

HUNDREDS SIGN BANK CONTRACTS

DISTRICT FARM MEETINGS HELD

Demonstration Agent and Extension Specialist Touring County

ITINERARY MAPPED Many Meetings Scheduled To Be Conducted Next Week

Fred S. Sloan, county farm demonstration agent, is holding a series of district farm meetings throughout the county at which he and experts from Raleigh are assisting the farmers in mapping their crop plans for the year. Mr. Sloan, accompanied by F. R. Farnham, dairy specialist of the North Carolina State college extension service, held district meetings Tuesday at R. C. Sutton's farm near Clark's Chapel, and at Robert Fulton's farm at Cullasaja. On Wednesday three meetings were held, at Elbert Bryson's, Cullasaja; at C. W. Henderson's place, Gneiss, and at Will Higdon's farm at Higdonville.

Other Meetings

Other meetings scheduled for this week follow:

Thursday, 10 a. m., Jake Deal's, Rabbit Creek; 1 p. m., Ed Kerr's, Watauga; 4 p. m., C. H. McClure's, Otto.

Friday, 10 a. m., Maxwell School, Cartoogechaye; 1 p. m., John Roan's, Cartoogechaye; 4 p. m., Ledford's store, Burnington.

On Saturday, each week, Mr. Sloan will be in his office at the courthouse.

Next Week's Schedule

Mr. Sloan will be accompanied at the meetings to be held next week by C. G. Filler, beef cattle and sheep specialist of the State Department of Agriculture. The schedule follows:

Monday, 10 a. m., Gribble's store, Prentiss; 1 p. m., Walter Gibson's, Iota; 4 p. m., Sam Sweetman's, Iota.

Tuesday, 10 a. m., Morrison's store, West's Mill; 1 p. m., Doc Hall's, Etna; 4 p. m., Robert Ramsey's, Tellico.

Wednesday, 10 a. m., J. D. Burnett's, Sealy; 2 p. m., Frank Hill's, Horse Cove.

Thursday, 10 a. m., general store, Aquone; 1 p. m., store, Kyle; 4 p. m., store, Flats.

Friday, 10 a. m., Henry's store, Ellijay; 2 p. m., Potts' store, Highlands.

R. D. SISK NAMED SENIOR WARDEN BY EPISCOPALIANS

Following the service on Sunday morning conducted by the Rt. Rev. Junius M. Horner, D. D., Episcopal bishop of Western North Carolina, the congregation of St. Agnes church held an election of officers for the year 1931. In the absence of a minister in charge, the bishop called and presided at this meeting, announcing that he hoped that the efforts to secure a minister for the churches of Franklin and Highlands would be successful in the near future.

The following officers were elected:

R. D. Sisk, senior warden; B. W. Johnson, junior warden; Mrs. Mangum, secretary and treasurer. Mrs. J. W. C. Johnson was elected delegate to the Annual Convention to be held in Asheville, March 12 and 13.

ERVIN TO GIVE SPECIAL LENTEN SERMON SERIES

Next Sunday morning Mr. Ervin will begin a series of Lenten sermons on the life of Christ. This series will end on Easter Sunday. The scene from the life of Christ which will be presented next Sunday morning will be that of the "Temptation," the subject being "Wilderness Hours." At 7:30 p. m. Mr. Ervin will deliver a biographical sermon on "George Washington." Are the "debunkers" right in their estimate of him or not? Come and hear Mr. Ervin's opinion. Mr. Ervin will preach at Carson's Chapel as usual next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock.

Azalea Festival Proposed By Miss Elizabeth Kelly; Would Attract Thousands

Asheville has its rhododendron festival, Charleston its magnolia gardens, which attract thousands of people from far and wide. But Macon county, in the opinion of Miss Elizabeth Kelly, has in its profusion of azalea, especially on Wayah Bald, a gift of nature which outshines Charleston's vaunted magnolias and Asheville's far-advertised rhododendron.

