



The Franklin Press

SAW MILL NEARS COMPLETION

Isolated Section of County Redeemed by Highway No. 28—Railroad Up the Nantahala River.

(By Joe Moore)

Beyond Wallace gap, on the western slope of the Nantahalas, Charles Egbert Craddock might once have found a picturesque setting for a story of the mountain country. The road wound lazily down from the gap, dipping at intervals to the right to embrace a ravine. It bordered clearings in the larger depressions, each with its wonted corn patches, unpainted dwelling and outbuildings. The road was rough; towns were far away; the neighborhood might easily have been left to its tranquil isolation for another decade or two.

It was through this section of the Nantahalas, however, that highway No. 28 was surveyed. Here it was that the W. M. Ritter lumber company located, erecting numerous structures, and building a railroad up the Nantahala river. Today a transformed mountain slope lies beyond Wallace gap. Groups of workmen wield picks and shovels along the route the new highway will follow; a steam shovel is in operation in one of the ravines; railroad sidings border the rocky Nantahala. Road construction and the lumbering industry have, hand in hand, come to the once remote vicinity.

Highway No. 28 has been completed to Wallace gap. It winds up the eastern slope of the mountain, a typical highland road, doubling back time after time in such manner as to command views of the distant Cowees. Beyond the gap, wide swaths of timber have been cleared in preparation for dynamite, the steam shovel, and the convicts, who follow with shovels and picks to complete the grading.

A camp for the convicts is under construction in a strip of meadow, less than a mile from the divide. They will be housed in two low wooden buildings of considerable length, and will be moved to the new location shortly. The bustle of the workmen here would be enough to change the aspect of the locality, but the scene of greater activity is a half mile further on.

Here, on a strip of smooth ground between the river and the hills, Ritter's lumber camp is nearing completion. Big, unpainted structures cover portions of the level land, while smaller buildings line the upper side of the road. The band mill is housed in the largest building on the grounds. A sidetrack running into this structure, and several smokestacks issuing from the top, suggest the scene of noise and activity soon to be in progress.

Another large building houses the commissariat. A glance into the room reveals stacks of overalls, shelves filled with groceries, glimpses of workmen who have come to trade. And not all come to buy. One enterprising farmer came down to find a market for his surplus meal, and probably found it, judging from the saying he offered the commissary.

The lumber camp town will afford a market for numerous farm products. The big hotel where the crew of workmen is fed must be supplied, and it is evident that the farmers are aware of this source of profit.

Employment of many workmen has hastened activities at the lumber camp. The newly erected buildings, the nearby mountains, the clusters of men in lumber jackets at work, create an atmosphere not unlike that which is characteristic of a movie scene.

Railroad sidings cover the strip of level land, and the main track continues up the river to the big timber. Lumbermen have begun cutting on the 14,000-acre tract of virgin forest. For ten years the crash of trees and the hum of the band saw will continue.

Lumbering is necessary, but when the ten years have passed, the western slope of the Nantahalas will have changed. A junked railroad will lie at the river's edge. Sprouts will cover the stumpy, deforested area. But the locality will not revert to its sedentary isolation, picturesque though such tranquility may be, for highway No. 28, hardsurfaced, will wind down the slope beyond Wallace gap.

Gen. Harris Visits Franklin

General Peter C. Harris, U. S. Army, retired, formerly Adjutant General of the army, visited a local hospital here last Friday. General Harris and his brothers, Senator W. J. Harris, of Georgia, and Major Hunt-

DEATH CALLS MRS. M. E. COZAD

In Hospital Three Months—Was Prominent Leader in Church and Civic Affairs.

A large circle of friends here have learned with regret of the death Monday afternoon in an Atlanta hospital of Mrs. M. E. Cozad, of Andrews, mother of the late H. O. Cozad, of Franklin. Mrs. Cozad, who was 78 years of age, had been in the Atlanta hospital for the past three months.

Funeral services were held at the Methodist church in Andrews Wednesday, and the body was brought to Franklin, where interment was to be sometime Wednesday, members of the family said.

