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DON'T ENDANGER GOV. FORESTS

U. S. Supreme Court Upholds Federal Fire Law—Fire on Private Lands Endangering Government Forests Illegal.

The Supreme Court has just decided that carelessness with fire need not be confined to Federal forest lands in order to constitute a criminal offense under Section 53 of the United States Criminal Code. Leaving a fire near a Federal forest without totally extinguishing it even though the fire is started on private land is a criminal offense in the eyes of the Court, and punishable by fine or imprisonment if national forest timberland is endangered. The decision is especially important to national forest protection, according to the Forest Service, of the United States Department of Agriculture, for their many thousands of miles of boundary are subject to the grave danger of fires that originate on adjacent private lands and may sweep into national forest land.

"This decision, coming at the very beginning of our main forest fire season, will be a powerful factor in preventing carelessness with fire on private lands within and near the national forests," according to E. E. Carter, acting forester of the Forest Service. "The careless camper or owner can no longer plead private ownership as an excuse for leaving a live fire which escapes into Government timber. This, combined with the fact that the law applies equally clearly and forcefully to fires abandoned on Government land, gives a strong weapon for combating this phase of the fire problem."

"The Forest Service co-operates in fire protection with many private owners whose lands adjoin or intermingle with national forest land, but there are many other owners and many visitors who are careless with fire and endanger public property," said Mr. Carter. "This Forest Service welcomes visitors to the national forests for recreational and other purposes, but it can not afford to be lenient with those who endanger these vast public properties, and is compelled in their defense to a strict enforcement of the forest fire statutes. All campers and travelers within the national forests are warned to drown their camp fires with water, to dispose of matches and smoking materials safely, and to observe the 'no smoking' regulations where they are in effect. Likewise it warns local farmers and settlers to burn brush and other debris only in wet weather and in strict accordance with State and Federal laws, remembering that they are responsible for the escape of any such fires on to Federal forest land."

In the case of the United States vs. D. J. Alford, just decided by the Supreme Court, Alford had been indicted for building a fire on land adjacent to the Florida National Forest and not extinguishing the fire before leaving it, as a result of which national forest lands were burned over. The count was demurred to on the ground that the Federal statute did not cover leaving a fire at any place except on Government land. The District Court for the Southern District of Florida sustained the demurrer and the case was brought up to the Supreme Court. The statute involved reads in part: "Whoever shall build a fire in or near any forest, timber, or other inflammable material upon the public domain... shall, before leaving said fire, totally extinguish the same; and whoever shall fail to do so shall be fined not more than one thousand dollars, or imprisoned not more than one year, or both."

In handing down the opinion of the Supreme Court, Justice Oliver Wendell Holmes said: "The purpose of the Act is to prevent forest fires which have been one of the great economic misfortunes of the country. The danger depends upon the nearness of the fire; not upon the ownership of the land where it is built... The statute is constitutional. Congress may prohibit the doing of acts upon privately owned lands that imperil the publicly owned forests... Taken in connection with the danger to be prevented it lays down a plain enough rule of conduct for anyone who seeks to obey the law."

The Forest Service points out that 90 per cent of the forest fires which annually burn over vast areas of public and private lands in the United States are man caused, and therefore preventable by the exercise of care.

JIMMY HAUSER FISH WARDEN

Mr. Jimmy Hauser has been appointed as fish warden for Macon county.

Under the law as passed all fishermen who use rod and reel will have to obtain a license at a cost of \$1.10. This applies to citizens of Macon county only who fish in Macon county. A license good for the entire state will cost citizens of the state \$2.10. Citizens from outside the state will have to pay \$3.10 for fishing privileges in North Carolina.

On petition from the county commissioners the law can be made to apply to all kinds of tackle used. In other words the boy of Macon who uses a cane and sink hook can be made to buy a license.

It is understood that the commissioners will be asked to request the state department of conservation and development to make the law in Macon county applicable to all kinds of fishing. Should they do this no one would be permitted to fish without a license.

Mr. Hauser requests all concerned to obey the fishing laws of the state. He intends, he says, to be particularly vigilant in his efforts to apprehend those who use seines or traps and who dynamite the streams.

