

1,800 Subscribers

Affording Advertisers Thorough and Inexpensive Coverage of Macon County.

The Franklin Press

The Highlands Maconian

PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL INDEPENDENT

Established 1885

The Oldest North Carolina Newspaper West of Buncombe County.

VOL. LIV, NO. 32

FRANKLIN, N. C. THURSDAY, AUGUST 10, 1939

\$1.50 PER YEAR

Siler Family Held 89th Annual Reunion August 3

200 Relatives Meet At Home Of Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer Jones

By Mrs. F. L. Siler

NOTE: Several years ago the editor of The Press, Blackburn Johnson said to me: "I am invited to the Siler family meeting, but you always have them on a Thursday which is press day and I cannot go, so I am going to depend on you to give me the story for the next week's issue every year." I replied that it might be a good idea not to write the story every year for I thought the public would tire of it. He stated that it would be a poor county paper indeed that would not mention such an outstanding annual event, for though there were many family meetings yearly, the Siler meeting was unusual in at least two respects. They were the first pioneer family to settle this part of the country and held the longest unbroken record of annual meetings of any other family in the country.

So it has been my duty since to give The Franklin Press the same story which is really never quite the same! M. R. S.

We all thought we would get wet—but we didn't! We thought those from a distance would not start out in the rain, but they did!

By 1:30 p. m. nearly 200 relatives had gathered on the lovely, big, green lawn of our Cousins Maude and Gilmer, (Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer Jones).

By the time the cloths were laid on the long tables under the pines, the little drops of rain had ceased altogether, and the usual bountiful feast was soon spread.

Ministers of all denominations in town are always invited and are there to say grace and open and close the meetings with prayer. This meeting was called to order by the chairman, Carl Slagle, after dinner. His opening remark was that we would have the minutes of the last meeting read "by our ancient secretary, Jim Gray." If Jim holds the place as secretary as long as his father, Cousin Tom Gray, did, he will really become ancient at his post; for no weather was too bad, no roads too muddy for Cousin Tom to attend the meeting and his duty for nearly sixty years! Now his son never lives too far away to come "home" for the same purpose. The only time since taking his father's place that he could not return, was from South America a few years ago. He comes from Washington, D. C., now.

Such is the loyalty of the Siler family!

After reports of the obituary and outlook committees it came time

(Continued on Page Eight)

Girl Who Went To First Siler Reunion At 5 Has Place Of Honor At 89th

(From Asheville Times)

Back in 1851, when four Siler brothers and their families gathered for a reunion, no one paid particular attention to a little girl of five.

But last Thursday, when Siler descendants gathered for their 89th annual reunion, every one paid attention to that same little girl—94. For she has attended every Siler family meeting—89 of them since that first one.

She is Mrs. Hattie Moore, of Franklin.

The oldest member of the family, she gave every indication at the reunion of being the happiest member, too; and certainly she was the most serene. Others might become confused by all the greetings—of friends not seen in years or decades, of children grown beyond one's knowledge, of in-laws and uncles and aunts and cousins. But not "Cousin Hattie."

She doesn't pretend to know all the younger folk, but as they came by her chair to offer greetings, she placed them by inquiring whose son or daughter they were, or whose grandchild. And for each she had a warm handshake or kiss, and a never-failing smile.

This spontaneous tribute was paid by individuals, and at the formal meeting, following the picnic dinner, the family presented her several gifts in token of esteem and affection. The presentation was made by G. L. Jones, of Asheville.

Now unable to walk, Mrs. Moore

NAMED AIDE TO ATTY. GENERAL

George B. Patton To Be Assistant To McMullan

Attorney General Harry McMullan announced in Raleigh Tuesday the appointment of Representative George B. Patton, of Macon county,



GEORGE B. PATTON

as assistant attorney general to succeed Robert H. Wettach, who has resigned to resume teaching in the University of North Carolina law school.

Representative Patton will take up his duties in Raleigh next Monday, August 14. He stated that he would return to Franklin to handle his cases in Macon superior court, which convenes on Monday, August 21, and after the adjournment of court would move to Raleigh to give his full time to his new duties.

The appointment to this responsible position is an honor to Mr. Patton, but it is an honor well deserved, and his friends at home feel that he will handle his job in a way that will be a credit to himself and to his home county.

