

The Franklin Press

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NEXT WEEK IS AMERICAN FOREST WEEK

GROW TIMBER - - PREVENT FIRES

GREAT RALLY OF S. S. CLASSES

Wesley Bible Classes of Franklin, Murphy, Bryson City and Hayesville, Hold Enthusiastic Meeting.

Men's Bible classes of the Methodist churches at Franklin, Bryson City, Murphy and Hayesville met Sunday morning at Patterson Springs on No. 10, a few miles west of Bryson City, for the purpose of perfecting a permanent organization for the advancement of Sunday school work in the western part of the state. Due to the unseasonably cold weather, the gathering which included approximately 150 men and women from the towns mentioned, adjourned to the Methodist church at Bryson City where they received a cordial welcome from that church and were made

chairman and called upon Mayor George Patton of the same town to deliver the address of welcome. This address had been scheduled to take place at Patterson Springs so the Mayor apologized for delivering a welcoming address in the church of another town. Mayor Patton stressed the necessity for Sunday school organization and attendance, stating that a live Sunday school in any church made a good church.

Bob Long, of Bryson City, was the next speaker. He referred to the time not many years ago when the absence of good roads would have prevented a meeting of this kind. He praised the circuit-riders who formerly went about throughout the mountains preaching the real gospel. From these men, he said, the people of Western North Carolina caught a vision that has been instrumental in carrying forward the Sunday school work in this section. He then referred to the beautiful silver cup offered by the Franklin class to the class that makes the greatest attendance record and has the largest increase in membership for the next six months.

R. E. Crawford, of Hayesville, then spoke of the influence of Sunday schools in making better citizens. He declared that 95 per cent of the convicts in the state never attended Sunday school. He appealed to the classes present to get on a good head of steam and to return to their respective towns determined to carry on in the interest of a better citizenship throughout the state.

G. H. Haigler, of Hayesville, who has been superintendent of the Sunday school in that town for forty-eight consecutive years, took issue with those who believe that the Christian churches of today are going backward. He claimed that the Christian movement which began at the birth of Christ is sweeping onward to a triumphant victory and that the Sunday schools of the world are playing an important part in this ultimate victory.

Attorney Bud Anderson, of Hayesville, the next speaker, scathingly denounced the secular press of the country for emphasizing crimes at the expense of church and Sunday school news. He bitterly denied that Hickman, held up to the public by the press as a Sunday school student, was ever a real Sunday school pupil. He cited similar instances in which the press played up "church connections" of criminals throughout the country. He made an earnest plea for the press, churches, schools and Sunday school to co-operate in bringing up the children of the land under Christian influences.

Rev. R. F. Mock, of Franklin stated that there is no more important matter now before the public than the training of youth. He cited the importance of a better Christian example in the homes and appealed to those present to make the study of the Bible in the homes a daily habit. R. R. Beal, teacher of the Bible class at Bryson City, expressed his pleasure that an organization was about to be perfected toward the advancement of Sunday school work in

(Continued on page ten)

A Proclamation By the Governor of North Carolina

The State of North Carolina has been endowed by Nature with varied and abundant natural resources. Our streams are numerous and powerful, our wild life, once plentiful, still holds wonderful possibilities for furnishing food, fur and recreation, our soils are fertile and our forests, influencing all of these, produce as great a variety of commercial trees as any state in the union. Our industries dependent on timber are scattered over the entire state and yield a revenue to our people of more than \$100,000,000. More than 75 per cent of our people are financially affected by timber production. More than 50 per cent of the average farm and more than two-thirds the total area of the state is forest land. Unfortunately, destructive methods of cutting, followed by forest fires, have prevented regeneration, cut down the annual yield to one-half or one-third of what it might

Each recurring spring, with its serious fire risk and with Nature's renewed efforts to re-establish the forest which man has destroyed, the necessity for co-operating with Nature in this effort is borne upon the minds of those who are responsible for the future prosperity of the state and nation.

This state, through what is now the Department of Conservation and Development, has for many years been engaged in skirmishes against forest fires. This campaign has now developed into a war. The Department has set before our people the advantages to them and to their children of growing timber and only recently it has inaugurated the policy of assisting landowners to plant waste land upon which there is no adequate forest growth and which is not needed for agriculture.

The Federal Government is not only co-operating heartily with the state in this work, but has also established National Forests in Western North Carolina for the protection of our water supplies, for the production of timber and for demonstration in practical forestry. Eastern North Carolina is soon to share this benefit with the mountain counties.