Miss Kelly believes that it would be a wise and gracious thing for Macon county to make known to the world the beauty it possesses and to broadcast an invitation to the people of North Carolina and other states to visit us early in June and see for themselves the marvelous sight of a whole mountain top clad in beautiful, fragrant flowers. She suggested that it might be desirable to set aside a period when the azalea blooms are at their best as "Azalea Week" and to put on a special festival, possibly a pageant, for the entertainment both of visitors and home-folks.

Road To Be Ready

The Forestry Service soon is to begin work on the grading of the road from highway No. 28 through Nantahala Gap. The work, at least as far as the gap near where the road leading to the top of Wayah Bald turns off, probably will be finished by azalea time, according to Supervisor A. A. Wood of the Nantahala National forest. Mr. Wood commended the proposal of Miss Kelly and added his opinion that Wayah Bald with the azaleas in bloom is one of the most beautiful sights to be found in the mountains of eastern America.

"Charleston's magnolia gardens, nor Asheville's rhododendron festival, with their thousands of visitors, can compare in sheer beauty to Macon county's wealth of white azalea in season," Miss Kelly declared. "Early in June this rare variety of azalea is at its best with rich green foliage and masses of fragrant flowers. At this time Wayah Bald is indescribably beautiful with its rugged, treeless top clothed with acres of this fragrant

shrub. No other place does it grow and bloom so luxuriantly.

Warns of Vandals

"We natives know the beauty of the Wayah decked in its exclusive robe in June and we want others to share it, provided they come to enjoy and not to despoil. The fear of vandalism has made us loth to tell others of this beauty and has made us a bit fearful of results since good roads have made this heretofore secluded place available to the automobile prowler and plunderer.

"Our wish is to show folks the way to this beautiful place that it may bring joy to them and not that its beauty might be broken, trampled and destroyed.

Describes Beauties

"The road to Wayah Bald winds through virgin forests and banks of fern. From the mountaintop there spreads for miles in every direction magnificent views of billowy green mountains, hills and valleys. Nowhere in North Carolina is there an accessible place with a view to equal this in extent and beauty. Of course, this statement will be challenged by backers of Mount Mitchell, Grandfather, Caesars' Head, Rhone, Pisgah and many other lovely and favorite North Carolina peaks east of the Balsams. We have in Macon county Whiteside, Satula, Sealy, Standing Indian, Siler Bald and others with which to meet all comers and contenders, and still have left Wayah Bald with its twin peak, Wine Spring Bald, as the loveliest and most desirable of all in azalea time in June.

"Would it not be a gracious thing for us mountain folks of Macon to give to North Carolina and surrounding states a neighborly invitation to come along in June and enjoy with us the wonderful beauty of azalea time on the Wayah?" "We have the roads, we have the flowers, we have the scenery. Have we the foresight and the will to plan a safe and sane festival that will satisfy and compensate visitors who may come to share the gifts which Nature has so lavishly bestowed upon us?"

held a called session Monday and voted to authorize signing in behalf of the town of an agreement to allow its deposits in the Bank of Franklin to remain intact until October, 1933. Besides the sinking fund money the town had a checking account in the bank. Separate and apart from the indebtedness of the town of Franklin there are outstanding \$66,000 in bonds for the Franklin school district and \$90,000 in Franklin township road bonds. These bonds are to be paid by the school district and township, respectively, not by the town.

Mr. Dean pointed out that Franklin has a remarkably low tax rate, 75 cents on \$100 valuation.

FRANKLIN DEBT ONLY \$54,000

Town's Tax Rate of \$.75 On \$100 Valuation Is Unusually Low

Franklin has a bonded indebtedness of approximately \$54,000, according to a survey of the town's financial affairs made public this week by George Dean, town clerk.

The total outstanding bonds of the Town of Franklin amount to \$353,500. Mr. Dean's statement shows, but of this amount \$299,500 were assumed by the Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., in the purchase of the town's hydro-electric power plant.

