

SHORT ROUTE PAVING FINISHED

FRANKLIN BANK OUTLOOK GOOD

Delegation Encouraged After Conferences At Raleigh

REOPENING LIKELY Audit Is Expected To Be Put on File Within Next Few Days

Prospects are definitely encouraging for the reopening of the Bank of Franklin, according to word brought back from Raleigh Wednesday by a member of a delegation which went there early in the week to confer with members of the State Corporation Commission and its bank department.

An announcement of plans is expected within the near future.

Audit Awaited

The report of the auditors on the condition of the bank when it closed December 16 has not yet been made public but this is expected to be filed and made accessible to the general public in a few days. It had been expected early this week but there was some small delay. Copies are to be deposited with the Corporation Commission and with the Clerk of Macon County Superior Court.

Persons familiar with the bank's affairs are confident that the audit will show the bank well able to pay dollar for dollar for all deposits. However, it is regarded a foregone conclusion that the depositors will have to agree to freeze their deposits for a certain period. But in view of the likelihood that under liquidation without reopening the depositors would have to wait just as long or longer for their money, little difficulty is expected in securing the cooperation of the depositors. General sentiment throughout the county seems to favor reopening of the old bank. Many large depositors already have agreed to freeze their deposits.

Two weeks ago it was announced that a new bank would be opened here, but proponents of the new institution have withheld action pending the outcome of plans to reopen the Bank of Franklin. And since the outlook has brightened for the reopening of the old institution, persons whose names were mentioned in connection with plans for the proposed Bank of Macon have lent their cooperation in efforts looking toward reviving the Bank of Franklin.

Members of the committee which went to Raleigh to confer with the Corporation Commission were Charles Ingram, W. D. Barnard, A. B. Slagle, Frank I. Murray, R. D. Sisk, Joe Ashear and C. F. Moody.

SLOAN REPORTS STORAGE EGGS GLUTTING MART

Fred S. Sloan, Macon county farm demonstration agent, returned Tuesday night after a trip to Atlanta, where he went to gather information concerning the outlook for green farm produce during the coming spring and summer. While there he also looked into the poultry and egg situation. On his return he reported the cold storage houses were glutted with eggs and were dumping them on the market at prices far below production. He said he was informed that dealers who had been hearing eggs would have to take a huge loss this year.

Roy C. Dady Wins Spelling Contest

The people who attended the spelling bee at the courthouse last Friday night were greatly enthused over it. Everyone was in great suspense when Roy C. Dady and Miss Charlotte Conley were the only two left standing, spelling words that seemed impossible to be spelled. At last, though, Miss Conley went down on the word "Kaffir." Mr. Dady spelled it correctly, thereby winning the first prize, a gold pin donated by Mrs. Higdon. Miss Conley took the second prize, a box of candy made by Miss Virginia Cunningham.

Some of the other good spellers who stood up until almost the last were Mr. Randolph, Gertrude Shope, Mrs. Higdon, Eban Dady and Dan Wilkie.

R. D. Sisk Joins Hole-in-One Club

R. D. Sisk, well known Franklin attorney and links enthusiast, has started the golfing season in top-notch form and already has set a record for other Franklin golfers to shoot at a hole-in-one.

Sunday afternoon Mr. Sisk teed up his ball on No. 6, which is only 210 yards long but made difficult by a pond and sand traps. He chose his mashie, neatly tapped the little white pellet and then had the satisfaction all golfers long for. The ball made a clear arc, dropped on the sand green and rolled unwaveringly into the cup.

Mr. Sisk had companion players on the round to vouch for the hole-in-one—not meaning, however, that his own word was insufficient.

JONES LOWERS FEE FOR GOLF

Links Enthusiasts Turn Out as Franklin Course Opens

Gilmer A. Jones, owner of the Franklin golf course, one of the best laid out nine-hole links in Western North Carolina, has announced a reduction in the annual green fee for this year.

Golfers now can obtain full privileges of the course for \$20 instead of \$25. The latter sum was the amount charged last year and covered both golf and tennis. Under the new arrangement golfers will not have to pay the additional \$5 unless they also wish to use the tennis courts. Daily, weekly and monthly rates will remain unchanged.

Both the golf course and the tennis courts, of which there are two, have been opened for the season and Clarence Brown, Jr., who has been put in charge of the caddy house, will be on hand when the weather permits playing.

Mr. Jones has had fresh sand put on the greens, which were considerably loosened up by the winter's snow and ice, and they are now packing down nicely.

A score or more players were seen on the course last Sunday and the crowds are expected to increase with the coming of warm weather and tourists. A good many tennis enthusiasts already are making use of the two courts, both of which were in use all Sunday afternoon.

