



# The Franklin Press

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## NEW TOWN ON NANTAHALA

### Ritter Lumber Company Building Town and Saw Mill—Expected to Be Busy For Ten Years.

Macon county has only two incorporated towns within its borders, Franklin, its county seat, and Highlands, the highest incorporated town east of the Mississippi.

But within a few months, a third bustling village will have come into being, even if it isn't to be incorporated, and has not, as yet, been formally given a name.

Macon's third "town" is rapidly taking shape on the Nantahala River, where two score or more men, under the management of E. B. McCollum, of Franklin, are at work building a big saw mill, dimension mill, etc., a club house, 20 dwellings. The "town" is being built by the W. M. Ritter Lumber company to accommodate workmen on their big operation on the Nantahala River and adjacent country. Work is being done under the supervision of S. M. Wolfe, of Asheville, division superintendent.

The village, it is estimated, will have a population of about 250.

The site of the new town is about 18 miles west of Franklin, approximately two miles beyond Wallace Gap. And although one goes down at no inconsiderable rate from the gap to the river, the new town will have an elevation of close to 3500 feet—1000 feet higher than Franklin and Asheville.

The site is on the river, almost within sight of the C. W. Slagle "Black Place." The village will be located in a perfectly flat field, which covers about 10 acres—said to be an unusually large level spot at such an elevation.

The lumber company's town will be on Highway No. 28, now under construction.

The big mill, which will soon be complete, is 150 by 46 feet, and is three stories in height. A dimension mill, 60 by 40, stands alongside. In addition, a supply house, tool house, commissary, and other necessary buildings for the company are under construction.

The club house, being constructed to house employees who are unmarried or who leave their families at home, will contain 26 bed rooms, beside kitchen and dining room. It will be equipped with shower baths and other conveniences, nearby streams providing an ample supply of pure, cold water.

For employees desiring to bring their families with them to the woods, 17 four-room and three five-room cottages are already under construction. Running water will be brought to the back door of each house.

Alongside the big mill, the river will be dammed to create a lake 180 by 100 feet, and with a depth of about seven feet. The logs, hauled from the woods by rail, will be dumped into this lake, partly to give them a chance to get a bath before going to the saws, and partly because it is simpler, it is said, to drag them out of the lake, than to take them from the train to the mill.

The railroad, an extension of the old Buck Creek railroad of the Andrews Manufacturing company, is being extended from Buck Creek to the mill, and thence toward Wallace Gap and to the head of Nantahala River. Large crews of men are at work on the railroad construction now.

The products of the mill will be sent via this railroad to Andrews, where it strikes the Murphy line of the Southern. The employees of the company, however, will be paid through a Franklin bank. The payroll, incidentally, it is estimated, will approximate \$3,500 per week. The mill is expected to cut about 50,000 board feet of lumber per day.

The plant will be run by steam, generated by the waste products of the mill.

The village under construction is destined for a life of about 10 years. That is the period it is estimated it will take the company to cut over the 15,000 acreage it plans to cut with this mill. It has a slightly longer period in which to complete its cutting, under the terms of its contract with the federal government, which has purchased the property.

Work on the new town was begun April 11. The company expects to begin sawing sometime in September. Those dates give an idea of how rapidly a brand new town is taking shape in a mountain section of this county.

In the construction of the buildings

## CANNERY GOES OVER THE TOP

### County Agent Harris Announces Success of Efforts to Establish a Cannery at Franklin.

That a cannery for Macon county is now assured was announced here Friday by County Agent Lyles Harris. The full amount of \$3,000 was quickly subscribed and the application for charter has gone forward.

According to present plans the cannery will be located close in to town on the railroad, probably near the new warehouse of the Franklin Furniture company.

The county agent and Mr. Chas. Teague, prime movers in the proposition to establish a cannery here were delighted with the response accorded them by the citizens of both the town and the county.

It is understood that Mr. Teague will have active charge of the plant when in operation.

Work on a building for the cannery is expected to begin at once. The necessary machinery will arrive shortly. Those in charge expect to have the cannery ready in plenty of time to take care of all products of the farm, suitable for canning, that are raised this season.

