

COUNTY FARM AGENT RETAINED

Rabun County Man Held For Starting Forest Fires

WIDE AREAS OF TIMBER BURNED

Forestry Service Is Kept
Busy Combatting
Many Blazes

LOSSES ARE HEAVY Lester Munson Arrested Following Fire on Pinnacle

Climaxing two weeks of forest fires, most of them believed to have been incendiary, word was received from Clayton, Ga., Wednesday that Lester Munson, young Rabun county man, had been arrested charged with having strung out a fire on part of the Nantahala National forest on Pinnacle mountain.

Since January 21 more than a score of fires on the public domain have been reported to the headquarters of the Forestry Service in Franklin, according to J. H. Stone, technical assistant to the supervisor of the Nantahala forest, A. A. Wood. Hundreds of acres of the government preserve have been burned over in parts of Macon, Jackson, Swain, Cherokee and Clay counties, in North Carolina, and in Rabun and Habersham counties, Georgia, and in Oconee county, South Carolina.

Private Losses Heavy

In most instances the fires on the government land have been on the edges of the preserve and have been brought under control shortly after being started, but forest fires outside of the reservation, in most cases, have consumed or damaged large areas of timberland before burning themselves out or being checked. Mr. Stone pointed out that a great deal more private land had suffered than government property, explaining that the Forestry Service is not authorized to fight fires on private property unless they are close enough to menace the national preserve.

Penalty Is Heavy

The maximum penalty for willfully starting a fire on federal lands is \$5,000 fine, two years imprisonment, or both. For negligence resulting in a forest fire on government property the penalty is \$1,000 fine, one year imprisonment, or both.

Young Munson was reported to have been arrested shortly after the fire on Pinnacle mountain was started. Warden Koscoe Nicholson informed the Forestry Service headquarters here that he was taken back to the scene of the fire where his boot heel was compared with imprints found in the soil and found to be similar. Munson was taken to the county jail at Clayton and Wednesday night he was still being held there. The amount of bail bond had not been set. Munson was arrested by Bailiff J. B. Justice.

Under Control

The Pinnacle Mountain fire was reported to be serious but under control.

Last week a large part of Black Rock mountain was burned over. It was on this mountain that a group of Florida capitalists had been planning to construct a large resort hotel.

Forest fires in Macon county have been comparatively small compared with those in adjoining or nearby counties in this state and in Georgia and South Carolina. Oconee county, South Carolina, and the two counties in Georgia where the national forest extends have been the heaviest sufferers, according to Mr. Stone. He estimated that the government property burned in this county at about 200 acres, but far more private timberland has been damaged.

Situation Serious

The situation is daily growing more serious as the dry spell continues, technical expert of the Nantahala Forest staff declared. Should a heavy wind blow up with the forest beds dry as tinder it would be a difficult problem to combat a forest fire and prevent its spread.

Use Bloodhound

Forestry officials are making every effort to check the cause of fires and in a number of instances have obtained information upon which they hope they can bring about arrests and prosecutions. In an effort to trace down fire bugs

Tax Reduction Is What Folks Want, Legislature Told, Not Tom Foolishness

By Carl Goerch
RALEIGH, Feb. 4.—After reading in the papers about some of the bills that have been introduced lately in the legislature, I believe I'll sit down and write a letter to Willis Smith, Speaker of the House, and a mighty fine fellow. Hon. Willis Smith, Raleigh, North Carolina.

My dear Willis:

I've been following proceedings of the legislature with a whole lot of interest and I've been watching some of the bills that have been introduced.

There was a bill presented a few days ago by Representative Johnson, of Halifax, to amend the law on the squirrel and raccoon season. There was another bill, introduced by Senator Lawrence, of Hertford, to make blue and white the regular and standard colors of State automobile license tags. Representative McDevitt, of Madison, presented a bill to require at least ten verses from the Bible to be read at the opening each morning of public schools. And Senator McSwain, of Cleveland, came forward with a bill to change the date of the primary from the first Saturday in June to the first Monday in June.

Now Willis, I'm not saying a

word of criticism against any of those bills. So far as I'm concerned, all of them may be splendid measures and they may react to the advantage of our people as a whole. I'm not claiming that squirrels and raccoons don't deserve special consideration, and as for the Bible, it's the greatest of all books. Neither have I any objection to a permanent blue-and-white color scheme for license tags, and if they want to have the primary on Wednesday, Thursday or Friday, it's O. K. with me.

But Willis; we folks back home are interested in something else besides those bills. The thing that is uppermost in the minds of most of us, is this business of reducing the tax on real estate. And that brings me up to the suggestion that I had in mind.

