

Established 1885

Oldest North Carolina Newspaper West of Buncombe County

# The Franklin Press

and The Highlands Maconian

PROGRESSIVE LIBERAL INDEPENDENT

VOL. LVI. NO. 2

FRANKLIN, N. C. THURSDAY, JANUARY 9, 1941

\$1.50 PER YEAR

1802 Circulation

Affording Advertisers Thorough Coverage of Macon County

## Broughton's Inauguration Follows Assembly Opening

### Both Houses Pass Bill Authorizing Salary Increase

The oath of office was administered to North Carolina's new governor, J. Melville Broughton, in a colorful inaugural ceremony Thursday morning in Memorial auditorium, Raleigh, attended by members of both houses, more than 200 ranking state officials, and a crowd of thousands.

Following the ceremony, Governor Broughton and ex-Governor Hoey reviewed a parade in which 1,000 uniformed troops and motorized units from Fort Bragg, plus the regiment of 1,300 ROTC troops from State college. State college band and many high school bands took part. The new governor will be feted at a public reception at the executive mansion Thursday night, and at the inaugural ball immediately following.

Both houses of the legislature convened at noon Wednesday for what the new lieutenant governor, R. L. Harris, predicted would be a short and speedy session.

Odus M. Mull of Cleveland county was elected speaker of the house, and John D. Larkins, Jr., president pro-tem of the senate. They were nominated in Democratic caucuses last night.

**Salaries Of Officials Raised**  
Both the senate and the house rapidly passed a bill, introduced by Senator Gold of Guilford, raising the pay of the treasurer auditor, secretary of state, and superintendent of public instruction by \$600 a year, making their salaries \$6,600 annually.

Gold read a letter from Governor Hoey describing the proposal as "simple justice" and saying he heartily recommended the increase. No opposition was heard in the senate, though the house engaged in sharp debate before passing the measure.

The state budget is the chief matter to be acted upon by the legislature this session. Some capitol city observers are predicting that a record expenditure will be authorized.

State dry forces also announced this week that they intend to make liquor one of the chief issues of this session. The dries are seeking a state-wide referendum to ban the sale of spirits, fortified wines, and possibly beer.

As the session opened, attention centered on the fight for the principal clerkship, reading clerkship and sergeant-at-arms of the house. Dan Tompkins, former representative from Jackson county, is a candidate for reading clerk.

## Town Board

### Considers Further Street Improvement

Replacement of the drinking fountain at Main and Phillips street, the progress and possible extension of the street improvement program, and the traffic problem in the business district were among the matters discussed by the town board at the monthly meeting Monday night. Mayor John O. Harrison presided.

The aldermen empowered the water committee to either replace the old fountain, which was removed when the street was recently widened, or to erect a new stone fountain.

### Street Improvement

After reviewing developments in the street improvement program since the last meeting in December, the board decided to take steps to eliminate the "bottleneck" on Green street where the right-of-way narrows from 12 to 9 feet in passing between the property of Victor S. Catway and that of Rufe Green. The board also agreed, if possible, to improve Hillcrest Drive, West Boulevard, West Main, and the road connecting Harrison avenue with Green street, under the present program.

More stringent enforcement of traffic ordinances, particularly the ones regulating parking and forbidding the unloading of trucks from Main street, was vigorously advocated by several members.

Dr. H. T. Horsley, town physician, reported that the general health of the community was good. The aldermen approved payment of the bills for the new town safe, additional fire hose, and safety helmets and coats for the volunteer fire department.

### County Commissioners To Recommend Road Repairs

In their regular monthly meeting here Monday, the county board of commissioners decided to recommend to the state that the road through "Womacktown," joining the Georgia road and the Murphy highway, be improved.

The commissioners also approved payment of a number of bills. Mrs. Margaret Ordway, county NYA supervisor, appeared before the board to ask the county to build suitable quarters for NYA students, but the commissioners did not take action on her request.

## CITIZENS ON THE RECORD

Under this head The Franklin Press and Highlands Maconian will print comments of citizens on matters of public interest. Suggestions of queries will be appreciated.

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

"WHAT, IN YOUR OPINION, SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THE FREQUENT ESCAPES FROM THE COUNTY JAIL?"

DR. H. T. HORSLEY: "I think the answer is pretty simple. The present jail should be made escape-proof by repairing it. It looks to me like the right kind of steel would stop these escapes."

