

DEATH CLAIMS PARKER MOORE

Former Teacher and Public Official Dies After Long Illness

J. Parker Moore, 64, died at his home on Ellijay Monday morning at 9:45 o'clock after an illness of more than two years, due to paralysis.

Funeral services were conducted at the Ellijay Baptist church Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock by the Rev. J. M. Vinson, of Tryphosa, pastor, assisted by the Rev. Eugene R. Eller, pastor of the Franklin Baptist church.

In Public Service

Mr. Moore was widely known throughout Macon county. He taught in the public schools of the county for a number of years, having received his education at the Cullowhee Normal Industrial school, now the Western Carolina Teachers' College. He was on the county board of education for eight years, was also assistant register of deeds and deputy sheriff and tax collector at various times. He was a member of the Junior Order United American Mechanics and of the Baptist church.

Survivors were: W. D. Elliott, Jim Raby, Charles W. Elliott, B. W. Justice, Charlie Elliott and Frank Cane.

Survivors

Mr. Moore is survived by his widow and three children, Miss Katie Moore and Mrs. Anna Stewart and Charlie Moore, all of Ellijay; one step-son, Harley Stewart; three grandchildren; five brothers, Alex and John, of Franklin, Jack and Charlie, of Ellijay and the Rev. James Moore, of DeLand, Fla.

A large crowd of relatives and friends from here attended the funeral.

REEMPLOYMENT OFFICE OPENS

John W. Edwards Named Manager of County Organization

John W. Edwards, president of the Macon county Young People's Democratic club, was appointed manager of the local office of the recently organized U. S. Reemployment Service at a meeting in the courthouse Monday afternoon.

The Reemployment Service, formed at the direction of President Roosevelt in connection with his National Recovery campaign, aims to put employers in contact with idle employees. It also will be the means of recruiting workmen, skilled and unskilled for the numerous construction projects undertaken with federal relief funds. Only those who have registered with the Reemployment Service, Mr. Edwards said, will be eligible to work on jobs financed by the government.

The Macon county unit of the service was organized by Mrs. May Thompson Evans, of High Point, assistant supervisor of the service in this state, who came here last Friday for the purpose. She appointed a county board to supervise the work, consisting of Walter Gibson, chairman of the county commissioners; W. D. Stewart, of Otto; W. S. Davis, of Highlands; O. E. Rickman, Leatherman; M. D. Billings, county superintendent of schools; Miss Elizabeth Slagle and Earl Lancaster, county director of relief.

Miss Mildred Cozad was named office assistant to Mr. Edwards. The Reemployment office, Mr. Edwards said, will be open for registrations from 8 a. m. till noon on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. On Saturdays it will be open from 8 a. m. till noon and from 1 p. m. till 3 p. m. The office temporarily is located in the office in the courthouse formerly occupied by the Macon county welfare department. After adjournment of court it will be in the judge's room upstairs.

No fees will be charged for registrations, Mr. Edwards said. The service is entirely free.

Julian Culver, 13, Struck by Auto

Julian Culver, 13, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Culver, of Trimont section, received painful though not serious injuries, when struck by an automobile here Monday morning. The car was driven by Hugh Hayes, of Greenville, S. C. No charges were brought against the driver, as the accident was said to have been unavoidable.

The Franklin Press

and
The Highlands Maconian

PROGRESSIVE

LIBERAL

INDEPENDENT

VOL. XLVIII, NO. 35

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 31, 1933

\$1.50 PER YEAR

J. R. BELL GETS LIFE SENTENCE

Pleads Guilty to Second Degree Burglary in Dryman Case

After pleading guilty to second degree burglary in connection with the George Dryman robbery in the Middle Creek section last January, J. R. Bell, alleged leader of the Coweta gang, was sentenced to life imprisonment by Judge Felix E. Alley in Macon county superior court Friday afternoon.

Robert Bell, a brother of "J. R.", Ernest Stamey and Clyde Woods, convicted at the spring term of court of second degree murder as a result of the fatal attack on Mr. Dryman the night of his robbery, are now serving terms of 25 to 30 years in state's prison.

Bell's Capture

Last spring, when Macon county officers were rounding up alleged members of the Coweta gang, J. R. Bell escaped a posse after a pitched pistol battle near his home in the Coweta section. He was captured several weeks ago at this house, where he was said to have been in hiding for a month or more, by George Mallonee, Wade Arvey and Derald Ashe, who claimed rewards totaling \$300. Bell had been declared an outlaw.