When Mr. Johnson, of Halifax, comes up with a bill to give consideration to squirrels and raccoons, I want you to give him polite and courteous attention. And I want you to ask him a few questions. "Mr. Johnson," you might say, "I think this bill of yours is a mighty fine thing. But will it help to cut down the tax on real estate in North Carolina?"

"Why, of course not," Mr. Johnson

Red Cross Not To Launch Drought Aid Drive Here

ASK REPEAL OF ABSENTEE LAW

Petitions for Revision
Of Election Statutes
Sent to Raleigh

Petitions signed by hundreds of persons urging repeal of the absentee ballot law insofar as it applies to Macon county have been sent to Raleigh by J. H. Stockton, former register of deeds.

In forwarding the petitions Mr. Stockton wrote letters to Dr. W. A. Rogers, Macon county's representative in the General Assembly, Kelly E. Bennett, who represents the 33rd district in the state senate, and W. C. Ewing, chairman of the House committee on election laws, declaring that it is the consensus of opinion among the people of this county that the absentee ballot law be taken off the books. He also submitted a bill designed to accomplish this and requested its introduction.

Mr. Stockton's letter to Dr. Rogers follows: "January 29, 1931.

"Hon. W. A. Rogers, Representative of Macon County, Raleigh, N. C.

"Dear Doctor Rogers: "I am forwarding you under separate cover the original petitions of voters in Macon county asking for the repeal of the Absentee Ballot Law in Macon county. There are 25 of these petitions and containing hundreds of names. At least 95 per cent of all the people, both Democrats and Republicans, who had an opportunity signed the petitions.

"The petitions were not given any publicity but were just sent out (Continued on page four)

Days of Old Southland To Be Revived Once More

On Thursday, February 12, from 4 to 6 o'clock the United Daughters of the Confederacy will bring back the charm of days "when men lived in a grander way with ampler hospitality." The doors of stately Rogers Hall will be thrown open in true ante-bellum style so that the charm of the Colonial "open house" may be once again enjoyed by all.

The guests will be entertained in true colonial fashion. Lovely maidens in quaint costumes will dance

Contributions, However, Will Be Welcomed By Local Chapter

Advice has been received by R. D. Sisk, county chairman of the American Red Cross, from John Barton Payne, national head, that no organized drive would be put on in Macon county for the Red Cross drought relief fund. However, Mr. Sisk states that voluntary contributions will be welcomed from all desiring to share in this great effort of relieving the thousands who are facing starvation in the drought stricken areas.

Contributions will be received by R. D. Sisk, chairman, and R. S. Jones, secretary-treasurer of the Macon County chapter.

PARENT-TEACHER MEETING CALLED FOR THIS FRIDAY

The Parent-Teacher Association will hold its regular monthly meeting at the school building Friday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock.

All members and those interested are urged to attend as this is an important meeting. After the business session the Rev. G. Clifton Ervin will give a short talk on the importance of Parent-Teacher work in the community.

Eastern Star Chapter To Elect Officers

A regular meeting of Nequassa Chapter, No. 43, Order Eastern Star will be held at the Masonic Hall tonight at 7:30 o'clock. This is the time for the annual election of officers. The worthy matron, Mrs. Sam L. Franks, requests that as many members as possible attend.

AUDIT OF BANK EXPECTED SOON

Plans for Opening Old
Bank or New One
In Abeyance

NOTES BEING CALLED

Obligations Transferred
To Other Banks Must
Be Satisfied

The report of the auditors on the condition of the closed Bank of Franklin is expected to be submitted soon, possibly the latter part of this week or early next week. Meantime, plans for reopening this bank or putting a new one in business are being held in abeyance.

From comments heard among business men and farmers, depositors and stockholders, during the past week, it seems to be the general opinion that the old bank should be reopened if possible. This hinges on the report of the auditors, which will be filed with the State Corporation Commission and also with the clerk of Macon county superior court.

Prompt Attention Promised

Officials of the State Banking Department and the Corporation Commission, which has supervision of the former, have promised to give prompt consideration to the report. The opinion has been confidently expressed here during the last week that the Corporation Commission would make a more favorable proposition whereby the Bank of Franklin could be reopened than that reported to have been advanced recently by Examiner G. N. Henson, who is in charge of the liquidation of closed banks in Western North Carolina. However, there has been no official word to this effect.

It is believed by many interested persons that little difficulty will be encountered in obtaining an agreement of the necessary number of depositors to allow their accounts to be frozen.

How Matters Stand

There are two schools of opinion on the matter but those who have promoted the new bank, already chartered under the name of the Bank of Franklin, are withholding action for the time being. While there is some difference of opinion, there appears to be little or no difference in objective—doing what is best for the financial welfare of Franklin and Macon county.

