

STATE TAKES OVER ROAD DEBT

Franklin To Have Big July 4th Celebration

BAND OBTAINED; RACES PLANNED

Free Street Dance To Be Given During Afternoon

PLAN TURTLE RACE

Cash Prizes To Be Given In Variety of Contests

Franklin is getting ready for a grand glorious Fourth of July celebration, in which the whole county is asked to participate.

A seven-piece band has been obtained to furnish music throughout the day and a program of races, contests and street dancing arranged. Cash prizes will be offered in a number of the contests.

The program is being sponsored by the merchants and business men of Franklin, who have contributed liberally to the financial support of the celebration, which they hope will be the most successful since the Home-Coming and Centennial celebration several years ago.

Many Events on Program

Besides the races and street dancing, there will also be a public meeting in the courthouse at 2 o'clock in the afternoon under the auspices of the Red Cross, a golf tournament, a dinner for Confederate veterans, and a dance in the evening at the Scott Griffin hotel.

As July 4th comes on Saturday this year, it is expected that the celebration will attract the largest crowds in years. A number of people from out of the county are expected to attend.

Plan Terrapin Race

Among the contests will be a greasy pig race, a greasy pole climbing event and terrapin and bull roger races. The terrapin race is expected to arouse considerable rivalry among the contestants and cause much amusement for the on-lookers. Terrapin racing has become quite popular in various sections of the country and at the Rhododendron festival in Asheville a terrapin race attracted more interest than almost any other event except the parade and pageant.

All that is necessary to enter the terrapin race is a terrapin. When all of the entries have been made the turtles will be numbered and put in a bag. Then they will be placed in the center of a large circle. The first terrapin to crawl out of the circle wins. No artificial stimulation of the entries will be permitted. The race is scheduled to take place on the Public Square at 1 o'clock in the afternoon.

Golf Tourney

A Fourth of July invitation tournament will begin at the Franklin golf course in the morning. There will be three flights determined by nine holes played in the forenoon, with 18 holes to be played in the afternoon to decide the winner on a basis of low medal score. Golf clubs and balls will be offered as prizes.

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Many Franklin Merchants Back July 4 Celebration

Following is a list of the business houses and people of Franklin who, by their liberal financial assistance and enthusiastic efforts, have made possible Macon County's 1931 Fourth of July Celebration, expected to be one of the best the town and county have ever had:

Franklin Hardware Company, Perry's Drug Store, Angel's Drug Store, Macon County Supply Company, Farmers' Supply Company, Franklin Service Station, Scott Griffin Hotel, Franklin Hotel & Restaurant, Watkins Sandwich Shop, Jess' & Mary's Shop, Miss Olivia Patton, agent, Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company, C. T. Blaine, Clouse's Restaurant, Trotter's, Sloan Brothers Grocery, Macon Theatre, Joseph Ashear, Sanders' Store, H. D. West, The Franklin Press, Joines Motor & Tractor Co., Macon County Chapter, American Red Cross, Arnolds' Cafe, E. K. Cunningham & Co., Star Market, Standard Oil Company, H. Arthur Osborne, Builders Supplies, Franklin Shoe Shop, N. Poliakoff, successor to W. C. Cunningham, S. & L. 5 and 10c Store, Atlantic & Pacific Tea Company

RED CROSS TO HOLD MEETING

Donations to Linen Loan Chest on July 4 Requested

There will be a county wide meeting of the Red Cross at the courthouse on July Fourth at 2 o'clock. A message from National Headquarters of the Red Cross states that Miss M. Pearl Weaver and Miss Rose Chapman will be present at this meeting. Miss Chapman has had experience in the development of a loan chest which has proved successful and she will tell how this was done. Miss Weaver will help with the county wide organization.

The particular purpose of this meeting, according to Miss Elizabeth Kelly, Macon county chairman, "is to collect gifts for the loan chest and to give definite information to the citizens of Macon county concerning the purposes of the Macon county Red Cross Chapter. Other features of entertainment will be on the program for the day. The hour from 2 until 3 will be set apart for the Red Cross meeting and it is hoped that there will be present a large delegation from each township in the county.

