



The Franklin Press

VOLUME XLII FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY FEBRUARY 3, 1927 NUMBER FIVE

DEVELOPMENT WORK TO START

Over 9000 Acres on Cowee Included In Development—Means Much to Franklin's Future.

Over 9,000 acres to the north of Cowee Gap, and extending to the top of Cowee Bald, which is included in the property, is to be subdivided, sold in half acre lots, for summer homes, and developed, according to an announcement just made here by C. T. Hodges, of Asheville, second vice-president of the development company.

The property is to be known as Yalaka Mountain Estates. Mr. Hodges explained that the word "Yalaka" is an Indian term, meaning "home of the eagle."

The property begins at Cowee Gap, eight or nine miles from Franklin, where Highway No. 285 crosses the Cowees, and extends north about four miles to and including the top of Cowee Bald, which stands 5,285 feet in altitude.

Developments will include roads, water, and lights, Mr. Hodges stated. The property has all been optioned, and first payments made upon the greater portion of it, Mr. Hodges indicated.

Other officers of the concern, according to the second vice-president, who also has the sales contract, are: Guy Weaver, Asheville attorney, president and treasurer; G. J. Knobloch, district manager of Dunn's agency in Charleston, S. C., first vice-president; and J. A. Patla, attorney, of Asheville, secretary. The directors are the officers named above and L. R. Abbott, of Lakeland, Fla., Zerni Barnes, of Lakeland, Capt. William Steitz, of Lakeland, R. S. Eskridge, of Swannanoa, S. Sternberg, of Asheville, E. I. Fater, of Asheville, and Dr. N. Rosenstein, of Durham.

Sale of the lots will begin shortly, Mr. Hodges stated. They will be placed on sale at first at \$150 each, and he believes many of them, he said, will be purchased by Floridians, in which state he has connections and formerly made his home.

Mr. Hodges expressed the opinion that, in many instances, the property would be sold in 10 or 20 acre blocks, thus giving the purchaser a five or 10-acre estate for his summer home.

People from Florida and other places who have been taken over the property, Mr. Hodges said, have been enthusiastic with reference to the scenic beauty of this section of the state.

In addition to the officers and directors, there are other stockholders in the company, a number of local men having taken stock in the concern.

Development of the property and the building of summer homes on it would virtually mean an increase in the summer population of Franklin, for it is but a few minutes drive over the hard-surface of No. 285 between Franklin and Cowee Gap.

The property will contain 18,260 half-acre lots, Mr. Hodges explained, and work on the development is expected to begin within the next two months.

MACON COUNTY AIDED BY STATE

Booklet on Furniture Industry Calls Attention to Macon's Hardwood—Copies Furnished Chamber.

Franklin, in its efforts to secure industries for Franklin, specifically wood-working plants, is being assisted by the State Department of Conservation and Development.

In that department's latest booklet, economic paper No. 57, "The economic development of the furniture industry of the South and its future dependence upon forestry," by C. F. Korstian, a remarkable photograph of Macon county hardwood appears. The photo was furnished by the forest service, and beneath it appears the caption: "Typical virgin hardwood forest in Macon county, North Carolina, containing much timber suitable for the manufacture of furniture."

Another photo shows "A fine stand of second-growth yellow poplar in Western North Carolina."

The department ordinarily sells these papers, but has complied with the request of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce that that body be furnished a number of copies for distribution to interested inquirers.

SOLESBEE SAYS PARK BILL SURE

Home on Leave Macon's Representative Talks Interestingly Legislature—Introduces Local Bills.

With the west and piedmont almost unanimously favorable, and the east not active in opposition, the proposed bill for a bond issue for the Smoky Mountains National Park will pass the legislature. Such is the opinion of the Rev. Alvin S. Solesbee, representative in the lower house from Macon county. Mr. Solesbee, who was at home for a few days, on leave, last week.

The Macon county solon believes that the hottest fight of the present sessions will center around Representative Poole's anti-evolution bill, and Mr. Solesbee, who is an anti-evolutionist, predicted that, if the bill comes to a vote, the majority for or against will not be more than seven votes, so close will the contest be. His statement was based, he said, upon conversations with practically all the legislators.

