

MOTORCADE ATTRACTS CROWDS

HIGHWAY BILL APPROVED HERE

Macon County Officials And Others Endorse Gardner Plan

WIRE DR. ROGERS House Passes Measure for State To Take Over County Roads

Governor Gardner's highway bill, now before the State Senate after being passed by the House of Representatives by a vote of 89 to 16, has the approval of all of Macon county's public officers and a large number of other prominent residents of the county.

This was revealed Saturday when the following telegram was sent to Dr. W. A. Rogers, Macon's representative in the General Assembly:

"We urge you to support administration road bill. We believe it to be for the best interest of the people of Macon county."

Endorse Bill

The telegram was signed by the following:

W. D. Barnard, chairman of the Board of Commissioners; Walter Gibson, county commissioner; Charles H. McClure, county commissioner; Dr. S. H. Lyle, Sheriff A. B. Slagle; M. D. Billings, county superintendent of schools; Frank I. Murray, clerk of superior court; C. Tom Bryson, register of deeds; C. W. Teague, road supervisor; C. L. Ingram, tax collector; B. M. Angel, Ras Penland; E. W. Long, J. R. Morrison; George Patton, chairman of the Macon County Democratic executive committee; A. R. Higdon, chairman of the Macon County Republican executive committee; H. W. Cabe; A. L. Ramsey; C. F. Moody; R. D. Sisk, Elias Ammons; W. B. McGuire, P. N. Moses; T. J. Johnston.

Governor Appreciative

This support brought from Governor Gardner an expression of appreciation through a letter addressed to T. J. Johnston, as follows:

"I have just seen a copy of the telegram signed by yourself and other leading citizens of Macon county to Hon. W. A. Rogers, member of the House of Representatives.

"I cannot tell you how deeply I appreciate this splendid manifestation of confidence and support. Cordially yours, O. Max Gardner."

From the first local leaders have outspokenly approved Governor Gardner's proposal for the state to take over maintenance of county highways, but for a while there was considerable opposition to his plan to reduce the number of highway commissioners to five, lest J. C. Stikeleather be displaced as commissioner in charge of this area. However, the governor agreed to an amendment to the highway bill providing for six commissioners and a chairman. This reassured the Macon county leaders, for it is regarded likely that Mr. Stikeleather will be reappointed. Although the districts will be wiped out under the bill, it is felt that Mr. Stikeleather will be in position to look out for this county's interests.

Tax To Be Raised

The gasoline tax would be raised from five to six cents a gallon, under terms of the bill, to take care of the additional expense to the state. It has been estimated that the measure would save the counties approximately \$6,000,000. If the gasoline tax should be increased and the present highway system continued, it is estimated that Macon's share in the gas tax surplus would be in the neighborhood of \$48,000.

A strong fight over the Gardner road plan was predicted in the Senate, especially over the provision for working state convicts on the highways. Enemies of the measure have charged that an effort is being made to cover up a deficit at the State prison.

Slide Nearly Blocks Road to Highlands

A rock weighing many tons crashed from a high bank on the Highlands road near Thompson's camp Wednesday night of last week and, until it was removed a day or so later, nearly blocked the highway.

Luckily, no one was passing at the time of the crash. The rock was about as large and many times heavier than an automobile. It brought down with it a big pile of dirt and loose rocks.

Travelers have reported that another large rock, about opposite the lower falls in Cullasaja Gorge, is a grave peril to all who pass. This rock, which is about 20 feet from the edge of the road bank, is said to have slid over 40 feet within the past year.

ENDS TERM AS PASTOR HERE

Baptist Church To Do Without Minister For Awhile

Dr. W. E. Abernethy, who for the past year has been pastor of the Franklin Baptist church, announced to the congregation last Sunday morning that he was no longer their preacher. He said the board of deacons had informed him that, for financial reasons, it had voted to do without a pastor for the time being.

The veteran minister, who is known all over North Carolina as an eloquent preacher and well-read theologian and scholar, told the church members, however, that as long as he remained in Franklin he would be glad to serve the church. "I am a preacher first of all," he said, "and as such it is my business to preach. Although I am no longer your pastor, I will preach here tonight and shall be glad to do so as long as I remain in Franklin."

Dr. Abernethy said he had no criticism to make of the board but expressed the hope that the congregations soon would find itself in position to call a pastor, whether they decided to give him another invitation or whether they voted to call another man.

His sermon Sunday morning was based on the text: "On the east three gates; on the south three gates; on the west three gates, and on the north three gates."—Revelation 21:13.

