

National Forest  
Unexcelled Climate  
Unsurpassed Scenery  
State Game Refuge  
17 Peaks Over 5,000  
Feet High  
Ideal Dairy Country  
Creamery, Cannery  
Excellent Highways  
Cheap Electric Power  
for Industries  
Law-abiding Citizenship

COME TO MACON COUNTY—  
HEART OF A MOUNTAIN EMPIRE RIPE FOR DEVELOPMENT

100,000 H. P. Undeveloped  
Water Power  
Abrasive Materials  
Copper, Timber  
Precious and Semi-  
Mica, Kaolin, Asbestos,  
precious Gems  
Abundance Good Labor  
Ample Transportation  
Facilities  
Pure, Clear Water  
Productive Soils

# The Franklin Press

VOLUME XLIV

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## Greetings To Visitors Attending the Centennial

### REAL PIONEER TO BE PRESENT

**Uncle Johnny Crawford Will Ride in Pioneer Float and Wearing Coat Made in 1810.**

Word has just been received at Franklin that Uncle Johnny Crawford who lacks only one year of being as old as Macon county will attend the Centennial here next Saturday. Mr. Crawford is now a citizen of Clay county having moved there many years ago from Macon. Though 99 years of age Uncle Johnny is hale and hearty and would easily pass for a man thirty years younger. In the Centennial parade Uncle Johnny will occupy the Pioneer float. This float will consist of an ox wagon and will head the parade. Uncle Johnny has announced his intention to wear a hand spun and "needle and thread" made coat fashioned in 1810 by Mrs. Margaret Rafferty Siler, great, great, great grandmother of the present generation of Silers. This coat has buttons made of gourd.

On the day of the Centennial Mayor George B. Patton will deputize several additional police to assist in handling the traffic. Mr. Patton states that plenty of parking space will be available, but unless traffic is properly directed, he fears that there will be a confusion, especially on the part of strangers.

The committee is still receiving replies to invitations extended to prominent men of the state to attend the Centennial. These replies indicate that hundreds of people from this and adjoining states, other than citizens of Macon county, will be present next Saturday, June 15, to see and take part in the greatest celebration ever held in Macon county.

Ladies rest rooms will be available at the court house, Joines Motor & Tractor Company, Bill Cunningham's store and other places.

Mayor Patton is taking a great interest in the Centennial and has expressed himself as willing to help in all ways possible. He will see that the streets are cleaned and that traffic is handled in an efficient manner.

Mr. George Wallace will send his car thirty miles for two Confederate veterans. Those living near the old veterans are requested to see that these old soldiers get to town on that day.

In addition to the floats mentioned last week the county game warden, J. J. Mann will enter a float. This float is an old wagon made by hand before the civil war. The warden's float will represent game conditions 100 years ago and those prevailing at the present time.

### MANY FLOATS TO ENTER PARADE

That the people of Franklin and Macon county are enthusiastically entering into the spirit of the Centennial is evidenced by the fact that many floats are registered for the parade. Perhaps the most unique of the floats will be that representing the Pioneers of the county. This float will consist of an ox-drawn wagon on which will ride men and women dressed in the costumes of the Pioneers. The Cherokee Indians from the reservation near Bryson City are also to have a float in the procession. Other floats to enter the contest for prizes will be the State Highway Commission, U. S. Forest Service with mounted guards Perry's Drug Store, The Cozad Ice Company, Ritter Lumber Company, Angel's Drug Store, S & L 5 and 10 Cent Store, The Nantahala Creamery, Maxwell Training School, The Confederate Veterans, Joines Motor & Tractor Company and the Franklin Fire Department.