The bill, undoubtedly, will be amended, Mr. Solesbee stated, and if it is so amended as to make punishment for violation less stringent, he indicated that he would cast his vote for Representative Poole's measure.

Discussing the park proposal, Mr. Solesbee said that the western representatives and senators were a unit on the matter, that sentiment was almost unanimously favorable to the proposal among legislators from the piedmont. The east will not, in his opinion, fight the measure. "They recognize," he said, "that such a course would be against the interests of the state as a whole, and would appear little and selfish."

Mr. Solesbee discussed the anti-evolution measure at some length. His personal attitude on the question, he believes, is fairly representative of other anti-evolutionists.

It would be all right, Mr. Solesbee suggested, to teach evolution in the church schools, where the supernatural angle is also taught and discussed, giving the student the two sides of the question of natural phenomena. But in the state schools religion does not and cannot enter, and there the teaching of the theory results in the young people's getting only the natural side, with a resulting biased outlook.

The Macon county representative has introduced a number of local bills, as well as a bill with Representative Nicholson, of Jackson county, which would prohibit hunting in Jackson and Macon counties for two years. That bill has been held up in the senate at the request of the Nantahala Sportsmen's Association, which believes the proper way to preserve the game is through a game warden system financed by payment of licenses which permit hunting in an open season.

Another local bill of Mr. Solesbee's through the Macon county representative into state-wide prominence, since it would amend the "literary gem" dog log of the late J. Frank Ray. The Ray measure, a state-wide law, as explained by Mr. Solesbee, provides for a tax of \$1 on every dog, and, to quote Mr. Solesbee, "\$2 on lady dogs."

Mr. Solesbee's measure would so amend the Ray bill, as it relates to Macon county, as to allow each family one dog free of taxation, and tax each additional dog owned by a family \$2. That measure is now in a house committee.

Other local measures introduced by Mr. Solesbee follow:

To amend the charter of the Town of Franklin, cutting the number of Aldermen from six to three. The measure has passed the house, but has been held up in a senate committee. Mr. Solesbee said, "because they didn't seem to want it" here at Franklin. He intimated that he had requested the senate committee to "pigeon-hole" it.

To levy a special tax, of six cents on each one-hundred dollars property valuation to care for the county's infirm and indigent. The bill is in a house committee.

To repeal the law providing for a bounty on wild cats. The measure has passed both houses.

To take from justices of the peace jurisdiction to try the offense of public drunkenness, and providing for such cases to be tried in the Superior court. This bill has also passed both houses.

To extend the corporate limits of the Town of Franklin, making the limits one mile each way from the courthouse. The measure, which is in a house committee, would exempt farm taxation farm lands brought within the town limits. The Board of Aldermen would determine what constitutes farm lands.

SENATOR ROANE TALKS MINERALS

Committee on Mines Chairman Sees Big Future For Western Carolina—Refers to Proposed Park.

Special to The Press—Inestimable millions of dollars in mineral resources await development to add materially to the income of North Carolina, declares Senator R. J. Roane of the thirty-third district, chairman of the senate committee on mines.

Since taking his seat this year in the Senate, Chairman Roane has been making a close study of the opportunity to the State through its mineral deposits. As a result of his efforts in this direction, Senator Roane declares that the outstanding need is for the State to take the lead in pointing out the value of her assets in this line.

Coming from the extreme southwest part of North Carolina, one of the richest mining districts in the State, Senator Roane is taking an acute interest in aiding the development of minerals of the State. He has expressed keen interest in the work of the Department of Conservation and Development toward this purpose, complimenting the Geology and Publicity Divisions on their efforts toward research and placing the facts before the public.

"Mining and Forestry," says Senator Roane, "are two of our most valuable assets, and with the decline in our forest area, renewed interest is placed on our mines. Wrapped within the folds of the ranges of the Appalachians are huge sources of wealth that have never been touched. It is true that North Carolina has been active in bringing the facts before the world of this great potential wealth, but the surface has scarcely been scratched. We need to provide better for the needs of the State Geologist to meet the demands which are made upon him in determining the quality, extent and value of various deposits."