BEN M'COLLUM: "Looking ahead to the future, the only solution worth anything would be to build a new courthouse and jail combined. Under the present conditions of the jail now, the county should put in bars of the type used in Georgia jails where the bar is encased in a cylinder."

JIMMY HAUSER: "I think the present jail structure is inadequate. About the only satisfactory means would be to build a new jail conforming with state and federal regulations."

JOSEPH ASHEAR: "The jail should be fixed by covering the walls and ceilings of each cell with 20 gauge sheet steel, bolted from the outside, which could be done cheaply enough to be practical. This would pay for itself in the long run because it will mean that there will be no expense to the county either in repairs or in the time of officers taken from their regular duties to hunt for these birds."

BEN WOODRUFF: "There's not but one thing to do, build another jail."

## Measles Epidemic

### Health Officer Offers Preventive Measures

By DR. E. N. HALLER  
District Health Officer

The opening of Highlands and Walnut Creek schools was indefinitely postponed this week because of measles in the respective communities. Approximately 50 cases over the county have been reported to the county health officer here in Franklin.

It is best for your child not to get the measles, because of the uncertain after-effects, or complications.

The more common afflictions following measles are: ear abscesses, deafness, weak eyes, sinus trouble, pleurisy, pneumonia, tuberculosis, rheumatism, heart trouble, and many other conditions.

When pneumonia develops during an attack of measles the outcome is always uncertain.

If you want to avoid the measles, follow these health rules:

1. Keep your children at home as much as possible during an epidemic.
2. Do not go visiting, as you may bring the germ home to your child.
3. Beware of any child with a cough or head cold.
4. Sterilize all eating utensils with hot water.
5. Report all known or suspected cases of measles to your county health department.

If your child gets the measles be sure to carry out the following health rules:

1. Call in the family doctor at once.
2. Notify your county health department promptly.
3. Put the patient in a separate room—away from other members of the family.
4. Sterilize the patient's eating utensils with hot water.
5. All other children at home are to remain there during the quarantine.

## J. S. Robinson

### Dies In N. Y. Hospital Tuesday Night

Julius S. Robinson, member of a prominent Franklin family, died in a New York hospital early Tuesday night. He was 69.

Funeral services will be held at the Franklin Methodist church Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Mr. Robinson left here in November, accompanied by his sister, Mrs. William D. Hobart, intending to visit Mrs. C. C. Daniel, another sister, in New York and then go on to California with Mrs. Hobart for the winter.

The body is expected to arrive here Saturday and be taken to the Robinson home, Dixie Hall, where it will remain until the hour of the funeral.

Mr. Robinson was born here in Franklin, the son of the late James Robinson and Alice Siler Robinson. For many years he operated a general store here. He was also a deputy collector of internal revenue while the bureau of internal revenue was located in Asheville, and was connected with the business department of the Asheville Citizen-Times for some years.

Survivors besides Mrs. Hobart and Mrs. Daniels include a brother, Charles K. Robinson of Asheville.

## William L. Higdon

### Passes In Asheville Last Monday Morning

Funeral services for William Logan Higdon, 73, prominent citizen of this county, were conducted at the Sugarfork Baptist church on Tuesday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

Rev. C. F. Rogers, pastor of the Franklin Baptist church, and the Rev. J. L. Stokes, II, pastor of the Franklin Methodist church, officiated. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Higdon died in an Asheville hospital Monday morning, after suffering a stroke last Friday. He had been in ill health for the past three years.

He was born at Higdonville in 1867, the son of the late Joseph and Margaret Berry Higdon, and spent most of his life here in the county. His first wife, the former Miss Emma O. McDowell, died in 1922. Some time afterwards he married Miss Mary Siler who survives him.

Mr. Higdon spent the early part of his life as a farmer and as a teacher in the county public schools. Later he became deputy revenue collector for the western district, and at one time was a government timber appraiser. He moved to Asheville a short time ago to make his home with his son, Joe Higdon.

During his lifetime, he served several terms on the county board of education and the town board of aldermen. He was also a former director of the Bank of Franklin.

He was a member of the Sugarfork Baptist church in early life, later moving his membership to the Franklin Baptist church. He was a member of the Junaluske Lodge No. 145 A. F. & A. M., who had charge of the services at the grave.