Approximately \$12,000 has been accumulated, the clerk said, to take care of payments on the town debt. About half of this sum, which constitutes the bond sinking fund, is tied up in the closed Bank of Franklin. The other half has been let out on loans. The town board

Bad Man from Buncombe Is Back in Macon Jail

Troy Ingle, bad man from Buncombe, is back in the Macon county jail, from which he escaped over a year ago. Authorities in Asheville notified Sheriff Slagle last week that they were holding Ingle for this county. The jail breaker was picked up and brought back to Franklin Sunday night by Sheriff Slagle and Deputy George Mallonee, who were returning from Winston-Salem with another prisoner.

Ingle, who was originally arrested here on a charge of transporting whiskey, escaped from jail in the autumn of 1929 while he was awaiting trial in the superior court. He broke through the ceiling of his cell, knocked the bricks out of a gable and lowered himself to the ground. Four other prisoners escaped with him. Two were later caught. Ingle now faces charges of transporting whiskey and breaking jail. The prisoner brought back from Winston-Salem was Arnold MacMeans, charged with abandonment of his wife and two children, who live in Cowee township. After a preliminary hearing before Magistrate Carpenter Monday MacMeans was bound over to Superior Court. The sheriff and his deputy experienced no trouble with the prisoners.

JOHNSTON BILL STIRS COMMENT

Editorial in Asheville Newspaper Commends Proposal

TO HELP TAXPAYER Measure Seeks To Lower Tax Foreclosure Expenses

The bill drawn by Thomas J. Johnston, attorney for the Macon County Board of Commissioners, to reduce the cost of legal advertising in tax foreclosure proceedings, is attracting considerable comment here and elsewhere. In almost all quarters yet heard from the proposal has been favorably received.

Mr. Johnston's measure would make useless repetition unnecessary in advertisements of tax foreclosure sales, paving the way for savings to the county, the tax delinquent or the person bidding in the property of about 50 per cent. The attorney pointed out that in many instances the amount of legal costs, together with penalties, frequently amounts to more than the past due taxes for which property is advertised for sale.

The bill was sent to Dr. W. A. Rogers, Macon County's representative in the General Assembly, last week. Dr. Rogers, here for the week-end, said he had not yet received it but expected he would find it in his mail when he returned to Raleigh. He reserved comment on the measure until he had had an opportunity to study it.

Asheville Times' Comment

Commenting editorially on the proposal, The Asheville Times says: "In these troublous days the foreclosure of tax certificates touches almost as many people as does the possession of certificates of bank deposit. Increasing the burden of the burdened taxpayer, the present legal requirements for sale of property for taxes result in a large bill of costs.

"Thomas J. Johnston of Franklin, attorney for the Macon County Board of Commissioners, finds that in some cases the costs incident to tax foreclosures are greater than the amount of delinquent taxes. Mr. Johnston has therefore prepared a bill to reduce these costs and his measure will shortly be introduced in the Legislature.

"This bill aims particularly to limit to smaller proportions the newspaper space now required for publication of the foreclosure notices. Looked at from another angle, it is a bill to reduce the advertising revenue of newspapers.

"But the Johnston bill, enacted, will contribute to the public interest by saving taxpayers much money in the course of the fiscal years. For that reason all the newspapers may be expected to favor its adoption. Money devoted to excessive costs in tax suits will do communities, including the newspapers, much more good if circulated in other ways."

UNION SERVICE HELD SUNDAY AT BAPTIST CHURCH

One hundred and fifteen attended Sunday school last Sunday morning at the Baptist church, about one-half of the enrollment.

Dr. Abernethy used as foundation for his sermon Sunday morning, John 14:6, "Jesus said I am the life." He appeared at his best delivering a fine sermon in a well-filled house.

Dr. C. E. Cunningham, of Angel Brothers' hospital, rendered a violin solo, Cavatina, by Raff, to the delight of the congregation. Dr. Cunningham is to play again Sunday, March 1.

