

Macon County Welfare Department



Left to right: Mrs. Eloise G. Franks, superintendent; Elmer Crawford, case worker; Alma Cabe, clerk; Sue Bryson, assistant clerk.

Department Of Welfare Shows Progress In Decade

Agencies Work For Better Social And Economic Conditions

By MRS. ELOISE G. FRANKS

Ten years ago almost half of the counties in North Carolina did not have Superintendents of Public Welfare and at that time there was no Social Security Program. It was not until July, 1937, that Provisions were made for every county in the state to have full time superintendent of public welfare. The economic crash of 1929 brought hardships and suffering into numerous families in this county which were relieved through the voluntary services of the Macon county chapter of the American Red Cross, under the leadership of Miss Elizabeth Kelly and a small pauper fund of the county was used to assist a few families in extreme need. In 1932, Miss Rachel Davis of Highlands, was appointed as part-time superintendent of public welfare by the County Board of Commissioners and County Board of Education and continued until 1935. This Welfare Board, composed of Mrs. John C. Wright, John B. Byrne and J. E. Lancaster, all of Franklin, held its first meeting on December 21, 1932, and among other things, the members discussed problems concerning the pauper fund. Members of the Board decided to use food, clothing and special orders to pay men working on relief projects which were financed by funds issued by the governor's office of relief. The Reconstruction Finance Corporation loaned money to states for unemployment relief and this money was distributed to the counties to be sent on relief projects. The county department of Public Welfare were empowered to supervise the expenditure of these funds and were authorized to pay the men working on the relief projects with requisition on merchants for food, clothing and other necessary supplies. Approximately 900 men received this type of employment in Macon County. In addition to work relief, garden seeds were distributed to those recommended by the local relief committees.

C. C. C. Camps Begun

In April, 1933, work was begun on the CCC camps in Macon County which were at that time called Relief Camps. The CCC was designed to give employment to young men between seventeen and twenty-four years of age in the development of soil conservation, the development of national and state parks, fire protection and work at reforestation. The applicants for enrollment must be in need of employment and training, must be single and must be in good health. Enrollment is for a minimum of six months and the maximum is for two years. Each enrollee receives clothing, subsistence, medical attention and thirty dollars per month. Of this monthly sum, fifteen dollars goes to the parent or other dependents, seven dollars is deposited in a savings account and the enrollee receives the remaining eight dollars to spend while in camp. Programs for education, recreation and vocational training are provided. Enrollees are selected by the superintendent of public welfare.

Chairman



Dr. James E. Perry, chairman of the Macon County Welfare Board.

W. P. A. Begins

Following Emergency Relief Administration and Civil Works Administration, the Works Projects Administration was created January 1935 to provide work for needy employees. The Federal Government pays the wages to labor and part of the costs of material. The need of applicants for WPA is established by the local Public Welfare Agency and WPA makes the work assignments. An average of 650 men are employed on WPA in Macon County. A few WPA projects for women have been set up but a greater part of these have been discontinued because of lack of funds. In October, 1933, the Federal Surplus Commodities was established which distributed free to families receiving relief or earning WPA wages surplus farm products such as cereal foods, butter, lard, prunes, citrus fruits, flour, eggs, cabbage and other commodities.

In Macon county approximately 50 tons of food are distributed each month.

Aid Farmers

In order to help conditions in rural areas, the Rehabilitation Corporation was set up in 1934, later becoming the Rural Resettlement administration. This help was given in the form of loans to the farmers. In 1937 the Farm Security Administration was organized to make loans to farm families.

In 1935, Mrs. Eloise G. Franks of Franklin was elected first full time Superintendent of Public Welfare for Macon County and the appointment was confirmed by Mrs. W. T. Bost, Commissioner, State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, Raleigh, N. C.

The duties of Superintendents of welfare as defined by the legislature are numerous and exacting. As the executive officers they appoint office personnel, administer all aid and charity funds, issue employment certificates to children, look after institutional cases, investigate cases of juvenile delinquency, act as probation officers, assist parole officers, supervise placements for adoption. In addition the superintendent of public welfare must cooperate with all existing agencies for social welfare.

Other Agencies

To give an idea of this phase

Franklin's Handsome Theatre



Macon Theatre was built two years ago by W. C. Burrell and leased to the Rabun Amusement Co. This \$35,000 modern theatre, with 575 seating capacity, is an example of the owner's faith in the future of Franklin.