#### Hon. Don Elias Accepts

Mrs. F. L. Siler, Chairman, Franklin, N. C.  
Dear Cousin Margaret:  
Received your letter and will be there on the 15th to old Macon's 100th celebration. Yes, I will make a fifteen minute talk, but I will be in the same fix the man was, who when told that he would have to ride with his mother-in-law to his wife's funeral—replied, "Well, I will if I have to, but it will take away all the pleasure of the occasion for me." I think the celebration a fine thing.  
Sincerely,

### THE HIGHWAYS OF MACON COUNTY

**Franklin is Hub From Which Highways Lead in Five Directions—On Shortest Route by 57 Miles Between Atlanta and Asheville.**

Franklin, located midway between Asheville and the western end of the state is the southern gateway to the mountains of Western North Carolina. This strategic location in the very heart of the Carolina mountains is destined to mean much to the future of Franklin from both the tourist and commercial viewpoints. Elsewhere in this issue is a map showing the Asheville-Franklin-Atlanta Short Route. This route is 57 miles shorter than any other road between the two cities. Leaving Atlanta the highway passes through Decatur, Lawrenceville, Buford, Gainesville, Cornelia, Tallulah Falls, Clayton, Franklin, Dillsboro, Sylva, Waynesville, Canton and on to Asheville. From Cornelia to Asheville the highway is paved the entire distance. Between Cornelia and Atlanta there are two short sections of the road yet to be paved. These sections are graveled and passable at all times of the year. A double daily bus service is in operation between Asheville and Atlanta with a schedule of seven hours for the trip. Private cars have easily made this trip of 215 miles in five and a half hours. This route is a part of the great National highway between Toledo and Miami.

Those who visit this section should not fail to make the trip between Franklin and Bryson City over highway No. 286. From Franklin this road leads down the Little Tennessee river and passes around the point of the Cowee mountains a thousand feet above the horseshoe bend on the Little Tennessee. This view is one never to be forgotten. In fact the entire distance is one of changing views. At many points the Great Smoky Mountains, site of the national park, are visible.

But undoubtedly the most scenic route east of the Mississippi is highway No. 28, between Franklin and Highlands. The grading on this route is now nearing completion. On leaving Franklin the motorist will travel along the Cullasaja river valley to McCoy's store nine miles from town. There the road enters the famous Cullasaja gorge where the highway, blasted through solid rock, clings to the face of an almost perpendicular cliff, several hundred feet above the river. Solid rock walls on the river side of the road make it safe for the nervous driver.

In the gorge proper the Lower Cullasaja Falls can be seen just below the roadway. Above the falls are the cascades. At this point the highway crosses Brush creek and then following the stream closely passes along between towering mountains to Kelly Falls and Raven Cliff. Below the cliff are the Narrows where the river runs swiftly between banks only five or six feet apart. Above the Narrows one soon reaches the Dry Falls of the Cullasaja, so named because a cavern exists behind the wall of water. Every effort was made to have the highway cross the river through this cavern, but the danger of ice in the winter time made it inadvisable to attempt this unique feat of engineering. However, the road passes near the falls and tourists may leave their cars and go down into the cavern. A short distance above the Dry Falls the highway passes under the Bridal Veil Falls which comes tumbling off one of Macon county's highest mountains in misty grandeur. From this point one reaches the Highlands municipal lake, a beautiful body of water 3700 feet above the level of the sea. Two miles more finds the traveler in the beautiful little city of Highlands, the highest incorporated town east of the Mississippi.

From Franklin highway No. 28 leads southeast and west; highway No. 285, northeast and south, and highway No. 286, northwest. Thus one finds Franklin as the hub of a wheel from which highways lead in five different directions.

#### Death of Little Boy

Little Frank Sanders, two years of age, and son of Mr. and Mrs.

### MACON THEATRE WILL HOLD

**GALA WEEK  
Change of Picture Every Night—To Give Away \$5.00 in Gold Each Night.**

The management of the Macon Theatre announces that the week of June 17-22 will be Gala Week at their popular playhouse. There will be a complete change of program every night, and the manager asserts that he has secured for this week six of the year's most outstanding pictures. The productions to be shown are—Wild Orchids, with Greta Garbo; Three Week Ends, with Clara Bow; The Drifter, with Tom Mix; Square Shoulders, with Junior Coghlan and Louis Wolheim; Zane Grey's Avalanche, with Jack Holt; Orphan of the Sage with Buzz Barton.

Another unusual feature of the Gala Week is that each night some patron of the theatre will be given a \$5.00 gold piece. This will be done by giving all purchasers of tickets, whether adult or child's, a numbered chance. At the conclusion of the performance each night, there will be a drawing by some child who can neither read nor write, and the holder of the lucky chance will then receive the gold prize.