Small Gifts Asked

"Gifts of towels, sheets, pillow cases, bed shirts, gowns, and any other useful thing for the sick room will be most gratefully received. Gifts of money to buy articles to be made for special use in the sick room will be needed. These things will be arranged in packages and loaned through township committees to any who may need them. Please attach your name to your gift, also your address that we may have a record for The Press. Just bring your gifts to the courthouse at 2 o'clock on July 4th and a committee will receive them. Any gift from one penny or a washrag to dollars or bed linen will be welcome.

"Come bringing your good wishes and whatever you may be able to bring in the way of small or large contributions and help make a live-upon."

Dr. H. P. P. Thompson, 62, Dies at Highlands Home

Dr. H. P. P. Thompson, 62, prominent physician of Highlands, died at his home early Wednesday morning following a stroke of paralysis which he suffered several weeks ago.

Dr. Thompson was the son of the Rev. Dr. W. T. Thompson, for many years pastor of the First Presbyterian church, Charleston, S. C., and later of Washington, D. C. His brother, the Rev. Toliver

'T. F.' FOREMAN FATALY HURT

West Mullinax, Demorest, Dies After Dash to Angel Hospital

West Mullinax, of Demorest, Ga., a section foreman on the Tallulah Falls railway, who suffered a fractured skull and internal injuries when a railway motor car he was riding overturned near Clayton Tuesday afternoon, died about an hour later after being rushed to Angel Brothers' hospital here in an ambulance. Mullinax died about 6 o'clock as he was being removed to the operating room.

Mr. Mullinax was well known in Franklin. After the accident Mullinax was taken to a doctor's office in Clayton. There his condition was found to be critical and an ambulance was called. Russell Cannon, Clayton mortician and driver of the ambulance, made the trip from Clayton to Franklin—an even 23 miles—in 23 minutes flat.

NATIONAL HEAD OF LEGION TO VISIT MURPHY

MURPHY, July 2.—From three to five thousand visitors, including members and officials of American Legion Posts of Western North Carolina, North Georgia and East Tennessee, are expected to attend Murphy's Fourth of July celebration, at which Ralph T. O'Neil, national commander of the American Legion, of Indianapolis, Indiana, and Fon C. Johnson, state commander, department of North Carolina, will be honored guests.

Invitations have been extended to Legion posts in Asheville, Atlanta, Knoxville, Chattanooga, Gainesville and intermediate posts to spend the Fourth of July in Murphy, and also to the public generally, and enjoy with the citizens of Murphy to celebration to be held for our distinguished visitors.

A delightful and interesting program has been arranged for the entire day.

FATALY HURT IN AUTO CRASH

Burt Southard, 33, Dies After Car Plunges Down Precipice

2 OTHERS ESCAPE

Auto Plunges off Buck Creek Road on Bad Turn

Burt Southard, 33, employed in the construction of Highway No. 28 between Franklin and Highlands, was fatally injured late Sunday afternoon when an automobile in which he was riding failed to make a curve and plunged over a precipice on the Buck Creek road about eight miles from Franklin.

Perry Bollick, 20, who was reported to have been driving, and a young man named Barnes, who was also in the car, were injured. The accident occurred at a point about a mile from the Highlands highway. The road turns abruptly as it reaches the top of a ridge with a precipitous drop-off on the other side.

Inexperienced Driver

Bollick, who was said to have been an inexperienced driver, failed to turn the car, it was reported, and the machine shot over the bank, turning over and lodging against an obstruction. As it left the highway Southard and Barnes leaped. The latter managed to get a hold on a sapling but Southard, in some manner, failed to get clear and was crushed under the car. His thigh was badly crushed and he suffered other injuries. Bollick remained at the wheel of the car but miraculously escaped injury.

Dr. Furman Angel was called to the scene of the accident and after helping to pull the injured man up the high bank put him in his automobile and rushed him to the hospital here. Southard, however, was too far gone and died before reaching the hospital.

Served Overseas

Southard, who saw long service with the American expeditionary forces, leaves a widow and five children. They lived in the Buck Creek section.

