

The Franklin Press.

VOLUME XL

FRANKLIN, N. C., FRIDAY, JUNE 26, 1925

NUMBER TWENTY-SIX

SAM L. ROGERS PASSES AWAY

Hon. Sam L. Rogers Died at His Home Here June 18th—Was Prominent Figure in Politics.

Samuel L. Rogers was born in Macon county on December 31, 1859. He attended the common schools of the county and for a time was a student at a private subscription school in Franklin.

For a number of years during his early youth he worked at Franklin in the store of Capt. W. M. Addington acting for a portion of this time as assistant postmaster. During his term in the postoffice he secured an increased appropriation for the Franklin office.

In 1882, when barely at voting age, he defeated W. M. Allman for the office of Clerk of the Superior Court, being the youngest successful candidate for office in the state, a record which still stands. He held this position for three terms leaving it to accept the chief clerkship in the office of the U. S. Collector of Internal Revenue at Asheville. In 1893 he was appointed to the Collectorship by President Cleveland, holding this position until his successor was appointed by McKinley in 1897.

In 1899 Mr. Rogers was elected by the legislature to the State Corporation Commission and in 1900 he was re-elected by the people, leading the state democratic ticket with a majority of over 40,000. He remained in the Corporation Commission for 12 years.

In 1912 he managed the successful campaign of Senator Simmons in his race against Governor Kitchen for the U. S. Senate and in 1915 he was appointed by President Wilson as Director of the Census for the United States. In this position he made a splendid record as an extraordinary efficient executive, setting a record for low cost, marked accuracy and rapidity of compilation. He retired from the Bureau of the Census in 1921 at the close of the Wilson administration and until this year has devoted his attention to his many business interests.

Upon the creation by the legislature in 1925 of the State Salary and Wage Commission he was selected by Governor McLean as a member of that commission. At the organization of this body he was chosen as its secretary and upon him devolved the major portion of the executive work incident upon the collection of data and statistics as a basis for action on the part of the commission.

While engaged in this work, he suffered a break-down and returned to his home, declining rapidly until the end on June 18, 1925.

Mr. Rogers is known most widely as a political leader and while his natural political genius brought to him remarkable success in the field of politics he was no less a leader in other fields.

For many years he was a member of the board of stewards of the Franklin Methodist church and when the Western North Carolina Conference established the Children's Home at Winston-Salem he was chairman of the board in charge of the campaign as well as a large contributor to the orphanage.

At the time of his passing he was chairman of the Board of Directors of the Bank of Franklin and its largest individual stockholder. He also has extensive interests in New York, Florida and elsewhere.

Within the past two years he has erected a splendid tourist hotel in Franklin.

Mr. Rogers was a member of the Masonic fraternity.

Sam L. Rogers was without question the foremost citizen of Macon county. He has stood highest, in the councils of state and nation, of all those who have gone out from Macon into positions of honor and trust. He was a strong man in the councils of the leaders, a man of vision and of strength, a guiding force along the road of progress, a spirit which will be appreciated only in its passing.

A strong man has passed and in his passing a county—a state—a nation—mourns its loss.

On December 31, 1889, Mr. Rogers married Miss Mamie Addington. To this union were born seven children, four daughters and three sons. Two daughters, Mamie and Esther preceded their father to the great beyond. He is survived by two sisters, one brother, his widow and the following named children: Misses Margaret and Carolyn of Franklin; Reid of Thotosassa, Fla.; Sam L. Jr., a medical student at Washington, and Wiley, in business at Washington.

The remains were buried at the new cemetery west of town on the afternoon of June 19th. Funeral services were held in the Methodist church,

DO YOU REMEMBER?

Remember the days when you were a kid, back at the old home place in Macon? Do you? Ah! what carefree days those were; what happiness there lingers still in the memory of them!

Remember the old home, with the rose bush in the yard, and the honeysuckle blooming on the old rail fence?

Remember the little old school house—the day you played hooky to go fishin'—and the big fellow you landed, just before you went home to take your lickin'?

And say! Remember the old swimmin' hole?

Do you remember, in May, the wild, sweet song of the mockingbird, singing at night in a tree, just outside your window?

Remember, across the moonlit meadows, fragrant with the smell of new mown hay, wet with dew, the weird, far cry—"Whip-poor-will! Whip-poor-will!" Remember how brilliant the moonlight lay across the fields of corn and grain—and beyond the river, in the distance, gleaming silvery blue, stood the mountains.

