

Reader Interest

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The Highlands Maconian

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FEDERATION TO PAY DIVIDEND

Preferred And Common Stock Holders To Receive 3%

ASHEVILLE, Dec. 20.—More than 4,000 stockholders of the Farmers Federation will share in a three per cent semi-annual dividend to be paid January 1. This dividend, payable on both common and preferred shares, is the twelfth consecutive semi-annual payment made by the cooperative. It was declared at a meeting of the board of directors at the central office in Asheville on December 15.

Common stock dividends are normally paid in cash at the nearest federation warehouse, while checks are mailed to owners of preferred shares and also a common stockholders living at a distance.

Under a recent amendment to the federation's by-laws, dividends on partial paid shares will be paid in stock credits until a full share is attained.

Dividends on both common and preferred stock of the cooperative are limited to six per cent annually. Additional earnings can be distributed only as a patronage dividend, in proportion to the cash business done by each customer. Last spring a patronage dividend of three per cent, payable in stock credits, was declared on 1938 business.

Plans for the establishment of a new federation unit in Swain county are well under way, and steps already have been taken looking forward toward expansion of the organization into Yancey county. More than 300 farmers and business men in Swain county have subscribed to stock, and a modern warehouse building is now under construction. This warehouse, number 10, is expected to open for business early in the new year.

Stock subscriptions are now being taken for the Yancey county unit, and J. H. Hampton, of Murphy, who is in charge of the organization campaign, reports an enthusiastic reception.

Lions Club Prepares For Christmas

Franklin Lions Club held their bi-weekly meeting at Cagle's Cafe Monday, December 18, and the main topic was the Christmas tree fund for needy children. The fund raising committees have been very successful with Woody Reeves, Lester Arnold, and Bill Moore reporting on the Square Dance held Saturday and the box supper a few days before in cooperation with the other clubs. Even Leo, the wooden lion, used to collect dimes from tardy members, was called to account and disgorged 140 dimes for the Christmas tree. President Tom Angel appointed a committee to work in close harmony with the other Service Clubs in Franklin to make sure that no needy child is overlooked.

A Christmas carol, by Charles Dickens, was read aloud to the Club by James Averell. This Christmas ghost story is one of the newly acquired books in the Franklin library.

Plans were discussed to hold another dance between Christmas and New Year's to raise money to paint the inside of the Study Hall at the Franklin school.

Christmas Celebration At Pleasant Hill Church

Members of the Pleasant Hill Baptist church will give a Christmas program and a community Christmas tree, at the church on Saturday evening, December 23, beginning at 8 o'clock.

Two plays, "The True Meaning of Christmas" and "The Star of Bethlehem," will be the principal features of the program. Christmas carols will be sung at intervals during the evening. The public is invited to attend.

F. A. Silcox, Head Of Forest Service, Dies

News was received by the Nantahala Forest Service headquarters in Franklin yesterday of the death of F. A. Silcox, 56, chief of the forest service, at his home near Alexandria, Va. He was a native of Charleston, S. C.

During his five years as chief of the forest service in Washington, Mr. Silcox did much to expand the scope and usefulness of that division of the department of agriculture. He stood for the building up of the usefulness of the forests in the preservation of game and soil as well as timber.

P.-T. A. Meeting Last Monday

The Parent-Teachers' Association met at the high school building Monday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. Devotional exercises were led by Rev. I. L. Roberts. "Silent Night," a duet, was sung by Mrs. Frank Bloxham and Mr. J. C. Hawkins. A very interesting talk on the Origin of Christmas was given by Rev. Frank Bloxham. He said that the custom of the burning of the yule log can be traced back to the era immediately following the last ice age, many thousand years ago, when, in mid-winter people tried to warm the sun for fear it might disappear and the world suffer another deluge of ice. The coming of Christ, the Light of the world, is closely associated with the return of the sun with its light and warmth.

As a result of a discussion at the November meeting, the president, Mrs. John Wasilik, Jr., appointed a committee to work out a program of social activities for the high school. These are Mrs. T. J. O'Neil chairman; Mrs. Alex Stewart, W. H. Finley, Mrs. Reba Tessler, Mrs. Joe Setser, Dorothy Jones, Betty Stagle and Bobby McClure. Tea and cake were served from a table covered with a Mexican lace cloth and decorated with candles and a centerpiece of Christmas greens.

New Theater

Is Nearing Completion Expect Announcement Of Opening Soon

The new building that is to house the Macon Theatre is nearing completion, and the management expects to announce the day of opening in next Week's Press.