FRANKLIN AND SYLVA ROTARIANS TO MEET JOINTLY

The Franklin and Sylva Rotary clubs will hold a joint meeting at High Hampton Inn next Tuesday evening, at which time new officers of both clubs will be installed. One of the purposes of the meeting is to instill a closer feeling of friendship between the communities which the clubs represent. A number of the members of each of the clubs plan to go to High Hampton during the afternoon to settle a much disputed question—whether Franklin Rotarians or Sylva Rotarians are the best golfers.

Kills Giant Rattler On Factory Branch

T. S. Dills of the Cartoogechaye section killed a giant rattlesnake last week at the head of Factory Branch. He was out looking after some stock when he found the snake, which he reports was the largest he had ever seen and he has killed hundreds of them. The snake appeared to be six feet long when he was alive but when measured was found to be four feet 11 inches. It was also found to have 14 1/2 inches around and to have 15 rattles. Mr. Dills said that it was too much for one man to carry any distance, but that he had the rattles and would bring them to The Press office. They will make a splendid ornament for the new office in the Angel Building.

STATE CENSUS MADE PUBLIC

Detailed Statistics Are Announced in New Bulletin

BIG GAINS SHOWN

Rural Population Still Increasing Despite Urban Trend

Statistics for the 1930 population of North Carolina classified as urban and rural, and by sex, color, age, marital condition, literacy, etc., have been issued by the Bureau of the Census in a bulletin (Population—Second Series) entitled, "Composition and Characteristics of the Population." This is a pamphlet of 74 pages, 9 by 11 1/2 inches, consisting mainly of statistical tables.

The urban population of North Carolina in 1930 was 809,847, representing an increase of 319,477, or 65.2 per cent, since 1920. The urban population formed 25.5 per cent of the total population (3,170,276), as compared with 19.2 per cent in 1920. Urban population, as defined by the Census Bureau, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more, the remainder being classified as rural.

Farm Population Growing

The rural population of North Carolina in 1930 was 2,360,429, comprising 1,597,220 persons living on farms, and 763,209 not living on farms, representing as a whole an increase of 291,676, or 14.1 per cent, as compared with the rural population in 1920 (2,068,753). The rural-farm population, taken alone, increased 97,274, or 6.5 per cent, between 1920 and 1930, while the rural-nonfarm population increased 194,402, or 34.2 per cent.

Of the entire population of North Carolina, 70.5 per cent are white, and practically all of the white population are native, there being only three-tenths of one per cent foreign born. Likewise, of the native white population, nearly all are of native parentage, there being only six-tenths of one per cent foreign or mixed parentage. Persons born in England formed 137 per cent of the 8,788 persons comprising the foreign-born white population of North Carolina. More than one-half of the foreign-born white population have been naturalized.

Big Increase Shown

The population of North Carolina as a whole increased 611,154, or 23.9 per cent, between 1920 and 1930, and of this increase 79.1 per cent were in the age groups under 35 years. The number of children under 1 year of age showed an increase of 3.8 per cent, while the entire group under 5 years increased 9.0 per cent.

The proportion of the population 7 to 13 years of age attending school increased from 87.0 per cent in 1920 to 93.0 per cent in 1930, and of those 14 and 15 years of age, the proportion increased from 77.4 per cent in 1920 to 79.1 per cent in 1930. The percentage of the population 65 years of age and over (Continued on page eight)

Assumes Payment On County Bonds; Tax Cut Probable

TED GRIBBLE BADLY SHOCKED

Seriously Burned While Fixing High Voltage Electric Wire

Ted Gribble, 27, is in a serious condition at his home on the Georgia road, two miles from Franklin, as a result of coming in contact with a 2,300-volt electric wire while he was at work on electric wires in a tree on Iola street Tuesday afternoon at 4 o'clock.

Mr. Gribble is an electrician for Northwest Carolina Utilities, Inc., and was engaged in repairing damage done to the wires here by the heavy storm Monday night.

The electrician was working with rubber gloves on, but in some manner the wire came in contact with his arm, which was badly burned. His back was also badly burned where the wires in his hip-pocket came in contact with his flesh.

Mr. Gribble was saved from a fall by his safety belt. He was held by the emergency for four or five minutes. Dr. S. H. Lyle administered first aid and then took him to his home where it is reported that he is expected to live, although his condition is serious.