A union service was held at the Baptist church last Sunday night. The pastors of the Methodist and Presbyterian churches and their official feature of the service. Mr. Avery, pastor of the West Asheville Presbyterian church, gave a stenographic show of the Holy Land to a capacity house. He was assisted by his wife. The Franklin quartet, Rev. Clifton Ervin, Roy C. Dady, Thos. Johnston, Jr., and Roger Dalton, rendered two selections, "Swing Low Sweet Chariot" and "Now the Day Is Over."

Urges Reopening of Bank

Franklin, N. C., February 16, 1931.

Editor, Franklin Press,
Dear Sir:
Franklin, N. C.

At this time it may or it may not be best for me to say a word or two about the banking situation in Franklin. Soon after the bank closed, it was generally understood on what we thought was good authority, that it would require something like \$130,000 in cash to reopen the Bank of Franklin. I considered that, and still consider it, a requirement that we could not meet. Since then we have had information from the Corporation Commission which leads me to believe it possible to reopen the Bank of Franklin. I do not think anyone interested in the welfare of Franklin and Macon County believes that it would not be very much better to reopen the Bank of Franklin than it would be to establish a new bank. One of the objections that I heard urged by some depositors against opening the bank, is the lack of interest they would receive upon their money during the time they agree to leave it untouched. This is an objectionable condition, if there were any way to avoid it, but there is unfortunately no way. The question the people must decide for themselves is whether they can get their money out of the bank quicker by reopening the Bank of Franklin and letting it liquidate the assets up to December 16th, or leave it as it is and let the Corporation Commission continue the task in which it is now engaged.

Referring again to the matter of the loss of interest on the part of depositors, I wish to call attention to the fact that the stockholders until the depositors are paid in full. This is to some extent an offset to the objection I have referred to above. My very candid judgment is that if the Bank of Franklin can be reopened, the depositors will receive their money in a shorter time than if the present system is continued.

The depositors signing a contract for their deposits to remain in the bank for any stated length of time does not mean by any means, that the stockholders will be released from their assessment, but on the contrary, no stockholder is relieved of his assessment until every depositor has been paid in full, regardless of the date set for such payment. The agreement prepared for the stockholders to sign postpones payment until October 1, 1933. This does not mean that the depositors will not receive their money until that date. As collections are made, and so soon as 10 per cent is available, this amount will be immediately distributed among the several depositors.

The community as a whole is vitally interested in this question. Anything done now, except in a spirit of the most hearty cooperation, will be an injury to the town and the community. After having been connected with the affairs of the bank for sixty days as liquidating agent, I do not hesitate to say that it will be decidedly better for every member of this community and for all persons interested, either directly or indirectly, in the Bank of Franklin, to reopen it if it is possible to do so.

Yours very truly,
M. D. BILLINGS.

Gainesville Motorcade To Come To Franklin Tuesday

ALEX MOORE'S BOY IMPROVES

Lad Struck by Auto Last Saturday Seriously Injured

Alex Moore, Jr., 10-year-old son of former Sheriff Alex Moore, was reported Wednesday to be recovering from injuries received late Saturday afternoon when he was knocked down by an automobile reported to have been driven by Daniel West, 18.

Young Moore was returning from his father's farm on the Georgia highway in a wagon with his father and others. Near the residence of Dr. W. A. Rogers he jumped from the wagon and started across the street. The automobile struck him before the driver had time to halt his machine.

The lad was rushed to Angel Brothers' hospital, where it was reported his injuries were serious although no bones were broken. West was placed under a \$200 bond pending a hearing.

A motorcade of citizens from Gainesville, Ga., is planning to come to Franklin next Tuesday, if the weather is good, to celebrate the opening of the last link of paving on the Atlanta short route, which links Asheville and the Georgia metropolis 57 miles closer than any other highway.

Letters received by Franklin business men announcing the coming of the motorcade said that it was merely a neighborly good will trip and that no special entertainment would be expected. However, it was requested that public officials and others be on hand for the sake of getting acquainted.

Tourists coming through Franklin Wednesday reported that the road already is open all the way from Atlanta, with no detours, although it was not scheduled to open until Sunday.

