

NEW BANK PLANS TO OPEN SOON

Many Expected At Farm Meeting Here Little Hope Seen

COUNTY AGENT JOB AT STAKE

Commissioners Believed Willing To Change Their Decision

PROGRAM OUTLINED

Outstanding Speakers And Farm Experts To Be Heard

Farmers and their families from all sections of Macon County are expected to come here Saturday for the big farm meeting to be held at the courthouse, beginning at 10 o'clock in the morning.

One of the most vital matters of business expected to come before the meeting will be the question of whether Macon shall continue to have a farm demonstration agent.

A half dozen outstanding agricultural speakers, each an expert in his line, are scheduled to take part in the program. County Agent Fred S. Sloan announced their names Wednesday as follows:

Speakers' List

John W. Goodman, district farm agent, who is managing Governor Gardner's "Farm To Live at Home" campaign in this section of the state.

F. R. Farnham, dairy specialist of the North Carolina State College Extension Service.

C. F. Parrish, poultry expert of the State College extension service.

H. R. Niswonger, horticulturist of the extension service staff.

C. G. Filler, livestock expert connected with the State Department of Agriculture.

Miss Pauline Smith, home demonstration agent. Miss Smith will speak particularly to the wives of farmers who attend the meeting.

Count Agent Sloan will preside at the meeting. He said Wednesday that he expected all of the experts mentioned above to accept his invitation to speak at the gathering, and predicted that it would be the largest meeting of its kind held here in several years.

Purpose of Meeting

The purpose of the meeting will be to formulate plans for Macon County's agricultural program in 1931.

Among those expected to be present are the members of the county board, Commissioners W. D. Barnard, chairman, C. H. McClure and Walter Gibson. For the past few days it has been the opinion in Franklin that these men would rescind their recent action abolishing the job of farm demonstration agent, effective February 1, provided sufficient evidence were presented to show that the farmers themselves wanted the office continued.

A number of Franklin business men are vitally interested in the meeting and are planning to attend. Several days ago a group of them signed a letter requesting the farmers to turn out in full force for Saturday's meeting. This letter was mailed to hundreds of farmers throughout the county. It follows:

Letter to Farmers

"Franklin, N. C.,
January 24, 1931.

"Dear Farmers and Farm Women: During this period of readjustment many things have taken place which vitally affect you as well as us.

"The matter to which we wish to call your attention is the action about to be taken by the county commissioners regarding county agent work. They plan to discontinue it after February the first. Such an action would affect all of us, but especially you. We have been investigating the matter and now we firmly believe that this action can be prevented if you show, along with us, that we can not afford to do without a county agent in Macon County.

"Macon County's future is based upon your success as a farmer. Your success is directly dependent upon the sale of your surplus commodities to the very best possible advantage.

"This can best be done through cooperative sales such as poultry, hog, lamb, wool, etc. Through cooperative carlot sales your farmers

Macon County Deficient \$612,684 in Production Of 8 Crops, Says Report

(Special to The Franklin Press)

RALEIGH, Jan. 28.—In order to make Gov. Gardner's "Live-at-Home" campaign a success in Macon county, the farmers must improve their position as far as the raising of food and feed stuffs is concerned, according to John W. Goodman, district farm agent, who is working to make the "Farm to Make a Living in 1931" slogan a complete success in North Carolina. According to Mr. Goodman, Macon county is deficient in the sum of \$612,684 in eight crops. This total deficiency, which is due to the fact that Macon county farmers are buying produce from without the county and are not raising enough of these eight crops, is based on the latest complete tables of figures available, obtained in 1929.

Governor Gardner urged the farmers a year ago to raise more food and feed stuffs. In 1930 North Carolina farmers saved \$19,000,000 by increasing their food yields. The aim for 1931 is the saving of an additional sum of \$40,000,000 by

producing at home stuff which have been bought without the counties in the past. By living more nearly on their own produce, the farmers of any county will be aiding the "Live-at-Home" campaign; they will have more cash money at the end of the year; and their examples will stimulate people all over the state to greater efforts in coming years.

Macon can help greatly. The picture is not so terribly bad. There are several bright spots. For instance, Macon raises much beef and veal, with a surplus over needs of its farmers of 2,462 head, valued at the sum of \$116,699. In four other particulars the county produces its own rural needs and has a surplus left over. The sum total of the five surpluses is \$264,038. The net food and feed deficiency is \$348,645, and this sum is too large for a rural county with Macon's farm population. These figures mean simply this: Macon county is spending needlessly an average of \$37 per man, woman and

(Continued on page six)

Legislation To Protect Butter Producers Sought

DENIES PLANS OF ANNEXATION

T. D. Bryson Opposes Scheme To Take Part of Macon

In a letter to the editor of The Press, T. D. Bryson denies emphatically that he is sponsoring a movement to annex a part of Macon county to Swain.

