

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

INVESTIGATE MACON COUNTY
HEART OF A MOUNTAIN EMPIRE RIPE FOR DEVELOPMENT

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

The Franklin Press

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NEW VILLAGE SITE IS LAID IN NANTAHALA

Aged Negro Man Believed Victim Of Strychnine Poison

DAUGHTER HELD IN COUNTY JAIL

Bill Scruggs Dies Shortly After Supper Last Thursday Night

HIS DOG IS ALSO DEAD

Strychnine Was Bought at Local Drug Store, Druggist Testifies

Bill Scruggs, aged colored man, died last Thursday night at his home in the Mashburn Branch section of the county, from what is believed to have been strychnine poisoning. Shortly after eating supper, which included some canned salmon, Scruggs fell ill and laid the cause of his sickness to the salmon he had eaten. He soon became unconscious and died within an hour, the body twitching as though from poisoning effects.

Suspicion that Scruggs had been poisoned first developed when some member of the family fed the remainder of the salmon to a dog which died within a half hour.

When reports of the death reached Franklin, it was recalled that a colored woman who gave the name Minnie Scruggs had bought one-sixteenth of an ounce of strychnine at a Franklin drug store on December 3, stating that she wanted it to poison rats. Scruggs' daughter, Minnie, was then arrested and brought here along with J. E. Parrish, colored, said to be her sweetheart. Parrish was charged with shooting at Doc Scruggs, Minnie's brother. It is reported that he had also had trouble with Bill Scruggs, and it was therefore thought that he might be implicated with the alleged poisoning.

When Minnie was brought before the owner of the drug store, Jim Perry, at a coroner's inquest on Friday, Perry testified that she was not the woman who had bought the strychnine. Later when she was taken before C. L. Cartledge, the clerk who had measured out the strychnine, he testified that it was his belief that she was the woman to whom the strychnine had been sold.

Officers returned to Mashburn Branch to search for a suspect whom Perry and Cartledge might agree was the buyer of the poison. Instead of bringing back such a suspect, however, they returned with Doc Scruggs and Tom Burgess, colored, and held them on liquor charges.

J. E. Parrish, who was arrested with Minnie Scruggs, charged with shooting (Continued on page eight)

WILLFUL DAMAGE OF EVERGREENS IS MISDEMEANOR

A little-known law on the books of North Carolina makes it a misdemeanor for anyone to willfully commit any damage or injury upon any tree, plant or crop, within one hundred yards of any state highway or other public road without the consent of the owner of the land.

This information comes from the State Department of Conservation and Development. At this time of year, the Department emphasizes, there is considerable discussion about the conservation of Christmas greens, such as holly, small evergreens, and the like. For violation of the law mentioned above there is a maximum fine of \$50 or a maximum imprisonment of 30 days.

County game wardens are authorized to see to its enforcement.

MACON WOMAN DIES AT PRISON

Death Comes After Birth of Twins, One of Whom Dies

Mrs. Allen Dills, who, with her husband, was sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the state penitentiary more than a year ago, for the killing of Dave Waldroop in this county, died in the state prison several days ago after giving birth to twin girls, one of whom also died. The bodies were brought to Macon for interment.

The living twin is to be cared for by the State Welfare department. Funds to the amount of \$2500 are appropriated by the state for needy children, and the child will be cared for from this sum. It has been taken from the prison and placed in a Raleigh home.

The Asheville Times last week carried an editorial commenting on the inefficiency of a system that allows children to be born of mothers serving prison terms. The stigma of having been born inside prison walls should never be borne by a child, is the opinion expressed by the Asheville paper.

BASKETBALL PRACTICE TO START THIS WEEK

Basketball practice began on Monday of this week at Franklin high school. Coach Kesler is expecting some 20 men to report by the time (Continued on page eight)

100TH BIRTHDAY WILL BE OBSERVED BY J. M. CRAWFORD

Washington, D. C., Dec. 6.—Dewey Crawford, attorney from Fort Pierce, Fla., has written Senator Overman that his grandfather, John Moore Crawford, of Hayesville, will celebrate his 100th birthday on Christmas Day at the court house or school auditorium in Hayesville, where a celebration will be held in his honor and it is his purpose to have letters from prominent North Carolinians to be read, to which he believes he would like to contribute.

Mr. Crawford states his grandfather is a native of Macon county and has lived in Clay county for the past 75 years; he was a first lieutenant in the Confederate army and has taken a prominent part in public affairs of his community; that his mental and physical powers are unusually preserved, enabling him to remain active without the use of glasses or cane.

TEACHERS HAVE MORE TRAINING

Macon Instructors' Preparation Is Increased 1.45 Years Since 1922-23

Since 1922-23 the average training of the teachers of Macon county has increased 1.45 years, it is learned from the State Department of Public Instruction, which has just completed a study of the scholastic preparation of white teachers in all the counties and 34 of the largest cities of the state.

In 1922-23 the index of training of the white teachers in this school system was 3.81, whereas the past year, 1928-29, the index of the teachers employed was 5.31. In other words, better prepared teachers are now employed than were six years ago.

The average training of all rural white teachers of the state is now 2.19 college years, and of city teachers 3.44 years in college. Thus, it is noted that the training of teachers in the Macon system is below the state average of all rural teachers.

TWO RAIDS NET 79 GALS. LIQUOR

Car Wrecks On Cowee Mountain As Officers Give Chase

Working on tips, Sheriff C. L. Ingram and Deputy Fred Cabe last Sunday night caught three men with 24 gallons of liquor on Cowee mountain east of Franklin, after the car in which the men were riding had failed to round a curve and had wrecked. Monday night on a second raid, a man with 55 gallons of whiskey was taken in a car near the same place by the same officers.