3 Negroes Charged With Stealing Feed

Three negroes are being held in the Macon county jail awaiting hearing before Magistrate Carpenter Monday on a charge of stealing a sack of cottonseed meal. The feed, it was reported, fell off Cary Patton's automobile on Main street Saturday and the negroes, Tom Gibson, Bob Chavers and George MacDonald, picked it up.

Main Street Undergoing An Early Spring Cleaning

Police Chief Bob Henry, among whose duties is that of seeing that Franklin's streets are kept presentable, doesn't wait for paint-up week to do his spring painting.

Already the chief has started getting things ready for the crowds that warm weather and the opening of the Georgia highway promise to bring to Franklin.

Early this week he had all of the trash cans and paper receptacles along Main street painted in a bright, fresh coat of red. Now they stand out like red-coated sentinels. Yesterday workmen began white-

washing the trunks of Main street's trees. This will be finished in a day or so and by the time the motorcade from Gainesville comes here next week Chief Henry hopes to have things looking spic and span. He has requested that individual property owners help him in the task by having an early spring cleaning at their homes and places of business.

The chief especially urges that people have ashes and other trash removed from their yards. He will have the garbage and trash removal truck call upon notice that it is desired.

BIG SHARE OF FUNDS FROZEN

650 Depositors Agree To Terms for Reopening Franklin Bank

MASS MEETING HELD Rogers Thinks Creditors Will Be Paid Quicker Under Reopening

With 400 agreements to freeze deposits signed following a mass meeting in the county court house Saturday afternoon and others coming in every day, prospects are encouraging for the reopening of the Bank of Franklin.

A total of 650 of the contract forms being circulated among depositors had been returned with

Urge Prompt Signing Of Contract Forms

The committee in charge of activities looking toward reviving the Bank of Franklin requests that all depositors who have not yet signed agreements for freezing deposits, upon which reopening of the institution depends, to do so immediately. Prompt action on the part of depositors will hasten the reopening. On the other hand, delay may jeopardize the whole proposition. Blank contract forms setting forth the agreement necessary for depositors to make have been circulated throughout the county. If you have not received one, a copy can be obtained from almost any business man or attorney in Franklin.

signatures Wednesday night. Included among those who had signed it was stated, were practically all of the largest depositors. Well over 50 per cent of the deposits already have been frozen, it was stated, but the exact amount could not be determined without a check against the bank's books.

Rogers Urges Reopening

Dr. W. A. Rogers, president of the bank, came all the way from Raleigh, where he is representing Macon county in the General Assembly, to preside over the mass meeting held Saturday. He told the gathering that officials of the Corporation Commission, which has supervision over state banks, had advised him that it would be necessary for the depositors to agree to leave their funds intact, until October, 1933, before any further steps could be taken looking toward reopening the bank. He also said he had been informed that it would not be necessary to raise anything like the sum of \$132,000, stipulated by Bank Examiner Henson several weeks ago, to reopen the bank. The necessary funds, he announced, will be forthcoming as soon as the depositors sign the agreements to freeze their accounts.

Dr. Rogers expressed the opinion that if the bank is reopened the depositors will get their money quicker than if liquidation continues on the present basis. He also explained that interest will not be paid whether the bank is opened or not and that, if it is reopened, the few who may refuse to sign agreements to freeze their deposits will not get their money any earlier than those who do.

Loudly Applauded

A loud round of applause followed Dr. Rogers' address. Committees are now going about the county circulating the forms for freezing deposits. Within a few days it is expected that nearly all of the depositors will have been reached. Some of the depositors, however, must be reached by mail, and this may occasion some delay.

ENTERTAINMENT TO BE PRESENTED BY BIBLE CLASS

The members of the F. S. Johnston Bible class of the Franklin Methodist church will entertain with a "Community meet" in the basement of the church on the evening of Friday, February 27 from 7:30 until 9 o'clock. A nominal admission fee will be charged.