



The Franklin Press

VOLUME XLI.

FRANKLIN, N. C., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 1926

NUMBER THIRTY-SIX

JAIL "CAUSE FOR SHAME" REPORTS GRAND JURY; NEW BUILDING URGED

Recommends Courthouse and Jail Be Combined in New Building — Courthouse Is "Dirty" Says Judge

"Our jail might have been satisfactory in the dark ages," but now it is "a cause for shame to every citizen of Macon county," declared the Macon county grand jury in its report to the August term of Macon Superior court.

The grand jury recommended the erection of a new building with courthouse and jail combined.

Until that is done, two changes at the jail should be made at once, the report declared: a new porch should be erected along the front, and not less than three windows, opening into the prison cells, should be cut.

The men's toilet on the first floor of the courthouse is in "a disgracefully unsanitary condition," said the report, which recommended that the county commissioners employ a full-time janitor to keep the courthouse clean.

The county home was reported in good condition, the only recommendation being that the road to the home be improved and that a telephone be installed. The convict camp is also in good condition, the grand jury found.

In discussing the report, Judge W. F. Harding, presiding, called attention to the fact that a similar report had been made by a grand jury when he held court here ten years ago, and again 5 years ago. Someone stated that the same undesirable conditions had been pointed out by grand juries practically every year, and the judge turned to the solicitor with the suggestion that it was time the county commissioners did something about it.

Judge Harding characterized the court house as "dirty" and the jail as "inadequate." The county records, he pointed out, were piled up in two back rooms. He thought, he said, that the county commissioners ought to be willing to pay enough to keep the courthouse clean and sanitary.

The text of the grand jury's report, signed by Ray N. Moses, foreman, follows:

"We have examined the county home, the convict camp, the court house and the county jail.

"We find the county home to be in good condition, the inmates, on being questioned, say they are well cared for. We recommend that the road to the county home be put in better condition, and that a telephone be installed in the home.

"We find the convict camp to be kept in a sanitary condition, the convicts are given plenty of plain food, and in our opinion, the convicts are treated in a humane way.

"The rooms in which the Clerk of Court and the Register of Deeds work are too small for the proper transaction of business; but this defect, cannot, it appears, be remedied until a new courthouse can be erected.

"The men's toilet in the lower part of the courthouse is in a disgracefully unsanitary condition. Evil odors insult the noses of those who pass through the hall. It is recommended that the county commissioners employ a man as full-time janitor of the court house with special instructions to keep the court house in a sanitary condition and to prosecute every person who does anything that causes the toilets to be unclean or untidy. It is recommended that the commissioners take all necessary steps to put the toilets in proper condition and to keep them so.

"A separate toilet for colored persons is recommended.

"The present management of the jail seems to be reasonably good. But the jail building itself is a cause for shame to every citizen of Macon county. The floors of the cells in which prisoners are kept cannot be washed because water will leak through into the rooms below. The wall shows a serious crack at one side of the trap door. There is neither sufficient light or fresh air.

"Right thinking people will realize that innocent persons are often confined in jail. Our jail might have been satisfactory in the dark ages. Christian American citizens cannot allow the torture of darkness and foul air as part of the treatment of any human being.

"As soon as it is found practical

QUESTIONNAIRE IS ADDRESSED TO CANDIDATES

Knowing that the citizens of the county are deeply interested in the questions appearing below, the Press has taken the liberty to address the following letter to each candidate for county commissioner:

Dear Sir:

You are a candidate for county commissioner and if elected will probably be called upon to take action in many cases in which the public is interested. That the public may know your position on the following questions, we shall be pleased to publish your replies:

1st. Are you in favor of issuing bonds to build a new court house and jail combined?

2nd. Are you in favor of a county fish hatchery to restock our streams and attract the tourists?

3rd. Are you in favor of the county's lending the money to the State to hard-surface Highway No. 28?

4th. Are you in favor of a county agent?

5th. Are you in favor of a home demonstration agent?

6th. Are you in favor of employing a county school supervisor?

7th. Are you in favor of placing the chairman of the county commissioners on a full time salary?

Very truly yours,
S. A. HARRIS,
Editor, Franklin Press

Candidates' replies will be published in subsequent issues of the Press.

Child of Franklin Man Severely Burned

The many friends of little Mary Joe Conley, the attractive child of Mr. and Mrs. John Conley of Winston-Salem, will regret to learn that she was severely burned Saturday afternoon at Magnolia Terrace, the country home of her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Will A. Hall.

The little child turned over a pan of hot chocolate, scalding her entire breast, stomach and left arm. It is not known just how serious are the injuries.

Mr. Conley is a native of Franklin. He has been connected with the Latta Transfer Company at Winston-Salem for the past several years.

Negroes Bound Over to Court—Liquor Charge

Charles A. Foster and Solomon Casey, Waynesville negroes were arrested here Monday by Chief of Police Coffey on a charge of transporting liquor. The arrest was made on Main street; the negroes had a can, half full, Mr. Coffey said.