Also, on Thursday night, June 20th, every woman or girl patron who uses and adult ticket, will be given a piece of silver table ware free. This, we understand, will be a regular Thursday night feature for the coming fifty-one weeks.

With a program such as that outlined above, and with the free prizes as an additional drawing card, it would seem that the Macon Theatre should do an unusual business next week.

#### JUDGE DEAVED OF EL PASCO TEXAS INTERESTED

The Franklin Press,  
Dear Sir:  
Enclosed \$1.00, please send me your paper. I being interested in a celebration to occur there June 15, this year my great-grand-father was in Macon county 100 years ago. He married Susannah Smith and I understand that some of the Smith descendants still live in your county.  
J. M. DEAVER.

#### CENTENNIAL PROGRAM

Parade of Floats at 11:00 A. M.  
Note: Route changed as follows: Parade will form on lota street near home of R. D. Sisk. Move south on lota street to court house, pass west of court house, cross Main street to Joines Motor & Tractor company, turn left in front of that building and pass across square, cross Main street and enter lota street on east of court house, out lota to starting point and disband.

Immediately after parade, Atty. T. J. Johnston will deliver the address of welcome and introduce the speakers. Mrs. Lynden McKee of Sylva, president of the state U. D. C. is first of the program to address the crowd from the speakers stand located on the square near the fountain.

Solo Dance.  
Address by James G. Stikeleather, District Highway Commissioner.  
Music.

Address by Don Elias, Publisher of Asheville Times.  
Dance—The Minuet.

Address by Hon. R. A. Doughton, Chairman State Highway Commission.  
Luncheon.

Immediately after luncheon, Motorcade to Bridal Veil Falls on Highway No. 28, and then on to Highlands for those who desire to make the trip.  
Matinee at Macon Theatre.  
Indian Ball Game.  
Square Dancing, Speakers Platform, "Free to All."

Tea Dance, Roof Garden, Scott Griffin Hotel, 5 to 7 P. M.  
Evening Dance, same place, 9 to 12.

Two Picture Shows at Night.  
Staff photographers of the two Asheville dailies are expected to be present.

"The Penland Boys," mounted, will act as field marshalls of the parade.

Saturday of This Week Macon County Celebrates its 100th Birthday—To the Confederate Veterans, to Former Citizens, to World War Veterans, to Visitors, the County Extends a Cordial Welcome.

### ROBINSON WAS DEVOTED TO W.N.C.

**His Efforts Resulted in Building Railroad—Was Member of House and Senate For Years—Elected Lieutenant Governor.**

In Macon county's history after the Civil War James Lowery Robinson was one of the leaders who gave their efforts to the rebuilding of the county and of the whole western section of the state.

He was a son of James and Matilda Lowery Robinson, born Sept. 17 1838; his mother was a niece of Governor David L. Swain. He married Miss Alice Siler, a daughter of Julius T. and Mary Coleman Siler.

War broke between North and South while he was a student at Emory and Henry College, Virginia, and young Robinson volunteered as a private in a Western North Carolina infantry regiment. He was in service till discharged on account of wounds, having been promoted meantime to a captaincy.

Elected (as a Democrat) to the legislature in 1868 he represented his county and his senatorial district continuously until 1880 when he was elected Lieutenant Governor with Thomas J. Jarvis as Governor. He was speaker of the House three terms and in 1876 was elected president of the Senate. He was a candidate for Congress, being defeated for the nomination by two or three votes by Thomas Johnston of Asheville.

During this period the building of the Western North Carolina railroad was the big issue in the western counties and Mr. Robinson was one of the western men who at last won the fight for completion of the road west of Asheville to Murphy. In 1885 Richmond Pearsons attacked in the House Robinson's bill for the extension of the railway from Nantahala to Murphy. Pearson said he would not give 15 cents an acre for all the land from Nantahala to the Georgia line. J. L. Bell was Assistant Clerk of the House and he has thus described what followed:

"The righteous indignation of Governor Robinson was aroused—his bill was assailed but more, the mountain country he loved so well was maligned. I have never heard a forensic effort equal to his defense of his bill and his defense and picture of Western North Carolina as he drew it—her rivers, her valleys and her mountains as they rolled like petrified waves of the sea from Asheville to Murphy. It was grand, it was superb."

