

The Franklin Press.

VOLUME XL FRANKLIN, N. C., FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1925 NUMBER FORTY-SIX

INVESTIGATION MADE OF UNAKA FOREST FIRES

U. S. Foresters Spent Several Days Studying Cause and Effect of Disastrous Fires Recently.

Assistant District Forester H. O. Stabler of Washington, D. C., and Supervisor Ira T. Yarnall of the White Mountain Forest of New Hampshire, S. H. Marsh of the Shenandoah Forest of Virginia, and R. W. Shields of the Nantahala Forest of North Carolina and Georgia arrived in Bristol yesterday following an intensive study that they have just made of the 5,000 acre forest fire which occurred in the Erwin district of the Unaka National Forest during the latter part of August and the first eleven days of September.

This fire was set presumably maliciously, by some unknown person on the morning of August 27 at a time when Eastern Tennessee was in the midst of an unprecedented drought. The forest floor was a veritable tinder box and before it was finally controlled on September 11 it had cost approximately \$6,000 for labor, food supplies and transportation and resulted in damage to mature timber young growth and soil of several thousand dollars. In addition to the direct loss in timber and soil fertility immense damage was done to the watershed of north Indian creek from a tributary of which the City of Johnson City obtains its water supply.

In commenting upon the study which has been made by these supervisors of the Eastern National Forest District Mr. Stabler said: "The Forest Service as an organization is engaged in the management of lands within the national forests to the end that they may best serve the public interest in the conservation of water resources and the production of timber as a crop. Fire is the arch enemy of the forest for years the country lost more timber by fire than its mills produced.

"The Service is justly proud of the record it has made in fire protection and a staggering loss like this fire on the Unaka Forest is something that demands serious consideration and study. For this reason District Forester Evan W. Kelly appointed a Board of Review to investigate and determine the causes and conditions which led to the destructive Unaka Mountain fire. In a sense the Board's duties are comparable to the investigations made by a board of Naval Officers following the loss of the ill-fated Shenandoah. The board composed of three supervisors who have had long experience in fire prevention and suppression will analyze all circumstances of the fire and endeavor to fix responsibility for the various steps of management. Similar boards of review were convened the fall of 1924 following the disastrous fires which occurred throughout California during the summer of 1924. The California fires also followed an "unprecedented drought" of long duration.

"Any organization of reasonable efficiency is prepared to handle the usual situation but what the Forest Service is striving for is every shred of experience that will aid it in meeting these unusual conditions with which it is confronted periodically by the whims of the weather.

"First of all, what can be done to prevent forest fires from starting? How can the public be led to realize that it suffers irreparable loss from the fires which occur annually in the forests of our country? How can a sense of personal responsibility be awakened in the breast of every good citizen so that his hand will be raised against every man who willfully or carelessly starts fire in our forests and woodlands? The United States has about 50,000 forest fires a year. Our annual fire bill is \$500,000,000—call it a half billion—as we burn 10,000,000 acres very year. Has it occurred to you that we of the United States are the best fire fighters in the world, of which we are inclined to boast, just because we lead the world to practice?

"So stopping the man-caused fires is one of the main objectives of the Federal and State Forest organizations.

We need to go the limit in being prepared to handle those fires which will inevitably start and we need to know and be prepared to put into practice those methods of fire fighting which will check the spread of fire and put it dead out. A fire fighting organization does not just happen into existence at the same time of a sudden emergency any more than do



Western Carolina Quota Fixed at \$150,000

With its quota fixed at \$150,000, Western North Carolina, outside of Asheville and Buncombe county, has begun work towards fulfilling its part in the campaign to purchase the Great Smoky Mountains for a great National park. Asheville and Buncombe county are pledged to raise \$250,000, and it is expected that the eastern counties will contribute the other \$100,000 to complete North Carolina's share of the half-million for the park purchase. Tennessee is jointly carrying on a campaign for a half million dollars. The quotas for the district towns and counties will be apportioned later.

At a luncheon last Wednesday at Asheville the quota was agreed upon and chairmen for the various communities were named. Intensive work in raising the fund will begin simultaneously throughout Western North Carolina on December 1.

Senator Henry Robertson of Franklin, has been named, local chairman for Macon county.

Organize Bible Class

The young men of the Franklin Methodist church at a banquet to be served at the Hotel Franklin Thursday evening will organize a Sunday school class to be known as the Wesleyan Bible Class. At this meeting a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, teacher and assistant teacher will be elected. The following committees have likewise been agreed upon and will be appointed: Social Sick, Membership and Class Extension.

There will be no charge for the banquet and all those who may be interested in joining the class are cordially invited to be present. Present indications signify a large attendance at the banquet.

trained troops spring immediately to action from all walks of life at times of national emergency.

"A difficult game you say? Yes assuredly it is and because of its difficulty the Forest Service is determined to get all possible experience from this Unaka Mountain fire—one of the 50,000—which came so close home to you people of Eastern Tennessee and Southwest Virginia. The Federal and State Organizations are just entering the so-called fall fire season, following a summer douth and fires and it is the duty of every public spirited person to be careful with fire in his home, his town, his woods, and his neighbors' woods."