The mountains of old Macon! No need to ask if you remember THEM. There have been times, no doubt, when a wave of homesickness swept over you, and their clear, blue beauty shone again across your memory, that you have wished you COULD forget them.

And the folks. Remember them? Were there ever better?

How long since you have seen them? How much would you not give to hug that old mother or auntie of yours, to see Dad or Uncle Tom, to clasp again the hand of a boyhood pal of years long gone?

They are getting old, these folks of your childhood memories. Some of them, already, have gone on. Others must surely follow soon. They are getting old.

When are you coming back to see them, and the scenes you love so well?

We are planning for you to come this summer. A great big home-coming re-union is planned already. And it is YOU they want to see.

Can you come? WILL you come? In coming, you will not only bring pleasure to yourself, you will bring joy to their hearts. They are counting on you. Don't let your chair be vacant, nor their hearts, empty.

MACON COUNTY POST AMERICAN LEGION.

Dillsboro-Franklin Phone Line Under Construction

The Southern Bell now has a crew of 18 men engaged in constructing a telephone line from Franklin to Dillsboro. Within a short time another crew from Asheville is expected to begin work at Dillsboro and work toward Franklin. The crew on this end of the line is in charge of Mr. A. E. Shuler who has had many years experience in building telephone lines. Under his expert supervision the crew is making rapid progress and is now digging holes and erecting poles near the foot of the Cowee mountains. With good weather Mr. Shuler estimates that the line will be completed within four weeks.

As before stated in the columns of the Press this line will give Franklin direct connection with towns in Western North Carolina and will obviate the necessity of sending a message through Georgia and South Carolina in order to reach Asheville and points west.

This line is the result of negotiations between Mr. D. C. Stewart and representatives of the Southern Bell which took place sometime ago. Mr. Stewart, manager of the local exchange is ever on the alert to improve the telephone system of Franklin and to give his patrons better service.

Rev. W. M. Smith in charge, assisted by Rev. A. J. Smith and Rev. E. J. Pipes. The following friends of the deceased acted of pall bearers: Messrs. Lee Crawford, Jim Porter, John Harrison, Norman Barnard, W. L. Higdon and M. D. Bilings.

Honorary pall bearers were Messrs. John Trotter, F. T. Smith, John Thomas, Sam Franks, Tom Johnston and Dr. S. H. Lyle.

Hundreds of friends were present at the church and hundreds paid a last tribute of deserved respect by journeying to the cemetery for the last rites.

THE POWER DAM IS TAKING FORM

Dam Proper to be Completed in a Little More Than a Month—Short History of the Project.

For fifteen years the Franklin Light and Power company, organized by the late Mr. Henry Cozad and operated by him until his death three years ago, has furnished electric lights and power for rail trolleys to the people of Franklin.

For the past two years, due to an increased demand for electric current, it has been realized that this company would have to enlarge its plant or that another plant would have to be built. In view of the fact that the Cartoogechaye on which the present plant is located is only a small stream it was felt that the raising of the dam would result only in temporary relief at best.

Therefore some two years ago the Lake Emory company was organized and attempted to build a dam on Rabbit creek. This dam would have resulted in a fine lake but no power of consequence, so that project was abandoned. However, Mr. E. S. Hunicutt and the late Frank Williams never lost hope of developing a water power in the vicinity of Franklin. Due principally to the efforts of these two men, Mr. J. L. Barnard and one or two others the Lake Emory company was reorganized with a view to building a power dam across the Little Tennessee river three miles below town. It was also intended to build a cotton mill in connection with the dam. The estimated cost of the two was approximately \$600,000. The reorganized company was able to raise in subscription only approximately half this amount.

In the mean time the necessity for more power became so acute that the town board last August began considering the advisability of building a municipal power dam. While no election was held the citizens of the town were almost a unit in asking that such a plant be constructed. Therefore under the general statute which authorizes municipalities to build hydroelectric plants the town board late last fall voted a bond issue of \$300,000. The engineering firm of Robert and company of Atlanta was engaged to draw plans and specifications for a dam. In March of this year the contract for constructing the dam was let to the Electrical Constructors company of Charlotte. This company started building its camp at the dam site on April 3rd and since that time has made remarkable progress with the work of construction.