Fred Smathers, Bill Hightower and a man named Queen, all of Canton, were the three captured on Sunday. Following the wreck, the three were brought to a Franklin hospital for treatment of injuries around their heads and faces, none of which were very serious.

Bob Maynard, of Asheville, was taken on Monday night. Following preliminary hearings, all were bound over to the next term of superior

REPORT ON FARM WORK RECEIVED

State Agricultural Board Holds Meeting At Raleigh

Raleigh, Dec. 5.—Progress in all divisions of the North Carolina State Department of Agriculture during the past six months was shown in the report of Commissioner William A. Graham, made last week to the Board of Agriculture, at its regular December meeting. This Board meets twice a year—in July and in December—and each time the Commissioner makes his report. However, the fiscal year ends June 30, and it is, therefore, at the summer meeting that the budget is prepared. Although this Department is under the general budget law, it operates on its own income and the Board, in cooperation with the Commissioner, the executive head, prepares the budget of expenditures.

Reporting on the activities of the six test farms owned by the Department, Commissioner Graham reminded the Board that for the past 20 years the selection and improvement of better seed had been an important part of their program. Commenting further upon this phase of the work, he added:

"The better varieties have been determined in the various sections of the state by extensive variety tests over a period of years. After this, the varieties best suited to the different sections are improved, and the seeds are increased for distribution to the farmers over the state at a reasonable price. This year the six test farms will have for distribution around 1,500 bushels of pedigreed seeds of different kinds.

"This seed improvement work on our test farms has been very valuable in establishing the North Carolina seed crop improvement association on a sound basis. Professor W. H. Darst, director of the Association, has expressed his appreciation of what has been done on these farms."

The Commissioner then referred to the work in tobacco experiments, with a view to selection and standardization of the best varieties, also to crop improvement work embracing peanuts. He referred to the "Blakemore," the new variety of the strawberry developed at the Lower Coastal Plain Farm at Willard, N. C.

In reporting activities of the State Department of Agriculture, he officially announced to the Board the ap-

WORK IS PUSHED ON NEW HOUSES

Survey for Concrete Road Is Made To Location Of Town

BRIDGE NANTAHALA

Right Of Way for Railroad Is Being Cleared and Cross-ties Cut

News from Beechers, near the site of a proposed new village in Macon county to be constructed by the Nantahala Power and Light company, subsidiary of the Aluminum Company of America, is to the effect that work is being pushed on the projected village. The new town is being located near the power house and the end of the tunnel which is to carry water from the dam near Aquone.

The village site has been surveyed and laid off into streets and lots. A force of carpenters is at work erecting houses for the employees. A road is being graded from highway No. 10 to the new town, and it is reported that the road will be hard-surfaced with concrete.

The right of way for the railroad is being cleared. Cross-ties are being prepared by a sawmill and by a force of men in the woods. It is planned, according to reports reaching here, for the Ritter Lumber company to extend its railway down the Nantahala river, connecting with the power company's road at Aquone and with the Southern road at Beechers. This will solve the problem of the dam interfering with the railroad now leading to Andrews from Aquone and will also be a direct route to market for lumber and cross-ties.

The surveyors report that the survey for the transmission line from the Andrews power plant will be complete in a few days. The Andrews plant and the plant near Beechers will then be connected.

Material for a bridge across the Nantahala river near the home of O. L. Coles is being laid down. This bridge will connect the two parts of the village, as it is to be built on both sides of the river.

The Nantahala Power company will need several million feet for forms and other building purposes in the erection of the dam and power house, as well as several hundred cottages for employees.

pointment of A. B. Etheridge as chief and stated that the selection was made because of the fitness of Mr. Etheridge, based on experience (Continued on page eight)

FINAL DRIVE IN SUBSCRIPTION CONTEST IS ON THIS WEEK

Campaign Comes To End On Friday, December 20th

With one week remaining in the final period of the subscription contest being conducted for The Franklin Press by the Franklin high school Juniors and members of the Teachers' Training department, a great subscription flurry is looming for these seven days.

The Junior class is divided into "Red" and "Blue" divisions, the Blue team being headed by Miss Mary Jacobs and the Red team by Miss Virginia Calloway. The two teams are very nearly tied for honors. Members of these teams represent nearly every section of the county,

been literally county-wide.

After January 1, subscription rates of The Press advance from \$1.50 to \$2 a year. It is with the idea of giving new prospects and old subscribers opportunity to subscribe or renew at the present rates that the contest is being conducted. All contest returns will be in on December 20, the date on which the drive is to be brought to a close. After that, 10 days will remain in which to take advantage of the old rates.

In order, however, for members of the Junior class or Teachers' Training department to receive a commission from subscriptions, they must be given to a representative of one of these groups within the next week.

HATIAN MOBS THREATEN MURDER IN BATTLE AREA

500 More Marines Hurry to Reinforce Those Now On Scene

Washington, D. C., Dec. 8.—Reports of serious conditions in Haiti continued to reach Washington tonight as 500 United States Marines were moved toward the island republic to assist the 700 already there in maintaining peace.

The cruiser Galveston which was requested by Brigadier-General John H. Russell, the American high commissioner in Haiti, to assist the Marines, arrived today in Jacmel, 20 miles from Port Au Prince, the capital, to evacuate American women and children.

A gathering of the largest body of malcontents yet reported to the state

gram received late today from General Russell who said that yesterday morning a crowd of about 2,000 surrounded the outpost building at Chantel crying "Down with Borno, down with Freeman."

Borno In Hospital
The "Borno" referred to by the crowd is the president of the republic, who is now in Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, on account of illness. The state department said it was unable to identify the person referred to as "Freeman," who was decry by the gathering.

The Aux Cayes district was the scene of the first bloodshed in the situation which grew out of a strike in October of college students who objected to a decrease in the school's appropriations to care for other needs