In imposing sentence on "J. R.", Judge Alley endeavored to make it certain that the outlaw should spend the remainder of his days a prisoner. After sentencing him to life imprisonment, he said that should he later be pardoned or paroled he could be brought to trial on a charge of murder in connection with Mr. Dryman's death.

Costly Trial Avoided

The judge complimented Solicitor John M. Queen and counsel for Bell in reaching an agreement to accept a plea of guilty to second degree burglary for the defendant. He pointed out that in this way the ends of justice were met without the necessity of a long and expensive trial.

Bell had nothing to say when sentence was imposed upon him, but it is known he had been hopeful of getting off with a sentence of 25 to 30 years. When he learned that it was lifetime, his only expression was a wry smile.

Turns Humble

Bell's demeanor, since his capture, has been one of meek humility, in utter contrast to the heedless boldness that characterized his leadership of the Coweta gang, whose depredations last winter terrorized the whole county. Months of being hunted as an outlaw with a price on his head, dead or alive, had changed him.

Some time after his escape under a rain of bullets he was reported to have crept back to the home of his father, Joe Bell, where he broke down and cried like a child. He was quoted as saying he would surrender, but was afraid he would be shot down on sight.

The former gang leader was taken to state's prison at Raleigh early last Saturday morning.

Case of Spotted Tick Fever Reported

Dr. J. H. Fouts has reported a case of Rocky Mountain or spotted tick fever in Macon county, the first case on record for this county. The patient, Willard Holland, five-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Radford Holland of the Cornum Hill section, has recovered, although for a while his condition was critical. In one of the western states where the disease is more prevalent, Dr. Fouts said, ninety per cent of the cases are fatal.

The disease is caused by the bite of a tick infected with the fever germ. The symptoms of infection are high fever and purplish spots appearing on the body.

The case was diagnosed by Dr. Fouts, who recalled having read articles on the strange malady in medical journals. Dr. Fouts, who satisfied with his own diagnosis, however, called in Dr. S. H. Lyle, who confirmed his opinion.

'Heaven Bound' To Be Presented Sept. 5

The T. E. L. class and Judge Awtrey's Bible class of the First Baptist church will sponsor a play, "Heaven Bound," in the courthouse on Tuesday night, September 5. The play will be staged by the Sylva players of the Negro Baptist church. It contains good jokes and is full of spirituals and promises to be a real treat.

Sanity Saved

Or when the Lilac Bush Did not Lie

Through the murky haze of an early morning fog Mrs. Pope Ellard discerned the form of her neighbor, Frank Higdon, out in his front yard picking the leaves off a lilac bush.

One by one, almost aimlessly—yet methodically—he plucked the leaves from the shrub, which in the spring had been laden with beautiful, fragrant blossoms.

Mrs. Ellard peered out the window of her bedroom at her neighbor's strange actions. He seemed distracted. He was distracted, for she remembered Mr. Higdon had been suffering from an abscessed tooth.

"I hope he hasn't lost his mind," she said to herself, "but, why on earth is he acting so crazy?"

Mr. Higdon finished pulling the leaves off the bush, moved across the lawn and began doing the same thing to another lilac. Mrs. Ellard's curiosity aroused, she could resist temptation no longer. Going to the porch, she called:

"What on earth are you doing, Frank?"

"Oh, I'm just fixing these lilacs so they will bloom again," her neighbor replied in a weak, worn, suffering voice. "I couldn't sleep for the toothache. I remembered it was the first of August, time to pull off the lilac leaves."

"Bloom, bloom," thought Mrs. Ellard. "That lilac bush will die; it won't bloom."

At breakfast she told Mr. Ellard she was afraid Frank Higdon was a blooming idiot.

Frank was harmless, however, and Mrs. Ellard did nothing about it, save to be as nice and consoling as she could to Mrs. Higdon. Frank began taking treatment for the bad tooth and his actions seemed more rational. But still Mrs. Ellard remembered his queer behavior that early August morning.

Strange to say, however, the lilac bushes began to sprout new leaves. Then, one morning this week Mr. Higdon called Mrs. Ellard to come over into his yard.

She could scarcely believe her eyes, but there it was—one of the lilac bushes was bearing new blossoms, beautiful white, fragrant blossoms.

"I remembered," said Mr. Higdon, "that my mother used to pull the leaves off her lilac bushes on the first of August. By the last of the month they usually blossomed again. And, by the way, the doctor is going to pull that tooth tomorrow."

Smith Family Reunion To Be Held Sept. 10

The second annual Smith reunion will be held at the Morgan school house on lower Barnhart town, Sunday, September 10. Rev. A. S. Solesbee will be the principal speaker. All descendants of the late William Smith, a pioneer settler of Macon county, are invited to attend this reunion and bring a well filled basket. This will be an all-day affair with a business session in the afternoon.

