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ROAD PLANNED AT FRANKLIN

Tentative Body Formed To Hurry to Completion the Great "Scenic Highway of America."

Franklin, N. C., September 12.—(Special.)—At an enthusiastic meeting held here tonight by delegations from Asheville, Atlanta, Franklin, Athens, Cornelia, Clarksville, Clayton and other north Georgia and Western North Carolina towns, a tentative organization was formed to push to completion the Atlanta-Franklin-Asheville highway, which, when completed, will shorten the distance between Atlanta and Asheville by 40 to 50 miles.

The meeting here was sponsored by the Macon County Progressive club, of Franklin, which entertained the delegates at a banquet.

The proposed highway extends from Atlanta through Cornelia, Clarksville and Clayton to Franklin and thence to Asheville, and delegations from these towns pledged the aid of their communities in pushing the highway to early completion.

Great impetus was given to the proposed highway when it was announced at the meeting that Habersham county has called an election for a bond issue to build its part of the road. Other north Georgia and Carolina counties are expected to follow suit with bond issues. Rabun county has already let the contract for a hard-surfaced road over its portion of the highway.

The speakers were loud in their praise of the scenic beauty of the highway, saying that the completion of the road would cause this section to become the "summer playground of America."

Invitations were extended to the various delegations for the purpose of getting together and organizing an Atlanta-Franklin-Asheville highway association with the end in view of bringing all possible pressure to bear to have this highway completed within the shortest possible time. A tentative organization was formed and a committee appointed by the president of the club to take the necessary steps toward perfecting a permanent organization. The committee consists of Major S. A. Harris and H. G. Robertson.

James A. Hollomon headed the delegation from Atlanta and was the principal speaker of the evening. W. R. Neal, state highway engineer of Georgia; Frank T. Reynolds, secretary of the Georgia Hotel Men's association and the Georgia Automobile club, and Henderson Hallman, president of the Southeastern Fair association, were also a part of the Atlanta delegation, and all made interesting talks.

A large delegation from Athens, headed by George T. Hodgson, and R. L. Ross, were a unit in their praise of the North Carolina highway organization. J. C. Jester, of Athens, pointed out the benefits of highway No. 15 in Georgia, which leaves the North Carolina line near Clayton, Ga., and passing through Athens extends to the Florida line.

Mayor Erwin, of Cornelia; Attorney Stanhope Erwin, of Clarksville, and Mayor Ramey, of Clayton, headed delegations from their respective towns, while Asheville was represented by J. C. Stikeleather, highway commissioner of the ninth district, and J. C. Walker, highway engineer of the same district.

Speakers from the various delegations from Georgia assured those present that Georgia is soon to start work on the Atlanta-Franklin-Asheville highway through the north Georgia counties. Mr. Stikeleather assured those from Georgia that within a year those traveling the Atlanta-Franklin-Asheville highway in North Carolina will pass over a distance of approximately 60 miles of concrete, while the remainder of the distance to Asheville will be concrete, except a link of about 10 miles of asphalt.

Those present were highly optimistic over the results accomplished. The road under discussion is even now readily passable in the summer season. When completed it will open to the tourists from all the southland one of the most remarkable scenic sections east of the Mississippi. It will also be the shortest route by 40 or 50 miles between Atlanta and Asheville.

At the suggestion of The Atlanta Constitution, made editorially some time ago, steps were taken tonight to organize for the purpose of bringing all possible legitimate pressure to bear to complete this road within a short time. The diners left the banquet hall

MR. JOE ASHEAR PLANS TO BUILD

Has Purchased the Trotter Corner on the Square and Will Erect Large Brick Structure Next Spring.

Mr. Joe Ashear, one of Franklin's most progressive and wide-awake citizens, has purchased the corner on the square known as the Trotter corner where Mr. A. L. Epps is now in business. Mr. Ashear stated Monday to a Press reporter that he has not purchased this lot for speculative purposes but for improvement.

Early next spring Mr. Ashear will begin the erection of a huge brick building either two or more stories in height—probably the latter. The new structure will occupy the entire Main street frontage of the lot, eighty-five feet, and will be at least 90 feet in depth. Mr. Ashear plans to have his new building ready for occupancy by June first. The ground floor will be used as stores while the upper stories will be divided into large, well lighted offices with all modern conveniences and rented to the public.

Those who are acquainted with Mr. Ashear know that he is not given to talk but accomplishes whatever he has in mind to do.