Clyde Gailey, manager, says that the contractors are working two shifts and the concrete floor is down. The seats will be placed this week, and other last touches on the building and furnishings will be made during the next few days. The new theater is considerably larger than the present one, and a balcony to accommodate colored people. Full details of the building and plans for opening will be announced next week.

Christmas Cheer To Prison Camp

The pastors of the Franklin churches have received letters from the Rev. Mr. Watts, state prison chaplain of Raleigh, thanking them for their voluntary services to the local prison camp during the year.

In these letters, Mr. Watts expressed the hope that citizens seek to do something to cheer the lot of prisoners at Christmas.

Last year each of the churches had a share in the remembrance to the prisoners at the camp near Franklin, and also individual contributors who wished to share in this gift.

Either fruit, nuts, candies or cigarettes, or donations in cash may be delivered to the home of any one of the pastors, or left at the office of The Franklin Press. The gifts will be delivered to the camp on Christmas Day.

Christmas services will be held at the prison camp by the Rev. Frank Bloxham.

Miss Patton Wins Prize

The Asheville - Citizen Times Christmas color contest which ended last week has announced the prize winners. Miss Helen Patton, of Franklin, who teaches art at Western Carolina Teachers college Cullowhee, received the fourth prize of \$5.00 among the 14 prizes awarded.

Schools In Macon To Start Holidays Friday

The schools in the three Macon county districts will close Friday for the Christmas holidays, according to an announcement by the county superintendent, Guy L. Houk. The schools are scheduled to resume work on Monday morning, January 8.

M. Blumenthal Gets Message From Poland

M. Blumenthal has recently had a telegram from members of his family in Poland, saying that they are alive and safe in the now Russian part of Poland.

They were not allowed, under the strict censorship, to say anything more. The Russian government does not permit the sending of letters.



Christmas Services in Franklin Churches

BAPTIST

The pastor, Rev. C. F. Rogers, announces his theme for Sunday morning, at 11 o'clock, "The Meaning of Christmas to the Christian". The 7:30 Worship Service will be given over to the choir and a group of young people of the church who will render a Christmas Cantata entitled "A Christmas Dream".

This Cantata gives the events associated with the birth of Christ, including the pilgrimage to Bethlehem, the Shepherds on the hillside, the angel chorus, and later the coming of the Wisemen. The main characters are as follows:

The Dreamer, Mrs. J. W. Horsley; Mary, Miss Louise Blaine; Joseph, Alex Moore, Jr.; the Innkeeper, Medford Messer; the Chief Shepherd, Paul Carpenter; soloist, Miss Ruth Bryson; Mrs. Dr. H. T. Horsley, pianist; Mrs. C. F. Rogers, violinist.

CATHOLIC

Mass will be celebrated on Christmas Eve and Christmas morning at 8 a. m. in the Legion Hall, by the Rev. A. F. Rohrbacher.

EPISCOPAL

Members of other churches and of the community at large are given a cordial invitation to attend the carol service to be held in St. Agnes' church, Franklin, on Sunday afternoon at 5 o'clock. The usual candlelight festival service will be held at 11:30 p. m. on Sunday night and all are cordially invited to attend this service. To be in church, singing the familiar carols and participating in worship is the best way of ushering in the birthday of our Lord. We hope you will be there.

METHODIST

The theme for the sermon at the Methodist church next Sunday morning will be, "The Central Message Christmas Gives".

White Christmas will be observed in the evening with services at 7:30. A play, "No Gift In Return," will be given at this hour. The young people will sing Christmas carols. The offering is to be applied to the payment of benevolences. All offerings are to be presented in white envelopes so as to carry out the scheme of White Christmas. The public is cordially invited to attend these services.

Rev. I. L. Roberts requests that all those attending the "White Christmas" service to bring fruit or other Christmas good things for the men in the prison camp. These will be delivered Christmas morning.

PRESBYTERIAN

There will be a Christmas sermon at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning, with special Christmas music.

The candlelight service will be at 4 p. m., at which time the "joy gift" offering is to be taken. Miss Frances Long, who is studying at the Conservatory of Music at Cincinnati, will be the soloist.

As The World Turns

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

R. L. ARIAIL ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF BANK GROUP

R. L. Ariail, cashier of the Jackson County Bank at Sylva, of which the Highlands Bank in Macon county is a branch, has been elected chairman of group ten of the North Carolina Bankers Association meeting in Asheville last week.

WPA PROJECTS FOR MACON COUNTY

WPA projects recently approved in Raleigh include \$20,940 for museum in Highlands and \$71,188 for street improvements in Franklin.