The keynote of the sermon was that there is an opening for every man in God's scheme of things.

At the evening service he used Matthew 5:13, "I am come not to destroy, but to fulfill."

At the morning service Misses Gladys Pannel and Jarvice Ledford sang a duet.

The B. Y. P. U. met at 7:00 p. m. and carried out their program to the benefit of all present. The W. M. U. will meet at the home of Mrs. R. M. Ledford Thursday afternoon at 3 o'clock. A full attendance is requested. This organization is to finish a study course at that meeting. They have been anxious to finish the course before the day of prayer, which is to be held one day in the first week in March.

Blood Hounds Are Used To Track Store Robber

Silas Dean's store in Cowee township was entered sometime Monday night and goods valued at approximately \$100 stolen, it was reported to the office of Sheriff A. B. Slagle. More than half a dozen store robberies have been reported in the county within the past six weeks and the sheriff and his deputies are determined to put an end to the series of thefts.

Shortly after the robbery at Dean's store was reported, the sheriff sent to Buncombe for a pair of bloodhounds. These were taken to the store and soon picked up a trail which led them to a

URGES BETTER PASTURE LANDS

Livestock Specialist Is Heard at Series of Farm Meetings

C. G. FILLER SPEAKS County Agent Sloan Nears End of Agricultural Campaign

Crop and pasture improvement is the keynote of an agricultural program for Macon county being mapped at a series of farm meetings conducted in various sections of the county by Fred S. Sloan, farm demonstration agent.

Mr. Sloan is winding up an intensive two weeks' campaign of 24 meetings. Today he has meetings scheduled at Aquone in the morning and Kyle in the afternoon. Tomorrow he will meet with the farmers of the Ellijay section at Henry's store at 10 o'clock in the morning, and with farmers in the vicinity of Highlands at Port's store.

Last week the farm demonstration agent was assisted at the various meetings by F. R. Farnham, dairy specialist of North Carolina State college. This week he is being accompanied by C. G. Filler, beef cattle and sheep specialist of the State Department of Agriculture.

The farm experts have not been over-encouraging in their expressions of opinion as to the agricultural outlook. On the other hand, they have warned the farmers not to expect very large cash returns from their crops for the next few years, pointing out that recovery from the present financial depression and overstocked condition of world markets will be slow. First of all, they have advised farmers to "farm to live at home," to grow sufficient food and feedstuffs for their families and livestock.

Before any progress can be realized by Macon county dairymen and cattle raisers, according to Mr. Filler, they first will have to improve their pastures. He expressed surprise that Macon, which claims to be a dairymen county, does not pay more attention to its pasture lands. They are among the poorest found in the state, he said, citing figures to show that the average pasture acreage required per head of cattle in this county is seven, whereas it should be only one.

RESIDENTS ASK IMPROVED ROAD TO HORSE COVE

A group of Highlands and Horse Cove residents came to Franklin Monday to place before Supervisor A. A. Wood of the Nantaha National forest an urgent request for the building of a new road or improvement of the present one from Highlands to Horse Cove.

While Mr. Wood gave them no definite promise, members of the delegation said following the conference that they felt encouraged. Included in the group were Professor T. G. Harbison and Frank Cook, of Highlands; Frank Hill, of Horse Cove, and his daughter, Mrs. Helen Norris of Atlanta.

OPERATIONS AT FRANKLIN MICA PLANT RESUMED

The Asheville Mica company's Franklin plant has resumed operations, according to an announcement by J. W. Roper, manager. The plant reopened the latter part of last week with 8 employees at work. Later, Mr. Roper said, it is hoped that business will justify expansion of operations. When the plant is operating on a normal basis it employs about 30 girls and several men.

Bank Plans Near Success; \$300,000 Deposits 'Frozen'

Reopening Now Depends On Signatures of Few Depositors

Cooperation Urged

Plans for reopening the Bank of Franklin are being pushed steadily forward.

Wednesday night 1,082 depositors had signed agreements to freeze their deposits until October, 1933. While definite figures were not available, it was estimated that approximately \$300,000 in deposits were covered by these agreements.

Success of the Bank of Franklin plans now rests with the few who have not signed the contracts, according to members of the committee of depositors and stockholders in charge of the reopening project.

Replies from 200 depositors who live outside the county and who had to be reached by mail are now coming in, daily swelling the amount of "frozen" assets, according to Gilmer A. Jones, Franklin attorney who has been active in circulating the blank contract forms.