For some months there have been rumors that Swain, seeking some means to increase its tax revenues, greatly diminished since a large part of its land was taken over for the Great Smoky Mountains national park, might seek to extend its borders. Senator K. E. Bennett is reported to be holding conferences at Raleigh in an effort to obtain some means of state assistance, but there has been no indication that he would introduce a bill to take part of Macon county and add it to Swain. Senator Bennett has estimated that Swain county would lose land valued at \$1,000,000 for taxation purposes through creation of the national park. He blamed this largely for the county's default in bond payments this year.

Mr. Bryson's Letter

Following is Mr. Bryson's letter to The Press:

"Editor,
"The Franklin Press,
"Franklin, North Carolina.
"Dear Sir:

"It has just been brought to my attention that there is a rumor being circulated in Macon county to the effect that I am sponsor of a movement to introduce a bill in the present General Assembly to carve from Macon county and add to Swain county a certain portion of

(Continued on page six)

School Instruction Costs Vary Greatly Over State

(Special to The Franklin Press)

RALEIGH, Jan. 27.—From \$39.40 in Durham county to \$15.81 in Cherokee is the range in per pupil cost of instructional service in the rural white schools of the State, according to the current issue of School Facts, publication of the Department of Public Instruction. In the 34 largest charter systems, the range in this respect is from \$66.87 per pupil in Asheville to \$27.35 in Henderson.

"Among the colored schools differences in instructional service are also apparent," says School Facts, "the range being from \$30.00 in Mitchell, a county having only one

school of nine pupils, to \$5.81 in Edgecombe county. "An examination of the affecting factors for these systems," that paper continues, "will explain in a general way the wide differences in their per pupil instructional service costs. For example, Durham county has a school term of 160 days, employs teachers and principals with an average of 3.34 years of scholastic training, has an average of 30 pupils to each teacher and principal employed, and expends annually for teachers salaries an average of \$1,196.24 to each teacher and principal. Consequently

(Continued on page six)

Bench Brigade Gets Early Spring Bath

The weather was bright and warm Monday afternoon and the bench brigade was enjoying it to the utmost, idly watching Chief Bob Henry and assistants wash the streets with the fire hose.

Suddenly the basking brothers were aroused to action. Something went wrong with the hose and a stream of water showered the whole bunch, a score of more lounging lazily on the loafers bench on the square. Nearly all were dampened and half a dozen or more, drenched to the skin, headed for home like horses for the barn.

MACON'S LAND VALUES GIVEN

Property Worth \$20.38 per Acre, Report from Raleigh States

LEADS THIS SECTION

Jackson's Average Acreage Value Put at \$17.51, Swain's \$16.83

(Special to The Franklin Press)

RALEIGH, Jan. 28.—The average value of land per acre in Macon county is 20.38, according to figures compiled by the State Board of Assessment which were made public recently in a report to the General Assembly.

The average value given for town lots in this county was \$997.52. Macon's per acre value exceeds that of the neighboring counties of Swain by \$3.55; Jackson, \$2.87; Graham, \$9.93; Clay, \$6.69; Cherokee, \$9.21.

List of Values

The figures announced by the Board of Assessment for the counties of Western North Carolina follow:

County	Aver. Val. Per Acre	Aver. Val. of land of town Lots
Buncombe	\$61.55	\$2,577.82
Avery	26.31	629.35
Alleghany	32.99	1,551.06
Burke	42.56	2,423.53
Catawba	18.05	2,438.42
Cherokee	11.77	748.67
Clay	13.69	473.29
Cobbett	10.15	823.72
Haywood	26.39	1,493.48
Henderson	6.71	2,344.88
Jackson	17.51	796.13
Macon	20.38	997.52
Madison	18.71	1,247.88
McDowell	28.61	757.71
Mitchell	21.92	773.65
Polk	31.96	1,147.67
Rutherford	38.05	992.54
Swain	16.83	998.10
Transylvania	24.25	1,051.03
Watauga	28.44	944.88
Yancey	24.99	857.18
Aver. for state	\$32.15	\$1,914.80

FOREST SURVEYOR TO EXAMINE LAND IN GRAHAM COUNTY

Supervisor A. A. Wood of the Nantahala National Forest has announced the arrival here of D. W. Tabott, forestry surveyor, who will assist in the examination of 30,000 acres to be acquired by the forest in Graham county. This is part of a tract of 144,000 acres which the forest officials are planning to acquire.