In any event, it has been pointed out, the affairs of the old bank will have to be liquidated. If the bank reopens this will be carried out by the bank with the supervision of the Corporation Commission.

Concerning Notes

Some persons who had notes with the Bank of Franklin which were transferred to other banks are reported to have the impression that if the bank is reopened these notes will be returned to the Bank of Franklin, instead of being forced for collection. It has been learned on good authority, however, that this is not the case. The situation is this:

Prior to the closing of the Bank of Franklin it had been necessary for it to borrow some money from other banks. As collateral security for these loans, the Bank of Franklin put up with the banks from whom it had borrowed, certain notes held by the Bank of Franklin. These notes are now in the hands of various banks and are not subject in any way to the control of the liquidating agent of the Bank of Franklin acting for the State Corporation Commission.

There seems to be an impression that these collateral notes will be brought back to the Bank of Franklin by the Corporation Commission whether the makers pay the notes or not. We have it on reliable information that this is not the case, nor will it be possible to bring the notes back till the amount owed the banks holding the notes of the Bank of Franklin have been paid. It is reported that the banks holding these notes have written the individual makers and endorsers that they are looking to them to make prompt payment or that the notes will be placed in the hands of some attorney for collection. When such

McCoy Forestalls Sale of Property

Sale of five tracts of valuable property in Franklin's business district by Sheriff A. B. Slagle under an execution by John B. Justice, administrator for the estate of Perry R. Hyatt, has been forestalled by W. L. McCoy, Franklin attorney, in whose name the property reposes. The property involved includes the Franklin Hotel & Restaurant, several stores and the new brick building in which are Mr. McCoy's offices and other valuable property on Main street.

The sale at public auction was advertised for last Monday noon, but before that date Mr. McCoy obtained an injunction from Judge Walter Moore, presiding over Cherokee County superior court at Murphy, restraining Sheriff Slagle from carrying out the execution. The injunction is returnable February 16.

Mr. McCoy is reported to have left Franklin early this week on a trip to Florida.

DEATH CLAIMS M. CUNNINGHAM

Dies Few Days After His
Return from Stay
In Arizona

Marshall Stone Cunningham, whose health was broken while in training camp at Raleigh during the World War, died Sunday shortly before midnight just three days after he had been brought home from Tucson, Ariz., where he had gone in a futile hope that he might recover from his long illness.

Mr. Cunningham, who had hundreds of friends in Franklin and Macon county, was a son of Mr. and Mrs. E. K. Cunningham. While at camp during the war he contracted influenza, which left effects from which he never recovered. In vain efforts to regain his health he made several trips to the west and twice, for several months each time, he was a patient at the government hospital for ex-service men at Otter.

Brought Home

His last months were spent in California, New Mexico, Texas and Arizona. He was brought home from Tucson by his brother, Roy Cunningham, last week, arriving here Thursday. He appeared to have stood the trip well, was bright and cheerful, but his body was weakened beyond recovery, and he died Sunday night with members of his family at his bedside.

Mr. Cunningham was born on May 6, 1899. He made many friends here and elsewhere. Before his health broke he worked in his father's store, E. K. Cunningham and Company.

Survivors

He is survived by his father and mother; four brothers, W. C. Cunningham and Roy Cunningham, of Franklin; J. K. Cunningham, of Norton, Va., who was out west at the time of his brother's death and was unable to get here in time for the funeral; and Charles E. Cunningham, of Akron, O.; and three sisters, Mrs. Ed Wallace, of At-

(Continued on page four)

Salaries of All Public Employes Voluntarily Cut

Farmers' Meeting Held
Saturday Attended
By Hundreds

MAP PLANS FOR 1931

Macon Planters Urged To
Grow More Food and
Feed Crops

The agricultural outlook in Macon county this year is brighter than that of many North Carolina counties but there is urgent need for the production of more food and feed crops, declared John W. Goodman, district farm demonstration agent, Saturday morning in an address at the farmers' meeting in the county courthouse.

Several hundred farmers from all sections of the county attended the meeting, which was called for the purpose of outlining an agricultural program for the coming year. Fred S. Sloan, farm demonstration agent for the county, presided.

Among the speakers were some of the leading agricultural authorities in the state. They included, besides Mr. Goodman, E. R. Farnham, dairy specialist of the North Carolina State college extension service; C. G. Filler, livestock expert connected with the State Department of Agriculture; C. E. Parrish, poultry expert of State college extension service, and Miss Pauline Smith, home demonstration agent.

Crop Deficiencies

Mr. Goodman declared that Macon is deficient 72 per cent in hay alone, pointing out that the farmers, especially those engaged in livestock production and dairymen could effect large savings by growing their own cattle feed. He also urged the growing of corn for fattening hogs, giving convincing examples and figures to show that corn fed to pigs is more profitable than corn sold on the market.