Angel Hospital



Angel Hospital serves Franklin and the entire area surrounding. Recent additions have been made, with a present capacity of 68 beds. Dr. Edgar Angel is surgeon in charge. The hospital receives the benefit of the Duke Endowment Fund.

Oscar Bryant Has Found Success Through Effort

"It was about twenty years ago that I got my first job," said Oscar Bryant when asked about the beginning and progress of his business career. "I left school then to work on a farm for \$20 a month."

The story is one of ups and downs, of a young boy's dreams and a young man's hard work and discouragements.

He told of his first business venture in Franklin—a job in the store of C. T. Blaine. Along with good times he still managed to save nearly all he made, cherishing the ambition to some day go in business for himself. Like many romances in story books, one in real life happens here when the young clerk wooed and won his employer's daughter.

There came a time when he saved \$800, and he decided to start a wholesale candy business—which turned out to be experience dearly bought. An expensive trip to Chicago netted only disappointment. The cold, cold world, the big city and the candy business contributed their share to the business education of one more trusting youth who came home sadder but wiser. This and other unsuccessful ventures were training ground for success which began to crown his efforts about the time he married. His first break was selling a carload of old model Victrolas.

Mr. Bryant bought out the Franklin Furniture company in 1928.

He was a pioneer in the installment method of selling furniture. For the first time people

of the work, aid through NYA to young people between 16 and 25 from families on relief must be certified by the department. At present the training of youth for national defense work is being stressed.

Likewise social security acts passed by Congress adds to the complicated duties of the office, including rehabilitation of crippled health and child welfare.

Since July 1937, a welfare board has operated. J. E. Perry, appointed by the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare, has served as chairman during the entire period. The present board consists of Mr. Perry, Carl Slagle and Cecil Pendergrass.

Assistance Quotas

The county has quotas of 250 for Old Age Assistance, Aid for Dependent Children of 134, and Aid to the Blind of Eight.

All services of the superintendent and case workers are carried under strict regulations and restrictions set up by law, so that these limited quotas are difficult to assign in view of the applications for assistance.

Macon county has shared in the social progress made possible by the advancing standards of social welfare as indicated by federal and state laws offering better opportunity to the underprivileged and handicapped.

The successes of this couple extended into the field of boys, who bid fair to grow up to do credit to their parents. The oldest, Kenneth, is already helping his father in the store. The last ten years the Bryant Funeral Home has contributed an

important service to the people of the county, indicated by the more than 2,000 funerals he has conducted in that time. Another index to the growth of his business has been the purchase and remodeling of the building in which he is located, with large furniture show rooms and a funeral chapel on the second floor, with the most modern equipment for funeral service.

North Skeenah

By W. R. SANDERS

Mrs. Juan Hastings who has been seriously ill for some time is reported still unimproved.

J. L. Sanders, Brownlow Shope and Quince Shope who are working in Columbia S. C., spent last weekend with home folks.

The Prentiss Baptist church has just closed a singing school with Mr. Jim Raby as teacher. Much interest was shown throughout the ten days taught.

Kathleen and Ina Bell Ledford gave a tacky party for several of their friends last Friday afternoon. All report a nice time.

There are several cases of whooping cough in this community.

Mrs. Bill McConnell has been ill for several days.

Charles Ledford and Marcus Bingham have returned home from Fort Bragg where they have been working.

Miss Willia Sanders is home from Rabun Gap, Ga., where she has been going to school.

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PROGRAM

FRIDAY, JUNE 6

Jean Hersholt as Dr. Christian In "MELODY FOR THREE" Also No. 11 "Deadwood Dick"

SATURDAY, JUNE 7

Double Feature Program

1. Tim Holt In "Along the Rio Grande"
2. Asa Johnson In "I Married Adventure"

Beginning Monday, June 9, Matinees Will Start at 3 P. M.

MONDAY and TUESDAY, JUNE 9 and 10

"Ziegfeld Girl"

It took a fortune to do it! It took months of planning, months of dreaming. But now it's here. . . . A pageant of stars and songs and grandeur to take you breathlessly to a world of new show wonder!

Starring: James Stewart, Judy Garland, Heddy Lamarr, Lana Turner and many more of your favorite stars.

WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY, JUNE 11 and 12

"Northwest Mounted Police"

In Technicolor

With Gary Cooper, Madeleine Carroll, Paulette Goddard, Akim Tamiroff

Congratulations to the Ten Years of Progress Edition