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NANTAHALA FOREST HAS 30TH BIRTHDAY

By PAUL H. RUSSELL
(Assistant Forest Supervisor)

Nantahala National Forest celebrated its 30th birthday on January 29, according to Forest Supervisor E. W. Renshaw.

Tucked down into the southwest corner of North Carolina, it was one of the first of the national forests to be proclaimed in the Eastern United States. The Nantahala and Savannah purchase units were established in 1911 in accordance with the Act of March 1, 1911, 36 Stat. 961, known as the Weeks law. On January 29, 1920, these units were proclaimed as the Nantahala National Forest by President Woodrow Wilson.

The original proclamation covered those areas in South Carolina and Georgia which are now the General Pickens district of the Sumter National Forest and the Tallulah district of the Chattahoochee National Forest. Also included was a portion of what is now the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

In the late thirties, the boundaries were revised and the Nantahala became a distinctively North Carolina National Forest. Its boundaries now embrace all of Graham, Macon and Jackson Counties, most of Cherokee and Clay, and parts of Swain and Transylvania.

The only federally owned lands at the time of establishment were the E. B. Olmstead grants of some 6,000 acres, which had been attached by the U. S. Treasury to satisfy postal fund shortages. From this beginning, the National Forest has grown to a total federally owned and administered 433,292 acres. Also within the forest boundaries is a portion of the Qualla Indian Reservation administered by the Indian Service and Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

Many changes have occurred and many careers have been launched on the Nantahala since Robert W. Shields was appointed as the first forest supervisor with headquarters at Franklin. Mr. Shields is now an assistant regional forester in Region 7 of the Forest Service; Mrs. Mamie B. Horsley, the first forest clerk, is still working in the same capacity, but under quite changed conditions. Other forest super-

visors who have served the Nantahala were Arthur A. Wood, recently retired as supervisor of the Monongahela National Forest; John B. Byrne, deceased; J. Herbert Stone, now regional forester for the Southern Region of the Forest Service; Philip H. Byrn, assistant regional forester, Southern Region; William R. Paddock, now supervisor of the Cherokee National Forest; Paul H. Gerard, now supervisor of the Ozark National Forest; Charles McElharr, now an assistant division chief in Washington, D. C.; and E. A. Schilling, now assistant regional forester at Albuquerque, New Mexico. E. W. Renshaw, the present forest supervisor, has been on the forest since 1946.

Other names are linked with the early days of the forest when good roads were practically non-existent and the wilderness of Graham County little known except to the lumber companies, who were pushing logging railroads back into the more accessible coves. Some of the early forest examiners and surveyors who are easily recalled are James Denman, of Franklin; W. J. Dantoft, now an official of the Champion Paper and Fibre company; W. N. Sloan, retired, of Franklin; Roane Bradley, still on the job as surveyor; and John Wasilik, Jr., still on the job as district forest ranger on the Wayah Ranger district. Early Forest Rangers well known in Western North Carolina include Grady Siler, now forest engineer on the Pisgah National Forest; Tom Alexander, proprietor of Catajoochee Ranch; Ed Potts, of Highlands, now operating a grocery store; and Zeke Byrd. These, and others, were pioneers in the development and protection of Uncle Sam's forests in the Appalachians. A few of the forest guards on the fire line year after year were Henry Baty of Highlands; Gilmer Setzer of Franklin; N. C. Grant of Wesser, and Grady Waldrup, still on the job as lookout-dispatcher on Panther Top Lookout.

Indicative of the lack of travel facilities, with most national forest business handled over ground circuit telephone lines strung on trees, is a story told by one of the original employees, the chief clerk. After about 10 years on the job, N. C. Grant finally had a chance to visit the supervisor's office in Franklin and upon being introduced to the chief clerk, he acknowledged the introduction by stating, "I ain't never met her personally before, but we've fit a lot of fires over the telephone."

In pointing out some of the changes that have taken place, Mr. Renshaw calls attention to the fact that U. S. Highways 19, 23 and 64 now traverse the forest as well as paved state highways. In addition, there are on the forest road system 377 miles of maintained roads, with 94 miles planned but not constructed. Much of the road development occurred during the CCC days of the thirties. The far flung system of forest telephone lines has been reduced to a minimum and a short wave radio is now in use for lookout tower and fire line communication.

A significant development on the forest during the years has been the building of hydro-electric dams and lakes. Sandeetlah, built by Alcoa, was the first. It was followed by the TVA development of Hiwassee, Appalachia and Fontana reservoirs. On the Nantahala river is another power company development, covering the old town of Aquone and known as Nantahala Lake. The forested coves, slopes and peaks of the Nantahala National Forest supply the headwaters of such river systems as the Savannah and Tennessee and nurtures the timber that makes a great hydro-electric system possible. This is considered by many to be its greatest service to the people of the southeast and the nation.