Mrs. Cozad, who had spent considerable time in Franklin, and who had many friends here, was known in Andrews as a leader in church and school work. For years, she was an indefatigable worker in the Parent-Teacher association there, of which she was president.

She is survived by her husband, who is well known throughout western North Carolina; one daughter, Miss Eleanor Cozad, formerly of Boston, but who has been making her home recently with her parents; and two grandchildren, Misses Margaret and Mildred Cozad, of Franklin.

Make Mayor's Office Fistic Arena

Engaging in a fist fight in the office of the mayor—that is the newest offense in Franklin.

Hailed before Mayor protem John E. Rickman on the charge, Fred Moss paid a fine of \$5 and the cost—the usual charge for fighting in Franklin. The other participant, Charlie Oliver, was not tried at that time. Since he witnessed the affray, Mayor George B. Patton declined to hear the case.

The trouble arose over Oliver's reporting to Chief of Police Robert Henry that Moss was drunk. Informed who reported him, Moss gave Oliver the lie, and the affray followed, reaching considerable proportions before the mayor and officer could intervene.

The charge of drunkenness against Moss was dismissed.

Bryson Reunion

The Bryson reunion or birthday dinner will be held at the home of Mrs. James L. Bryson at West's Mill, N. C., near the Cowee Baptist church, on August 28.

All that are related or connected, are cordially invited to come and bring a well-filled basket. Dinner will be served picnic fashion in the grove.

As will be remembered this is the same date the reunion has been being held in celebration of the late James L. Bryson, who passed away last September. We feel that we should meet and honor the birthday of him whom we loved so well. He can't be with us this year. We know it will be sad, just one short year ago he was with us. We did not know that day that in one short month he would be taken away from us.

"Alas! Alas! the autumn came,
How many hearts were weeping for
him who 'neath the church house
shade lay sweetly, calmly sleeping"
Long, Long, will we miss thee;
Long, Long, days for thee we'll weep,
And through many nights of sorrow
Memory will vigils keep.

Rest Rooms Improved

The town and county co-operating, have made improvements in the public rest rooms at the court house here.

In the room for men, a separate section has been provided for negroes, the room has been painted, and, more important, a larger pipe provides sufficient water to make it possible to keep the place in a clean and sanitary condition.

Some additional fixtures have been installed.

The work has just been completed. The new arrangement is a striking improvement over the conditions previously prevailing. The town and county are expected, jointly, to employ a man whose duty will be to keep the rooms clean.

er Harris, together with their families, have been spending a part of the summer at Dillard.

PROPOSE SCIENCE SCHOOL FOR NANTAHALA RANGE

Buying Power of County Low

Macon county ranks eighty-second among the state's 100 counties, as shown by an index of the total buying power of the various counties. The index was compiled by Dartnell Advertiser's Guide, and is quoted by the University of North Carolina News Letter.

The index is determined, it is pointed out by the News Letter, by combining a series of factors chosen to indicate the purchasing power of counties. The factors chosen are: Value added by manufacture, value of mined products, value of crops, value of livestock products, value of fishing products, bond deposits, number of domestic lighting consumers, number of passenger cars, number of income tax returns, circulation of 30 leading magazines, total population, and an index of population quality.

The table is designed to show only purchasing power, and is not an index of how counties rank in other particulars, says the News Letter. Counties who buy large quantities of products produced elsewhere stand high, while those that largely live at home rank low in this particular list, it adds.

Forsyth county, largely on account of its tobacco products, is given a buying power index figure of 366. Graham county at the foot of the table, has a buying index figure of 5. In other words, Forsyth county has a buying power 73 times as great as Graham.

Macon county's figure is 17. Swain and Jackson are tied for 75th rank. Their relative buying power is 19. Cherokee stands sixty-ninth, with a buying power just double that of either Swain or Jackson, the table shows.

Funeral Services Held For Claude Kinsland

Funeral services for Claude Kinsland, who died in a Knixville hospital last Thursday from injuries received in the blast in the tunnel on Yellow Creek, Graham county, last Monday, were held at Upper Watauga Methodist church at 11 o'clock Saturday morning.

