The Franklin Press.

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THE EQUALIZING SCHOOL FUND

Method of Distribution and Sources From Which It Is Derived—Not a Property Tax.

Of the $7,080,228 the state has provided as aid to the general running expense of the public schools during the past 22 years Macon county has received $126,42[illegible].98, or 1.7 per cent of the total, according to figures in the hands of the county superintendent. Macon has participated in this fund 22 of the 22 years it was distributd, and got its largest appropriation last year, when the county received $33,101.19.

This money comes from what is known as the Equalizing Fund, created by the Legislature to aid the less wealthy counties in running their schools. It was created under that provision of the constitution which makes the state at large assume the responsibility for the education of its children. There is such a wide difference between the wealth of the counties that some counties have to pay four and five times as much tax as other counties in order to run their schools. In order to help relieve this inequality the state has set up this fund to aid the less wealthy counties.

Last year the total amount appropriated by the state was $1,249,700. Macon county, under the new law, adopted in 1925, will get at least that same amount. It may get more, for the total fund for 1925 will be a million and a half dollars. The additional $250,000 will be apportioned by a special board of Equalization. The amount that goes to each county will be derived from information being collected by this board now. All information and data must be in by May 21, 1925.

Contrary to the opinion of some the distribution of this whole state fund is not made on a pork-barrel basis. If that were so, the county having the largest political pull with a democratic legislature would be the recipient of the larger funds. As a matter of fact, Wilkes county has been getting the biggest slice of this fund for a number of years, last year receiving $76,172.69. Distribution is made on the basis of the needs of each county. The amount is based on the average cost of teachers salaries for two years past. This average cost of instruction less the amount of money derived from the legal tax rate on property was the amount of money the state put into Macon county last year.

Another popular misconception about the state fund is that it is derived from a property tax. None of the money being distributed by the state to aid the schools comes from a property tax, but does come from income, inheritance and license taxes. The only property tax levied is local and county, and all of such money is spent in the county where the levy is made.

The Forestry Program

Those who took advantage of the opportunity to attend the Forestry special program given at the court house May 1st were richly rewarded as the exercises were unique and of a very high order.

The stage was decorated to represent a forest and every number on the program suggested forests, timber and trees. Some in the audience even tried to look green and backwoodsy and succeeded remarkably well.

Every number deserves special comment but lack of space forbids; but we must say that almost every number was duly enchored and responded to in a most pleasing manner.

The addresses by the two forestry men were of such special interest that to overlook them would be a breech of ediquet and an insult to intelligence.

Mr. Shields, chief of the Forestry department in this section, spoke on the origin, purpose and progress of the work revealing the varied and complicated problems in such an interesting manner as to convince all who heard him that he is a Past Master in his department.

Mr. Sloan spoke on the Nantahala division convincing us that the great forest is our very own. He revealed a very significent fact that the taking over of this territory by the Government was a real financial gain to the county. The system of conservation was made plain.

LOCAL AUCTION COMPANY BUSY

Home Realty & Auction Co. Will Conduct Three Big Sales In May—Now Busy Advertising.

At this time the Home Realty and Auction company, composed of Franklin young men, is one of the busiest concerns in Western North Carolina. During the last week in May this company will conduct three big auction sales, one in Sylva on the 25th, one in Franklin on the 26th and one at Lenoir on the 28th. Bob Patton and Bob Davis are now particularly busy properly advertising these sales.

The Home Realty and Auction company, R. A. Patton, manager and auctioneer, was organized only a few months ago and since that time has conducted some of the most successful sales in Western North Carolina. In fact this company has already established such a fine reputation for efficiency and integrity that all connected with the company expect to be busy on many sales from now until late fall.

