

The Franklin Press

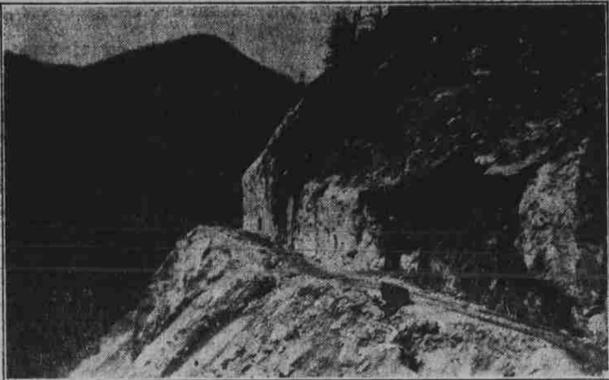
VOLUME XLIII

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 1928

NUMBER FOURTEEN

North Carolina's Yosemite In Macon Co.

Highway No. 28 Unique Among Highways of State



HIGHWAY No. 28, BLASTED THROUGH SOLID GRANITE, CLINGS TO THE NORTH WALL OF CULLASAJA GORGE 300 FEET ABOVE THE RIVER, 10 MILES FROM FRANKLIN.

Winds Its Way Through the Gorge of the Cullasaja Where Silence is Broken Only by the Roar of the Angry River—Cataracts, Falls, Sheer Granite Walls, Stately Hemlocks and Spruce Visible From Highway.

In giving to its readers this week

the innumerable scenes which will distinguish State Highway No. 28 and make it probably the greatest scenic highway in all of the state.

There are several other roads in the State Highway system which use the rock torn pathway of some stream for a portion of their distance.

State Highway No. 10 follows the gorge of the Nantahala river from Wesser Creek to Nantahala Station. And others to greater or less extent may be called gorge routes.

Practically all of these, and they are few, have been built along the floor of these stream-cut troughs and from them little except the walls on either side and the sky above can be seen.

Route 28 is therefore unique in that it follows not a shelf along the river bank at the bottom of the gorge but winds its way along the side of the wall, clinging like some tiny creeper to the cliffs of age old granite.

Far below, so far, that one wonders how long it has taken the river, roaring way down there among the tons and tons of rock shot out of the cliff, to cut this gash through rock that gave the powder men on the construction work plenty to think about.

The other wall at times comes in so close as to seem to meet the one on which the road is built. At places the opposing wall is bare, at others it supports bushes and sometimes trees which have taken root in some soil filled crevice. On beyond the cliffs and on up above the road itself on its side of the river lies the forest with its rhododendron, galea, its chestnut, oak and poplar.

Highly above the river winds the road in and out ever following the age old course of the roaring torrent below. Not a sound will break the eternal silence of primeval nature save the exhaust of the motorists car and the roar of the river muffled by the distance.

In and out the road continues on through an ever changing panorama of light and shadow, color and majestic grandeur and ever far below the rush of the river, the rapids, the black whirlpools at the base of some great monolith which ages ago, loosed from the parent cliff by ice, frost, rain and summer sun, crashed hundreds of feet into the shadow of the stream bed far below.

The river abounds in trout and a trip over this road makes the fisherman have a greater respect for his finny friend which has the stamina, the courage and the ability to breast the rapids and whirls such as these.

Wonderful as this route would be with only the gorge to give it distinction unique among the highways of North Carolina, it has still another feature unmatched by any other road in the whole state system. Nowhere else in the whole 7,000 miles State Highway system is there a road which provides as one of its scenic attractions, a waterfall on a stream larger than a brook. Within 10 miles the Cullasaja has two which are among the largest in the Southern Appalachians. Both of these lie with-

in plain view of the highway and provide a view unequalled in this section. Our views of these, reproduced on the front page, make description unnecessary and yet no photographic kaleidoscope of the scene as the summer sun falls on the descending waters can do justice to the majestic scenery.



