

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

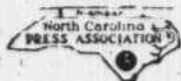
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Success Story

COMMENTING on the return home of this county's servicemen, this newspaper remarked in January, 1946, that:—

... today we face the danger of losing the approximately 1,500 men who have served in the armed forces, for they are going where they believe the opportunities are greatest. But because many of them would like to stay at home here in Macon County, the situation carries with it an opportunity as well as a danger.

Never in its history has Macon County had such an opportunity. For never has this county had so large a proportion of its youth so well educated—by experience; by travel; by contacts; and by specialized training, either received in the service, or now available to them in the colleges under the G. I. Bill of Rights.

If we can keep this youth at home, we can make of Macon County almost anything we wish.

If we lose these young men—well, we'll be on the road to becoming an old folks' home.

Everybody seemed to agree. Everybody said something ought to be done about it. And, with a few exceptions, everybody waited for somebody else to do it. At least, there was no concerted effort to make it possible for these young men to stay at home.

We have lost many of them—though a lot of those who have gone elsewhere would come back if the opportunity were provided. We will lose others soon, unless something is done on a community-wide basis. And we stand to continue to lose other youth in the years ahead, just as we have done decade after decade.

Fortunately, however, the situation offers a continuing opportunity as well as a continuing danger. We can, if we will, keep our youth at home to help us create here a better place to live.

What can be done is illustrated by the achievement of a town in Alabama. True, the situations in Macon County and Decatur, Alabama, are not the same. Decatur is in the cotton belt, and we are in the mountains. Decatur is a town several times the size of Franklin. And Decatur was in a far worse condition, when it launched its experiment, than Macon County ever has been.

Because of the differences, the solutions, of course, would not be the same; we might, in fact, not want to do some of the things Decatur has done. But the general principles it applied are sound for any community.

It has sought to provide employment for all of its local people.

It has industrialized only to the extent necessary to provide a balanced economy.

It has sought industry not indiscriminately, but "never has lost sight of the main objective—providing markets for the products of diversified agriculture".

Its plants, with a few exceptions, are small, and home-owned and home-operated.

And its people recognized that they had to accept the responsibility for building their own community—nobody else was going to do it for them.

The story of Decatur is told by Paul W. Chapman in The American Mercury magazine, under the caption, "Decatur, Alabama—Success Story".

By special permission of The American Mercury, the article is reprinted below:

Decatur is a prosperous and progressive county seat located in the rolling cotton country of northern Alabama. Fourteen years ago it was, as its leading citizens put it, the "most busted" community in the South, but recently a visiting reporter dubbed it the "Wonder Town" of the Cotton Belt.

The change was brought about by the application of a simple prosperity formula that increased the incomes of farmers in Decatur's trade territory, created a balanced farms-and-factory economy, and—most important of all—provided jobs for every person in Morgan County who wanted to work.

Providing work for all the labor force in a rural county in the Cotton South is almost unique; few county seats can offer enough attractive jobs to retain in the community their most productive workers. No major cotton-producing state, because of the predominately agricultural-labor pattern, with very small farms, has ever provided jobs for all its people. The South's net loss from intersectional migration is now estimated at about four million; each year during the war period the South sent an average of three hundred thousand workers to industrial plants in the North and East.

From the standpoint of employment opportunities, Alabama is typical of the Cotton South. Every day during the five-year period to 1940 an average of 190 persons moved out of Alabama. They went into every other section of the United States where work was available. Last winter, for example, while interviewing a bulldozer crew in the Redland District below Miami, I asked two boys where they came from—always a proper and logical question anywhere in Florida.

"I came from Alabama and my buddy from Georgia," replied one of the boys.

"Those two states must have sent a number of people to Florida," I observed.

"Everybody in Florida who works came either from Alabama or Georgia," said the boy.

Naturally, this statement was an exaggeration. But it is true

that Alabama and Georgia have contributed more than five hundred thousand citizens to Florida's permanent population. In the light of such a migratory record, it is remarkable that Barrett Shelton, editor of the Decatur Daily, can print in his newspaper, "No person needs to leave Morgan County to find work. We have jobs for all returning service men and women. And as mechanization releases workers from the land, all can find employment at good wages in Decatur's growing industries."

For the first time in history, high wages are forcing widespread farm mechanization in the Cotton Belt. Last fall cotton growers in northwest Alabama were compelled to pay hand pickers as much as \$60 a bale, but the few who were able to arrange for mechanical picking paid only one third this amount.