Mr. Kinsland was a native of Macon county, and is survived by his father, Charles Kinsland, and four sisters, Mrs. James Guest, of Franklin, Mrs. Ivory Henry, of California, and Misses Myrtle and Irene Kinsland, of Easley, S. C.

The deceased had many friends here, and had the reputation of being a steady, hard-working young man, of good character.

He was foreman of the crew in tunnel No. 11 being dug by the Connor Construction company for the Tallapoosa Power company in the Yellow Creek community of Graham county. The premature explosion took the lives of several workmen, and fatally injured young Kinsland.

The funeral services were conducted by the Rev. Alvin S. Solesbee, and a large number of relatives and friends attested their esteem by their attendance.

Mountains Inspires Preacher

Dr. and Mrs. J. S. Dill are spending a vacation in Franklin and making trips to various points of interest while here. Recently they drove to Bryson City and on to the Indian reservation. Dr. Dill, a prominent divine at Greenville, S. C., has become enthusiastic over the scenery in the mountains around Franklin. Below appears a poem from the pen of Dr. Dill. This poem was inspired by the view at the horseshoe bend between Franklin and Bryson City:

So grandly rise the mountains,
'Tis wonderful to see,
And yield their crystal fountains
To gladden you and me.

Adown the vale a river roams,
The tawny Tennessee,
O'er rocky beds it frets and foams
And hurries to the sea.

The flowers are blooming fresh and fair,
Their fragrance does not falter,
But gives its odors to the air
Like incense from an altar.

To nature's God then let us look
Who shap'd it all so grand,
And holds before us nature's book
In hollows of his hand.

—J. L. D.

Dr. J. M. Reade, University of Georgia, Picks White Oak Flats as Site For School in National History Sciences.

Dr. J. M. Reade, of the University of Georgia, visited Franklin some months ago, and outlined, in a general way, to the Board of Directors of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture, a plan he had in mind for the opening, somewhere in the Southern mountains, of a summer school for research in the natural history sciences, with the view that such a school ultimately might—and probably would—grow into a year-round institute for research—the type of educational institution on which educators today are placing most emphasis, according to Dr. Reade.

The Georgia professor was assured of Franklin's interest in such a project, and was asked to formulate his plans in definite shape, and then present them. He has done just that, and copies of his "prospectus of an idea" have been received here.

Such a project could not be safely started on less than \$25,000, Dr. Reade suggested, and in his prospectus he outlines the uses to which that money would be put, a safe margin being kept in reserve to take care of the institution's needs over the first three years.

Dr. Reade was much impressed with the White Oak Flats, at the head of the Nantahala river, in this county. This site was shown him by Z. B. Byrd, of the local forest service office and a director of the Chamber of Commerce and Agriculture. The property, it is understood, could be leased from the government for educational purposes without cost. The government would also co-operate, it is believed, in building a road from Highway No. 28, at Wallace gap, to the site.

Other towns, however, are understood to be bidding for the school, and those most interested believe that it would be necessary for Franklin to show its interest by contributing at least a few thousand dollars to locate the school in this county. This procedure is not unusual, it is pointed out, towns generally contributing heavily to the endowment funds of educational institutions in order to get them located at or near the towns in question.

"It is proposed," says Dr. Reade in his prospectus, "to establish on the edge of the Nantahala Forest in the Southern Appalachian Mountains a summer camp school which shall offer instruction of college grade in the natural history sciences, especially at first in botany.

"The opportunity for such a venture can scarcely be doubted. The mountain territory is the natural summer resort of a wide region. . . . For all this region the mountains are fairly central and readily accessible. . . .

"Throughout the South there is a growing number of students, undergraduate and graduates, and of teachers in schools and small colleges, who should benefit by the camp. It offers them a way to use the long vacation to get recreation and refreshment for the year ahead and at the same time to improve themselves by study and association. To the student and teacher clientele must be added to an increasing number of others. Leaders of girl and boy scouts, and similar organizations are among them, as are, too, persons concerned with public recreation and conservation. Both, then, the wide territory to be served and an abundant clientele are here."