As pointed out by the county agent the cannery solves one great difficulty, that of a market for surplus truck. He also stated that to make the cannery a success from the start the people of the county must be prepared to furnish the raw material for canning purposes.

## Iotla Retains Special School Tax

By a vote of more than five to one, citizens of Iotla school district, in this county, Tuesday of last week voted down the proposal to take off the special school tax.

The vote was 115 for, retaining a special tax, and 22 against. The election came as a result of a petition.

Iotla school district, long known as a progressive community, has always had a good school, and the result was never seriously in doubt. It was made doubly sure, however, by a compromise hit upon shortly before the election.

A 40-cent special tax has made possible a nine-months school term. It was proposed to repeal the entire special tax. At the suggestion of County Superintendent M. D. Billings, the election was held on a basis of a 25-cent tax, or none. The 25-cent tax will make it possible for the district to have an eight-months school.

Mr. Billings emphasized the primary importance of good elementary schools in the county, and pointed out, as a conclusive argument for the longer term elementary schools, that students from the nine-months Iotla school, in a recent test, made what was perhaps the best record established by any of those taking the test. Of 13 graduates of the elementary school at Iotla, 11 passed the examination for admission to high school. This was in contrast with the record students from the county as a whole. A total of 167 took the examination, and only 84 passed.

going up, the company has used between 600,000 and 700,000 feet of lumber. This has been sawed by two small mills erected for the purpose. Their work, it is understood, is practically finished.

The mill, incidentally, is located in one of the beauty spots of the mountains, and the drive from Franklin there, though it is rough after one leaves the highway, is worth the taking.

From Franklin, one goes up through the beautiful Cartoogechay valley, and then on, up to Wallace Gap, some 4,000 feet high. Two miles—and about 500 feet—down, and one strikes the Nantahala—probably no stream, of the same size, even in the mountains has the really crystal clear water one finds in the "River of the Mid-day Sun."

And on the west side of the Nantahala range, the foliage is unsurpassed. The mountain laurel—or "ivy"—last week was gone on this side of the mountain. But on the western side of the big ridge, it was at the height of its loveliness—and as plentiful as one could wish for. Every bush was loaded.

Around the workmen, at the camp, partridges plays unafraid as though the spot were as lonely, as it was before April 11.

## CONSOLIDATION OF SCHOOLS SLOW

### Western Counties Stand Low and Macon Placed at Bottom of List in Number of Children Transported.

While the same agencies—good roads and State aid—that are bringing about the departure of the "little red schoolhouse" in North Carolina generally, and making possible, in its stead, the big consolidated school, to and from while pupils are transported by bus, are at work in the western counties of the state, school consolidation in the mountains is developing slowly.

This is shown by figures compiled by the State Department of Public Instruction, and contained in the latest issue of State School Facts, just received here.

Whether the tardiness with which consolidation is being brought about in the mountains is due to the topography of the section, or not, it is shown by School Facts that the seven mountain counties lying directly west of Buncombe transported only 1336 children to and from consolidated schools during the school year 1925-26. These seven counties had a total of 38 school buses in operation.

This is in comparison with 77 buses in operation, transporting 2735 children, in a single eastern county—Wilson.

The state as a whole, the publication shows, with a total of 2313 buses, transported 87,283 children, or an average of 872 children per county.

The average North Carolina county, in other words, transported two thirds as many children to and from school for the year 1925-26 as did all seven of these western counties.

Of the seven, Jackson led in the number of children given the advantage of bus transportation. The figure was 455. Haywood came second, with 320. In Jackson county, nine buses were in operation, while Haywood used 11 to transport its rural children from their homes to school and back again.

Graham county, until a few years ago a "lost province" in the most literal sense of the term, because of its inaccessibility, came third. Two hundred seventy-five children were brought from the rural districts to a single consolidated school—a big school employing more than seven teachers.

Swain county took fourth place among these seven, with 144 children transported; Clay was fifth, with 60; Cherokee, sixth, with 47; and Macon, where only 35 children were transported, stood at the bottom of the list.