A GLIMPSE OF THE DRY FALLS OF THE CULLASAJA, MACON COUNTY, LOOKING THROUGH HEMLOCK AND RHODODENDRON.



THE CATARACT ABOVE THE LOWER FALLS OF THE CULLASAJA IN MACON COUNTY.

These magnificent cataracts have been little known even to the people of North Carolina outside of the immediate locality, for up until the construction of this highway access to them was very difficult. The time

FRANKLIN SCHOOL NOW A CLASS 1-A

Franklin High Has 302 Students While the Cost Per Pupil Shows Decrease

Eight years ago Franklin High was a non-standard school of 70 pupils, now it is a class 1-A school with an increase of 450 per cent or an average increase of over 50 per cent per year.

In 1919-20 there were 71 pupils enrolled in Franklin High school with an average daily attendance of 58 pupils.

In 1920-21 there was an enrollment of 82 pupils. A gain of about 15 per cent over the year before. The average attendance for this year was 73. The school in this year spent \$34.33 per child for instruction. This does not include anything but teaching service.

1921-22 produced an enrollment of 91, an increase of about 10 per cent, with an average attendance of 79. A total of \$40.83 per child per year was spent for instruction.

In 1922-23 the enrollment for the first time crossed the 100 mark, reaching 113 during the year, an increase of about 12 per cent. The average attendance was 85 per day. The cost of instruction per pupil was \$37.30.

During the following year the attendance reached 122, an increase of 90 per day. The cost of instruction \$29.20 per pupil.

In 1924-25 the high school enrollment was 161 or more than double that of 1920. The increase of the years above was not the result of any consolidation. During this time the school was under special charter. The total cost of instructing each child was \$27.60.

In 1925-26 there were 207 pupils enrolled in high school, an increase of about 40 over the year before being brought about by the fact that during this year the school became a county-wide high school. The attendance was 150 while the cost of instruction was \$28.06.

In 1926-27 the enrollment was 207, a net increase of 105 in two years. The attendance during 1926-27 was 216, three times as many students per day as there was enrolled in 1919. The net cost of teaching each child for the entire nine months was \$27.10. This is the lowest cost of instruction per child ever incurred by this school. This year (1927-28) there are enrolled in high school 302 students, an increase of over 40 over the year before.

Using these same years as basis for further comparison we find that in 1921-22 twelve teachers handled 411 students or an average of 34 per teacher, while in 1926-27 sixteen teachers handled 628 students or an average of 39 per teacher.

In these same years it is found that the average training of teachers has risen. In 1921-22 we find the



SCENE ON THE CULLASAJA RIVER, MACON COUNTY, WHERE THE WILY RAINBOW LURKS.

cannot now be long, however, when they will be known to thousands of motorists who, already charmed with the most magnificent of scenic routes, will stop to gaze a while on these its crowning features.

PRESBYTERIANS TO BUILD MANSE

Will Use Lot On Wayah Street — Construction of Six-Room House to Be of Tile and Brick.

Franklin Presbyterians are planning to begin work at an early date on the rebuilding of the manse which was burned in November of last year. A building committee, composed of Messrs. W. B. McGuire, Gus Leach and D. D. Rice, are responsible for the selection of a lot, the plans for the house and erection of the house. The lot selected is on Wayah street, between the lots of Mr. D. D. Rice and Mr. Lyman Higdon. It is the plan of the committee to erect a modern six-room house of tile construction, faced with brick. The house itself will be one story with additional space for two bedrooms and a storage room on the second floor. A basement will also be provided for that a modern heating system may be added at some future date. The first floor plan calls for a living room, dining room, kitchen, breakfast room, study, two bedrooms, and bath, with closet space in addition.

The finance committee has enough funds and pledges on hands to justify the beginning of the work of erecting the house, and it is the hope of the committee to raise additional funds

DILLS IS HELD WITHOUT BOND



DAVID WALDROOP, KILLED MARCH 24, AND YOUNGEST CHILD, BRONCE.