NEW STREETS NOW COMPLETE

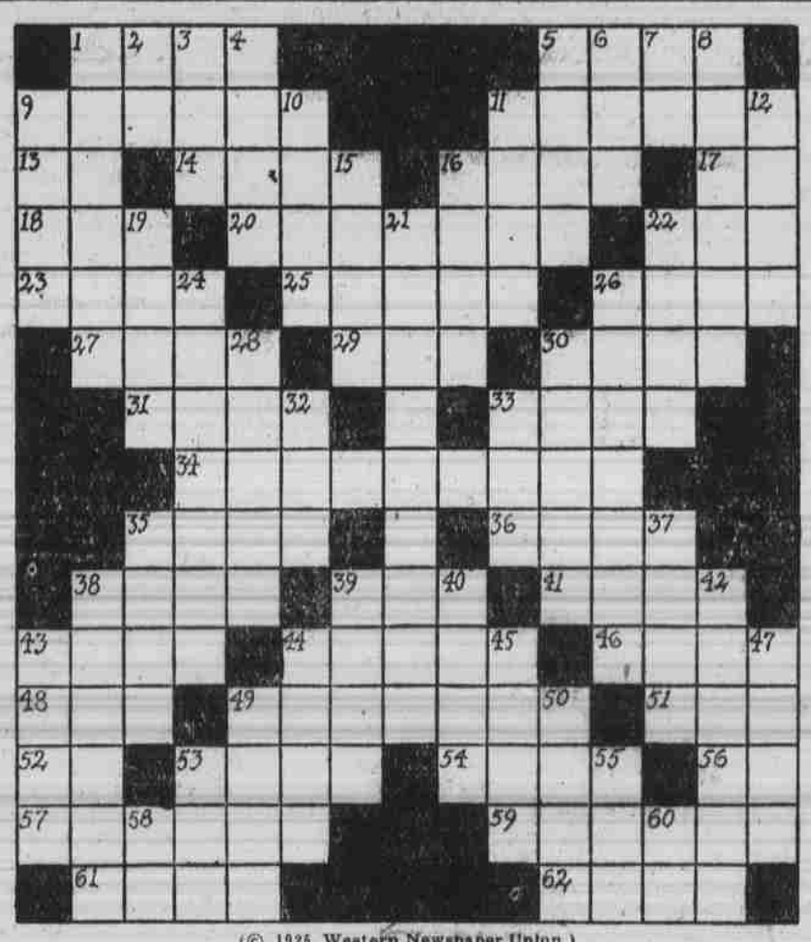
Bidwell Heights Becoming Real Beauty Spot—Many Visitors Driving Out Each Day.

The Weldroop Construction company has just completed two new and pretty streets on Bidwell Heights, the beautiful subdivision of the Franklin Realty company which is now being developed for a grand auction sale sometime this month. These new streets have been named Sunset Drive and West Boulevard. They open up some of the prettiest views to be found anywhere in or near Franklin. Those who have not already driven out that way will derive real enjoyment from doing so.

The Franklin Realty company, in addition to street building, have made many more improvements on this property. They are cleaning it up thoroughly, grading where necessary, and cutting it up into a number of nicely located building lots. This sort of high class development is distinctly worth while for a town and community, and the Press extends to these enterprising men every wish for the success in their undertaking which they so richly deserve.

HOW TO SOLVE A CROSS-WORD PUZZLE

When the correct letters are placed in the white spaces this puzzle will spell words both vertically and horizontally. The first letter in each word is indicated by a number, which refers to the definition listed below the puzzle. Thus No. 1 under the column headed "horizontal" defines a word which will fill the white spaces up to the first black square to the right, and a number under "vertical" defines a word which will fill the white squares to the next black one below. No letters go in the black spaces. All words used are dictionary words, except proper names. Abbreviations, slang, initials, technical terms and obsolete forms are indicated in the definitions.



(©, 1925, Western Newspaper Union.)

Horizontal.

1—Pledge
5—Labor
9—Coincides
11—Number under 30
13—Street (abbr.)
14—Extent
16—Half a quart
17—Egyptian deity
18—Cover
20—Fops
22—Not many
23—Condiment
25—Scornful look
26—To close
27—Girl's name
29—Mule
30—Refuse
31—Platform
33—Happy
34—Just
35—Weaver's reed
36—Gold paint
38—Equal
39—Organ of head
41—Christmas carol
43—To scorch
44—Island off Greece
46—Chums
48—Portion of ground
49—Frights
51—Grass rug
52—Preposition
53—Fishes' propellers
54—Base of the neck
56—Greek letter
57—Leaseholder
59—Kind of fish
61—Kind
62—Snow runners

Vertical.

1—A group of eight
2—Land measure
3—Beverage
4—Flock
5—Possesses
6—Trap
7—Prefix meaning "not"
8—Brook
9—Skills
10—Bodies of water
11—Row
12—Boat
15—Girl's name
16—Pastries
19—To toil monotonously
21—Subchaser
22—Quarrel between clans
24—Auxiliary vehicle attached to an auto
26—Border on embroidery
28—Pointer
30—Killed
32—Eavesdropper
33—Vehicle
35—Chair
37—Pair of horses
38—Calls up
39—Sins
40—English school for boys
42—Spanish-American plains
43—Coagulation
44—Coin
45—Periods of time
47—Knock senseless
49—Color
50—Watering places
53—Distant
55—Deer
58—Negative
60—Third note in scale

Solution will appear in next issue.

CARD OF THANKS

We want to thank the good people of Franklin, Iotla and all of Macon county, for the many kind things they did for us during the illness and death of our darling little girl, Dorothy Louise Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. John W. Edwards.

TAXES! TAXES! TAXES!