"In my district alone, which includes Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon and Swain counties, there is research enough to occupy the entire time of the State Geologist for a considerable period."

"Some of our valuable minerals in this section include asbestos, building stones, gold, silver, kaolins, mica and many others. Recent years have noted material strides in the production of most of these minerals and the future gives still brighter promise for a greatly increased output."

Senator Roane declares that the construction of highways in the mountains is one of the most valuable aids toward the exploitation of the minerals of the section. He pointed out that the experiences of rich mineral sections in greatly increased volume has proven this point. Swain, his home county, he continued, is now constructing a highway to extend to the Tennessee border, which should be another stimulus to the development of the county. Copper mining in Swain County, the Senator declared, is increasing, with the Fontana mines now shipping two car loads daily and preparing to add to this.

The Senator enjoys the distinction of being the second democrat to be elected to the State Senate from his district in more than a quarter of a century.

His ability has already been recognized through his appointment as chairman of the Committee of Mines, and a member of 13 senate committees.

For 21 years, Mr. Roane has operated a large mercantile establishment in Whittier; for four years he served as Sheriff of Swain County; and has served five years as a member of the school board of the county, resigning this office to assume that of State Senator. During the time that he was a member of the school board, the schools of the county have recorded a most progressive period. He is a member of the Methodist church in Whittier and has served as superintendent of the Sunday School for a number of years.

Senator Roane declares that the establishment of the proposed Great Smoky Mountain National Park will add one of the most valuable features of interest to the State of North Carolina. "These Mountains are among the most beautiful in the country," he declared, "and it is most fitting that we should convert the area into a National Park to save to the nation unspoiled this wonderful area."

PLAN FOR DAMS COST \$15,000,000

The Aluminum Company Of America In Nantahala Scheme—Lake Will Move Railroad Lines.

Restless energy that for countless centuries has sent the Little Tennessee river and its tributaries roaring down through the Nantahala mountains is soon to be harnessed by a gigantic hydro-electric development near Bryson City, it was learned last night.

Plans for a series of dams on the Little Tennessee river that will involve the removal of the Fontana branch of the Southern Railway Company, necessitate the re-location of the main line tracks of the Murphy division between Bryson City and Bushnell for a dozen miles or more, and fill the famous Nantahala Gorge with a lake, have reached a climax with the completion by surveyors and engineers of several months work in that vicinity.

The development which will probably be the largest in the mountains of Western North Carolina, will involve the use of water from at least four streams, tributaries of The Little Tennessee, and will cost approximately \$15,000,000, it was learned.

From Bryson City to Bushnell, a distance of approximately 12 miles, the lake will wipe out the rapids of the river that now roars in picturesque freedom, and will cause the engineers of the railway company to change the roadbed to a slightly higher level for a distance of several miles.

The Aluminum Company of America several years ago acquired power rights in that section with the view to some day exercising those rights with the erection of a huge hydro-electric plant. However the company has made no formal announcement of its plans and common knowledge reported from Bryson City, links the name of the Southern Power company with the project. A great many of the larger companies have affiliations that are puzzling since the super-power idea was put into effect and some mystery still surrounds the identity of the power behind the project which is already beginning to show with a number of manifestations in that section.

The Fontana branch of the Southern Railway company, originally planned to tap the marvelous hardwood forests of the Nantahalas has more recently been operated as both a freight and passenger carrier. This branch will virtually be done away with when the huge lake floods the valley and overflows the roadbed.

Inquiry in official circles in Washington reveals that no application for the power plant has been made but further inquiry led to the belief that such an application is not necessary as the Aluminum Company of America purchased the land in question some time before the act giving the federal power body jurisdiction was passed.

The presence of plants costing millions of dollars is not new to the basin of the Little Tennessee river. It is in that area that some of the Aluminum company's heaviest investments are located.

The large plant already completed on the Tennessee and North Carolina line, was at the time it was finished, the largest overflow dam in the world. The new plant, or series of plants, will be further up the river and the work of combining the waters of several rivers to feed the giant turbines is already under way, according to reports reaching Asheville from Bryson City.