School Facts traces the rapid elimination during the past quarter century of the one-teacher type of school in North Carolina, the total number of schools taught by a single teacher having dropped from 7,829 in 1900-01 to 2,510 in 1925-26.

It quotes interesting figures, on the contrary, showing the increase in the number of schools employing three teachers, or more, and then turns to the development of consolidation and transportation in North Carolina's school system:

"In 1914-15 six vehicles were used to transport 247 pupils to and from consolidated schools. In 1919-20 the number of vehicles had increased to 150, and 7,936 children were being transported. By 1925-26, North Carolina owned 2,317 trucks to transport over 87,000 children."

"In the year 1925-26 the total cost of transportation in North Carolina was \$1,302,720." The 2,317 trucks were covering 51,869 miles of route daily.

## Hunnicut Dead Of Wounds

Demorest Hunnicutt, 32, who was shot three times by Ed Woodall, according to witnesses, in the latter's shoe shop in Tullulah Falls, Ga., last night, according to word received here by Hunnicutt's relatives.

The shooting was said to have followed Hunnicutt's remonstrating with Woodall, his employe, for failing to work hard enough in Hunnicutt's orchard. About three hours later, it was reported, Woodall entered Hunnicutt's shop and shot him.

He was arrested a few moments later, and lodged in jail at Clayton, Ga.

Funeral services were held Monday afternoon at Tallulah Falls. Mr. Hunnicutt was a son-in-law of John H. Thomas, having married Miss Bertha Thomas, and was a nephew of E. S. Hunnicutt, of Franklin.

## TWO ROBBERS TAKE PAYROLL

### Two Boys In Jail As Suspects—Robbery Creates Much Excitement In Robbinville—Money Not Recovered.

Two 18-year old boys, Pat Jenkins and Richard Williams, were arrested at one of their homes in the eastern part of this county at 3 o'clock Monday morning, in connection with the \$6,500 pay roll robbery that occurred near Yellow Creek about noon Saturday. The youths, arrested by a party of officers headed by Deputy Sheriff Riley Orr, were brought to Robbinville and lodged in jail here.

At 11 o'clock Monday morning, the money had not been recovered, officers said.

Carrying a satchel, bulky with pay envelopes, Paymaster S. M. Baldwin, of the Connor Sons Construction company, accompanied by Deputy Sheriff Tom Crisp, were making their way on low Creek Mountain, according to their account of the robbery, when two men jumped from behind trees and held them up at the point of pistols. The men relieved them of the satchel, they said, and escaped into the mountains.

No shots were exchanged, it was said.

Only two men were seen by Baldwin and Crisp, but officers, examining the spot where the robbery occurred, sometime later, found indications in the underbrush that led them to believe that four or five had lain in wait to effect the robbery.

The payroll had been carried to the camp near Yellow Creek, along this route, by horseback for more than a year, and the officers believe that the bandits were acquainted with this fact.

Blood hounds were rushed to the scene of the robbery, but failed to take up the trail. The satchel containing the payroll, however, was found about 300 yards away, according to the officers. And the pay envelopes, apparently torn open and emptied of their contents, had been dropped along the route believed to have been taken by the robbers.

The men were tracked for some distance by these officers, said, and the arrest was made on a basis of this and additional evidence.

A small part of the \$6,500 payroll was in the form of checks, but the bulk of it was currency and silver, it was stated.

The Connor Sons Construction company, of Pittsburgh, Pa., is employed in digging a tunnel through Yellow Creek Mountain for the Tallassee Power company. The paymaster, accompanied by the officer, had delivered the payroll to the camp at the other end of the tunnel, and was returning across the mountain, to deliver the \$6,500 payroll to the camp at Yellow Creek, when the robbery occurred. The robbery took place at a point between Robbinville and Calderwood, Tenn., at a spot about 16 miles from Robbinville.

News of the robbery reached Robbinville Saturday afternoon, and Sheriff Shuler and his deputies immediately began to work on the case.

Both youths are natives of Graham county.