BISHOP HORNER AGAIN TO HOLD SERVICES HERE

The Rt. Rev. Junius M. Horner, bishop of the Episcopal church of Western North Carolina, will visit St. Agnes church on Tuesday morning, February 15. Services will be held at 11 o'clock, with a celebration of the Holy Communion. After the service the Bishop will conduct a meeting of the congregation, at which time the officers for the year will be elected.

Devastating Fires Cause Untold Damage to Timber

BY J. HERBERT STONE
(Technical Assistant to the Supervisor of Nantahala National Forest)

How does fire damage our forests? This is a question of importance to all of us in these forested mountains of Western North Carolina. Possibly some may question whether any damage results from many fires which destroy no houses, barns, fences and the like, but observation in many regions by many timbermen, foresters, and scientists have shown that each fire, no matter how harmless it appears, takes its toll from our forests.

Damage to Standing Timber
It requires no stretch of the imagination to realize the damage to the forest when fire burns so fiercely that merchantable trees are consumed or so injured that they die. This sort of damage does occur but not on every fire. The extent of this total destruction

URGE COUNTY MERGER PLAN

Brookings Body Advises Consolidations of 23 Counties

SUGGEST NEW MAP Standardized System for Local Governments Also Proposed

(Special to The Franklin Press)
RALEIGH, Feb. 11.—A plan for county consolidations which would affect a number of Western North Carolina counties is proposed in the Brookings report on county government made public this week by Governor Gardner.

The Brookings report was compiled by a group of governmental experts with headquarters in Washington who were employed by the governor last year to make a survey of both state and county governments in North Carolina.

The latest report from this body urges consolidation of 23 of the state's 100 counties into 11. A uniform governmental system for the counties is recommended with the following standardized units:

1. Board of county commissioners.
2. Department of finance.
3. Department of justice.
4. Department of education.
5. Department of health.
6. Department of highways and public works.
7. Department of welfare.
8. Audit department (state department of local government finances.)

"It is our recommendation that a careful study be made of this question of county consolidation," says the report, "and to this end we are listing certain specific instances in which...it is believed, such a consolidation could be made with advantage."

The following consolidations are urged:

- Cherokee and Clay counties, with Murphy as county seat.
- Graham and Swain counties, with Bryson City as county seat.
- Mitchell and Avery, with Spruce Pine as county seat.
- Henderson and Polk, with Hendersonville as county seat.
- Alexander and Iredell counties, with Statesville as county seat.
- Stokes and Forsyth, with Winston-Salem as county seat.
- Caswell and Person, with Roxboro as county seat.
- Hoke and Cumberland, with Fayetteville as county seat.
- Wilson and Greene, with Wilson as county seat.
- Chowan and Perquimans, with Edenton as county seat.
- Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck, with Elizabeth City as county seat.

If such consolidations were effected North Carolina would become a state with 88 counties instead of its present 100.

"It is recognized that the people of North Carolina are probably not now prepared for action so drastic," says the Brookings report...but it is none the less desirable that the matter should at least be brought to their attention so that they may be giving it their consideration with a view of possible action in the future."

Bill To Cut Cost of Advertising Tax Foreclosure Sales Is Drawn; Would Aid Burdened Land Owners

Editorial Statement

One Way To Help Taxpayer

A very large percentage of landowners, especially farmers, sooner or later go through the depressing experience of having their property put on the block at the courthouse door through inability, frequently merely temporary, to pay their taxes.

To protect the rights of the unfortunate property holder the law has provided a means of giving him and all other parties concerned full notice of sale. The action must be advertised in the public press for four consecutive weeks prior to sale. In a large majority of cases the delinquent taxpayer finds means during this time to raise the necessary funds to bid in his land. But he discovers later that he not only has to pay the back taxes and penalties but also must bear a heavy burden of special fees covering the legal expense. When the county gives him a statement of these he finds that besides recompensing the county for its expense, he also must pay, indirectly, a lawyer and a newspaper—the lawyer for preparing the legal papers and the newspaper for publishing them.

To the sorely burdened and bewildered taxpayer this seems to be adding insult to injury. He frequently grows warm under the collar and curses the newspaper for what appears to him the needless and exorbitant cost of legal advertising. He reads the advertisement and it seems meaningless. He is not sure whether it is his property or some one's else that is described in the long, technical, involved statement of metes and bounds. But he presumes it is; the sheriff and the lawyer have so told him and the advertisement ascribes it to him. He reads in columns adjoining that in which his property was advertised other advertisements almost exactly the same except for the parties concerned and the description of the property. The statement of the case, in each instance the same, takes up nearly half of the space for which he must pay.

Being a man of common sense, the landowner wonders why all this needless repetition and technical superficiality is necessary. Why couldn't the same statement of the case be applied to all of the tax foreclosures advertised? It would be an appreciable saving to the already overburdened taxpayer.