"Freezing" Necessary The Corporation Commission, which has supervision over state banks, has stipulated that the first and principal requisite for reopening the bank will be the signing of these contracts. The forms now being circulated have been approved by the commission. It is necessary, according to the reopening committee, for practically all depositors to sign the contracts. Until this task is accomplished no further steps can be taken. But when the depositors have signed it is believed that it will be a matter of only about two weeks, possibly less, before the bank can again open its doors for business.

Hard at Work

For nearly two weeks a group of 17 men have been devoting practically their full time to the work of reaching the depositors and securing their signatures to contracts not to withdraw their funds. They have defied the elements and mud and gone in automobiles and afoot to all sections of the county.

Two of them, Joseph Ashcar and Edward S. Eaton, went through four miles of mud to reach a certain depositor. They secured his signature to a contract, then asked him how much he had in the bank. The depositor told them \$150.

Cowee township is reported to be leading all others in the number of depositors who have signed all but one.

FORMER MAYOR OF ASHEVILLE KILLS HIMSELF

Former Mayor Gallatin Roberts of Asheville, one of the 18 public officials and bankers indicted by the Buncombe county grand jury last week for conspiracy to defraud the city and county, committed suicide Wednesday afternoon, according to word brought to Franklin last night.

Mr. Roberts, it was reported, shot his brains out with a pistol in the Legal Building just across the lawn from the courthouse. He was said to have left three notes.

Mr. Roberts resigned as mayor of Asheville shortly after the closing of the Central Bank and Trust company revealed irregularities in the handling of public funds.

Committee Statement

ON Saturday, February 14, the joint committee, consisting of the committee appointed by the depositors and the committee appointed by the Board of Directors of the Bank of Franklin began its work of getting the deposits of the bank frozen in order that the way might be made clear for the bank to reopen. It has been just ten working days since the work was undertaken, and in that time almost eleven hundred depositors have signed the contract approved by the corporation commission.

The committee realized at the outset that it was undertaking a task of no small moment. Had it not been for the splendid cooperation received from the public in general, and from a group of volunteers in particular, the progress which has been made would not have been possible. Men, in some instances have volunteered and have gone from house to house, in some cases on foot, making a complete canvass, their only hope of reward being that the bank might open again, and that business might be restored to a normal condition.

As long as there is a hope for the Bank of Franklin to be reopened, the committee to whom this work was entrusted does not intend to relax its efforts. Still, the question of whether or not the bank will be reopened is a matter to be decided by those who have money on deposit, for unless the deposits are first frozen, any attempt to reopen the bank would be time and effort thrown away. A great many accounts, an amount, we believe, equaling as much as five per cent of the total amount on deposit, are in the names of persons who reside outside of Macon county and cannot be reached, or are in the names of persons who are dead and no one qualified to sign for them. There are some who are dead and no one qualified to sign for them. There are some who hesitate to sign the contract for the good and sufficient reason that they do not thoroughly understand its legal significance. There are some who intend to sign the contract sooner or later, but are simply putting it off, not realizing that their delay is increasing the work of the committee and those who are so ably helping it, but that they are also delaying the reopening of the bank. And there are some, a very few, we believe, who are selfishly declining to sign, hoping that enough of the deposits will be frozen for the bank to be reopened, and that they, by failing to sign the contract, will be enabled to withdraw their money immediately when the bank is opened again. If we are correctly informed, these people will be sadly disappointed.

Each member of the committee, consisting of Joseph Ashcar, C. B. Russell, Dr. W. E. Furr, S. L. Franks, M. L. Dowdle, Geo. B. Patton, R. D. Sisk and Gilmer A. Jones, will be glad to give any person such information as they may desire in regard to the meaning and effect of the contract. Any communication addressed to either of them will be immediately answered. If you have not signed the agreement, please communicate with one of the men named above as soon as possible. If you have, please exert every effort to assist us in carrying the work along. Although a large majority of the depositors have signed, and a large per cent of the deposits have been frozen, the future of the bank is yet to be determined—to be determined by those who have not agreed to accept the Corporation Commission's terms.

Macon county has, beyond all question, reached its greatest crisis. Both banks are closed, business is at a standstill, hundreds are without employment and in some sections there are families who are beginning to feel the sting of want and destitution, a strange thing indeed for our county. But as in any crisis, the burden of the solution of it is placed upon the shoulders of the people at large. So far they have thrown themselves wholeheartedly into the task. We sincerely hope that nothing will thwart them in their purpose until the task has been completed.