The Coweeta Experimental Forest, of 5,000 acres and hydrologic laboratory, was established on the Nantahala National Forest for the primary purpose of determining the basic relationship of mountain forests and water. Though originally the Nantahala, as well as other national forests, was created to protect watersheds and to provide

Do You Remember . . . ?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
Miss May McDowell left Saturday for Greensboro to re-enter the State Normal College.

There will be a poke supper at Iota church next Saturday night for the benefit of the Methodist parsonage.

Capt. W. P. Moore, of Clay County, spent part of last week with relatives in this community.

Corn and other good produce exchanged for goods at the Racket store on the Robinson corner.—Adv.

25 YEARS AGO
Within the next few days work will begin on the High School's athletic field, to the rear of the school building. The field was donated to the school by Mr. M. E. Cozad.

Mr. Dewey Gregory had the misfortune to get blowed up with dynamite, on the Jackson county highway. He wasn't seriously injured excepting his eyes.—Item from "News from the Grove."

Mrs. C. C. Cunningham is again at home, after spending several weeks with her son in Florida.

10 YEARS AGO
The activities of the Wednesday Card club were suspended last week and this week, due to the extremely cold weather.—Highlands item.

Temperatures here were from 2 to 9 below zero the most of last week.—Tellico item.

Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Conley, Mrs. C. S. Brown, Sam W. Mendenhall, and W. W. Sloan went to Atlanta Sunday to see "Gone With The Wind".

Continued On Page Eight—

SEEKS REELECTION



J. CLINTON BROOKSHIRE
For Clerk of Court

BROOKSHIRE OUT FOR REELECTION

Announces Candidacy To Succeed Self As Clerk

J. Clinton Brookshire announced this week that he will seek renomination to the office of clerk of superior court, which he has held for the past four years, in the May Democratic primary.

His announcement brings to five the number in this county already out for Democratic nominations—two for sheriff, one for representative, and two for clerk. In the clerk's race, Mr. Brookshire will be opposed by Miss Kate McGee, who announced last week.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Brookshire, of Franklin, Route 1, Mr. Brookshire made his entry into politics in 1946, when he won the Democratic nomination and election as clerk for a four-year term.

Born at Demorest, Ga., he moved to Macon County in early life and is a graduate of the Franklin High school. He attended Western Carolina Teachers college, Cullowhee, for three years, and the University of North Carolina one year.

For three years he served as accounting clerk and housing manager for the TVA, and was employed as accounting clerk by Highlands Briar, Inc., here for several months prior to entering the race for clerk in 1946.

He is a member of the Franklin Lions club and of the Moose lodge.

He and Mrs. Brookshire and their small daughter, Brenda, make their home in the Cartoogechaye community.

Polio Fund

Lagging; Time Extended For Two Weeks

The polio drive is lagging, here and over the state, and the campaign period has been extended over North Carolina for two weeks, through February 14, it was announced this week by J. Clinton Brookshire, county campaign chairman.

Contributions received to date by Claude Bolton, county treasurer, total \$419. This compares with total contributions in last year's campaign of \$3,665.

Meanwhile, some community fund-raising events have been scheduled or are planned.

At Otto, a square dance will be held Saturday evening at 8 o'clock at the school, with Robinson's string band providing music. The proceeds are to be divided between the school and the infantile paralysis fund.

The first and only school to report so far, Mr. Brookshire said, is that at Iota. Children of the Iota community collected and have turned in \$32.

Nearly two hundred dollars has been raised in two communities, however, that has not been turned in.

At Scaly, which contributed more per capita last year than any township in the county, \$152.30 was raised at a box supper last Saturday night, it was learned, and J. M. Raby, president, collected \$32 at Sunday's fifth Sunday singing convention.

SNARELY TALKS AT FOOTBALL BANQUET HERE

175 Hear U. N. C. Head Coach Discuss 'Sanity Code'

Approximately 25 Franklin High school football boys, honor guests of the occasion, were wide-eyed and wide-eared for the address of Carl G. Snavely, head football coach at the University of North Carolina, at last Wednesday evening's football banquet, held at the Slagle Memorial building.

The Franklin Rotary club, host for the occasion, had as its guests member of the Franklin team, their fathers, Principal R. G. Sutton and Coach Milburn Atkins, and about 15 other coaches. All Smoky Mountain conference coaches were invited as guests, as well as three former coaches at the school here.

In addition to Rotarians, football players and their fathers, and the coaches, about a score of University of North Carolina alumni, as well as a number of football fans falling in none of these groups were among the 175 persons present.

Coach Snavely wise-cracked his way into the audience's attention, and then discussed football as a sport.

While he disapproves of the Sanity Code, referring to it as possibly an "insanity code," he declared that he and a majority of coaches favor "the principles which underlie the Sanity Code."