He did not shrink from political battle but he was no bitter partisan and in every political race of his life he received no small vote from the Republicans of Macon county. Taking the speakers chair at the beginning of one session he said, characteristically, "Let us remember in the hour of party triumph that 'He who ruleth his spirit is greater than he that taketh a city.'"

Mr. Robinson spent some of the last years of his life in the West as a Special Indian Agent. He died in Franklin July 8, 1887.

On his retirement from politics in this state, a Raleigh paper said of him editorially: "Governor Robinson has continuously been in public life since 1868 and has been a leader in forming and carrying out the Democratic policy. His strong common sense, his familiarity with the state and its wants, his open candor and tact have made him a most valuable member of the legislature and leader in promoting the cause of education, the internal improvement of the state and relieving the Eastern counties of Negro domination. The people of the extreme Western counties are most devoted to him on account of his valuable services in securing the Western North Carolina Railroad."

#### Mrs. Bryson Returns

Mrs. Pink Bryson who has been with her daughter at Tucson, Arizona, for the past two years has returned to Franklin to attend the Centennial of Macon county. Her host of friends are much delighted that she found it possible to be here.

On Saturday of this week it will be the pleasure of Macon county to greet thousands who will be here to attend the 100th birthday of the county. In 1818 Jacob Siler and William Britton became the first permanent white settlers in the territory now embraced by Macon county.

Within a few months others followed and in 1820 Franklin was organized. In 1829 the county of Macon, named for that brilliant son of North Carolina, Nathaniel Macon, was established by act of the legislature. For seventy-eight years after the organization of the county Macon was indeed one of the "lost provinces." In 1907 the Tallulah Falls railway was completed. From that time until 1926 Macon county, economically speaking, was a part of Georgia. Then came Frank Page, James Stikeleather and J. C. Walker who built a road of concrete across the county which connected with No. 10 at Dillsboro and thereby made Macon county in truth a part of the great State of North Carolina. During all the years of their isolation the citizens of Macon never became discouraged. The heritage of courage and high ideals handed down to later generations by the sturdy pioneers who first settled in the county are rooted deeply in the minds and souls of the present inhabitants. First and foremost they are a pious people as indicated by the numerous churches scattered all over the county. They have been equally interested in education as evidenced by the fact that Macon county was the first in the State to make education compulsory. Statistics prove, it is said, that Franklin in proportion to its population, has more college graduates than any other town in the state. The present standard of teacher scholarship in the Macon county high school outranks that of several cities in North Carolina.

Thus, it will be noted that the citizens of Macon county, despite the lack of transportation facilities, "carried on" in the face of heavy odds. During the seventy-eight years of their isolation a less courageous people would have given up in despair. From the organization of the county until the present time the latch strings on Macon county doors have ever hung on the out side as welcoming signs to the wayfarer. And as the county celebrates its 100th birthday this welcome is as cordial and sincere as it was a century ago. Again Macon county greets its visitors and bids them locate in this, paradise of the world.

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### BOARD DECIDES TO QUIT BORING

**No Additional Water Supply for Franklin in Prospect—Citizens Must Vote Bonds or Manage With Present Supply.**

At its meeting Wednesday night of last week the town board decided to cease all efforts at the present time to obtain an additional water supply for Franklin. The new well that has just been abandoned after costing the town more than \$4,000 evidently acted as a deterrent in so far as boring other wells is concerned. One member of the board expressed the opinion that Franklin must have a gravity system before strangers can be induced to locate here. He considers it folly to bore holes in the ground for water when there are any number of streams that can be piped into town by gravity. Just what the outcome will be is a matter that only the future can determine. However, as one prominent citizen stated, it appears that citizens of Franklin must make up their minds to vote bonds for a new water system or manage to get along with the present supply.

#### Man Drowned

Alex Hastings, 24, of Prentiss was drowned Sunday in Lake Arbordale two miles south of Franklin. It is said that other bathers were unable to save the drowning man. The deceased was buried at Pleasant Hill Monday. He leaves a wife and two children. Details of the unfortunate