Again we ask that you exert every effort to help us carry this work to its completion.

Respectfully,
THE COMMITTEE.

Lawmakers 'Prayer-Proof,' Says Legislative Writer

25 Million State's Share in Cash Bonus

CHARLOTTE, Feb. 25.—Should the compensation legislation approved by both houses of Congress become law, it would be possible for North Carolina veterans to receive approximately \$25,000,000 in cash, according to the estimate of J. S. Pittman, of Charlotte, regional director of the United States Veterans Bureau.

The exact sum coming to North Carolina veterans would be determined by the number obtaining the full 50 per cent allowed on the face value of their certificates.

Not Even Preachers Can Get Action out of Assembly

RALEIGH, Feb. 25.—If you have not been up to Raleigh during the last week or so, you could take the trip and give the legislature a look in.

BY CARL GOERCH

The boys have at last not warmed up, and they're now missing on all six cylinders. The only thing on which they've been able to agree thus far is that it's O. K. for them to take their pay checks.

Each day's session is opened with prayer. The preachers in Raleigh first tried to cope with the situation but found it to be too much for them. Since then, preachers have been coming from all parts of the state, but the legislature seems to be prayer-proof. One of these days somebody is going to open the day's session with a gun, instead of with prayer, and then things may begin to happen.

Business conditions throughout North Carolina have improved a great deal during the last two months. Up until the time that the legislature met, everybody could talk and think of nothing except hard times. Since then, however, attention has been focused almost exclusively on the General Assembly. As a result, business has been moving along much more briskly.

400 GEORGIANS VISIT FRANKLIN

Nearly 100 Automobiles Take Part in Good Will Caravan

FROM GAINESVILLE Visitors Given Hearty Welcome By Mayor George Patton

Practically the whole populace of Franklin and scores of persons from other parts of the county thronged the business section Tuesday afternoon to welcome the motorcade of 75 to 100 automobiles which came here from Gainesville, Ga., in celebration of the opening of the last link of the paved highway from Atlanta to Asheville, via Franklin.

Known as the "Short Route," because it is 57 miles shorter between Asheville and the Georgia metropolis by this road than by any other, the new highway marks the completion of a solid stretch of paving from Quebec, Canada, to Miami, Florida.

400 Visitors

The motorcade attracted the largest crowd that Franklin has seen in many months, despite the fact that the sky was overcast all morning and it began to drizzle just about the time the first cars reached here. It was estimated that nearly 400 Georgians took part in the caravan. Main street and the Square were cleared to allow parking space for the visitors, but when they arrived, together with a contingent of local people who motored down to Clayton to greet them, the streets were clogged with a jam of automobiles and milling crowds. However, Police Chief Bob Henry handled the situation like a New York traffic officer and everything went off orderly.

Welcomed by Patton

The visitors were extended a hearty welcome to Franklin by Mayor George B. Patton. A. S. Hardy, president of the Gainesville Chamber of Commerce and editor of the Gainesville News, and Col. Hammond Johnson, lieutenant governor of Georgia Kiwanis, responded.

"The dedication of this highway," Mr. Hardy declared, "means that a great part of the tourist traffic will be diverted through north Georgia and this part of North Carolina. The road now provides a direct connection through the Shenandoah Valley to Washington and the east, and also serves as a link for western tourists through Louisville, Cincinnati, Chicago, Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo."

W. C. Thomas of Gainesville led the parade of automobiles in the pace-maker's car. Next came a bus carrying the Riverside Military Academy's band, a group of boys who enlivened the occasion with their music at every place they stopped. Also in the motorcade were a number of girls from Brennan College.

Stops Made

On its way north from Gainesville the good-will party made stops at Baldwin, Cornelia, where refreshments were served; Demorest, Clarkesville and Clayton, where the visitors were entertained at luncheon.

About a dozen automobiles from Franklin went down to Clayton to meet the visitors and lead them across the North Carolina line. Among those in this unofficial reception committee were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence S. Brown; W. C. Higdon, Fred Higdon with Mr. Fredericks, of Atlanta; Mr. and Mrs. Lyles Harris; Mr. William (Continued on page six)

To Entertain Rotary Club at Ritter Plant

Franklin Rotarians will be the guests of Mr. Agee, manager of the Ritter Lumber company's plant at Rainbow Springs, at a dinner tonight in the company's clubhouse. This will take the place of the regular weekly luncheon usually held at the Scott Griffin hotel.