"The only reward, in my opinion—the only legitimate reward—for playing football is what he gets out of the game."

"It is not how much ability you have," he told the boys, "but how much you put out that counts. Talent is the cheapest thing in the world."

It is an "accepted principle," however, he said, "that it is legitimate for a boy to receive financial assistance on a basis of need," and he went on to say that the reason the Sanity Code is impractical is that conditions vary at different institutions, particularly with reference to facilities for self-help. Football scholarships are the answer at some institutions, he said.

Coach Snavely made humorous and complimentary references to Macon County men who played football in other years at Carolina, among them C. C. Polindexter, now of Haywood county, and Lacey Harper.

John M. Archer, Jr., was master of ceremonies at the banquet. E. W. Renshaw, Rotary president, welcomed the guests, and Fred Huffman, of Morganton, introduced Coach Snavely. The Rev. C. E. Murray pronounced the invocation.

Mr. Archer presented the coaches present, and Coach Atkins introduced members of the football squad. Following the program, also marked by a black-face act done by B. L. McGlamery and football film shown by Coach Snavely, U. N. C. alumni met with Coach Snavely and Mr. Huffman to discuss the Education Foundation, which provides funds for football scholarships. A number of alumni agreed to make donations to the foundation.

Drink Drama Is Given By Local Group

A capacity audience Tuesday night witnessed the presentation at the Franklin Methodist church of "Prisoner at the Bar," a temperance drama depicting the courtroom trial of a man for the murder of his wife while he was intoxicated.

The play was presented by the Franklin Methodist, Presbyterian, and Baptist and the Carson's Chapel Methodist churches, and the entire cast, with two exceptions, was made up of local persons.

The players included W. W. Sloan, as the judge; the Rev. C. E. Murray, defense attorney; John D. Alsip, sheriff; the Rev.

Continued On Page Eight—



HERE ARE FIVE GENERATIONS—The e are five generations in this Macon County family and the photo above is the proof. Mrs. J. F. Fouts (lower right) is the great-great-grandmother of the family; Mrs. H. S. Poper (lower left), great-grandmother; L. B. Roper (upper left) grandfather; and Mrs. Caro Lee Townsend (upper right) mother, holding her tiny daughter, Elaine Townsend. Mrs. Fouts, the great-great-grandmother, is 87 years of age.

Mrs. Fulton Former Teacher, Dies At Age Of 81

Mrs. John Fulton, widely known Macon County woman, died at her home in the Cullasaja community at 10 o'clock Wednesday night of last week, following a long illness.

Mrs. Fulton, who was 81 years of age, at one time was a teacher, having taught in the schools of this county for about 15 years. The former Miss Laura Jane Higdon, daughter of Joseph H. and M. S. Margaret Perry Higdon, she was a native of the Higdonville community. She married Mr. Fulton in 1900, the third of last month having marked the golden wedding anniversary. She was a member of the Sugarfork Baptist church.

Survivors include her husband; one son, Mack Fulton, of Arlington, Va.; three daughters, Mrs. Tille Y. Henderson, Mrs. Pritchard Peek, and Mrs. Myrtle Keener, all of whom live in California; two sisters, Mrs. Eva Keener, of Cullasaja, and Mrs. D. C. Higdon, of Sylva; three brothers, Mack Higdon, of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, T. B. Higdon, of Atlanta, and J. S. Higdon, of Sylva; five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

Funeral services were conducted at the Sugarfork Baptist church last Friday at 2 p. m., with the Rev. William L. Sorrells, of Atlanta, and J. S. Higdon, of Sylva, officiating. Burial followed in the church cemetery.

Palbearers were Troy Shook, Furman McConnell, Edgar Guffey, Ear McConnell, Mack Norris, and John Angel.

Arrangements were under the direction of Bryant funeral home.

Sheriff's Office, Of All Places, Is Picked For Fight

Of all places to pick as the site for a fight, a trio Tuesday afternoon chose the sheriff's office— or, at least, just outside the sheriff's office.

The three—George Guest, his estranged wife, and her father, Byrd Collins—quickly landed in jail for a brief cooling off period, and then paid fines and costs totaling \$7.20 each. The fight also cost them bruises, a little blood, and in Mr. Guest's case, a couple of black eyes.

They were emerging from the sheriff's office, where two cases in which Mr. Guest charged Mrs. Guest with theft had been dismissed by Justice of the Peace John M. Moore. Mrs. Guest was said to have made a lunge for her husband; he quickly entered the fray; and then Mr. Collins took his daughter's part.

There was an uproar in the courthouse hall, and the three fought their way into the register of deeds office before they were separated by Patrolman Vincent Bryson, Police Chief C. D. Baird and others, and taken to jail.