If these questions are voiced, the answer usually is merely that it is a legal formality which must be complied with.

Thomas J. Johnston, attorney for the Macon County Board of Commissioners, believes it is high time that something should be done about this. So he has prepared a bill, to be sent to Raleigh shortly, which would have the effect of eliminating some of the unnecessary, verbose repetitions and reduce the expenses of legal advertisements in cases of tax foreclosures from 40 to 60 per cent.

If this bill is enacted it will mean just so much money out of the pockets of the publishers—mostly the weekly publishers. Hardly anyone will deny that they need all they can put their hands on. An opulent weekly newspaper publisher, even a prosperous one, is scarce. However, The Franklin Press believes that the tax-delinquent should not be punished to the extent of having to pay for unnecessarily large legal advertisements just to help the editor along. The old method of advertising tax foreclosures is archaic and this newspaper heartily endorses Attorney Johnston's bill, but with one reservation—that it be amended so as to simplify and abbreviate the wordy, complicated legal descriptions of metes and bounds.

DEATH CLAIMS AGED RESIDENT OF COMMUNITY

After an illness of two weeks, Teck Myers, retired blacksmith and ardent fisherman, died at his home here at 2 o'clock Wednesday morning.

Mr. Myers, a son of Mr. and Mrs. Eli Myers, was born in Tennessee. The family removed to this county shortly after the War Between the States. For many years the elder and younger Myers conducted a blacksmith shop at the site where the Baptist church now stands.

At the time of his death Mr. Myers was 82 years old. He is survived by two brothers, Pink Myers, of Franklin, and Tenny Myers, of Baker, Ore. His wife died several years ago. They had no children. His niece, Mrs. George Conley, resided with Mr. Myers.

Funeral services were held at the home Wednesday afternoon with burial in the city cemetery.

MALE QUARTET TO RENDER PROGRAM FOR METHODISTS

Next Sunday evening a male quartet will sing two numbers at the Franklin Methodist church. The quartet is composed of G. C. Ervin, first tenor; T. D. Johnston, second tenor; R. C. Dady, first bass; and Rogers Dalton, second bass. The services will start at 7:30. Mr. Ervin's theme for the evening talk will be "David Livingstone, The Pathfinder."

At the morning hour Mr. Ervin will speak on the subject, "What Is the Simple Gospel?" Beginning a week from next Sunday morning he will preach a series of Lenten sermons on the life of Christ.

The Sunday school will meet at 9:45 a. m. It is hoped that all the members will make a special effort to be present next Sunday morning.

The Epworth League will have a Valentine party at the home of Mrs. J. S. Conley next Thursday evening at 7:30. This will be a masquerade party also, and all the members of the league are cordially invited to attend.

DR. ABERNETHY HOLDS SERVICES AT BRYSON CITY

Dr. Abernethy spent last Sunday in Bryson City, and preached in the First Baptist church there at the morning and evening services, for Dr. Creal, the pastor, who was in Florida with his sick wife. Dr. Abernethy reported that he had two fine services.

Thomas Gribble, of Sylva, occupied the pulpit here Sunday morning, using the third chapter of Proverbs as a foundation for his remarks. The congregation was delighted with his discourse.

The Rev. Thad Deitz, of Sylva, who is no stranger in Franklin, preached Sunday night to a well filled church. Rev. Mr. Deitz used as a text, Daniel 3-25, "And the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

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Indebtedness of Macon Not as Bad as Pictured

The current issue of the University of North Carolina News Letter, usually a very reliable and informative organ devoted principally to educational and governmental affairs of the state, carries a comparison of county debts which, lacking complete details and an explanation, is rather damaging to Macon county and, possibly, to other counties.

The comparisons are set forth in a table ranking the counties according to the percentage their indebtedness is of their assessed valuation. The county wide, district, township, city and school debts are listed in groups but the comparison is on the basis of the total of all of these.

Macon county is listed as having a total debt of \$1,648,925, or 22.1 per cent of its total valuation. This puts Macon 94th in the list, with only Clay, Cherokee, Buncombe, Transylvania, Henderson and Carter having a larger percentage of indebtedness. Currituck county leads the list with debts amounting to only 27 per cent of its assessed valuation.

The county wide debt for Macon is given as \$874,925; the district and township school debts as \$262,000; town debts (other than school) as \$512,000.

County Attorney Seeking To Modernize Old Legal Red Tape

Thomas J. Johnston, attorney for the Macon County Board of Commissioners, has prepared a bill for introduction in the General Assembly which would reduce the amount of space necessary for legal advertisements of tax foreclosure sales and cut the cost of such advertisements about 40 to 50 per cent.