A. R. Kinney has completed the survey of a tract in Rabin County, Ga., and his crew has disbanded, and Mr. Kinney has returned to his headquarters in Bristol, Tenn.

J. R. Bradley, in charge of a survey of lands being acquired in Cherokee has completed his survey, and is in Franklin completing office work on his findings.

DIRECTS ROAD SURVEY

Survey for the improvement of the road from Highlands to Horse Cove is being conducted by J. J. Smith of Highlands. The Nantahala National Forest will foot the bills for this construction.

PUSHES PLANS TO PAVE ROAD

State Highway Engineer Promises Action on Surfacing No. 28

REGRADING NEEDED

Work To Start as Soon As U. S. Engineers Give Approval

Plans whereby obstacles in the way of completing the hard-surfacing of the road from Franklin to Highlands will be removed were outlined the latter part of last week by John D. Waldrop, chief engineer for the State Highway Commission, who came to Macon County to inspect the road.

Mr. Waldrop explained that the delay in laying the macadam surface on Route No. 28 from the end of the concrete at Gneiss to Highlands was occasioned by disapproval of federal engineers of certain grades on the road up the gorge. As soon as these grades can be altered to meet the requirements of the United States highway authorities, he declared, funds will be forthcoming to finish the project.

To Survey New Lines

The state highway engineer promised that within the following week he would have James Councilman in charge of the new highway from Ela into the Great Smoky mountains, transferred to Route 28 to survey a new line through the points to be regraded. He expressed the opinion that it would take about a week to finish this survey. Then it will be necessary to plot the new grades and submit the plans to the federal engineers. As soon as they are approved, he stated, John C. Walker, district highway engineer, can begin regrading and surfacing. Federal approval is necessary because part of the funds to be used in the work will come from the federal government.

The cost of regrading was estimated by Mr. Waldrop at about \$15,000.

The surfacing will be carried through the town of Highlands with a width of 18 feet without cost to the town, Mr. Waldrop said.

Other Road Plans

Referring to the stretch of No. 28 west of Franklin, Mr. Waldrop stated that the Forestry Service has promised to donate its next annual appropriation for this vicinity, of \$45,000, ordinarily expended on forest roads and trails, to the highway commission to be used on the cost of surfacing the highway west of Franklin, provided the unsurfaced gap between Gneiss and Sapphire is completed within a reasonable length of time. This will be another incentive for rushing the latter project, said the state engineer.

When the gap between Gneiss and Sapphire is surfaced, No. 28 will be paved as far west as Franklin from its eastern terminus at Bat Cave. The highway has been surfaced at the extreme western end, which runs from Murphy to the Tennessee line, and the last gap to be paved will be that lying between Franklin and Murphy on which route Hayesville is located. Opening of the latter stretch will put Franklin on Hayesville's most direct route to Asheville.

(Continued on page six)

Little Hope Seen For Reopening of Bank of Franklin

Henson Says \$132,000 Cash Needed To Revive Old Bank Besides Agreement To Freeze Deposits For at Least Two Years

BANK OF MACON MAY OPEN FEBRUARY 15, DOWDLE SAYS

Notices Sent Subscribers Calling for Payment On Stock; Move Expected To Boost Business Activities

Plans are rapidly taking shape for the opening here soon of the new Bank of Macon, for which \$25,000 capital stock already has been subscribed.

Mark L. Dowdle, who was elected president of the proposed bank at a recent meeting of its board of directors, announced Wednesday that he hoped and expected the bank would be ready to open its doors by February 15. Notices have been sent to stock subscribers informing them of the board's plans and calling on them to pay in the amounts they subscribed as soon as possible.

"The sooner stockholders send us the money for their stock," Mr. Dowdle said, "the sooner we will be in position to open the new bank."

Decision to go ahead with plans to open the new bank was reached at a meeting of the board of directors Monday night after a series of conferences by officials of the old Bank of Franklin, representatives of the depositors and state banking department representatives revealed that it would be an almost hopeless task to undertake the reopening of the closed institution.