Mechanization, long overdue in the only section of the United States that farms with hand and mule labor, will, of course, increase per capita farm earnings. But it will also destroy 1,500,000 farm jobs and reduce the population of every rural county that does not create some new non-farm employment. Economists in the United States Department of Agriculture estimate that five million off-the-farm jobs must be added to the prewar total if the South is to have anything resembling full employment.

It rests upon the small towns to determine the outcome of the major economic adjustment which is required of the South as a whole. The largest cities of the region, even though they are growing faster than large cities in other sections of the nation, can carry but a fraction of the responsibility for providing full employment. Either the typical county seat and other small cities will create payrolls to attract and hold veterans, displaced war-plant workers and families "traced off" the land, or the South will continue to pour its "Arkies" and "Okies" over the nation to disrupt the economy of other sections.

It seems likely that there will be no "Okies" from Decatur, Alabama, or any other town that adopts its prosperity formula. Decatur's awakening came about 1932, when the price of cotton, its only local cash crop, dropped to five cents a pound. A development program was then instituted to encourage diversified farming. At the time the city did not have a single industry, but by assuming responsibility for marketing all farm products and for manufacturing the supplies and equipment required in diversified agriculture, Decatur stumbled upon the most practical means of creating off-the-farm jobs to open it.

Maynard Layman, who writes a farm column for the Decatur Daily and who served for years as chairman of the Agricultural Committee of the Decatur Chamber of Commerce, which spearheaded the movement, has kept a scrapbook record of all developments since the inception of the program. "With five-cent cotton as our only source of income, we were desperate," Layman explains:

A public meeting was called; the chairman asked for suggestions. Someone explained the so-called Moultrie Plan for diversifying farming through providing markets and processing plants. Arrangements were made to send a committee to Moultrie, Georgia, to study the plan. Our people liked the Moultrie program; they were favorably impressed with a slogan—"A Market for Every Farm Product 365 Days a Year." On returning home the group called a second community meeting at which the plan was adopted. We've been working at it ever since.

Because Moultrie had a meat curing plant, this was the first new enterprise promoted at Decatur. A local ice and cold-storage concern was persuaded to go into the business of buying hogs and cattle from local farmers, processing the meat and selling it through local food markets. This concern, Arrow Provisions, is still in business. Last year it paid local farmers \$314,000 for livestock. In addition, it provided industrial jobs for more than thirty workers.

Next, we turned our attention to providing a market for milk; this was a little more difficult. A cheese plant—the first in North Alabama—was established; today there are cheese plants in several towns in this section of the state, including Ardmore, Boaz, Russellville, and Scottsboro.

To start the cheese plant a capital of \$15,000 was required. This money was raised through the sale of small amounts of stock to many people; the largest shareholder had a block of stock which cost \$300. Those who bought the stock were told that they might never get their money back, but fortunately the shares proved to be a very profitable investment. The cheese plant has been able to pay six per cent dividends; the stock sells above par; it represents ownership of a plant now worth not less than \$75,000.

Alabama Dairy Products buys milk from 950 producers, not one of whom produced milk for sale before the plant was established. Fourteen milk routes are operated.

—Continued on Page Seven

Others' Opinions

WHAT A 'FEIST' IS

In giving us an advertisement of his lost dog Parks McGimsey told me that he had already looked up the spelling of the word "feist". I took his word for it, but decided I'd see whether or not it was listed in a Webster's New American Dictionary, rather recently acquired, which I keep on my desk. It was not. I found it, however, in the Unabridged with the notation that it is a "local word" and the definition was given as "a small dog."—Miss Beatrice Cobb in Morganton-News Herald.

OVERLOADING THE WAGON

The inflation wagon is being hauled higher and higher up the hill. When will the traces break? The jackasses pulling the load are too dumb to realize that hamestrings are loosening and trace-chains are weakening. Many followers—as well as innocent by-standers—are going to be hurt when the load breaks loose.

By the time this issue of The Tarheel Banker reaches its readers many pounds of inflationary dollar weight will be added to this wagon in the form of cashed Armed Forces Leave Bonds. Bankers should, by all means, advise the G. I. to retain his bonds until maturity date. These bonds can be classed among his AAA investments. A good bond with a two and one-half per cent interest rate and only four years to go is something "To have and to hold" these days.