D. G. Stewart Rapidly Recovering from Fall

D. G. Stewart, manager of the Western Carolina Telephone company, who was badly injured in a fall from a ladder while repairing a telephone line several weeks ago, is recovering rapidly at Angel Brothers' hospital. Mr. Stewart, who suffered injuries to both ankles and a broken knee, is now able to be about in a rolling chair.

167 Cherries Grown on Single Small Branch

"Largest" Jim Gribble of Mr. Gribble's farm in the Press office with something to show. He had a small branch of a cherry tree that was red with the luscious fruit. The branch was only about 18 inches long, but it was laden with 167 cherries. This count can't be considered to be exact because they soon began to disappear when Jim said to go ahead and eat them. They were of the sugar heart variety and were as good as their name.

SUFFERS SUN STROKE

Mr. Thaddeus H. H. of the Skeen section, suffered a sun stroke Monday afternoon.

Removal of Press to New Angel Building Delayed

On account of unavoidable delays in completion of the Angel Building, The Franklin Press has been forced to postpone removal to its new quarters.

The Press had hoped to move into the new building this week, so that it could open the shop to public inspection on the Fourth of July. However, it was found that due to delay in the arrival of certain materials and other causes, it was impossible to put the building into shape for occupancy at this time. The Press will remain in its present location in the Franklin building for the greater part of this month. The exact date of removal will be announced in a week or two. New equipment and a large quantity of new type has been purchased and will be installed when the transfer is made to the new shop, which will be one of the most modern and best appointed in Western North Carolina. Visitors are always welcome at The Press office. Come to see us and inspect our plant at any time. We will be glad to show you how a newspaper is put together and printed.

Barnard Gets Contract With New Highway Commission

BIG BURDEN LIFTED

Tax Rate Likely To Be Reduced Nearly 40 Cents

The State Highway Commission has assumed the responsibility of meeting all payments of both principal and interest due from now until November, 1943, on the special road bond issue of \$325,000 floated by Macon county in 1926, the proceeds of which were advanced to the state to hasten construction of hard-surfaced highway No. 285 from Hillsboro through Franklin to the Georgia line.

A signed contract to this effect was brought back from Raleigh last Friday by W. D. Barnard, chairman of the Macon county board of commissioners, J. A. Porter and R. A. Patton, who went to the capital Wednesday for a conference with officials of the highway commission. Mr. Barnard also brought back a check for \$10,000 to meet an interest payment due on the bonds July 1.

Tax Cut Likely

The state's agreement to take over Macon's road debt, together with the coming into effect of the new school and highway laws, will pave the way for reduction of the county tax from \$1.40 to a little more than \$1.00, according to Commissioner Barnard. The State Highway Department took over the maintenance of all county roads on July 1. This relieves Macon county of the upkeep of 440 miles of roads, mostly dirt, for which a tax of 20 cents was levied this past year.

To Cut School Tax

The state also has assumed the responsibility of paying for the support of the public schools for six months out of the year. This comes under the MacLean law enacted after much debate at the last session of the General Assembly. Macon county's school tax is now 50 cents on the \$100 valuation. It has been estimated that under the MacLean law this may be cut to 22 cents, saving the county 28 cents. With the elimination (Continued on page eight)

Will Rogers Picks A Story For This Spot

By WILL ROGERS

A SCOTCH soldier was in bad for not saluting an officer or something serious like that, and a court-martial ordered him to be taken right out and shot. The Scotchman asked for time out to count his



money before he handed over his personal effects to be sent to his parents.

Well, they say that the last fellow that told this story had a Scotchman in his audience, and the Scotchman didn't laugh. He got up and said, "That's nae a true tale!"

So the story-teller told him no offense was meant and all that, and the Scotchman says, "Nay, it's nae the offense I'm mindin', but the story is false! Any Scotchman would know how much money he had wi'-out pausin' to count it." (American News Features, Inc.)

Advertisement for Dimak featuring a cartoon character and the text: 'IF IGNORANCE AIN'T NO EXCUSE IN LAW, THEN IT OUGHTN'T BE ANY EXCUSE IN LAWYERS! Dimak SAYS'