SUMMER HOTEL TO BE ENLARGED

Owner of Oak Hill, Two Miles West of Franklin, Plan Addition and Extension Improvements.

Oak Hill, one of Franklin's best known summer hotels, located on the Murphy road, two miles west of Franklin in a beautiful grove of oaks, from which it takes its name, is to be remodeled. This delightful hotel which has enjoyed a large patronage during the tourist seasons of the past several years now contains 30 bed rooms. According to Mrs. Iris Miller a spacious dining room and 12 bed rooms will be added in the near future. The present annex will be moved to a place beside the main building. Both the main building and annex will be completely remodeled and private and connecting baths installed. An immense sitting room with French windows will be an attractive feature of Oak Hill when present plans are carried out.

Mrs. Miller also plans to construct a handsome terrace along the front of the main building.

Oak Hill has a private water system, the water being obtained from a bold spring on the mountain back of the buildings. A private lake used as a swimming pool is located near the hotel. Electric lights will be installed using current from the municipal system by extending the wires from the home of Mr. George Slagle to Oak Hill.

When these contemplated improvements are finished, Oak Hill will be one of the most attractive summer hotels in Macon county. No doubt the many conveniences planned will fill the hotel to capacity next summer.

CAROLINA REALTY COMPANY BUYS MAIN STREET LOT

The Carolina Realty Company has purchased the lot on which Essig's market now stands. Considering the depth of this lot the land probably sold for the highest price, per front foot, in the history of Franklin. The sale was consummated on the basis of \$116.50 per front foot.

The plans of the Carolina Realty Company concerning this lot have not been announced. It is intimated, however, that the lot was not purchased as an investment, but with the object of improvement.

Report of Franklin Chapter American Red Cross

The officers of the Franklin Chapter of the American Red Cross desire to submit the year's report of the activities of the chapter to the following citizens who compose the Franklin chapter:

- Will Sloan, Houghton Williams, H. E. Daniels, George Guest, E. W. Alfather, J. W. Street, R. P. Russel, John Gribble, W. B. Lenoir, G. E. Joines, Jess Coleman, W. E. Jackson, A. W. Horn, Claud Calloway, S. A. Harris, Rev. A. J. Smith, Rev. E. J. Pipes, Dr. W. A. Rogers, Dr. C. D. Baird, Dr. W. E. Furr, Miss Irene Weaver, Mrs. J. S. Sloan, Ms. S. R. Joines, Mrs. A. J. Smith, Mrs. G. B. Brinkles, Mrs. Nan Jacobs, Mrs. Robert Calloway, Miss Carolyn Sloan, Cornelia Smith, Mrs. J. R. Morrison, C. O. Ramsey, Mrs. J. S. Trotter, C. R. Cabe, Fred Epps, Mr. Baldwin, Miss Margaret Rogers, Mr. Crawford, Mr. Cotrey, Frank Murry, M. D. Billings, Jake Deal, Mrs. W. C. Cunningham, E. W. Long, R. L. Porter, Jack Stribling, Joe Ashear, Miss Lassis Kelly, Jim Roper, Jim Mann, Emery Hunnicutt, Dick Hudson, Sam Rogers, Frank Ray, Jr., Gilmer Jones, Homer Mashburn, Mr. Hames, George Patton, Mr. McGuire, Henry Cabe, Sue Hunnicutt, S. H. Lyle, Jr., Mr. Pendergrast, J. B. Lyle, J. S. Conley, Mr. Brown, E. S. Hunnicutt, Lee Crawford, Ray Penland, J. W. Kanaday, J. V. Arrendale, Lee Leach, Alex Kinsland, O. T. Wittier, R. A. Patton, T. W. Porter, Harry Shepherd, Roy Cunningham, Bell Shepherd, A. B. Slagle, J. H. Mashburn, T. W. Kaiser, R. W. Shields, C. K. Cunningham, H. G. Robertson, Rev. W. M. Smith, D. G. Stewert, H. Hearst, Dr. S. H. Lyle, John Thomas, Mr. Lahon, A. W. Higdon, Henderson Calloway, James Houser, Dr. Angel, Sam Franks, H. O. Essig, J. M. Porter, Bill Moore, Hugh Leach, Dr. F. T. Smith, B. T. Franklin, C. T. Ingram, W. B. Ferguson, R. D. Sisk, Dr. Pearce.

One hundred and eight citizens of our town answered the 1925 Roll Call of the American Red Cross. The dues paid by these members amounted to \$108.00. Half of this amount was sent to National Headquarters at Washington for world work, and the other half was used for local emergencies. In addition to the dues paid in, one dollar and a half was received from the sale of some potatoes given to the chapter.