The preliminary hearing was held before Mayor R. D. Sisk and the negroes were bound to Superior court. Bond was fixed at \$200 each, and \$300 for the car which they were driving.

a building for both jail and courthouse should be erected.

"But at least two changes in the jail should be made now. A new porch should be constructed at the front of the building; and not less than three new windows should be made in the rooms occupied by the prisoners."

PALMER FINED \$500 AND COST

Given Choice of Four Months Or Fine—Motion Made to Set Verdict Aside, But No Ruling Wednesday.

Jim Palmer must pay a fine of \$500 and the costs for violating the prohibition law, unless Judge Harding should grant the motion of defense counsel to set the verdict of guilty aside. Palmer was convicted in connection with the disappearance from the liquor car of J. M. York of one gallon of liquor. Palmer helped to make the capture; the liquor disappeared before the car could be taken to the jail, according to testimony.

Judge Harding gave the defendant his choice of a four months' road sentence or payment of a fine, and Palmer took the latter. It was only consideration for the man's wife and children, Judge Harding said, which caused him to allow him an alternative—otherwise Palmer would have gone to the roads.

The motion for a new trial, made by defense attorneys on a basis of alleged newly discovered evidence, was made Monday, but late Wednesday Judge Harding had not ruled upon it.

Harry Brown, who runs a filling station near the State line, testified that on the day York was bailed out of jail he gave him a ride to the State line, and that York said that the last time he came that way it cost him a gallon of liquor to get out of a mud-hole. The defense sought to show that this was the gallon of whiskey which disappeared.

Brown's testimony was flatly contradicted by York, who was brought from Georgia to testify, and three other witnesses gave testimony tending to prove that York's statements were correct.

JUDGE HARDING PHILOSOPHIZES

Opening Superior Court in Franklin the other day, Judge W. F. Harding delivered a very thoughtful and able address to the Grand Jury on the law and the tendency among too many people to feel that they have done nothing wrong if they "don't get caught" trespassing against the law.

Judge Harding charged the jury to "go after the representative citizens who are law violators." He warned them that lawlessness can never be checked so long as men of influence and standing are allowed to break statutes and rules while men of small place in the social organization are given severe sentences for misdemeanors.

Taking up a number of subjects, Judge Harding found occasion to defend youth of today from the criticisms leveled against it. The boy and girl of today are better than those of a generation ago, he declared. They interpret life differently, the girls dress differently, but essentially Judge Harding finds them sound and fine young Americans.

Macon county citizenship, by the way, came in for praise from the Judge. Of 18 men summoned for grand jury duty, not one asked to be excused. It was an unusual experience for a Judge who has ridden all the circuits.—Asheville Times.

2,000 EXPECTED SEPTEMBER 15

INTEREST IN A-F-A GROWS

To Be Franklin's Greatest Day—Committee Asks Cooperation of Everybody—Big Men Coming.

September 15, when Tar Heels and Georgia Crackers gather here to celebrate the opening of the Asheville-Franklin-Atlanta short-cut highway, will be the biggest day in Franklin's history. If this town ever "spreads itself," that is the time to do it. And there is little time left to complete preparations.

That is the substance of what those at work on the celebration are saying this week—and they are working, too.

But, with the big men of two states coming, and with 2,000 guests expected, the whole town must work, if Franklin shows up as it can and should. That is not only what is being said, but it is a self-evident fact.

The program committee is putting the finishing touches on the program, and expects to have it ready by the last of this week. In the main, it remains unchanged.

Tentative plans call for the luncheon to be served the visitors to consist of fried chicken, ham, chicken salad sandwich, potato salad, bread, pickles, coffee, ice cream, cigars and cigarettes. In this connection the committee points out that the 2,000 visitors expected is a pretty large crowd to be fed in a small town, and home folk are being asked not to expect to take part in the dinner, in order that Franklin's guests may be given a complete and satisfying lunch, and that there may be no crowding out of visitors.

Visiting cars are to be tagged, probably at the Georgia line and at the top of the mountain on No. 285.

Committees on parking, on financing, on the luncheon, on car decorations, and on seeing that the town is spotlessly clean and properly decorated will each be charged with these specific duties.

These committees will work in conjunction with and under the arrangements committee which has charge of the entire celebration.

But regardless of the number of committees, there is to be work for all, chamber of commerce officials say; and only through the hearty cooperation of everybody can the celebration be made a complete success and Franklin's visitors go away as pleased as Franklin would wish with their experiences.

In the afternoon, the program will be favored with talks from Ernest Roper and his Harmon Makers furnished the music.

At the end of the day, the details will be worked out by

Olive Hill S. S. Picnic

The picnic held at Olive Hill on Sunday of last week was a decided success, both from the standpoint of the number attending and the enjoyable time everyone had. No special program had been arranged as the purpose of the occasion was just to get together and have a good time.

Ernest Roper and his Harmon Makers furnished the music.

In the afternoon, the program will be favored with talks from Ernest Roper and his Harmon Makers furnished the music.

At the end of the day, the details will be worked out by

the various committees.