Bond For Mrs. Dills at \$1,000 — Allen Dills, Charged With Killing Dave Waldroop, Remanded to Jail.

Allen Dills, charged with slaying Dave Waldroop March 24 on the head waters of Cartoogechaye, Macon county, waived preliminary trial here Wednesday before Justice of the Peace George Carpenter and was held without bond on a charge of murder. Dills, still unable to appear at the court house on account of shot gun wounds received at the time of the slaying, was given a hearing in Macon county jail. Mrs. Allen Dills, also in jail and charged with being an accessory to the crime, appeared before Justice Carpenter who fixed her bond at \$1,000. At last accounts she had been unable to get any one to go on her bond.

According to accounts given by neighbors the trouble between Dills and Waldroop started over a gate between the homes of the two families. Waldroop wished to keep the gate closed while Dills insisted that it remain open, stated Lester Waldroop, a relative of the slain man. It is said that Dills had threatened to kill the entire Waldroop family.

FEDERATION STOCKHOLDERS HOLD MEETING

The stockholders of the Farmers Federation met at the federation store in Franklin Monday of this week and transacted important business. A plan of refinancing the notes given in payment of stock was agreed upon. These notes were made negotiable at the bank and thus the financial strength of the federation was much increased. This step, it is stated, also lifted the burden from the public spirited men who had endorsed these notes previously. There were 72 stockholders present and with the exception of one or two all left greatly pleased with the operations of the federation, say the reports. Many of the stockholders expressed their intention of paying up in full after they have paid their taxes. Charlie Henderson was elected a director vice J. E. Lancaster resigned.

According to those present the meeting was a very optimistic one. The fact that the federation will now be able to carry on is a source of much pleasure to many farmers of the county.

average rating of the high school faculty to be 720. This figure is secured by giving 100 points for every year of high school and college work. A graduate of a standard high school would therefore have a rating of 400. A graduate of a two-year normal 600, while a college graduate would have a rating of 800. On this basis the faculty of 1921-22 had an average of three years and two months college work.

On this same basis the faculty of 1926-27 had an average of three years, four and one half months of college work.

The average training for the high school faculty this year is college graduation plus one half year of additional training. In other words all of the teachers in this year's high school faculty are college graduates and half of them have had as much as one year's training in addition to this.

From the above figures and reports it may be seen that there has been a remarkable growth in the enrollment and attendance of our high school. It will also be noted that the major portion of this increase has taken place since 1924, which was the year that the high school was open to a greater number of students. This is not the only cause, however, for a steady increase of population has taken place. In 1920 the population of Franklin was about 773. Now it is about 1,300.

These reports show that Franklin is not standing still, but is progressing along the lines of education and population.

CANNERY GETS UNDERWAY

The directors of the Macon Food Products company, otherwise the local cannery, met Monday and held an enthusiastic meeting at which plans were laid for the approaching season. Arrangements were made to obtain sufficient funds with which to operate. One official stated Tuesday that the cannery will be operated during the next season and that there are no grounds to justify the cold water throwers in their predictions to the contrary. All seeds received by the various farmers through the county have been ordered and the public will be notified when these seeds arrive. Fifty thousand strawberry plants have been sold by the cannery and the farmers have set ten or twelve acres to strawberries. The entire board of directors at the meeting Monday were much elated at the interest the farmers are taking in their preparations to supply the cannery with something to can. The directors predicted a most prosperous season.

The Tuesday Night Bridge Club met Tuesday, March 27 with Miss Eleanor Sloan. Miss Minnie Grace Morgan was high scorer. The following were present: Misses Mattie Angel, Ruth Benjamin, Cornelia Cunningham, Minnie Grace Morgan, Annie Will Siler, Willie Lunford, Mrs. Harden and Mrs. Emory Hammett.