From the Pigeon river development, announced several months ago by the Carolina Power and Light company, there will be a transmission line to the industrial section that centers around Greenville, S. C., it is understood, and the terrific power ranging down from the mountains will be harnessed to the industry of the Carolinas under present plans.—The Asheville Citizen.

LYLE BUYS INTEREST IN THE IDLE HOUR

Mr. S. H. Lyle, Jr. has purchased half interest in the Idle Hour theatre, it was announced here Monday. This theatre under the ownership and management of Mr. Steve Porter has had remarkable success in the past two or three years. It is understood that Mr. Lyle will have active management of the theatre in the future. He is planning to stage all the best shows available and, under his management, the public may expect high class entertainments. Mr. Lyle has announced that the names of the shows to be placed on the screen will appear each week in the Press.

SCOTT GRIFFIN HOTEL TO OPEN

Franklin's Modern Commercial Hotel About Ready For Guests—Mrs. J. L. Farmer, Manager, Arrives.

With the opening of the new Scott Griffin Hotel here early this month, Franklin will have a commercial hostelry with perhaps no superior west of Asheville.

The new hotel is modern in every respect, attractive inside and out, and nothing but the best has gone into the furnishings, according to the builders and owners.

Franklin has long felt the need for an additional commercial hotel, and there have been a number of unsuccessful efforts to organize a stock company to build one. The new structure was built and is owned by three leading business men here, Sam L. Franks, postmaster, W. C. Cunningham, merchant, and H. W. Cabe, banker.

The new hotel stands on the north side of Main Street, in the very heart of the business section. Included in it is the old Sloan's store building.

Four stories in height, the new building has 36 bed-rooms, a dozen baths, steam heat, a circulating system of hot water, hot and cold water in every room, and is attractively and comfortably furnished.

In addition to the office and lobby, on the first floor, are two store-rooms, occupied by Sloan Bros. & Co., and Smith's Drug Store, and a barber shop to be occupied by Lester Conley. The bed rooms are on the second and third floors, and kitchen, dining room, ladies parlor, etc., are all on the second floor.

One of the new hostelry's most attractive features is the roof garden on the fourth floor. It commands a remarkable view of the town, the surrounding hills, and the ranges of distant mountains.

The roof garden will be used for banquets, dances, concerts, and other public and semi-public gatherings.

The hotel has been leased for a five-year period by Mrs. J. L. Farmer, for four years connected with the Princeton Hotel, in Gainesville, Ga. Mrs. Farmer arrived last Friday and has been busy supervising preparation for the opening.

The formal opening date has not been definitely set, but will probably be February 8, the owners state. A dance in the roof garden in the evening and other events will feature the opening.

A BIG CHURCH RALLY SUNDAY

Methodist In County to Assemble at Franklin February 6th—In Preparation For Campaign.

With a view to preparing for the "Cultivation Campaign" in the Methodist churches of the county, representatives from all the Methodist churches of Macon county are expected to gather at the Franklin Methodist church, next Sunday, February 6, it is announced by local church leaders. Services will be held both in the morning and in the afternoon.

At the 11 o'clock service, the Rev. J. T. Mangum, pastor of the Waynesville Methodist church, will preach. At the afternoon session, speakers will include James Atkins, of Waynesville, lay leader of the Waynesville district of the church; Mrs. J. T. Mangum, conference superintendent of supplies of the Woman's Missionary Society of the denomination; J. D. Kerr, of Canton; and others prominent in Methodist circles in this district.

At the group meeting, also, arrangements will be made for exchanges of pulpits among the ministers of the district. The various Methodist preachers, according to the plan under consideration, will occupy different pulpits each Sunday during the remainder of February.

Large delegations from each Methodist church in the county are expected, and they are being urged to come prepared to remain for the afternoon session.

Dinner will be served, picnic style, in the church basement. Visitors are requested to bring lunches, and ladies of the local church will serve hot drinks. The local church at first discussed providing dinner, but gave up the idea, it is said, due to the fact that there was no way of ascertaining how many to prepare for.