An alumnus of the University of North Carolina, one of the leading attorneys of the Western North Carolina bar, several times mayor of Franklin, and at present the county's representative in the general assembly, George Patton has been trusted with many important matters and has always justified the trust. His appointment will meet with the approval of all who know of his energy and ability.

POISON FATAL TO YOUNG MAN

Don McKinney Dies After Taking Heavy Dose Of Strychnine

Don Aden McKinney, 23, died in Angel hospital Saturday morning about 3 o'clock, death being caused by poison which he had taken Friday afternoon.

According to reports the young man went to Charles Russell's service station at the corner of Phillips and Palmer streets Friday afternoon and bought a soft drink and went into a rest room. When he came out he is said to have told Charles Russell, station manager; L. E. Penland and Otto Arvey that he had taken poison and "after two or three hours they would not see him any more." The men believed he was joking, but he went out in front of the station where he collapsed after about ten minutes and became unconscious. He was rushed to the hospital, but all efforts to combat the effects of the poison were unavailing.

Poison Bottle Found

After Mr. McKinney collapsed Otto Arvey went into the rest room and is said to have found a powder on the floor and undissolved powder in the soft drink bottle. The poison bottle was later discovered, and it was found to be strychnine which he is said to have bought at a local drug store the same afternoon, stating that he wanted to kill some rats. From the amount of strychnine missing from the bottle he was thought to have taken about 15 grains.

Mr. McKinney had been employed at Poindexter's service station near the depot for some time. He had been living in Franklin for the past four years with a sister, Mrs. Medford Messer. He was born in Hiawassee, Ga., and was a graduate of Hiawassee high school in the class of 1935. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. David McKinney. He was married on May 13, 1937, to Miss Katherine Palmer, of Franklin, but the couple had been separated for more than a year, it was said.

Surviving are his widow; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. David McKinney, of Hiawassee; three sisters, Mrs. Medford Messer and Miss Ruth McKinney, of Franklin, and Miss Willie Belle McKinney, of Hiawassee; three brothers, Evan, Owen, and Ward McKinney, of Hiawassee; four nieces, and one nephew.

Funeral Held Sunday

Funeral services were held at the Baptist church in Hiawassee on Sunday afternoon. The Rev. Harry S. Williams, pastor of the Franklin Methodist circuit, and the Rev. A. B. Greene, a Baptist minister of Hiawassee, were in charge. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Pallbearers were: Billy Blaine, John Cunningham, Elijah Grant, Horace Nolen, Otto Arvey, and John Lyle Palmer, all of Franklin.

Legion Picnic Held At Cliffside Lake

The Macon county post of the American Legion met at Cliffside Lake recreation area for its first picnic last Sunday afternoon. More than 200 legionnaires, ex-soldiers, their families and invited guests attended.

Dr. W. E. Furr was master of ceremonies. James M. Caldwell, department adjutant, of Asheville, made a short talk and introduced Major Howell, of Waynesville, who was the principal speaker. The Angel quartet, of Franklin, rendered several vocal selections.

A swimming contest was held with Miss Lillian Jones, of Franklin, winning in the jack-knife dive. Miss Nancy Jones won the swan dive, and Andrew Jones was presented the prize for the long-distance race.

It was decided to make the picnic an annual event.

Atlantic City Miss Has Relatives In Macon

In the July 27 issue of The Franklin Press there appeared a picture of a pretty Atlantic City Miss posing on a road sign, indicating the distance from this resort to all major cities of the world. She was Miss Mae Munz, daughter of Mrs. Mabel Ramsey Munz, who is the daughter of the late John Ramsey, and the granddaughter of the late Samuel T. Ramsey, both of the Tellico section of Macon county.

Miss Munz is also the niece of Mrs. John Queen, a former Macon county lady, who now lives in Philadelphia, Pa.



DR. ARTHUR FOX Who Will Conduct the Revival Services Beginning Sunday Evening at Friendship Tabernacle.