To make room for the new building an old land mark of Franklin—the Trotter store building—will have to come down. Around this old building centers much of the business history of Franklin and if sentiment were the only consideration the good people of Franklin would never consent to have the building torn down. Around this building the town grew and the Franklin of today developed. But progress is a stern master and the old must now give way to the new.

The erection of Mr. Ashear's contemplated skyscraper will be one of the greatest improvements in Franklin within a generation. Franklin is exceedingly fortunate to have as a citizen Mr. Ashear who has a sublime faith in the future of his adopted town.

JACKSON VOTES FOR ROAD BONDS

\$500,000 To Be Loaned the State For Road Work in Jackson County—To Hard Surface Roads.

A bond issue of \$500,000 to be loaned the State Highway Commission to complete state highway projects in Jackson county has been voted by the County Commissioners of Jackson, it was announced yesterday by James G. Stikeleather, ninth district state highway commissioner, who added that he would recommend to the State Highway Board the immediate acceptance of the offer in order that work may begin at once.

This money, together with supplementary funds, will be used to hard surface the road between Sylva and Balsam, a distance of 12 miles, and to hard surface the road from Sylva via Cullowhee to the forks of the river, a distance of 14 miles.

Upon the completion of the Sylva to Balsam link in the Appalachian Scenic Highway there will be a paved road all the way from the Georgia state line into Asheville with the exception of the stretch between Canton in Haywood county, and the Buncombe county line, which is now in excellent condition, though not hard surfaced.

The \$500,000 will constitute a loan to the State Highway Commission from Jackson county and will be paid back later out of funds appropriated for highway work by the State Legislature.—Asheville Citizen.

with a determination to see that this great scenic highway is completed in record time, so that present and future generations may enjoy to the fullest possible extent, the life-giving atmosphere and majestic scenery of the southern Appalachian mountains.—Atlanta Constitution.

The banquet was served by a number of Franklin's charming young matrons and girls among whom were: Mrs. Eloise Franks, Mrs. Dick Hudson, Mrs. F. W. Connell and Misses Mattie Angel, Carolyn Rogers, Sallie Cunningham, Elizabeth Cunningham, Margaret Cunningham, Elizabeth Smith, Elizabeth Barnard and Louise Stribling.



REV. HARRY S. ALLEN, who will conduct a Big Revival Meeting at Highlands Beginning Next Sunday.



REV. C. P. CURRY who will conduct the music in the Big Revival to Begin at Highlands Next Sunday.

GREAT REVIVAL AT HIGHLANDS

Rev. Harry A. Allen Famous Methodist Evangelist Begins Meeting Next Sunday With a Great Singer.

Rev. R. C. Kale, Methodist pastor of Highlands has announced that a great revival meeting will begin in that city next Sunday night, September 20th. Rev. Harry S. Allen of Macon, Ga., a member of the South Georgia conference and characterized by Bishop Warren Candler as one of the greatest evangelists in Methodism, will preach twice daily, at 11 o'clock in the morning and at 8 o'clock at night.

Rev. P. C. Curry, a noted evangelist singer of Hendersonville, will have charge of the music during the meeting.

The meeting will continue for at least ten days. The mountainous section of Western North Carolina, Georgia and South Carolina is exceedingly fortunate to have the opportunity of hearing this noted divine expound the old time Gospel. During this meeting Rev. Kale anticipates the greatest revival ever experienced by the Methodist church in this part of the state.

The beautiful little city of Highlands is making extensive preparations to accommodate the immense throngs that are expected to attend this memorable meeting.

KEPHART THINKS PARK ASSURED

Campaign for Purchasing Lands to Be Launched—Beauties of Mountain Area Described by Writer.

That North Carolina now has an excellent chance to secure one of the great National Parks proposed for the Southern Appalachians, is the opinion expressed by Horace Kephart, who is at the Kenilworth Inn.

Sixty thousand acres of virgin forest lying along the crest of the Great Smoky Mountains, which form the boundary line between North Carolina and Tennessee, containing 14 peaks of more than 6,000 feet, several of which are within a few feet of the height of Mt. Mitchell, has been finally agreed upon, to the exclusion of other proposed sites, Mr. Kephart declared.

North Carolina and Tennessee will participate in the purchase of the land to be presented to the National government for the park, under the plan which is being worked out. The North Carolina Park Commission will meet in Richmond next Wednesday in a joint session with similar commissions from Tennessee and Virginia. At that meeting a general plan will be considered for the acquisition of two parks, one in Virginia and the other in the Great Smokies.

A fund of 5,000,000 will be raised for the purchase of the lands required in a campaign that will, according to present plans, be placed in the hands of a financing corporation in New York.