Not only Federal help has been given in our program of reforestation, but some of the counties themselves are spending money for forest fire prevention and suppression in co-operation with the state. The landowners and the users of the forest and its products who are chiefly interested in timber production must become interested in timber growing and bear their share of protection costs. American Forest Week has been established with this end in view and its observance throughout the United States and Canada calls to the attention of our citizens this most important economic problem.

In accordance, therefore, with my practice in previous years and following the example of the President of the United States, I hereby proclaim the week of April 22-28, 1928, as American Forest Week and call upon the people of North Carolina to observe it in some appropriate and constructive way. The schools should carry out a suitable program during the week, at which time one or more trees might be planted in or near the school grounds. Luncheon clubs, Womens clubs, and other organizations might well consider a forestry program at the meeting held that week. Those who are seeking office or having a public trust placed upon them might well include a forestry plank in their platforms. Forest wardens, game wardens, and others interested in conservation should seek an opportunity of taking part in such celebrations and should devote at least a part of that week to a special effort to reach the largest possible number of people in their district and locality. Even the ministers in their church services might well urge upon their congregations the duty and privilege of co-operating with Nature and thus working with God to help carry out His laws.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed

(Continued on page ten)

JUDGE M'RAAE PRAISES MACON

Says Most Criminal Trials in County Due to Transient Violators of Law

Judge Cameron MacRae, of Asheville, substituting for Judge Roy L. Deal of Winstonsalem, opened the April term of the superior court here Monday with a short though clearly stated charge to the grand jury. Before beginning his charge the Judge stated that he spent the year 1912 at Franklin on duties connected with the national forest service and that he had never spent a more pleasant year in his life. He praised the citizenship of Macon county as one of the most law-abiding to be found in the state. "Most of the criminal trials in Macon county," said the judge, "are the result of law violations by transients

from other counties or other states." Were it not for such men, Judge MacRae was positive that Macon county, in so far as criminal cases are concerned, would have little use for courts and judges.

The judge then charged the jury as to its duties and sent the jurymen to the room set aside for the purpose to begin their investigations. After the charge Judge MacRae held an informal reception shaking hands with numerous friends in Franklin and elsewhere.

PIONEER WOMAN TAKEN BY DEATH

Mrs. Susie Leach Died April 12, Funeral Services April 13 at Presbyterian Church—Many Attend Services.

Mrs. Susie Leach, 83, a pioneer citizen of Macon county and highly honored and respected by hundreds of friends in Western North Carolina, died at her home on West Main street April 12 after an illness of four weeks. Funeral services were conducted at the Presbyterian church of which she was a member April 13 by the pastor, Rev. J. A. Flanagan. Six of her grandsons acted as pallbearers. As a deserved tribute of honor and respect to the memory of the deceased hundreds of people attended the funeral exercise. Rarely, if ever, have people in Franklin turned out in such large numbers on an occasion of this kind. After the services at the church the remains were interred at the new cemetery just west of Franklin.

The deceased was born and reared in Macon county and lived here practically all her life. She was the widow of the late Frank Leach who died about 20 years ago.

Case of Allen Dills Postponed

The case of Allen Dills, of Macon county, charged with slaying Dave Waldrop some time ago, and scheduled for this term of court has been postponed until the August term. Two grounds for postponing the case were considered. First, the fact that Bill Shope, a material witness for the defense and charged with being an accessory to the crime, is still at large, and, second, the fact that Dills has only recently employed J. N. Moody, of Murphy, as defense counsel. Mr. Moody claimed that he has not had sufficient time to prepare his case.

NANTAHALA N. F. 15 YEARS OF AGE

Forest Policy Outlined—Cooperation With State and Individuals—Will Get Rid of Chestnut.

This year marks the fifteenth one since purchases were started on the unit later to become the Nantahala National Forest. The area has grown from its beginnings in 1913 to its present size of approximately 250,000 acres. The purchases have been made under the program outlined in the Weeks Law of 1911 which provided for the acquisition by the government of lands on important watersheds where the forest cover would have some influence in regulating the water run-off.

Obviously the valuable agriculture lands of the river valleys were not included in the program and the exterior boundaries of the forest today indicate the approximate limit of purchases. Also within that boundary

the son provides a good living for its owners and the highest use of the land—the aim of all land management—is realized by agriculture. Watershed protection is paramount, but with this object accomplished as far as forest cover can contribute to that end comes the obligation to utilize the other resources of the land in the way which will bring the greatest permanent benefit to the adjacent communities and the public at large.