It is estimated that 4500 yards of concrete will be used in building the dam. Of this amount 2100 yards have already been poured.

The good weather since April 3rd has enabled the Electrical Constructors company to exceed its estimates of construction to a considerable extent. With good luck and continued good weather the contractors expect to finish pouring concrete on the dam proper by August 15th.

The citizens of the town may anticipate delivery of at least 300 horse power by December 1st this year. The contractors have until March 1, 1926, to finish the dam and turn it over to the city. However it is now believed that the dam will be finished before that time.

Plans for the power house call for three distinct power units. Two of these units, producing 1500 horse power, will be installed now. When the demand for power makes such step necessary the remaining unit will be installed at very little cost.

It is unnecessary here to comment upon the benefits of the dam to Franklin and Macon county. These benefits are obvious. The lake formed by the dam will be of as much benefit as the dam itself. One could not exist without the other. Both together will result in a tourist paradise and an industrial center of no small proportions.

Franklin's Opportunity

There are many things of which Franklin may be justly proud, and for which her people should be thankful. The coming of Drs. George W. Truitt of Dallas, Texas and F. C. McConnell of Atlanta, Georgia for a Revival meeting in August presents an unusual opportunity. Not many towns of twice the size of Franklin have been so highly favored. Work is going forward in preparation for the crowds that will attend. Already inquiries are coming from near and far indicating that Franklin will be host to crowds that will several times outnumber her population. For ten glorious days these two preachers will be preaching the old Gospel and the people will be feeling the power of its refining fire.

AMUNDSEN AND PARTY SAFE AT SPITZBERGEN

News dispatches state that Roald Amundsen and party who left Spitzbergen on May 21 in two airplanes, in an endeavor to reach the north pole 600 miles distant returned to their base on June 16th. When within 100 miles of the pole it was discovered that half of their fuel had been used thereby making it impossible to go on to the pole and return to Spitzbergen. Consequently they landed in an open lane of water to take observations. When engaged in this work the ice closed in on one of the planes. While trying to extricate this plane the other became fast in the ice. They abandoned the first plane and worked for 24 days getting the latter free from the ice and smoothing a sufficient stretch of ice field for a take off. Transferring all gas from the imprisoned plane to the free one all six men composing the party returned to Spitzbergen in one plane.

For almost a month these hardy explorers had been considered as victims of the frozen northland. However those familiar with the resourcefulness of Amundsen had never entirely abandoned hope that he and his party would return safely to civilization. Dispatches announcing his safe arrival at Spitzbergen were flashed around the world and great cities of the earth, particularly those in Europe, held joyful celebrations.

Amundsen has devoted his life to explorations of the cold portions of the world. He was the first to reach the south pole and has spent years of his life in the polar regions, being the first to discover the long sought north west passage around northern Canada.

HIGHWAY TO PASS THROUGH SMOKIES

One link in Knoxville's campaign for highways penetrating the mountain barriers which divide Tennessee from its mother state is to be let by highway department of North Carolina to R. G. Hill Construction company. It runs between Fontana, N. C. and the state line at Deal's Gap.

The contract calls for 18 miles of hard surface road wide enough for two automobiles to pass each other. The grading through the North Carolina mountain side has already been done; and the contract awarded the Knoxville firm calls for laying the hard surface common to the famous roads of North Carolina.

When the road is completed the link lacking on the Tennessee side from the Big Topoca dam, almost on the state line to Calderwood, Tenn., is just eight miles. Automobiles from Knoxville running through Maryville can reach Calderwood, but there is a stretch of a few miles this side of that town, which needs widening and improvement.

The Tennessee side of the double link is designated on the highway department as state aid road number 72. It is one of the two roads penetrating the mountain, which Governor Austin Peay and J. G. Creveling, state highway commissioner, have promised to build.

When the two links are completed the distance by automobile road between Knoxville and Bryson City, N. C., will be shortened more than 100 miles. In addition; the two links will make the journey for tourists from Knoxville to Atlanta, Ga., shorter by 50 miles than through either of the present routes by way of Asheville, N. C., or Chattanooga.

The route is one of the three through the mountain barrier between North Carolina and Tennessee, suggested by a missionary party from Knoxville which spent a week going through the mountain area during May, 1924.