FRANKLIN CIRCUIT M. E. CHURCH, SOUTH

We wish to announce through the columns of your most valuable paper the program for our summer meetings.

We wish also to extend a most cordial invitation to our Baptist, Presbyterian and Episcopal friends, brethren and sisters in Christ to attend these services and pray for us and with us for an "OLD TIME REVIVAL" of the church, and then that the unsaved may be brought to Christ and saved on the terms of the gospel.

We will begin the meeting at the places and at the times mentioned below, assisted by the ministers named. Each of these men are able preachers, sound in doctrine, Christlike in life and successful in the ministry:

- Clarks Chapel—July 6, Wednesday 8:00 p. m., Rev. J. J. Edwards, of Paw Creek, N. C., preaching.
- Snow Hill—July 17, Sunday 8:00 p. m., Rev. A. P. Ratledge, of Franklin, N. C., preaching.
- Bethel—July 24, Sunday 8:00 p. m., Rev. P. W. Tucker, of Waynesville, N. C., preaching.
- Jolla—August 7, Sunday 8:00 p. m., Rev. W. L. Mullikin, of Abbeville, S. C., preaching.

Salem—We will announce the date later—Also, for the other churches on the Circuit. We will have a meeting at each church if not providentially hindered.—J. H. STRICKLAND, P. C.

Cowee News

Cowee Base Ball Team
The Cowee Home Hitters met Saturday 28 in a contest with Bob Sheffield's married men stag players. The Home Hitters won the game, scoring 14 times. The Stags scored 3 times.

Cowee is now ready to play neighboring teams. All players near are invited to attend these practices every Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock. An invitation is specially extended to our lady friends to be present at all our games and share our victories with us; they have a position to fill.

Mr. Albert Riekman has been in the acid wood business for some time and seems to be prospering in this business.

Weaver Carter and son are making headway in the saw mill business.

D. L. Clark and family are cheerfully engaged in putting Tom Pork on the market.

Reports show that J. R. Ray is making a success in mining.

Cowee farmers are looking forward to the blooming of a most prosperous year.

enemy or innocent.

For many the most interesting thing that a Sunday School can do is to give a deeply earnest, clear message from the Word of God. In order to give such a message the teacher must know the lesson to be taught; feel that it is true and of great value, and he must know how to get his pupils to learn the lesson. One can not teach a class of small boys in the same way that he would teach a class of college professors. I once saw a teacher try to do something somewhat like that. His class was interested in something else chiefly in having fun out of the teacher. From 1 Cor. 9:24-27,

WILL ADVERTISE LAND FOR TAXES

Unless All Back Taxes Are Paid at Once Including Year 1926, Lands Will be Sold, States County Manager.

According to a letter just received by the county commissioners from the County Government Advisory Commission it will be necessary to have all taxes paid before the tax books for the year 1927-28 can be turned over to the tax collector on October 1, this year. Otherwise the county commissioners will be held personally responsible for the unpaid taxes. The county manager requests that those who have not yet paid their taxes may do so and thus avoid the cost of advertising. The county commissioners have no choice in this matter, but must obey the law. The letter from the Advisory Commission, created by the last legislature, follows:

"In a few counties injunctions have been brought by taxpayers to prohibit the advertisement and sale of land for taxes for this year. The question has arisen as to the effect that these injunctions may have on the County Government Acts, beginning with July 1, when we go into the next fiscal year.

"After studying the Acts carefully and discussing the matter with the Attorney General and the Chairman of the County Government Advisory Commission, it seems to be very clear that the only effect these injunctions can have is to postpone for a few months the advertisement and sale of land for taxes for the year 1926, but the administration of fiscal affairs beginning July 1 will not be affected by these injunctions.

"Your attention is called especially to Section 3 of 'An Act to Provide for the Collection of Taxes within the Counties of the State and for Settlement of the same.' You will observe after a careful reading of this section that the commissioners are prohibited from turning over the tax books for the year 1927-28 to the sheriff until there has been a complete settlement for all taxes charged against him for the previous year. And it is believed that this is the important feature of these Acts for the commissioners to keep in mind.