Mr. Goodman also said that the county should produce 62 per cent more poultry, 33 per cent more wheat, two per cent more corn and 31 per cent more eggs. These figures represent its deficiencies for what its home consumption is, or should be. He explained that in eggs, for instance, the county may produce more nearly what it actually consumes but expressed the opinion that eggs should have a larger place in the average home diet hereabouts.

In some products Macon has a surplus, especially in pork and lard and potatoes, according to Mr. Goodman. The income from the sale of these surpluses partly offsets what is paid out to make up for the deficiencies in other products, but the opinion was expressed that some of the shortages could and should be turned into surpluses, thereby increasing the county's agricultural income.

Urges Home Gardens

Miss Smith urged the growing (Continued on page four)

Action Makes Possible
\$10,000 Saving for
Tax-Payers

SLOAN TO HOLD JOB

Decision of Commission
To Continue Farm
Work Applauded

Farm demonstration work will be continued in Macon county with Fred S. Sloan as the demonstration agent.

At the meeting of farmers in the county courthouse Saturday morning, attended by several hundred farmers from all sections of Macon county, Commissioner C. H. McClure announced that the Board of Commissioners, other county officials and employes had agreed to accept a 10 per cent reduction in salaries and wages, thereby making it possible to keep the farm demonstration agent and, besides, to effect a saving to the tax-payers estimated at \$10,000.

Monday morning, at the regular monthly meeting of the commissioners, it was voted to continue Mr. Sloan as the county agent. It is known that two other men had been proposed for the job but the commissioners decided that Mr. Sloan, a native of this county who knows its people and their problems and who has won the confidence of the farmers, should be given the opportunity to carry out the projects he has put under way.

Mr. McClure, in announcing the acceptance of lower pay by those on the county's payroll, pointed out that the reduction is for one year only, effective March 1. He emphasized that keeping the demonstration agent would not increase the county's expenditures. He estimated that the saving to be effected by the reduction in salaries and wages would be \$10,000 above the \$1,200 contributed for the farm demonstration work. The greatest part of the expense for the demonstration work is borne by the state and federal governments.

A wave of applause swept through the several hundred farmers attending the meeting after Mr. McClure's announcement, and after he had finished speaking John Fulton came forward with a motion for a rising vote of thanks to the Board of Commissioners, which was promptly adopted.

LORD'S PRAYER IS TOPIC OF SERMON BY DR. ABERNETHY

The Baptist Sunday school meets at 9:45 each Sunday morning. Since the weather conditions are more favorable the attendance is increasing.

Preaching service begins at 11 o'clock. Last Sunday morning Dr. Abernethy used as a text, "Our Father," Matthew, 6-9, paying a high tribute to the wonderful man who gave this worldwide prayer to a worldwide race of people.

"It is not profane to think about the social side of God," said Dr. Abernethy. "When he was here on earth he longed for companionship."

At the evening service Dr. Abernethy spoke from Luke, 19-10, "For the son of man is come to seek and to save that which is lost," showing the mission of Christ on earth.

The evening preaching service will begin now, for a while, at 8 and the B. Y. P. U. will meet at 7.

Several members from the B. Y. P. U. went to Hickory Knoll last Sunday evening and aided in the organization of a B. Y. P. U. Roy C. Dady delivered an excellent talk on "The Difference in an Active and an Inactive Church Member."

The W. M. U. will meet with Mrs. Frank I. Murray, East Main street at 3 p. m. today.

Farm Students Planning To Beautify School Site

The Vocational Agriculture class of the Franklin high school plans to set out during the coming month from 75 to 125 trees.

The plans call for a complete row of white pines, bordering the left of the grounds, from the elementary building to the highway. The dead trees nearest the sidewalk will be moved and replaced by a bed of rhododendron. Other trees and shrubs to be used in the improvement project include spruce, balsam, hemlock, pine, holly, dogwood, rambler roses, English ivy, and a number of perennial flowers. Around the base of the main building will be placed a number of henlock settings to hide the foundation. These will be interspersed with flowers.

The plans being made are for a long time project and will cover a period of several years. As the trees and shrubs grow and reach maturity the unsightly scenes will gradually disappear.

Due to the shortage of funds this work will all be done by the boys of the Y. T. H. F. club composed only of agriculture students.

Each member of the club is urged to collect as many trees as possible. These will be brought to the school and set in places where mostly needed. By doing this the boys will have an opportunity to put in practice the transplanting of trees.

These trees will be used to commemorate the bi-centennial birthday of George Washington in February 1932.