HEYWOOD BROWN DIES IN NEW YORK

Heywood Brown, famous newspaper columnist and author, died of pneumonia in a New York hospital this week, at the age of 51.

MARCUS ERWIN DIES OF HEART ATTACK

Marcus Erwin, for six years U. S. Attorney for the western district of the state, was found dead in his hotel room Tuesday, from a heart attack.

ERSKINE SMITH ANNOUNCES FOR LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR

Ersine Smith of Albemarle, president-pro-tem of the state senate, has announced that he will seek the Democratic nomination for lieutenant-governor.

HULL SKEPTICAL OF JAPAN'S PROMISES

Secretary of State Hull this week expressed skepticism of the sincerity of Japan's assurances that the Yangtze river be opened for foreign vessels, in that nations

continued efforts to secure renewal of trade treaties with the U. S. It was pointed out that the Japanese only state intentions, which have been previously violated.

"GONE WITH THE WIND" PREMIERE RECEIVES NATIONAL ACCLAIM

Thousands attended the premiere of "Gone With the Wind", movie dramatization of Margaret Mitchell's book, in Atlanta last week. The great and prominent, including the stars and producers from Hollywood and celebrities from Washington and New York attended the two days festivities in the city where the scene of the Confederate War novel was laid.

GARNER ANNOUNCES FOR PRESIDENCY

Vice-President John Nance Garner last Saturday announced at his home in Uvalde, Texas, his candidacy for the nomination on the Democratic ticket of president.

CAPTAIN OF GRAF SPEE COMMITS SUICIDE

After the blowing up of their powerful battleship, the Admiral Graf Spee, in Montevideo harbor, where she took refuge after a battle with three British cruisers, the captain and crew left the ship and were interned at Buenos Aires, last Sunday afternoon. On Wednesday Captain Hans Langsdorff committed suicide by shooting himself with a revolver in his hotel. He explained in a note that he had obeyed orders and had seen that the seamen on his vessel were safe, and that he preferred to share the "destiny" of his ship.

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Community House Plans Go Forward

The Macon county commissioners have signed all necessary papers for the proposed community house and public library building. These with plans and architectural drawings prepared by J. G. Owens, have been forwarded to the Raleigh office of the Works Progress Administration, it has been announced by A. E. Weaver, district WPA director in Asheville.

Miss Lassic Kelly, chairman of the Franklin public library, went to Asheville last Monday, where she received assurance from Congressman Zebulon Weaver that he would give his personal attention to this project and push it through at once.

The lot is located on the south side of Palmer street, near the intersection of U. S. Highways 64 and 23, and is a piece of property already owned by the county, and assigned for the use of the community building. The plans include landscaping and tennis courts. The construction of the building is planned to be native stone. The interior is planned to contain a large auditorium with stage, dressing rooms and kitchen on the first floor. On the ground floor which is formed by the sloping character of the lot, a commodious library is planned with reading rooms, book alcoves, librarians' offices and rest rooms. Furnace and storage rooms are also placed on the lower floor of the building.

GIRL SCOUTS TO GIVE PLAY

Large Cast Will Take Part Saturday Night

On Saturday night, December 23, at the courthouse in Franklin, at 8 o'clock, will be given the play, "While Mrs. Santa Was Away." Due to the cooperation of Franklin people, preparations have been about completed.

The play, a musical comedy, will be put in final shape by Miss Frances Long. During the past several weeks Franklin's 44 Girl Scouts and Brownies have been rehearsing. Practices have been held during the past week at the courthouse on the stage which was erected Monday through the courtesy of Wade Arvey, Wade Cunningham, John Cunningham, J. D. Sutton and Mack Bingham. Stage and curtains were furnished by courtesy of the town firemen and the Presbyterian church; the courthouse through the kindness of the county commissioners. Lighting effects are to be arranged and planned by Ben McGlamery.

The nativity scene at the end of the play is being staged under the direction of Mrs. Chas. N. Dowdle assisted by Mrs. Gordon Moore and Mrs. Tom McCollum. All accompaniments will be played by Mrs. Henry Cabe.

Special Christmas music prior to the play will be furnished by Mrs. Harry Higgins, cornet; Douglas Nichols, cornet; John Ansel, flute; Clyde Gailey, cornet and Mrs. J. D. Porter, violin.