The utilization of the timber comes first. The Nantahala National Forest is divided into five "working circles" or units of management, on each of which the stand of sawtimber and wood products has been inventoried. The "salvage material" or trees of poor form and quality, left from previous logging operations, is sold as fast as the market will take it through sales of cross ties to farmers and small local woods operators. The removal of this material improves the stand of timber and makes way for younger trees of better quality to grow. The mature timber of all species is cut out under a method of selection which removes the full grown trees with the least possible harm to the poles and seedlings. Chestnut, which is doomed by the advancing chestnut blight, is removed without limit in any form (poles, acidwood or sawtimber) which the market will take. The timber use of the forest brings the greatest immediate return in dollars and cents. The receipts of the Nantahala have risen from \$412.00 for the year 1914 to over \$21,000 for the year 1927. Almost ninety per cent of this revenue was from the sale of timber.

The recreational value of this whole region is too well known to emphasize the part which the Nantahala Forest can play in its service to the public. The nearest mountain country to the vast coast from New Orleans to Miami is just beginning to realize on its possibilities. The Nantahala is but one of the chain of National Parks and National Forests which will help to attract visitors to the section. Recreational sites will continue to be developed in accordance with the policy of putting all the land to its most productive use.

Fish and game can be developed along with all the other uses, the Federal government contributing the use of its land and part of the supervision and the state administering the game refuges and restocking of all areas within its boundaries.

It is not the purpose of the United States to take over the function of the private timber owner, the state or local government, and it is with that end in mind that we come to the last and perhaps greatest benefit to be obtained from the National Forests. The comparatively small areas government forests are to be used as demonstration areas in helping to furnish the information required for the most profitable growth and utilization of on the far greater areas which will always remain in private ownership with the states and municipalities perhaps owning timberland to some extent.

The policy of the government in its forestry practice will then be:

(Continued on page ten)

FIRE THREATENS ROGERS HALL

Blaze Quickly Extinguished After Burning Section of Roof—L. E. Lentz Painfully Burned by Acid.

Rogers Hall, one of the most widely known tourist hotels in Western North Carolina, came near burning to the ground Monday afternoon about 7 o'clock. This hotel is located on a hill near the railway station and was formerly the home of the late Sam L. Rogers. A short time before his death Mr. Rogers had made extensive additions to his home and converted it into one of the most comfortable tourist hotels in the South. From the broad verandas of this hotel one may obtain a magnificent view of the valley of the Little Tennessee and Fish-

Saturday Evening Post and Canadian papers.

Within a few minutes after the alarm was given hundreds of Franklin citizens swarmed up the hill to take part in fighting the fire. The fire engine responded promptly, but it was found unnecessary to attach the hose. The chemical apparatus soon had the fire under control. Many business firms of the town sent their fire extinguishers which were used to good effect. There is an observation platform on top of the hotel approximately 20x30 feet square. A latticed flooring has been laid over the sheet iron roofing. Leaves from nearby trees had worked their way through the cracks and lodged between the wood and tin. It is believed that a spark from the kitchen flue ignited the leaves.

The fire was extinguished after burning a small section of the roof. It is believed that \$200 will cover the damages.

Mr. L. E. Lentz, formerly with the highway commission at Franklin, but now stationed at Murphy, and who happened to be a visitor here at the time, was painfully burned on one leg when acid from one of the fire extinguishers came in contact with his person. He was rushed to a local hospital where his burns were treated. It is understood that he left the hospital Tuesday.

Through The Press Mrs. Rogers wishes to extend her sincerest thanks to all those who took part in saving her hotel and home.

FORD MEN VISIT LOCAL AGENCY

Service Representative and Service School Instructor Supervise Installation of New Machinery.

J. N. Thomas, service traveling representative of the Ford Motor company, and J. A. Bowen, service school instructor, both of Atlanta, visited the local Ford agency here last week and remained for two or three days supervising the installation of new equipment now required in all Ford plants. For handling motors and other heavy parts an overhead track running the entire length of the shop was placed in position. A motor can be lifted from a car anywhere along this track and conveyed to the boiler plate tables in the rear where all kinds of machines are conveniently located to make any kind of repairs that may be necessary. To the average layman these machines are bewildering, but the mechanics state that the use of this equipment eliminates all guess work in making repairs.

A washing tank where all grease and oil will be boiled from parts is included in the new equipment. Mr. Thomas stated that the new arrangement of the local Ford shop will enable the manager to keep this department as clean as the parlor in an average residence.