To you who have not paid your taxes:

I have been waiting patiently on you and must collect them at once. Please call in and settle them now and save cost to us all.

Your friend, ALEX MOORE, T. C.

SENIOR CLASS TO GIVE PLAY

The Senior Class of Franklin High School Will Present "All For Charity" Friday, May 22.

Charity was George's wife, and she was strenuously opposed to the theatre and all things theatrical. When George was asked by his boss to stage his play, "The Thief," which his wife did not know he had written he could not refuse, for fear he would lose his job. The proceeds of the play he was directing were for a charity fund, but that made no difference to Charity when she found the cast rehearsing in her dining-room. Then poor George told her the members of the cast were his Uncle Hiram and family from Morgantown, W. Va., and then things begin to happen.

George's play, "The Thief," comes within the play "All For Charity," and during that time the audience serves also as the audience at George's play.

"All For Charity" is by the same author as "Good Evening, Clarice," presented by the class of '24, both plays produced by special arrangement with Walter H. Baker Co. of Boston.

Cast of characters: Arthur Mashburn, Eva Baird, Alston Corpening, Glee Garner, Beulah Jollay, Mims Crawford, Kate Moore, Ned Teague, Edwina Dalrymple, Joe Moore, Bessie Cunningham.

SAY FELLERS? DID YOU SEE IT?

See what? Why that announcement in the Press about the Rev. P. W. Tucker, presiding elder of the Waynesville District. He is going to preach all over Macon county in less than a week. Guess the announcement is in this issue too. Just see how it reads. Don't you know he'll be clean tuckered out before he makes that round.

But that is not the funny side of it. On next Wednesday, the 20th of May all theofficial members of Franklin Circuit and Macon Circuit are invited to come down to Franklin and spend the day at the church. Going to have a good time and not even going to take up a collection. But isn't it funny? The very idea of such hungry looking fellows as preacher Smith and Dr. Alvah Pearce and Jess Conley asking us down to a big feed. Bet we have had one since they have. But you can't tell for Tom Johnston lives down there and he seems to have been pretty well fed and after all we better not say too much or they might throw up George Dowdle and Bob Patton to us and no telling who else.

Any way let's all go down and try the thing out and I am sure we will have no reason to regret it.

Be sure and look up the program and see how it reads and that will help you to decide that you can get off that day. VAN B. HARRISON.

COMMENCEMENT WEEK PROGRAM

Dr. Chappelle to Preach the Commencement Sermon—Dean M. W. Walker to Make Literary Address.

Next week is commencement week of the Franklin High school and an interesting program for the occasion has been arranged by Prof. W. H. Crawford, superintentent.

On Tuesday night at 8:00 o'clock at the Methodist church Dr. Asheley Chappelle, pastor of the Central Methodist church at Asheville, will preach the commencement sermon. Those who have not heard Dr. Chappelle preach have a spiritual treat in store for them while those wha have been fortunate enough to hear him will of course attend the services. Everybody is invited.

On Thursday evening at 8:30 o'clock the Senior play will take place at the auditorium. See another article in this issue for details of this excellent performance.

Friday evening at 8:30 o'clock in th auditorium the graduating exercises will occur. This year the literary address will be delivered by Prof. M. W. Walker, Dean of the department of Education, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. Dr. Walker is one of the most widely known educators of the south and his address will be an inspiration to all who may have the pleasure to hear him. On Friday evening a contest in recitation and declamation will be engaged in by the leading student orators of the school.

The teachers Training Department which has been under the expert charge of Miss Helen Burch during the year will award certificates to those who have completed the course. There is no better department in the school than that in charge of Miss Burch and the citizens of the county may expect valuable results from her work.

Then will follow the awarding of diplomas and honors to 25 graduates, the largest number in the history of the school. The scholarship medal and medals for the best recitation and the best declamation will also be awarded.

The year just coming to a close has been one of the most successful years in the history of the Franklin school. This year there will be more graduates than in any previous year and Prof. Crawford states that the work of the students has far exceled that of all former years. Prof. Crawford is of the opinion that at least 50 per cent of the graduates are planning to attend college next year. Statistics show that Macon county has more college graduates in proportion to the population than any other county in the state. And this year's classes in the three county high schools will help to maintain this record.

The AMERICAN LEGION JULY 4th CELEBRATION

Franklin, N. C., July 3rd, 4th and 5th

HOME COMING WEEK for our FORMER CITIZENS

EDITOR FRANKLIN PRESS,
FRANKLIN, N. C.

Dear Sir:—Below I list the names and addresses of Former Macon county citizens who might be interested in the AMERICAN LEGION HOME COMING FOURTH OF JULY CELEBRATION.

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

Sent in by (Name of sender).....

Address of sender.....