Board Will Reconsider 2 Changes

The Macon County board of elections will meet tomorrow (Friday) morning at 11 o'clock at the courthouse to reconsider its previous action dividing Franklin township into two voting precincts and ordering a new county-wide registration of voters.

J. J. Mann, board chairman, in announcing that he has called tomorrow's meeting, said considerable opposition has been expressed to both proposals.

At its meeting tomorrow, he said, the board will hear both those who oppose and those who favor the proposed new registration and splitting of Franklin township. Interested citizens are invited and requested to appear and express themselves, Mr. Mann said.

The board early in December announced that it had divided Franklin township into two voting precincts, and had ordered a complete new registration, to be held prior to this spring's primary election.

The township split, ordered then, was along the center of Dillsboro road, Palmer street, and the Murphy road, with all voters north of that line to vote at the courthouse, the present polling place, and all those south of that line to vote at the Franklin school.

The township, which is an approximate triangle, extends from the old Lyle (now Hunnicutt) place on the Dillsboro road west to the old Lenoir place on the Murphy road, and from Foutstown, on the north, to Morrison church, on the south.

Election officials estimate that roughly one-half of the voting population of the entire county lives in this township.

Merchants Hear Smith Discuss Association

Interested merchants last Thursday night heard Donald Smith, formerly of Iron City, Mich., but now a resident of Franklin, explain the workings of a merchants association and the functions of a retail credit bureau. The meeting was held at the courthouse.

Mr. Smith, who has had more than 20 years' experience in chamber of commerce work and owned and operated his own credit bureau in Michigan for the past 17 years, told the group that he felt the best way to organize a merchant's association was through the local chamber of commerce. He suggested the first step to be taken as many memberships as possible from the local merchants in the Franklin chamber of commerce.

JANUARY WAS WARMEST EVER RECORDED HERE

Only 2 Frosts Noted; Rainfall Is Well Below Normal

The Weather Man last month forgot to look at the calendar, and Macon County has something like April weather in January.

It was the warmest January in the 15 years since a U. S. weather station was established at the Coweeta Experimental Forest, according to E. A. Johnson, technician in charge.

Though there were many rainy days, it was not, however, a wet January—measured in amount of rainfall. The total of 54.1 inches, in fact, was 27 per cent below the January normal for the 15-year period.

With the temperature averaging 22 per cent—or nearly one-fourth above normal—January brought vegetation here out as far as it normally would be in April. Spring flowers have been in bloom for sometime, lawns are green, and fruit tree buds are swelling, or in some cases are open.

If the weather continues warm for another week, and then it turns cold, the fruit crop will be destroyed, County Agent S. W. Mendenhall said yesterday. If cool weather should come immediately, however, the fruit probably would not be severely damaged, he added.

Pasture and hay crops and small grains also may be hurt, and Mr. Mendenhall recommended very light grazing where these crops are far enough advanced to be damaged by cold weather.

The average high temperatures last month was 58.9 degrees, or 15 per cent above the 15-year average of 50.1 degrees. The average minimum was 42.6, or 34 per cent above the 15-year January average minimum of 28 degrees. The mean temperature for last month was 50.7 degrees, or 22 per cent above the 15-year average mean of 39.3.

Frost was recorded only twice last month, on the 8th, the coldest day of the month, when the temperature dipped to 14 degrees, and on the 9th, when the low reading was 26. The lowest January temperature recorded at Coweeta during the past 15 years was 14 degrees below zero, on January 27, 1940.

Though this January has been the warmest on record, no single day set a January record in warmth. The high reading on January 19, 1949, was 75. This was seven degrees higher than the 68-degree high record last month. There were three days last month, however, when the temperature mounted to 68—the 24th, 26th, and 31st. And one night last month—the 6th—the temperature never fell below 56.

The weather station at Coweeta in January noted 26 days when more than half the sky was covered with clouds, three when it was 40 per cent overcast, and only two clear days.

Band Will Be At Otto Legion Cancels Dance;

The American Legion, which sponsors a weekly square dance at the Slagle Memorial building, has canceled Saturday night's dance. The Robinson string band, which plays for the event, will be at Otto Saturday evening, playing for a polio benefit square dance there. The weekly Legion dances will be resumed Saturday evening, February 11.

The Weather

Temperatures and precipitation for the past seven days, and the low temperature yesterday, as recorded at the Coweeta Experimental station.

	High	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	64	54	.01
Thursday	67	49	.01
Friday	63	52	.52
Saturday	47	42	.07
Sunday	63	46	T
Monday	68	52	.04
Tuesday	68	57	.01
Wednesday	50	.17	

FRANKLIN RAINFALL

(As recorded by Macon Station for TVA)

Wednesday, none; Thursday, none; Friday, .48 of an inch; Saturday, trace; Sunday, trace; Monday, .18; Tuesday, trace; and Wednesday, .10.