"If the sale of land for taxes for the year 1925-26 is postponed by injunctions, the sheriff may make some tentative settlement in accordance with the Act on the first of July. (See Section 6 of this same Act). But the tax books cannot be turned over to the sheriff in October until there has been a settlement for all uncollected taxes, including taxes derived from the sale of land. Therefore, it seems that this will make it necessary for the sheriff to advertise and sell such land before October 1, in order that he may be able to make the settlement in accordance with Section 3 of this Act.

"Section 6 of the Act should be read carefully, because it states definitely how the commissioners shall settle with the sheriff and what he may receive. If the commissioners over pay him as a result of delayed settlement, they may have to account for the over-paid amount.

"I call your attention also to Section 8 of the same Act, which makes the County Commissioners themselves liable for the amount of taxes due by such Tax Collector if the books are turned over to the sheriff on the first of October before the settlement is made.

"This opinion is given in order that you may not be embarrassed on October 1."

REVIVAL MEETING AT BAPTIST CHURCH

The annual revival meeting at the Franklin Baptist church will begin Sunday morning at 11 a. m. Services each evening at 8:15. Preaching by the pastor.

People of other denominations are invited. Everybody come.

Liquor Car Captured

A Hupmobile containing 44 gallons of liquor was captured last week on the Dillard-Highlands road by deputy Sheriff Norton and Chief Coffey. The driver escaped.

The car and liquor were brought to Franklin where the whiskey was poured out and burned.

HENRY NAMED POLICE CHIEF

At a call meeting of the town board last Thursday night Mr. Bob Henry was elected chief of police of Franklin vice Chief Coffey, whose resignation takes effect May 31.

Chief Coffey was granted leave of absence and Chief Henry assumed his new duties on Friday.

For fourteen years Mr. Henry was revenue officer and served in North Carolina from the coast to Cherokee county. He also served in Pennsylvania, Virginia and Tennessee. Mr. Henry has an excellent record as an arresting officer and will no doubt make Franklin a good chief of police.

THIRD QUARTERLY CONFERENCE OF THE FRANKLIN CIRCUIT

The third quarterly conference of the Franklin Circuit will be held with the Iota Methodist church, Saturday June 11, 1927.

The Presiding Elder will preach at 11:00 Saturday and the conference will follow.

We will have lunch at the church. We urge the stewards of each church to be present as matters of importance to the circuit will be discussed, also the presidents of the Woman's Mission Societies, presidents of the Epworth Leagues, trustees, who are members of our church, Sunday School superintendents, secretaries of the churches, church layleaders, chairmen of committees such as Christian Stewardship, Missionary, Wesley Brotherhood, etc.

We would like to make this quarterly conference both interesting and inspiring. We urge all officers to make their reports in person to the conference.

Make your report to the pastor as early as possible that he may have his report ready.

Let the member observe Friday June 10 as a day of "Fasting and Praying" for the conference.

The elder will also preach Sunday June 12 at Iota at 8:00 p. m. We extend a cordial invitation to all to attend this service.

J. H. STRICKLAND, P. C.

Tellico Locals

We are sorry to report that Mrs. Bill Bates seriously ill. Mrs. Bates is around one hundred years of age.

Mr. John DeHart, who has been suffering with an effected eye is improving slowly.

Dr. Williams, of Franklin was in this section Sunday on professional business.

Miss Bonnie DeHart, of this place and Mr. Clarence Jones, of Sylva were united in matrimony May 15, 1927. We wish them a long and prosperous life.

Mr. Alex Owensby, of Briartown passed through this section Monday. Quite a number of young folks, of this place went to the Sylva Collegiate Institute commencement Sunday. They reported a nice time.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Jones, of Sylva, spent the week end with Mrs. Jones' parents, Mr. and Mrs. V. C. DeHart.

Mr. Wymer Cochran, of Briartown was on our streets Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ramsey made a trip to Franklin Friday.