Funeral Held for Thomas Carl Reese

Funeral services for Thomas Carl Reese, 21, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Reese, of Highlands, were held at the Reese home at 4 o'clock Friday afternoon with the Rev. W. C. Reed, of Sylva, officiating. Pall bearers were schoolmates and friends of the deceased, namely, Charlie Paul, Hiram McKinney, James Beal, Harry Paty, Floyd Wiley and Louis Edwards.

Carl, who died at Angel Brothers' hospital late on the evening of August 24, was born on August 22, 1912. He had lived here all of his life and was a student in Highlands high school until illness last winter prevented his attending. He had been a member of the Baptist church for some time.

The deceased was popular with the young people of Highlands, and his quiet dignity and cheerful smile endeared him to all. Many friends and relatives of the family attended the funeral and expressed their regret at the passing of the young man.

The survivors, besides his father and mother, are his brothers and sisters, Joe, Howard, Kitty, Cary, Marshal, Manilla and Wayne. Numerous other relatives survive in Highlands, and in other towns both in and out of the state.

JURY ACQUITS 'TUMP' WELCH

Freed in Homicide Case; Must Serve Term for Making Liquor

C. C. ("Tump") Welch, of the Burnington section, charged with second degree murder in connection with the death of Don Anderson, 19, whose body was found in lonely Kelly Cove last December, was found "not guilty" by a jury in Macon superior court last Friday afternoon.

Floyd Welch, "Tump's" nephew, was cleared on the same charge the day before when Judge Felix E. Alley sustained a non-suit motion.

Face Road Terms

The two men, however, face road sentences on liquor charges, to which they pled guilty before going on trial in the Anderson case. They admitted that on the night of Anderson's death they had been making whisky in the vicinity of Kelly Cove, where Anderson's body, almost frozen, his neck broken and a strange "K" imprinted on his forehead, was found at the bottom of a deep gulch.

Granted Bond

"Tump" was sentenced by Judge Alley Saturday to 12 months on the roads, and Floyd to six months, for manufacturing whisky. In order that they might make their crops, both were granted their freedom under \$500 bond until the November term of court, when they are to report to begin serving their terms. Each was also given suspended sentences of two years on the roads for possession of whisky and two years for transportation of whisky. If either of the defendants is found guilty of violating the law within five years, these sentences are to take effect.

Trial of the "Tump" Welch case began Wednesday of last week and the state rested Thursday morning at 11 o'clock. The defense produced no witnesses and moved for non-suit, which was granted in the Floyd Welch case. "Tump's" case went to the jury at noon Friday and the verdict of acquittal was brought in two hours and fifteen minutes later.

N. R. A. Meeting

Blue Eagle Plans To Be Discussed Tuesday

An N. R. A. meeting, at which plans will be discussed for spreading the wings of the Blue Eagle over all of Macon county, will be held in the county courthouse at 8 o'clock next Tuesday night. It was called by Mayor J. Frank Ray at the request of Postmaster John E. Rickman, who acted as an advisor from Washington.

A countywide organization for making the president's National Recovery drive a success in this section is to be formed at this meeting, Mr. Rickman said.

Similar local groups are being organized throughout the county. The purpose of these groups is to spread the Blue Eagle doctrine, to encourage employers to join the movement, to urge the public to patronize Blue Eagle stores and to see to it that employers who have sided N. R. A. pledges abide by them.

Miss Ravenel Visits Highlands

Miss Marguerite Ravenel, who arrived in Highlands a few weeks ago, expects to remain here until late fall. The Ravenels are pioneers among Highlands, summer residents, having first come here about 1878. It was through Miss Ravenel's generosity that the Highlands Presbyterian church was erected in 1888. During the same year the Ravenels built the home on Wolf Ridge which later became the property of J. Blanc Monroe of New Orleans. Miss Ravenel now resides at her home on Sunset Mountain, which commands a wonderful view of Horse Cove and the surrounding mountains, including Whiteside, standing as a sentinel of the Blue Ridge.

Miss Ravenel has always shown great interest in Highlands and its people, and her home has often been the scene of some pleasant social affair given in benefit of various public organizations of the village.

Georgia Commission Asks New Chance for Railroad

Back Taxes and Past Due Notes Keep Macon in Hole, Auditor's Report Reveals

Delinquent taxpayers and other debtors owe Macon county more than enough money to wipe out the county's bond defaults, amounting to \$88,180, and to run the county's government for the current fiscal year without the levy of a single cent in new taxes. This is revealed in the audit of the county's books for the fiscal year ended June 30, last, as reported by R. C. Birmingham, of Charlotte, certified public accountant.