North Carolina's share in the money required to finance the earlier stages of such a campaign has already been made available, and a tentative program adopted, at a meeting of the Commission in Asheville.

Mr. Kephart gave a very vivid description of the site of the proposed park. In it are the remaining areas of the virgin forests that once clothed the entire highland. There are hundreds of trees in it that measure ten and eleven feet in diameter, and seven peaks of more than 6,000 feet that have never been named. The country is exceedingly wild and sparsely inhabited. The lands have a wider variety of flora than other place in the world, he said.—Asheville Citizen.

Mabry Buys Large Farm

Mr. M. J. Mabry of Miami has purchased the big farm of Mr. George Mashburn on the Bryson City road about two miles from town. Mr. Mabry is highly enthused over the prospects of huge developments in the vicinity of Franklin. He will leave for his home in Miami in two or three weeks but plans to return early next spring and start work on the development of his new holdings. Mr. Mabry is so well pleased with Franklin as a summer resort that he intends to spend six months here each year. On his return next spring Mr. Mabry will bring many Florida friends with him who will become interested in building summer homes here and in the development of this vicinity as a tourist resort.

HOLLOMON PAYS FRANKLIN VISIT

Associate Editor of Atlanta Constitution Speaks at Banquet Sponsored by Macon County Club.

The Macon County Progressive club were hosts last Friday night to a large number of visiting delegations from Atlanta and other Georgia cities at a banquet served at the Junior hall. An article in the Constitution of last Sunday, reprinted in this issue of the Press, gives the details of the meeting.

The article appearing below was taken from Monday's Constitution and was written by Mr. J. A. Hollomon after his return to Atlanta from his visit to Franklin:

It was my pleasure, in company with Frank T. Reynolds, who as secretary of the Georgia Automobile association, and several other organizations; W. R. Neal, state highway engineer; Henderson Hallman, chairman of the Southeastern Fair commission; Francis E. Price, of the Constitution photographic staff, and others of Atlanta to incidentally attend a meeting of Habersham citizens at Clarksville Friday—which meeting had been called by the ordinary to ascertain the wishes of the voters as to calling a good roads bond election.

Our party was en route by motor to Franklin, N. C., to attend a banquet given by the Macon County Progressive club looking to the formation of a permanent organization of the Atlanta-Franklin-Asheville highway—the "Tallulah-Rabun route"—which banquet, by the way, was a splendid and most resourceful affair.

At Clarksville we found a courthouse almost full of voters, with every militia district in the county represented with one exception.

We joined in the meeting by request and were pleased to do so because Habersham is one of the important links in the proposed Atlanta-Franklin-Asheville chain of permanent pavements.

I never heard or witnessed greater highway enthusiasm. Frank Reynolds, W. R. Neal and Henderson Hallman made three of the best speeches I have heard in many a day. Frank Reynolds, is such a veteran good-roads man that he is as easy and as free, and as much at home, in making a highway bond issue speech as the old-time school teacher used to be in reading to his pupils, the fables from the rear-end of a blue-back speller.

Henderson Hallman, noted as an orator anyway, veered away from good roads at every other period to exploit the coming wonders of the Southeastern fair, but he would get back to bedrock and cinch a good highway point, and it stuck. Warren Neal talked straight business and explained state and federal aid.

Mayor Young Irvin, of Cornelia; Attorney Stanhope Irwin, of Clarksville; Editor Singleton, Louis Magid and others finished the talking, and every man in that big audience stood to his feet for an immediate bond election.

The petition was adequately signed in a few minutes after the meeting.

If there had been a cannon in the courthouse square we would have fired "a salute to progress" for Habersham had failed in one bond election. She will not fail again, in my judgment.

It means so much to that county to connect—with permanent paving—Hall and Rabun in the proposed "Tallulah-Rabun route."

We carried the good news to Franklin and so did a large number of Habersham citizens who motored up in the late afternoon to attend the Progressive club's banquet.

It must be understood here that Hall county has built her highway to the Habersham line. The latter is now building from Cornelia to the Hall line, without waiting for a bond issue. Rabun has voted bonds and the state board has let the contract for permanent paving from Clayton to the North Carolina line and for the grading and bridges south to the Habersham line. North Carolina has built concrete already finished from the state line to Franklin and almost all the way on to Asheville. It will shortly be completed all the way.

There are therefore but a few short links to be built between Asheville and Atlanta via Rabun Gap and Tallulah Falls, and when completed it will not only be one of the nation's most picturesque highways, but a shorter route between Atlanta and Asheville than any of the others by from 40 to 50 miles.

Now that the Appalachian route via (Continued on Page Four)