The news occasioned no little excitement in Robbinville and throughout the county.

The men who made the hold up had black faces, the paymaster and deputy said. They believed, however, that they were not negroes, but white men who blackened their faces to hide their identity.—Graham County News.

## Chamber Without Secretary

The Franklin Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, without a secretary since May 13, when Weimar Jones' resignation became effective, has made arrangements to have someone always present at the county agent's office to answer inquiries, either by letter or in person.

The office of the organization was moved into the county agent's office some weeks ago.

At the same meeting that this arrangement was made, the organization's board of directors chose Lyles Harris, county agent, as a director of the body, to succeed J. S. Porter, resigned.

Plans were laid by the board at the same time to do advertising for summer tourists in daily newspapers of this and other states.

## MORGAN FREED OF CHARGES

### George Morgan Arrested On Abduction Charge—Case Dropped—Morgan Says Never Again Will He Offer Lift.

George Morgan has given his last "lift" to a stranger, he declares.

He comes from a section where hospitality is second nature, but Morgan will show his hospitality in ways other than giving rides to those he does not know.

That appeared quite certain, from his tone.

Whether or not, pretty, 18-year old Hazel Waltz, whom Morgan was charged with abducting, today is again trudging along the road beside her "tramp" husband, Ed Waltz, 27, is another question.

It was giving this pair a ride, and then helping the girl to escape her life as the "tramp" wife if Waltz, that got Morgan into trouble—trouble that came near ruining his first visit to his home here in nearly five years.

His difficulties ended when he finally told Asheville police that he had left the girl at Sylva, and when Waltz, after talking with his wife, asked that the charge against the 26-year old Franklin man be not prosed.

Morgan, employed by the Ford Motor company for the past four years and a half, was on his way home for a vacation. At Lexington, Ky., he offered Waltz and his wife a ride to Asheville. They were on their way to Spruce Pine, N. C., where Waltz has an aunt, he told Morgan.

In Asheville, they stopped on Patton avenue, principal business street, and Waltz got out to inquire the way to Spruce Pine. When he came out of the store where he went to make inquiries, he and others observed the Morgan's car dashing on down the street, his wife apparently calling to him and struggling to escape, they told the police.

The frantic husband swore out a "John Doe" warrant, and on a basis of a description furnished by the Asheville police, Morgan was arrested here the following morning. He told a story similar in every detail to that outlined to the Asheville police by Waltz, except that he asserted Mrs. Waltz left the car with her husband in Asheville.

Taken to Asheville, and facing trial for kidnaping, Morgan finally admitted that the woman had begged him to help her escape from her husband—to take her as far as he would. He took her to Sylva, he told the police. They found her there, and returned her to Asheville, where she told the same story.

After a brief, private conference between Waltz and his wife, the former announced that he had "nothing against" Morgan, and asked that the case be dismissed.

Hazel Waltz, married to Ed less than a year, found him to be a tramp and grew "tired walking" she told the officers.

The incident which gave rise to the charge of kidnaping, occurred in Asheville last Thursday, and Morgan was arrested here by Sheriff Ingram Friday. He was taken back to Asheville Friday by plainclothesmen of the Asheville police, and the hearing was set for Saturday morning, when the case was dismissed, and Morgan returned here to finish his vacation, so rudely interrupted.

The account of what occurred in Asheville at the hearing was outlined by Sheriff Ingram, who attended the hearing, when he returned to Franklin Saturday.

Morgan has been away from Franklin for nearly five years, but his family is well and favorably known here. He is a brother of Charles Morgan, local garage man.

## Occupational Tax

The Board of Aldermen has passed an ordinance that, it is expected, will raise a revenue of approximately \$1,000 per year for the town. The ordinance was passed at a special meeting last Wednesday night.

The ordinance levies occupational and license taxes, in accordance with authority granted by legislation enacted at the last General Assembly. On individuals and firms living in Franklin, the ordinance fixes the tax in most instances at just half the amount permitted by the statute, while the full amount will be collected from out-of-town persons and concerns coming into Franklin to do business only temporarily.