The prospectus discusses the possibilities of growth from such a school, the requirements of location and the advantages of a number that have been examined, and camp plans and estimates of cost, quoting figures for other such schools—there is no such school, incidentally, in the South today—and takes up the questions of faculty and staff. It is proposed, at first, to give courses in general botany, physiography and geology of the region, taxonomy of seed plants, taxonomy of green cryptogams, mycology, and genetics.

The actual operating expense per season, at the start, is estimated at \$3,600, and to this "must be added the costs of publicity, and the emergency of having fewer students than expected particularly at first. The school should have funds upon which to operate for several years. . . . Three years of expense of operation would probably total an amount not far from \$15,000. Against this we might

MACON SPENDS \$19.28 PER PUPIL

Seventy-Seven Other Counties Spend More Per Pupil—Term of Average Macon Rural School 135 Days.

Seventy-seven other North Carolina counties spend more per white pupil for school instruction than does Macon. To instruct each white pupil in the public schools, this county, in the school year 1925-26, spent an average of \$19.28. This is in comparison with an average for the state at large—city and rural schools—of \$26.54.

The figures are taken from the current issue of State School Facts, published by the State Department of Public Instruction.

This county ranks fifty-eighth in the per capita cost of instruction of negroes. The figure was \$8.64. This is in comparison with an average of \$10.24 for the state.

Macon county, in 1925-26, paid its 114 rural white teachers an average salary for the year of \$598.97, or about \$250 less than the average of \$853.23 paid throughout the state. This county paid its negro teachers an average annual salary of \$289.58. The negro teachers over the state as a whole drew salaries averaging \$467.43.

And, with a lower cost of instruction than the average, and paying teachers salaries lower than the average, the county quite naturally employed teachers with professional qualifications lower than the average for the state. The publication gives teachers, in accordance with their professional training and general education, a scholarship index figure. That figure for the average white teacher in North Carolina was 579, and it dropped to 469 in Macon county.

The average school term in North Carolina for the year under consideration was 149 days, as compared with 135 in Macon county.

The publication shows that the cost of instruction of pupils, both white and negroes, has increased over the state.

The average per pupil cost of instruction in the white schools in 1904-05 was \$3.19, while in 1925-26 it was \$26.54.

This increase, it points out, is due to a number of causes: the increase in the average school term—from 94 days in white schools in 1904-05 to 149 days in 1925-26; the increase in the salaries of teachers—from an average of \$148.23 per year for white teachers in 1904-05 to \$853.23 in 1925-26; a decided improvement in the professional training and general education of the teachers; "the decrease in the purchasing power of the dollar; the number of pupils per teacher; and the increase in the number of high school pupils where costs are admittedly more than twice what they are in the elementary schools."

Justice Dismisses Charge

Justice of the Peace George Carpenter last Thursday dismissed the charges against Mrs. Maude Jackson, of Tallulah Lodge, Ga., brought by her husband, Ed Jackson, also of Tallulah Lodge, charging Mrs. Jackson and Blaine Butler with improper relations.

The case was dismissed in the absence of the man, and of sufficient evidence, Mr. Carpenter said.

Efforts of the justice of the peace to persuade Mrs. Jackson to return to Georgia with her husband were unavailing.

It is proposed to charge each student a flat fee of \$150 for the eight weeks session. More than half that amount would be over and above the cost of food. On the basis of 25 students that would mean a surplus of about \$2,000 to go toward other expenses.

"Judicious publicity should be a matter of importance. An attractive announcement, other printing, correspondence, clerk hire, publications are estimated at a cost of \$1,000 per year. Publication should become a more important item after the start.

"In summary, we seem warranted in thinking that given a site, \$10,000 for physical plant and a \$15,000 fund for three years operation, the Camp Nature school might be started with reasonable prospect of success and usefulness."

A copy of the prospectus, which has been quoted only in part, and which contains other facts about the proposed school, as well as blue prints, etc., is in the hands of the editor of the Press, who will gladly lend it to anyone interested in investigating proposal.