Mr. Johnston plans to send the measure to Dr. W. A. Rogers, Macon's representative in the legislature, within a few days. The bill would make it unnecessary to repeat in each case the long statement of summons and notice.

The attorney pointed out that in some cases the court costs incident to tax foreclosures are greater than the amount of taxes in arrears. He expressed the opinion that his bill would appreciably reduce these expenses. The measure reads:

**A BILL TO BE ENTITLED,
"AN ACT TO ABRIDGE THE
REQUIREMENTS OF SECTION
2 OF CHAPTER 334 OF THE
PUBLIC LAWS OF 1929, RELATIVE
TO PUBLICATION OF
NOTICE IN TAX FORECLOSURE
SUITS."**

Whereas, in suits instituted for the foreclosure of tax certificates under the statutes applicable thereto, it is necessary that summons and notice of the action be published in a newspaper for four consecutive weeks; and whereas, in many cases, the court costs incident to the said suits far exceed the amount of taxes assessed against the real estate sought to be sold under the judgments in said foreclosure suits, and constitute a heavy burden upon the taxpayers and upon the counties; and whereas, it is to the public interest that the costs of said suits be held to as low a figure as can be done:

Now, therefore,

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That where a number of suits are being prosecuted simultaneously in any county for the foreclosure of tax certificates, all of which are returnable upon the same day; and where publication of summons and notice in said suits is being made concurrently in the same newspaper, and the same are being published in order, in consecutive columns, with no intervening printed matter between the various notices, it shall only be necessary to publish the full notice prescribed by Section 2 of Chapter 334 of the Public Laws of 1929 in the first in order of said notices; and as to all the remaining notices, it shall be sufficient to publish the title of the action and a description of the property involved, to which shall be added a statement to the effect that the defendants and all parties interested are required to appear at the

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MOTORCADE TO MARK OPENING

Stretch of Surfacing at Baldwin To Be Opened February 22

FRANKLIN TO PROFIT

Gainesville Planning To Put on Motorcade February 24

The last of the concrete has been poured on the Atlanta Short Route, linking Asheville and the Georgia metropolis with a solid stretch of hard-surfacing, 57 miles shorter than any other route. A letter received by The Franklin Press Wednesday from A. S. Hardy, president of the Gainesville, Ga., chamber of commerce, announced that the last link of the paved highway would be opened to traffic on Sunday, February 22, and that on Tuesday, February 22, a motorcade of Gainesville business men and others would come to Franklin in celebration of the event.

Opening of the concrete stretch between Baldwin and New Holland will mark the completion of a hard-surfaced highway from Quebec, Canada, to Miami and Tampa, Florida, via Asheville and Franklin, North Carolina, and Gainesville and Atlanta, Georgia.

To Boost Business

The distance by the highway from Asheville to Atlanta will be 220 miles. The route by Murphy, which now draws a large part of the tourist traffic, is 57 miles longer. Opening of the road between Baldwin and New Holland is expected to bring hundreds more automobiles and tourists through Franklin, with a consequent increase in business for Franklin merchants.

There has been some talk of a motorcade from Atlanta to Asheville to celebrate the completion of the Short Route, but no word has been received here of definite plans other than those set forth by the Gainesville chamber of commerce.

"Gainesville is not endeavoring to secure any advertising for itself out of this motorcade," said the letter received by The Press, "but simply is paying a friendly visit to our friends in the respective towns."

"At this season of the year the weather conditions are, of course, uncertain. Therefore, if Tuesday, the 24th, should be a bad day, we will postpone the trip until a day when weather conditions are all right. However, we are going ahead with our plans for the 24th, and any cooperation you may be able to give us will be greatly appreciated."

To Make Many Stops

The motorcade plans call for stops at Lula, Alto, Baldwin, Cornelia, Clarksville and Clayton before the good-will cavalcade reaches Franklin.

A movement already has been started here to extend an official welcome to the visitors and to provide them with entertainment.

Gainesville is making extensive plans for the motorcade and committees to arrange for various details of the highway celebration have been appointed.

Trash Clean-up Urged by Henry

It's time to start spring cleaning, Police Chief Bob Henry announced Wednesday, and the city forces are ready to cooperate with all who are in the mood of getting things shipshape for warmer weather.

Winter may not be quite over, but Chief Henry believes in an early start and he said he will do his part to see that all trash and debris are removed as soon as a householder or who else has any trash calls for the city truck. He pointed out, however, that the men in charge of the truck cannot rake back yards and do the cleaning; the trash should be gathered together in a spot accessible to the truck.

Chief Henry emphasized that with the motorcade coming here February 24 from Gainesville, Ga., it is particularly urgent that the community get busy and clean up as soon as possible.