The expenditures of the local branch have been as follows:

- Ten dollars to Miss Myers for nursing Mrs. Larkin.
 - Eight dollars to C. S. Ray for family of Elijah Roper.
 - Two dollars to Mrs. R. E. Hearst for moving picture for Junior Branch.
 - Two dollars and sixty cents for family in dire need.
 - Eighteen dollars to Angel hospital for treatment of baby from Flats.
 - Ten dollars to Lester Dill, whose home burned down.
 - Six dollars and fifty cents to Mrs. Gunner for railroad fare home.
 - One dollar for lodging man in need.
 - Six dollars and seventeen cents for pillows, etc., for Joe Henry.
 - Six dollars and seventy-five cents for sheets, pillow cases, etc., for Joe Henry.
 - Two dollars for stamps and telegrams.
 - Total expenditures of \$72.02.
- There were two telegrams relating to emergency cases received and answered after the cases had been looked into. There have been investigations made and reports sent in on eight war cases. Dozens of letters have been received and answered relating to these and other cases.

Truly it is our duty to join the Red Cross.

What Is It?

Mr. Theodore Kiser recently set a steel trap and caught something. It has feathers and wings and the face of a monkey. Theo made a record trip to Franklin, bringing his catch with him, and consulted Dr. Oscar Ashe, an authority on curios. Dr. Ashe spent several hours reading many big volumes of an encyclopedia. At first he was in doubt as to whether Theo's capture was a Cercopithecida, mangabey, guenon, gueraza or a langur. The doctor was quite sure it was gregarious and eminently arboreal. Oscar had about decided to call the captive a Cercopithecida when Homer Mashburn showed how a Cercopithecida doesn't have feathers but hair. This announcement completely flabbergasted the doctor, so he again consulted his dusty tomes and finally announce Theo's capture to be a member of the family, Coraciiformes, which being translated means a monkey faced owl. The boys call it Cora for short. Cora was kept on exhibition at the Franklin Pharmacy for several days.

AN IMPORTANT FARM MEETING

Representative Farmers Met at Court House Last Friday and Organized Macon County Farm Board.

A few representative farmers met at the office of County Agent Arrendale last Friday morning and perfected an organization to be known as the Macon County Farm Board. Mr. C. W. Henderson of Greiss was elected president and Mr. J. S. Gray of Route Two, secretary.

After the meeting was called to order, Mr. J. W. Goodman, district agent, made an interesting talk and presented a few statistics relative to the farms of Western North Carolina. To Mr. Goodman the average annual income from the farms in this section of the state is \$558.05. The average interest paid on farms and equipment by each farmer is \$209.98, leaving a net income of only \$348.07. Sixty-three per cent of the farm area in this section is in timber land.

Money producing crops in Macon stand in the following order: corn dairying, truck crops and poultry.

An excellent program was submitted by the county agent and by vote was adopted by the Farm Board. If this program is carried out (and there is no reason why it should not be), the results upon the farming industry in the county are expected to be far reaching. It is intended to organize similar farm boards in all western counties of the State and to federate these various boards so that the farming industry for all Western North Carolina may be carried along on similar lines.

During the course of the meeting mention was made of the tourist trade which is expected to exceed all previous records next summer. These thousands of tourists will require milk, butter, eggs, poultry, fresh vegetables, fruit, etc. It is confidently believed that there will be an excellent home market for all these things next tourist season.

The program adopted by the farm board is as follows:

- Dairying:**
 - Five calf club members,
 - Three cars of dairy cows,
 - Silo and dairy barn campaign,
 - Stock beets and soybeans for dairy cows.
 - Poultry:**
 - Fifty adult poultry demonstrators,
 - Two hundred Junior poultry demonstrators.
 - Hogs:**
 - Six demonstrators growing two carloads per year for market.
 - Vegetables:**
 - Six demonstrators.
 - Fruits:**
 - Eleven home orchard plantings.
 - Sheep:**
 - Wool sales and aid in securing rams.
 - Organization:**
 - Seven community "Farmer's Clubs"
 - Twelve organized boys and girls clubs.
- Marketing:
- Shipping twelve car loads of poultry,
 - Shipping two car loads of hogs,
 - Shipping vegetables,
 - Purchasing of lime.
- The following resolutions were also adopted by the farm board:

RESOLUTIONS:—It is resolved that the Macon County Agricultural Committee go on record as recommending the following and pledging their support in its execution:

- That we endorse the Agricultural Extension methods as the most satisfactory way of using the county agent.
- That we strongly recommend to the people of Macon county the program of work for 1926 as worked out at this meeting and solicit the cooperation of all to the end of increasing the earning capacity of the farm. We further recommend that the farmers of Macon county exert every effort to attain the following goals:
 - To use only for breeding purposes high producing registered sires and good grades of seed for crops.
 - To establish on every farm suitable to dairy farming an average of 5-10 high producing cows in the next three years.
 - To establish an average of 100 standard bred hens to the farm in the next three years.
 - To keep from 1-5 brood sows on every dairy farm to supply meat for home and market.
 - In sections suited to the growing of vegetables establish the industry to such an extent that