

The Franklin Press

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Franklin Host To Guests From Two States For A-F-A Meet

IN TARHEELIA AGAIN, COUNTY IS LINK TWIXT SISTER STATES

A-F-A Not Only Shortest Route Between Atlanta And Asheville, But Logical and Beautiful One.

For twenty years, or since the railway first came to Franklin, Macon county has been a province of the State of Georgia in everything but name.

Today it is a part of North Carolina again. Just as the railway, two decades ago, opened to this isolated county a method of transportation into Georgia, today North Carolina's great roads program has once again brought Macon county back into North Carolina.

Construction of Highway No. 285, a 21-mile stretch of concrete road across the Cowee Mountains, has cut the distance from Franklin into the adjoining county from an interminable trip of from six to eight hours to a delightful drive of 45 minutes.

Macon county is back in North Carolina again, but its Georgia neighbors are neighbors still. It has not simply come back into North Carolina—it has become the connecting link between the sister states of Georgia and North Carolina. For No. 285 has opened a new route from Atlanta to Asheville, from the cottonfields of Dixie to the glories of the mountains, from Jacksonville to the north.

What are the advantages of this route?

It is the shortest route yet found between Asheville and Atlanta.

It passes through Rabun Gap, in Georgia, the lowest gap in the Blue Ridge, south of Virginia, and hence is the logical route from an engineering viewpoint.

And it is a drive that, for startling beauty, defies description. Up through the Georgia apple and peach belts; through the Gorge; through Rabun Gap and along the rim of the remarkable Talinto North Carolina; over the Cowee Mountains; across Balsam Gap, the highest point on the Southern Railway and into the Metropolis of the "Land of the Sky," with some new entrancing vista at every curve. This is the A-F-A.

To become a greatly traveled route, it requires but two things, it is asserted by its advocates: completion of those sections of the road lying in north Georgia; and the proper advertising. It is to accomplish these ends that Georgians and North Carolinians today have joined hands.

Sheriff Summons Editor

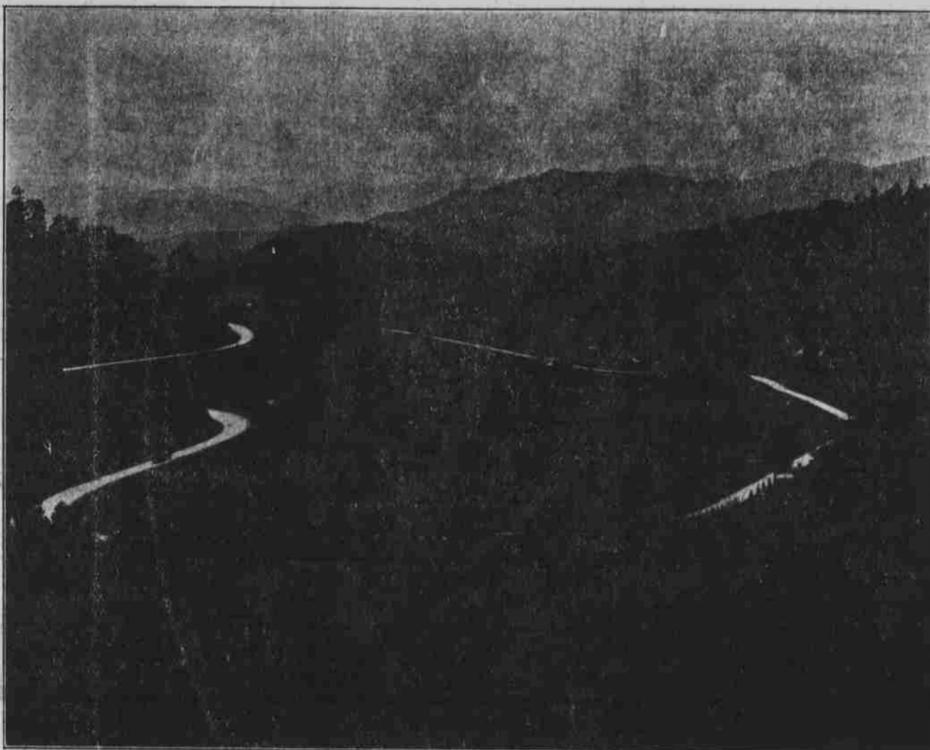
Sheriff Ingram, white with wrath, entered the Press office Monday at 2 p. m., and summoned the editor to go to Turkey Knob to capture an alleged distiller. The sheriff stated that the editor did not seem to like the deputies he (the sheriff) had been using an dthat, therefore, the editor himself had been summoned.