To load the inflationary wagon with a possible 1.8 billion dollars at this time only removes more feathers from the cushion that could protect the G. I.'s posterior jar when he is knocked down after the trace-chains on the wagon break.

—Tar Heel Banker.

NEW TYPE OF LABOR AGREEMENT

A contract, described as something new in the relations between management and labor, comes from New Jersey, where the Continental Power company and its employees have entered into an agreement by which the laborers are given a "share of production" pay plan.

The plan, drafted by Allen W. Rucker, stipulates that 30.51 per cent of the company's "production values" is to be distributed to the workers in the plant. These values are determined by subtracting the cost of raw materials and supplies from the company's sales receipts.

While workers will continue to receive their weekly checks, representing regular straight time and over-time wages, there will be a check-up every four weeks to see if the 30.51 per cent of production values is more than the wages received. If it is, part of the surplus will be distributed among the employees in cash, part will be paid into a pension fund to provide retirement income and the remaining 25 per cent will go into a reserve account to offset any dip in income in the future.

Mr. Rucker, explaining the philosophy of the plan, says that what he seeks to do is "to take the ceilings off earnings and production." He explains that "earnings must come out of production, and it is the teamwork of men, management and machinery that makes production possible. This program will help labor and management make money with one another, and not out of one another."—Marion Progress.

LEGAL ADVERTISING

ADMINISTRATRIX NOTICE

Having qualified as administratrix of C. A. Setser, 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 12th day of August, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 12th day of August, 1947.
NORA SETSER,
Administratrix.

A21—6tp—S25

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Sheridan N. Reed, 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 5th day of September, 1948, or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 5th day of September, 1947.

W. L. REED,
Administrator.

511—6tp—O16

ADMINISTRATOR'S NOTICE

Having qualified as administrator of Mrs. Emma Childers, 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 13th day of September, 1948 or this notice will be plead in bar of their recovery. All persons indebted to said estate will please make immediate settlement.

This 13th day of September, 1947.

J. R. CHILDERS,
Administrator.

S25—6t3c—O30

TRUSTEE'S SALE

Notice is hereby given that under the power of sale given in a deed in trust executed by D. E. Worley to the undersigned Trustee, Dated July 24, 1942, and recorded in Book of Mortgages and Deeds of Trust 34, page 575 in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina, default having been made in the payment of the debt secured thereby, and the holder of said debt having demanded that the undersigned Trustee exercise said power of sale, and sell the property thereby conveyed, as provided in said deed in trust.

THEREFORE, on Saturday, October 25, 1947, at Twelve o'clock Noon at the Court House door of Macon County, North Carolina, the undersigned will offer for sale and sell to the highest bidder for cash, that certain lot of land in the County of Macon, State of North Carolina, more particularly bounded and described as follows:

All those certain pieces, parcels or tracts of land situate, lying and being in Macon County, North Carolina, fully described in a deed of conveyance made by Universal Liquidating Company to the said Gay Green dated July 1, 1936, and duly registered in the office of the Register of Deeds of Macon County, North Carolina in Deed Book A-5 page 349, but EXCEPTING HOWEVER, from this conveyance all lands conveyed by the above mentioned deed, located in Jackson County, North Carolina, and EXCEPTING ALSO from this conveyance that certain tract located in Macon County, North Carolina, fully described in a conveyance from William Browning, to Cowee Mountain School, Inc. by deed dated May 30, 1917, and duly recorded in the office of the Register of Deeds for Macon County, North Carolina in Book X-3, page 585, and EXCEPTING FURTHER all portions of said lands so located in Macon County, North Carolina awarded to William Browning by Judgment of the Superior Court of said County in a suit wherein William Browning was plaintiff and Gay Green and Rocky Face Mining Company were defendants entered on the day of May, 1941. Reference is hereby made to the above deeds and to the above mentioned Judgment for full particulars.

And being the same property conveyed by Gay Green and wife to the said D. E. Worley, this conveyance being made to secure balance of purchase money.

This sale as above set forth will be made subject to any and all liens and encumbrances against said property and to any and all taxes or assessments which are a lien against the same, and the highest bidder will be required to deposit five per cent of the amount bid with the Trustee on the date of sale.

This, the 22nd day of September, 1947.

EUGENE C. WARD,
Trustee.

S25—4tc—O16

Smokey Says:



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