Fire Limits Extended

At its meeting last Thursday night the town board extended the fire limits from the depot to the Indian mound. Some months ago all of East Main street to the depot was included in the fire limits. This means that only a class of buildings approved by the underwrites can be erected in the extended limits.

At the meeting referred to a committee was appointed to divide the town into certain zones respecting the building of residences.

Those who intend to build will hereafter have to obtain a permit from the city authorities and erect only the class of residence approved for the particular zone in which the house is to be built.

Goodman Pleased

Mr. John W. Goodman, district agent, came to Franklin last week prepared to give instructions as to the best method of keeping the records in the office of the county agent. After inspecting the system installed by County Agent Harris Mr. Goodman stated that this method is superior to his own. Consequently he complimented the county agent and made no changes in the system of Mr. Harris.

HIGH SCHOOL YEAR CLOSES

Commencement Address Delivered by Dr. J. H. Highsmith—List of Graduates.

Nineteen students were formally graduated from the Franklin High school at the closing exercises held at the school building last Friday evening. The house was packed for the year's closing program.

Dr. J. H. Highsmith, of Raleigh, delivered the commencement address. Dr. Highsmith, who is State high school inspector, with the State Department of Public Instruction, spoke on "The Test of a Liberal Education."

Well known throughout the state and the South, both as an educator and a speaker, Dr. Highsmith made a highly interesting and inspirational address.

The exercise which began at 8:15 o'clock, brought to a close a successful year's school work. The year just closed was the first during which high school students from other sections of the county were brought in to Franklin by busses.

It is just 14 years since the Franklin High school graduated its first class—a class of four.

Following is a list of the students who won diplomas: Lucy Avaline Cabe, Katherine Elizabeth Smith, Robert Carlyle Sheffield, Leobelle Bradley, Fredericka Emily Siler, James Bryson Porter, William Cannon Hames, Veve Gertrude Howard, Thelma Elizabeth Ray, Martha Louise Henderson, Ralph Lake Ledford, Anna Grace McClure, William Black Gribble, Hattie Lee Cabe, Selma Minnie Henson, D. L. Edwards, Robert Lucius Enloe, Laura Kathryn Porter, Eugene Emerson Crawford.

NORTH CAROLINA CLUB ELECTS NEW OFFICERS

T. B. Higdon was elected president; A. M. Smith, vice-president, and J. N. Jennings, secretary and treasurer of the North Carolina club for the ensuing year at its annual meeting, celebrating the singing of the Mecklenburg declaration of independence, held in banquet hall of the Henry Grady hotel Friday night, W. A. Horne, retiring president, presided.

The principal address of the evening was made by Senator Hoke Smith. Other speakers were Walter P. Andrews, Dr. Claude Hughes, T. B. Higdon, Frank Lowenstein, all of Atlanta, and H. N. Rich, of Winston-Salem. Singing of patriotic state songs, solos, instrumental music and dancing by pupils of the LaFontaine School of Dancing were other features.

Pasquotank county, of North Carolina, won a silver loving cup for having the most members present. Senator Smith was presented with a rocking chair.—Atlanta Constitution.

Broadway Locals

Mr. William Justice was in this section Tuesday on business.

Mr. Bill Brown has been at work Broadway for the last few days.

Mr. Frank Cabe was visiting Mr. Rosin Wilson Sunday.

Mr. Andy Wilson and son have been sowing millet.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Brown was visiting Mrs. H. C. Wilson Sunday, who has been very ill, but is now improving.

Mrs. Fannie Bal'w spent Sunday with Mr. Andy Wilson.

Mr. Andy Wilson and daughter, Blanche, spent Friday Sunday night with Mrs. H. C. Wilson.

Miss Zoo Wilson and Miss Edna Wilson has been picking straw berries for the last week.

New Ford Car

The FordMotor company has announced a new car that will soon be placed on the market. It is a complete change from the old Model T, but as yet details have not been announced to the public.

The company says that the car will be more expensive to manufacture, but more economical in operation. It will also be easy to control in traffic.

It is understood that details of construction will be announced in the near future. Parts for the Model T, of which there are 10,000,000 in use, will continue to be made.