One of the two other routes is through the Indian or Luffy Gap section, which starts at Gatlinburg and comes out just above the Cherokee Indian reservation in Swain county, N. C. The other route is through the Cade's Cove section in the neighborhood of the park section and penetrating the area sponsored for a national park.—Knoxville Journal and Tribune.

AN ACT OF HEROISM

Last Monday little Fitzhugh Barnard, a lad of ten years, while in the lake at Camp Taukeetah stepped into deep water and had gone down twice when Gerald Ashe was putting on his bathing suit on the other side of the lake heard the cry. He is drowning. Gerald with great presence of mind ran swiftly across the dam plunged into the lake and reached the boy as he was sinking the third time. Seizing the boy by the hair he swam to shore with him, applied first aid methods and soon had the lad on the road to recovery. Fitzhugh suffered no ill effects from his experience.

CLAY COUNTY MEN HERE

Delegation of Clay Citizens, Congressman Weaver and Mr. Stikeleather Here in Interest of Highway.

Last Thursday afternoon quite a large delegation of Clay county citizens journeyed to Franklin by way of Hiwassee and Clayton in the interest of Highway No. 28.

Among those who made the trip were the three county commissioners, Messrs. J. B. White, Will Anderson and John Sellers; Attorney O. L. Anderson and J. B. Gray; county superintendent of education, A. J. Bell; county agent, W. R. Anderson; register of deeds, G. P. Ledford; James Penland, Early Anderson, N. N. Rogers, Neal Rogers, Omar Ledford, Frank Herbert, Ed Mease, Andrew Gray, W. C. Smart, former chairman county commissioners, Mrs. O. L. Anderson and Mrs. J. B. Gray.

This delegation had an engagement with Mr. J. G. Stikeleather, district highway commissioner, to meet him in Franklin. After waiting until almost four for Mr. Stikeleather, the Clay county citizens together with a goodly number of Macon county men went to the court house where an interesting meeting was held.

Attorney A. W. Horn presided. After a few well chosen remarks Mr. Horn introduced Attorney O. L. Anderson of Hayesville who explained the purposes of the trip in an eloquent speech. Mr. Anderson left no doubt in the minds of those present that Clay county is intensely interested in the building of Highway No. 28. He pointed out the value of the highway from a scenic and tourist standpoint. He also stressed its importance as an economical proposition. He stated that there are millions upon millions of feet of the finest timber in the world still standing as virgin forests waiting for an outlet to market which No. 28 will assure.

An association, known as Highway No. 28, Good Roads association, was recently organized in Hayesville. It is the purpose of this association to request Macon, Transylvania and Henderson counties to form similar associations when all can co-operate with a view to urging the state authorities to begin work on this road.

At this meeting it was agreed to have a meeting at High Hampton on July 16 with representation from the four counties concerned to effect a permanent organization to work for the building of Highway No. 28. At the High Hampton meeting large delegations are expected from Clay, Macon, Transylvania and Henderson. Highlands will also be requested to send a delegation. Most of the preliminary details for this meeting have already been worked out by the Clay county association.

During the meeting in Franklin Congressman Zeb Weaver who had accompanied the Clay county delegation from Hayesville made an excellent talk and promised to do all within his power to assist in getting the work on No. 28 under way.

As the meeting adjourned Mr. Stikeleather arrived. On reconvening Mr. Stikeleather announced that he is vitally interested in No. 28 and will do all within his power to assist the counties in building the road. If the Supreme Court of the state decides that the counties may lend the state money, prospects appear bright for starting work at an early date on this important road. The decision is expected to be handed down within a few days.

Please remember the date of the meeting at High Hampton, July 16. As many as possible of Macon county citizens should attend this meeting. Citizens of Cartoogechaye, Nantahala and Cullasaja are vitally interested and should turn out as a unit.

A Market for the Fourth

The ladies of the Franklin Baptist church will hold a market for the Fourth of July. All day of the second and the morning of the third they will be selling good things for the tables of Franklin. They are striving to keep from having a single item in their sale that will conflict with the sales of Franklin's merchants. The housewives of Franklin can save themselves work in preparation for their Fourth of July dinner, for at the market they will find dressed chickens cooked meats, salads, salad dressing, pies and cakes, canned fruit, fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, country butter and eggs and candies.

The sale will be held in the Carpenter music room which was formerly Chas. Blaine's restaurant. Prices will be attractive. Do not forget the time and place. Let us do the cooking for you and you can better enjoy the glorious Fourth.