The cast of the play follows:

Santa, Lane Porter; Mrs. Santa, Sarah Conley; Merry Christmas, Helen Jo Conley; The Christmas Fairy, Osteen Roberts; Jack, the clown, Lucille Calloway; Janita, Dot Sloan; Bobby, the Policeman, Mary Frances Page; Madame Pompadour, Inez Crawford; Asmodeus, Mary Angel; Grouch, Emogene Landrum; Grumble, Mary Addington; The Poet, Jessie Barnard; Bunny, Sara Frances Cunningham; Mistletoe, Carolyn Long. Ornaments: Virginia Lee Porter, Ann Flanagan, Wilma Roberts, Carolyn Leach. Holly wreaths: Frances Furr, Ruth Angel, Barbara Conley, Ann Lyle. Indians: Dorothy Conley, Rebecca Smart, Joanne Palmer, Kandy Kids: Sally Lou Moore, Ida Mae Dowdle, Elizabeth Wasilik, Betty Jane Walldrop. Lollipop: Louise Pendergrass, Maxine Dean, Barbara Stockton, Betty Horsley.

The nativity scene will have as cast, the Brownies: Katherine Furr, Mary Alice Archer, Mary Bradley, Mildred Dalton, Nancy Calloway, Ann Cabe, and others.

Postoffice Open

Saturday Till 4 P. M.

T. W. Porter, postmaster of the Franklin office, announces that on Saturday, December 23, the office windows will remain open until 4 o'clock in order for the people to receive their mail and packages.

CHRISTMAS TREE NEXT SATURDAY

Children From All Over County Are Expected To Be Present

All children who expect to receive gifts on the county-wide Christmas tree are urged to send in their names. Those who know of children, please give their names to the committee and help them to get there.

With the cooperation of civic clubs and citizens' preparations are going forward for the largest tree yet.

During the past week, contributions were generously donated, box suppers, cake walks, dances and various other ways of raising money were given to help with the funds of the tree. More names of both old and young have been sent in this year than ever before. Last year's tree made happy over 400 children. This year a larger number is expected.

A large lighted tree has been placed on the square in front of the courthouse. A smaller tree is being placed in the courthouse from which the gifts will be distributed Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

Lester Arnold, whose office is in the courthouse is chairman of the committee.

J. B. Stiles Dies In West

Mrs. Wade Cunningham received a message from Redding, Calif., telling of the death of her brother in a hospital there on Thursday afternoon.

J. Brack Stiles, 49, a former Macon county man, and son of the late Judson and Ella Bates Stiles, was born in the Riverside section of Macon county.

In 1909 Mr. Stiles went to Washington where he lived 12 years prior to his moving to California where he was employed in the logging camps until he received serious injuries to his back when he was struck by a wire cable which left him a cripple. During the 18 years that he was an invalid, he ran a business by the use of a wheel chair.

In early manhood Mr. Stiles joined the Coweta Baptist church.

Surviving are three children, Grant Judson Stiles, of the United States navy, Norene and Mitchell, of Redding, Calif., five sisters, Mrs. J. J. Gray, Mrs. Wade Cunningham, and Mrs. John Rogers, of Franklin; Mrs. J. E. Lawson and Mrs. Witham Penland, both of Arlington, Wash., and five brothers, Henry Stiles, of Sedro Wooley, Wash., Orville Stiles, of Redding, Calif., George and Tom Stiles, of Rabun Gap, Ga., and Claude Stiles, of Brevard.

Smoky Mt. Federation Of FFA Meet In Sylva

Wednesday, December 13, Wayne Bradley, Sam Gibson, Lyle Sheppard and Mr. Whitmore, with Roy Fouts and Berlin Welch, officers of the federation, attended the Smoky Mountain Federation meeting at Sylva.

Glenville high agriculture chapter was taken into the Federation chapter, making a total of 12 chapters, all from Western North Carolina.

Talks were made by members; Roy Fouts on improving FFA activities, Jack Dotson of Bethel, on the Federation constitution, and a visitor from Sylva on improved vocational agriculture.

The tournament in March and the picnic were planned. Bethel Hill chapter's string band with Robert Justice's Hawaiian guitar will play.

Cantata To Be Given At Iotla Baptist Church

The B. T. U. of the Iotla Baptist church will present a Christmas cantata, "The Lost Carol," Sunday evening at 7:30 o'clock. The service will open with the choir and congregation singing "O Come, All Ye Faithful," followed by prayer by the pastor, the Rev. R. F. Mayberry.

The story of the cantata has been woven around the composition of "Silent Night, Holy Night" by Franz Gruber.

The main characters are: Franz Gruber, Earl Ward; Frau Gruber, Mrs. William Fouts; Karl Muller, the choir master, Paul Swafford; Gruber's son, William R. Fouts.

The chorus of the cantata will be supplemented with many of the familiar carols.