Chief Coffey, Sheriff Ingram, and two others composed the raiding party. For good and sufficient reasons the editor refused to make this trip into the woods.

Chief Coffey accompanied the Sheriff to the Press office and said to the editor "Oh, we will take care of you."

ARTIST HERE

Mrs. Farnsworth Drew, of Atlanta, a celebrated landscape and portrait painter, is a guest at the home of Mrs. W. W. Sloan. Mrs. Drew has visited Franklin before and has found inspiration in the riot of fall colors found here on hill and mountain.



VIEW OF A-F-A HIGHWAY AT THE FOOT OF THE COWEE MOUNTAINS, FIVE MILES EAST OF FRANKLIN.

A Word of Welcome

Editorial

To her guests today Franklin extends a very hearty welcome.

On behalf of the town, the Press voices this word of greeting to all Franklin's visitors; and on behalf of Tarheeldom, it bids the Georgia visitors "make themselves at home" in North Carolina. A greeting from Franklin's business concerns appears elsewhere in this issue.

Franklin has been signally honored in being chosen as the location for a major part of the day's celebration. It is further honored in the presence of its guests. It is happy to have them here.

The gathering today is to celebrate a very real achievement—the spanning of the Cowee Mountains with a concrete ribbon, the completion of a million dollar piece of road building. The significance of the road is just beginning to be realized: it connects Macon county with the rest of North Carolina; it connects Georgia's No. 15 with North Carolina's No. 10; and it is the short cut route between Atlanta and Asheville, in addition to being the logical route from an engineering standpoint, and one of the most beautiful drives in all the mountains.

Southern Appalachia has a great future. Its possibilities as a playground have existed since these great mountains were first thrown up, early in the history of the planet. But it is the roads that are revealing the striking advantages of this highland country—revealing them both to the people of the hills and to the outsider.

The future of the Southern Highlands is one with the future of Franklin. This town and this section look forward with a serene confidence that the future will see here a better place for more people to live.

It is to get a glimpse of some of these possibilities, as well as the roads, that our guests are here today. We welcome them cordially.

COMMISSIONERS CUT COUNTY TAX

The tax rate in Macon county was lowered by the Board of County Commissioners at that body's meeting on Monday. This follows a cut in the tax rate in Franklin, ordered recently by the Board of Aldermen. The cut in the town taxes was made possible by the profitable operation of the municipal power plant.

The county tax rate was cut from \$1.48 per hundred dollars property valuation to \$1.43.

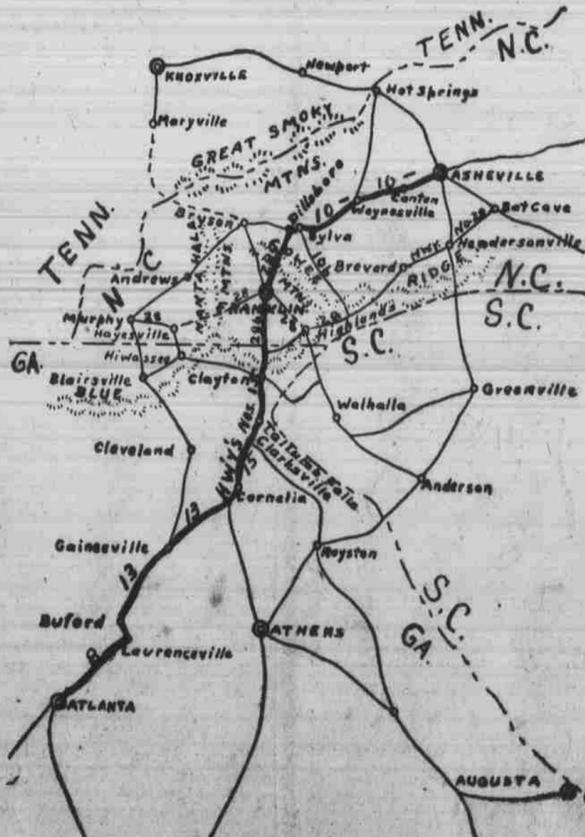
This tax is made up of six items, ordinary fund, bridges, general sinking fund, special note fund, pauper