The major parts of Mr. Birmingham's report are published on page 3 of this issue of The Press and Maconian. A summary of the county's 1933-34 budget, calling for appropriations of \$64,475, of which \$42,435 is for bond payments, appears on page 2.

Notes Past Due

A statement of the county's financial position shows that on June 30 it held notes, all past due, amounting to \$43,391.36, of which \$34,007.96 represented notes accepted from the Bank of Franklin after its failure and before its reorganization. The rest of the notes represent loans made some years ago out of the sinking fund. Such loans are not now permitted.

The audit also disclosed that on June 30 the county was due \$122,277.88 on delinquent taxes for the years 1925 through 1930. Other delinquent taxes and land sale certificates amounted to \$18,741.88 making a total of \$141,547.88. The auditor realized, of course, that all of these delinquencies could never be collected and so he set up as a contra account called "Reserves for Final Settlement of Delinquent Taxes" the sum of \$47,382.47.

Exclusive of 1931 and 1932 unpaid taxes, amounting to \$112,301.45, this leaves "Net Delinquent Taxes" of \$94,165.41. Add to this the unpaid and past due note item of \$43,391.36 and the total is \$137,556.77.

The current year's budget of \$64,475 plus the bond defaults of \$88,180 amounts to \$152,655.

A Big "If"

In other words, if the county could collect the "Net Delinquent Taxes" and its "Notes Receivable" it would be in position to wipe out the bond defaults, meet the current year's budget and have the tidy sum of \$14,901.77 left over as a surplus—to say nothing of still having credits of \$112,301.45 on unpaid 1931 and 1932 taxes.

This is a pretty picture, but, of course, it won't work out that way. Few would be foolish enough to believe that \$94,165 could be realized on delinquent taxes prior to 1931 or that anywhere near the face amount of the past due notes could be collected.

Lax policies of tax law enforcement in the past make it extremely doubtful that even half of the "Net Delinquent Taxes" are collectible. And unscrupled and unper-secured notes make it difficult to say just what the "Notes Receivable" item is worth.

Payments Decline

Tax payments were beginning to come in fast last month, after the county commissioners advertised they would be forced under the law to sell land for delinquent 1932 taxes and require notes on delinquencies for previous years. Inaugurations, taken out against the county and the towns of Franklin and Highlands, however, slowed down the stream of revenue. Judge Alley, the first of this week, ordered Highlands property on which 1932 taxes have not been paid, to be advertised in October and sold in November. Thursday noon he had not acted on the injunctions in the cases of the county and the Town of Franklin.

Certificates Missing

Mr. Birmingham's audit also revealed that land sale certificates amounting to \$2,293.67 for 1925-26 and to \$3,172.10 for 1927 had been "unlocated." The disappearance of these certificates remains a mystery.

The audit also shows that although foreclosure proceedings have been held for delinquent 1925, 1926 and 1927 taxes, about \$25,000 in unpaid taxes for these years are

still carried on the books, evidently as "open accounts." The exact status of these delinquencies is not made clear. The law requires that when land is ordered sold for delinquent taxes, no favoritism must be shown; every delinquent taxpayer must be treated alike.

Pleasant Surprise

Another surprise contained in the audit—a pleasant surprise, this one, although it manifests bad business management some time in the past—is the disclosure that the county has to its credit with the Central Hanover Bank and Trust company of New York, the sum of \$16,500, which was sent to the bank as payment of bonds which were never issued. Back in 1923 the county had \$ 000 in road and bridge bonds. The money, it was found, was not needed and the bonds were not issued. Nevertheless, one of the former board of commissioners (the audit does not reveal which one) made payments on these bonds.

Recommendations

In submitting his audit report, Mr. Birmingham recommended: "X x x that immediate steps be taken to appoint a delinquent tax collector who will proceed with promptness and dispatch to collect every dollar of the accounts that it is possible to collect. X x x X x x x that all effort possible be immediately put forth toward the collection of money due the county on the notes receivable heretofore referred to."

"That the office of the clerk of the court be audited and the affairs of this office be put in order."

The auditor complimented the present county accountant for "the excellent manner in which he is handling the accounts and records," "With the exception of the delinquent taxes," he added, "the financial and operating position of your county reflects a very creditable showing."