\$132,000 Needed

A committee representing both the bank and its depositors went to Asheville last week and conferred with G. N. Henson, who is in charge of liquidating closed banks in Western North Carolina as an agent of the State Corporation Commission. Details of this conference became known this week. It was revealed that Mr. Henson informed the Franklin delegation that it would be necessary for \$132,000 in cash to be placed in

PORTER IS NAMED TO TAKE CHARGE OF MURPHY BANK

J. A. Porter of Franklin, has been appointed liquidating agent for the closed Bank of Murphy and also for the Clay County Bank at Hayesville. He will be assisted in the liquidation of the Murphy bank by Bill Davis of Sylva, according to The Cherokee Scout, and at the Clay County Bank by Miss Myrtle Serogus. Says the Murphy newspaper:

"Mr. Porter is well and favorably known in this section, having been a former citizen of Cherokee County. He took charge of both institutions Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

"Mr. Porter appears to be a clean cut gentleman and his statement is different from that of Mr. Harden (representative of the State Banking Department) with reference to the liquidation of the bank. According to Mr. Porter, he is here to do everything in his power to assist the stockholders and depositors to open the Bank of Murphy and the Clay County bank."

the vault of the Bank of Franklin before its doors again could be opened and that 95 per cent of its deposits, including both time certificates and checking accounts, would have to be frozen, by agreement of the depositors, for a period of not less than two years.

Certificates Non-Negotiable
Mr. Henson further revealed that new certificates of deposit would have to be issued, cancelling the present ones, and that the new certificates would be stamped, "Not Negotiable." The opinion had prevailed that once the bank was reopened the depositors could borrow money on their certificates or use them to cancel their obligations to the bank. This, however, was found not to be the case.

Mr. Henson also pointed out that it would be necessary for the Bank of Franklin drastically to limit its financial affairs. The bank, if reopened under the conditions just stated, would not be authorized, as long as its deposits were tied up, to grant loans on money collected from outstanding notes in excess of 10 per cent. He also explained that loans on this limited basis would require the approval of a majority of the directors.

Among certain groups of depositors and stockholders of the old bank there is still some hope of reopening the institution but many who in recent weeks have offered their cooperation toward this end have finally reached the opinion that it would be better for the welfare of Franklin and Macon county to abandon the reopening plans and concentrate their efforts in a move to open the new Bank of Macon.

To Boost Business

It is confidently expected that business will begin to show rapid improvement as soon as Franklin has banking facilities. The community has been without a banking house since December 16, when the Bank of Franklin failed to open in order to conserve its assets. Since then some people have been doing without a bank and others have been going to Highlands or sending their money out of the county, and merchants, business men, farmers and others have learned what a cash shortage means.

A meeting of the creditors of the Bank of Franklin, which includes depositors, has been called for noon Saturday in the offices of William L. McCoy. What action is contemplated remains to be seen. Members of the committee named by the directors of the Bank of Franklin who conferred with depositors and banking department officials were:

Mark L. Dowdle, Sam L. Franks, George Patton, R. D. Sisk, Gilmer A. Jones.

The committee which represented the depositors in these conferences was composed of Joseph Ashear, Dr. W. E. Furr and Claude Russell.

Following is a list of the directors of the new Bank of Macon: M. L. Dowdle, president; M. D. Billings, now in charge of liquidating the Bank of Franklin; S. A. Moody, Grover Jamison, C. F. Moody, Dr. S. H. Lyle, Sam L. Franks.

Former Macon County Man Drowns Self in Georgia Lake

The body of Mattie M. Dills, former Macon County man who disappeared from his home at Tallulah Falls, Ga., last Thursday, was drawn from the bottom of Tallulah Lake Friday afternoon about 4 o'clock after discovery of his hat nailed to the railroad trestle across the lake.

A coroner's jury returned a verdict of suicide.

Dills, who was said to have been despondent and to have threatened suicide several times, was thought to have jumped off the trestle sometime Thursday morning. The water at that point is 60 feet deep and efforts of Georgia Power Company employees to discover his

body by dragging were fruitless. Finally, John Taylor, of Tallulah Falls, dropped a fish hook and line immediately under the spot where Dills had tacked his hat and succeeded in catching the hook in the drowned man's clothing and bringing the body to the surface.

Dills had been in bad health for some time, relatives said. He was 48 years old and had moved to Georgia, where he was living at the home of his son-in-law, Ben West, in Tallulah Falls, about six years ago. He is survived by his widow and several children.

Funeral services were held Friday afternoon at Sugarfork Baptist Church, this county.