fund and general school tax. The rates on these items for last year and this year, the latter having just been set, follow:

	1925	1926
Ordinary fund	\$.15	\$.15
Bridges	.10	.07
General Sinking Fund	.51	.41
Special Note fund	.05	.05
Pauper fund	.03	.03
General School	.64	.72
Totals	\$1.48	\$1.43

In addition there is a road tax, levied in each township, of 15 cents, the same rate as last year.

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MAP OF ASHEVILLE-FRANKLIN-ATLANTA SHORT CUT ROUTE traveled today by the A-F-A Celebration Motorcade.

A-F-A PROGRAM; MORRISON, PAGE AND HOLDER ARE SPEAKERS TODAY

Today's Celebration Opening A-F-A Highway Made Possible By Completion of Highway No. 285.

The program and motorcade today is in celebration of an achievement that is destined to have a far-reaching effect, not alone upon Macon and Jackson counties, but upon the mountain country and the South.

Completion of North Carolina's highway No. 285, between Dillsboro, in Jackson county, and Franklin, Macon's county seat, is the event to be celebrated. This is a twenty-one mile concrete ribbon across the Cowee Mountains for which North Carolina paid nearly a million dollars. It is the construction of this highway which makes possible today the official opening of the Asheville-Franklin-Atlanta short cut route. The program of today's events follows:

The motorcade, composed of cars from Asheville, Waynesville, Canton, Sylva, Dillsboro, and other intermediate towns, will be joined at Franklin by the delegation from this and neighboring towns and will proceed 14 miles over Highway No. 286 to the North Carolina-Georgia line, where at 11 o'clock it will meet the delegations from Atlanta and towns north.

The North Carolina motorists will form an escort for the guests from Georgia, the motorcade being headed by Asheville, with Franklin bringing up the rear of the North Carolina escort. Georgians will follow, Atlanta leading. From the State line the motorcade will be conducted to the Tabernacle in Franklin, where luncheon will be awaiting the visitors from the two states.

Immediately following luncheon, the official meeting, also to be held in the Tabernacle, will be called to order by J. G. Stikeleather, of Asheville, ninth district highway commissioner. It was under the supervision of Mr. Stikeleather that No. 285 was constructed, hence he was chosen as master of ceremonies.

On behalf of Franklin, J. Lee Barnard, of this city, will extend the visitors a word of welcome. W. G. Mealor, mayor of Gainesville, Ga., will respond.

The address of former Governor Cameron Morrison, of North Carolina, under whose administration the good roads program in North Carolina was launched, will follow.

John N. Holder, chairman of the Georgia Highway Board, will respond to Mr. Morrison's address.

The third address, that of Frank Page, chairman of the North Carolina Highway Commission, will bring to a close the official program. A number of the prominent visitors from both states, however, will be called upon, it is expected, for brief remarks.

The motorcade will leave Franklin not later than 4 o'clock in the afternoon, and traverse Highway No. 285 to Dillsboro, there striking No. 10. It will make brief stops at Sylva, Waynesville, and Canton.

Reaching Asheville at about 7:30, the motorists will be entertained by the Asheville chamber of commerce at a banquet at Kenilworth Inn.

The program today has been planned and is to be executed under the auspices of the chambers of commerce of the North Carolina towns participating. The Franklin program will be conducted under the auspices of the Franklin chamber of commerce.