PAUL FOX Who Will Direct the Singing at the Revival

WPA Offices For Area 12 To Remain In Franklin

The Works Progress Administration offices of Area 12, which were moved to Franklin from Bryson City last August, will continue for another year in this location, according to Gwynn Denton, area head. "I am glad that we can remain in Franklin," said Mr. Denton, when interviewed Tuesday morning.

There are 16 supervisors and their assistants attached to the area offices who either live or have their headquarters in Franklin, whose residence has been a valuable addition to the social and business circles of the community.

Arrangements have been made whereby the office expense of WPA headquarters is shared by town and county, this requirement being met by communities where area offices of federal projects are located.

Gerald Dover Dies In New York

Gerard R. Dover, Jr., 18, son of P. W. Dover, of Roslyn Heights, L. I., N. Y., and nephew of Mrs. J. Frank Carmack, of Franklin, died at the Presbyterian hospital, New York, on Tuesday, August 8, of a streptococcal infection of the heart.

A young man of exceptional talent and character, Gerald had many friends in Franklin, where he and his mother spent several summers with Major and Mrs. Frank Carmack, who will mourn with them his untimely death. He attended Christ School, Arden, for two years where he made a fine record which was interrupted by a serious illness. He was a member of the Art League of New York, and was planning to pursue a course in art and journalism, having just passed entrance examinations for Columbia University.

Mrs. Franks Assisting Mrs. Bost In Raleigh

Mrs. Eloise G. Franks, as president of the North Carolina association of superintendents of public welfare, has been called to Raleigh by Mrs. W. T. Bost, commissioner of the state board of charities and public welfare, in order to assist with plans being made for welfare work in the state during the ensuing year.

Revival Services To Begin At Tabernacle Sunday Night

CROWD ATTENDS ANNUAL PICNIC

Federation Heads Make Talks; Contests Enjoyed

The third annual Macon county Farmers Federation picnic was held last Saturday at the Franklin schoolhouse. Nearly 700 persons were present from all parts of the county. The auditorium, platform, and galleries were filled. Outside the building a large number listened through the loud-speaker. The program consisted of short talks interspersed with numerous musical selections. Many performers were present from Macon and Swain counties and all were heartily applauded.

James G. K. McClure, president of the federation, presided. The Rev. J. A. Flanagan offered the opening prayer. The chairman of the Macon county committee of the federation, Carl Slagle, extended a cordial welcome to the large audience. Mr. McClure told of the steps taken by the cooperative to improve the work-stock in Western North Carolina through placing highest grade stallions and thoroughbred mules in a number of counties.

S. C. Clapp speaks. S. C. Clapp, head of the seed department, spoke of the varied activities by which the federation is serving the farmers. W. T. Brown, Jr., gave a brief description of the school for training selected boys in the work of the federation. The Rev. Dumont Clarke told of the Lord's Acre work in Macon county and of the extension of the movement in the United States and to many other parts of the world.

At noon, 250 watermelons and the lemonade made from hundreds of lemons, as also the large lunches spread beside the pines, were zestfully consumed. The relay races, and especially the tug-o-war, delighted the crowd of onlookers.

Beginning the afternoon session, A. L. Smiley led the gathering in singing two hymns. The Rev. R. T. Mayberry offered prayer. Mr. McClure announced that the winning choirs and quartets would compete at the picnic at the Swananoa Test farm on Wednesday, August 16. Dr. D. W. Daniel, of Clemson college, celebrated for his humorous talks, he stated, would be the speaker on that occasion.

The judges of the singing awarded first prize to the Gold Mine choir, and the second to Holly Springs choir. In the quartets Angel received first prize, and McClure-Dandy the second. The other prizes awarded were: Tall story, Homer Jones; largest family, Mr. and Mrs. Arvey Seay; longest married, Mr. and Mrs. George Crisp; shortest married, Mr. and Mrs. Erastus Mason; baldest head, Elsie Fox; largest truck load, Ray Franklin.

Judge Sam Cathey, of Asheville, congratulated the people upon the activity of the federation in Macon county under Mr. McClure's leadership, and felicitated all upon the enjoyable picnic.

Carlisle Brothers To Appear Here Aug. 19

The Carlisle Brothers, well known radio stars, will make their first personal appearance at the courthouse in Franklin on Saturday night, August 19, at 8 o'clock.