Jobs Open

Civil Service Announces Examinations

The United States Civil Service commission has announced the following open competitive examinations:

Mountain trailbuilder operator, \$1100 to \$1800 a year.
Mountain tractor operator (family type), \$1020 to \$1200 a year.
Mountain truck driver, \$1020 to \$1200 a year.
Operator motor grader (power blade grader), \$1440 to \$1800 a year.
Operator traction grader, \$1020 to \$1200 a year.

Road foreman, mountain road and trail constructor, \$1620 to \$2000 a year.

General foreman, mountain road and trail constructor, \$2300 to \$2600 a year.

Applications for these positions must be filed with the manager, Fourth U. S. Civil Service District at Washington, D. C. at once.

These examinations are to fill vacancies in the Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, in the states of Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia.

Full information may be obtained from the Secretary of the United States Civil Service Board of Examiners at any first or second class post office in the states of Virginia, North Carolina and West Virginia, or from the Manager, Fourth U. S. Civil Service District, Washington, D. C.

Consolidated Schools To Open Monday

The Franklin and Highlands consolidated schools will open for the eight-months state-sustained session next Monday morning. There have been few changes in the faculty of either school.

Rural schools of the county have already opened. Preparatory to the opening of high school, seventh grade examinations will be held at the Franklin school Saturday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

"BUY, BUY NOW"

"Buy everything you need and have so long denied yourself. It is the key to the whole situation."

—General Hugh S. Johnson

Urges I. C. C. To Reject Receiver's Plea for Abandonment

TRAFFIC INCREASING

Report Says with Good Management Line Would Pay

A recommendation that the Interstate Commerce commission deny the petition of J. F. Gray, receiver, for abandonment of the Tallulah Falls railway, has been made by the Georgia Public Service commission, which after a thorough investigation of the 37 mile line from Cornelia to Franklin has arrived at the conclusion:

"The records show conclusively that the Tallulah Falls railway can make money if managed efficiently."

About a month ago an examiner for the I. C. C. after reviewing incomplete records in the case, submitted a recommendation that the receiver's petition be granted. He painted a drab picture of the territory served by the "T. F.," claiming that present and prospective business was insufficient to support a railroad. Shortly after the examiner's report was made public, the Georgia Public Service commission appointed a committee to look into the matter. This committee advised against abandonment and gave public voice to charges that "the receiver is in reality responsible for the loss of much traffic the line should have had." This committee reported that, exclusive of timber shipments, it is estimated that under normal conditions there will be an annual tonnage of 1,500 carloads of freight over the "T. F."

Concluding its report to the I. C. C. the Georgia commission said:

"It is apparent that Examiner Pritchard wrote his proposed report without the briefs of protestants, inasmuch as those briefs are still with this commission."

"Having given careful consideration to the record in this matter, and in view of the report made by our committee as a result of their investigation, we recommend that the report of the examiner be rejected, and the judgment of the Interstate Commerce Commission on the prayer for abandonment be withheld until not earlier than September 1, 1934, and in the meantime observation will be continued by this commission as to the progress of the apparent recovery now in process by this line."

Declaring that new "manufacturing plants doubtless would locate in this territory, if it were not for the fact that the stability of the applicant has been a question of doubtfulness or uncertainty," the Georgia commission added:

"Such circumstances retard the progress of a community. Faith in leadership and action count nowadays and unless we have these two assets we shall perish."

Line Shows Profit

Supporting its contention of "apparent recovery," the commission's report cited official traffic revenue figures of the "T. F.," showing a steady increase in business and revealing that the line actually showed a "net income," or profit, for the month of July, this year, of \$2,546.28.

Declaring that new "manufacturing plants doubtless would locate in this territory, if it were not for the fact that the stability of the applicant has been a question of doubtfulness or uncertainty," the Georgia commission added:

"Such circumstances retard the progress of a community. Faith in leadership and action count nowadays and unless we have these two assets we shall perish."

New Brief Filed

A brief of exceptions to the report of the Interstate Commerce Commission's examiner has been prepared by G. L. Houk, of Franklin, in behalf of the public's committee, consisting of F. M. Reeves, Cornelia, Ga., chairman, Mr. Houk and Dr. I. C. Dover, of Clayton. This brief, filed with the I. C. C. this week, requests the appointment of a new and unprejudiced examiner to study the case.

The opinion is expressed in this brief that "if present traffic continues at merely present volume, the Tallulah Falls railway will end the year with an operating profit instead of the loss of \$20,000 forecast by the receiver."

"Uncle Johnny" Crawford Reported Improved

"Uncle Johnny" Crawford, of Hayesville, who was 103 years old last December, has been critically ill, but was reported to be slightly improved Tuesday.