of vital importance to our national life. With the county thus organized the best men and women can, among other good things, establish a county standard of morals and ethics. In working for this they can, among other things, through their county superintendent and local leagues, write a county platform of principles, publish it in the county local paper. At the close say, "To all candidates desiring our suffrage the above is a platform of our principles. If you get our support you will make them yours. And being organized so we can, will keep tab on you whether or not you live up to them."

Of course all will not stick and go the same way but the best people will be leading in it, and our group work and mass meeting work will be continually building sentiments in favor of the county standard. Also our means of high-powered persuasion will help to mould sentiment into public opinion and a few more now and then will stick and fall into the better way and finally win out.

How much better it will be for the best people to take the reins and write into a platform what they want and don't want. And hold up to the public, not men, not flesh and blood, but undying eter-

## Two Invalids Seek Assistance at Lourdes Shrine



Fred Snite Jr., left, 28-year-old Chicago youth, an infantile paralysis victim whose life for the past three years has depended on an "iron lung," was recently placed on board ship for the first lap of his journey to the Grotto of Miracles in Lourdes, France, where he will seek strengthening of his religious philosophy. Right: David Van Wallace, 32, bed-ridden for 15 years because of a broken neck, will visit the Grotto of Miracles some time in July. The Notre Dame club of Detroit, Mich., heard of Wallace's desire to visit Lourdes, and took steps to insure the journey.

nal principles, and say to the law-makers, the judges, and the executors of the law, this is what we demand and what we are organized to contend for.

I say how much better this method would be than to leave all up to drunken, bootlegging, wicked, designing, vote buying, corrupt politicians, just such as many of them are, to lead, take the reins and start the team and drive it very much at will. This will be a first step toward purifying politics.

This gigantic liquor problem, with at the Rabun Gap-Nacoochee school fully dealt with in the same way.

GEO. W. SEAY.

### Otto

By MISS HAZEL BRADLEY

There will be a cake walk, music and games at the Otto school house Saturday night, July 1, at 8 o'clock. Proceeds will go for equipment for the playground and is sponsored by the recreational leaders.

Mrs. W. E. Mozeley left Sunday to spend several days with her daughter, Mrs. Tom Alley and Mr. Alley, of Cullowhee.

A double header ball game was played by the Otto CCC's with Holly Springs and Clarks Chapel on the CCC ball grounds on Sunday. The score between the CCC's and Holly Springs was 26 to 6 in favor of the former and Clarks Chapel was beaten by a score of 9 to 0.

Miss Kate Vinson has taken a position in Highlands for the summer.

A large group of friends were entertained with an outdoor party at the home of Misses Josephine, Hazel and Lois Bradley on Saturday, June 24. Several enjoyable games were played around an open fire.

The Ladies' Aid will meet with Mrs. Kate Myers on July 8 at 3 o'clock p. m., at her home. All members are urged to attend.

### LEGAL ADVERTISING

#### ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of S. A. Angel, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 24th day of June, 1940, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 24th day of June, 1939.

J. J. MANN,  
Administrator.

J29-6tp-A3

#### EXECUTRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as executrix of Phebe Crisp, deceased, late of Macon county, N. C., this is to notify all persons having claims against the estate of said deceased to exhibit them to the undersigned on or before the 28th day of June, 1940, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement. This 27th day of June, 1939.

NANNIE ROGERS,  
Executrix.

J29-6tp-A3

The Home Demonstration club will meet at the Otto school house on July 6 at 3 o'clock p. m. All members are asked to be present.

A recent survey conducted in 35 states revealed that seven out of 10 farmers personally interviewed subscribed to a daily newspaper and more than half took a weekly.

### Notice To Subscribers

Due to the many changes being made in our mailing list each week, some errors may occur, and subscribers are asked to check addresses and expiration dates and report any mistakes at once.

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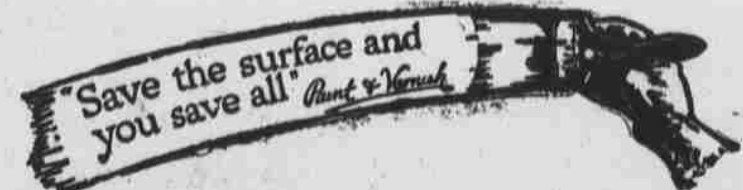
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