The Carlisle Brothers are heard over radio station WNOX, Knoxville, Tenn., each week day morning at 7:15 o'clock.

The sponsor's receipts will be used for the benefit of 4-H Club work in Macon county.

A. B. Cox, of Sanford, and daughter, Miss Miriam Cox, of Durham, are guests at the Kelly Tea Room.

As The World Turns

A Brief Survey of Current Events In State, Nation and Abroad.

PRESIDENT WILL DEDICATE PARK

According to present plans, President Roosevelt expects to be present for the dedication of the Great Smokies National Park in early October.

CHEROKEES OFFER PLAN

The Indians of the Cherokee

All Churches Of County Expected To Join In Meetings

Beginning at 7:45 p. m. next Sunday, August 13, the churches of the several denominations in Franklin and Macon county will engage in a series of meetings at the Friendship tabernacle, led by Dr. Arthur Fox, who will do the preaching each day for three weeks, and his son, Paul Fox, who will conduct the singing and lead in young people's work.

Choir members of the various churches will be organized into a large choir and lead in the gospel song service each night.

Dr. Fox comes from Morristown, Tenn., with the highest endorsement of many people, including ministers of various denominations. For more than 12 years he has conducted revival services in many places.

Dr. Fox' experience as a Christian gentleman who places the Kingdom of God above any and all denominations; his loyalty to the Bible as the Word of God, and his faithfulness to its teaching and his sunny disposition and knowledge of human nature, gained by his years of experience as pastor and evangelist, make him highly fitted to lead in this union effort of the churches of Macon county.

Mrs. Fox will accompany her husband and son in their work here, and the evangelistic party will enjoy a little touch of home life which is seldom their privilege these past years, Dr. Fox being absent from home most of the time. The furnished apartment on the Georgia road owned by Mr. and Mrs. M. L. Dowdle will be their home for the next three weeks.

The following committees, composed of members of various churches, have the arrangements well in hand and a great opening service is anticipated Sunday night to which the public is cordially invited as well as to all the services which shall follow:

General Chairman—Rev. C. F. Rogers.
Publicity—Dr. Walter E. Furr, chairman; Mrs. Lester Conley; O. C. Bryant; Rev. I. L. Roberts, Charles Rogers, Roy Mashburn, Katherine Bowden.

Finance—J. S. Conley, chairman; J. W. Addington, Clyde West, Vernon Swafford, J. A. Sutton, Rev. J. A. Flanagan, B. W. Woodruff.
Entertainment—Mrs. J. S. Conley, chairman; Mrs. Helen Macon, Mrs. Derald Ashe.
Personal Workers—Rev. J. C. Swain, chairman; Paul Swafford, Mrs. J. C. Wright, Mrs. P. F. Callahan, Ben McCollum.

Music—Mrs. H. W. Cabe, chairman; Mrs. Harry Higgins, Mrs. H. T. Horsley, Rev. Harry S. Williams, Mrs. Frank Bloxham.
Ushers—W. T. Moore, chairman; Brabson Bulgin, Paul Carpenter, Quince Hauser, Rev. R. F. Mayberry, John Ansel.

Grounds and Building—Jimmy Hauser, chairman; A. B. Slagle, John Bulgin, Ralph Angel, Elbert Angel, Rev. I. L. Roberts, James L. Averell.

Transportation—Harley Cabe, chairman; J. L. Young, Frank Browning, Freeman Hastings, Jake Myers, Tom Rickman, Rev. J. A. Flanagan.

Survey—Alex Moore, chairman; George E. Brown, Mrs. Gordon Moore, Rev. C. F. Rogers, Rev. Frank Bloxham.

Morning services beginning Tuesday, August 15, at 9:45 a. m., will be held each day at the Methodist church in Franklin and the night services will be at 7:45 at the Tabernacle.

All should rally to this unusual opportunity as Christians and citizens of Macon county so that our churches, homes and community may be better places in which to live, and to the end that bad men shall become good and good men shall become better.

Reservation yesterday submitted a plan to federal officials under which they are willing to give right-of-way for construction of the Blue Ridge parkway. These include a minimum of \$40,000 purchase price, prohibition of concessions along the highway, connection with parkway of certain state

(Continued on Page Eight)