Active pallbearers were Henry W. Cabe, T. T. Love, Harley K. Cabe, Sheriff A. B. Slagle, C. Tom Bryson, and George Dean. Honorary pallbearers were the following: Dr. Frank T. Smith, M. D. Billings, James Dryman, Gus Leach, John O. Harrison, A. L. McLean, Frank Moody, Mark L. Dowdle, W. D. Barnard, R. L. Bryson, John E. Rickman, Harve L. Bryant, Guy L. Houk, James E. Perry, T. W. Angel, Jr., Dr. Edgar Angel, J. Horner Stockton, Alex Moore, R. C. Brooks, T. W. Porter, James M. Carpenter, Gilmer Jones, Richard S. Jones, W. T. Moore, Jack Weyman and W. T. Tippett.

Mr. Higdon is survived by his widow, Mrs. Mary Siler Higdon, and the following children: Fred H. Higdon, Mrs. H. M. Straine and Miss Hazel Higdon, all of Sacramento, Calif.; William L. Higdon, Jr., of Salinas, Calif.; George Higdon, who resides in California; Mrs. Philip S. Hoyt, Mrs. Albert L. Ramsey, Frank M. Higdon and Lyman C. Higdon, all of Franklin; and Joseph Higdon of Asheville. Fifteen grandchildren also survive. Other survivors are: His mother, Mrs. J. H. Higdon, of Higdonville; four brothers, James L. Higdon, of Cullasaja, Sam Higdon of Sylva, T. B. Higdon of Atlanta, and Mack Higdon, of Alberta, Can.; and three sisters, Mrs. John Fulton of Geis, Mrs. Eva Keener of Cullasaja, and Mrs. Dennis Higdon of Webster.

## Funeral Services For William A. Norton, 81

Funeral services for William Albert Norton, 81, were held at the Asbury Methodist church at Otto on Wednesday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The Rev. J. C. Swain, pastor, was in charge of the services. Interment was in the church cemetery.

Mr. Norton, a well-known and highly respected citizen of Macon county, died at his home in the Coweta section on Wednesday morning at 2 o'clock following a lingering illness of several months.

Born on October 3, 1859, a son of the late William Pulaski and Rosetta S. Howard Norton, Mr. Norton was a farmer and a man who took an active interest in all community affairs. He was chairman of the Macon county Democratic executive committee for several years. He was a member of the Asbury Methodist church.

Mr. Norton was married to Miss Louisa A. Bradley in August 1881, who preceded him in death on June 19, 1939.

Pallbearers included Joe Bradley, Robert Carpenter, Grady Bradley, Charles Shope, John Dills and Prince Curtis.

Surviving are seven children, five daughters, Mrs. Charles Stewart, of Franklin; Mrs. Archie Cole, Anderson, S. C.; Mrs. Fannie Foster, Demorest, Ga.; Mrs. Robert Stewart and Miss Mamie Norton, of Coweta; two sons, Lex Norton, of Charleston, S. C., and Frank Norton, of Coweta.

## STEAM LAUNDRY TO OPEN HERE

### Modern Plant Will Be Operated By Paul Carpenter

Paul Carpenter, proprietor of the Economy Cleaners, announced this week that he would open a modern steam laundry here in Franklin shortly.

Mr. Carpenter has already purchased the necessary machinery and will install it in his present plant on the square here. The laundry will employ around seven persons in the plant itself, at first, depending upon the volume of business. It will be arranged so that it can be expanded by the addition of more machines if warranted.

The laundry, the first to be established here in a number of years, is planned to be adequate for the laundry needs of Franklin and the vicinity. It will provide faster, more convenient service than has been possible heretofore.

According to Mr. Carpenter's present plans, the plant will be ready for operation around March 1.

The laundry will be a valuable addition to the present business enterprises here, and should result in considerable saving in time and expense to the community.

## "Life Of Christ" Will Be Shown Here Next Week

"The Life of Christ," a motion picture patterned after the famous Oberammergau and Freiburg Passion plays, will be presented in the auditorium of the Franklin Methodist church here next Tuesday, January 14, at 7:30 p. m.

## JAIL BREAK OCCURS AGAIN

### Three Prisoners Escape Through Roof Sunday

Refusing to bother with the slow and tedious method of sawing through the cell bars, three prisoners at the county jail here broke through the roof to freedom early Sunday morning.

They were: Kenneth Raby, 25, of Franklin, brought to the jail on December 7 for breaking his bond on an assault charge; Victor Carter, 50, of Sylva, who was scheduled to be tried on forgery counts in Macon and Jackson counties; and Charlie Burgess, Franklin negro, who was committed on January 2 in connection with the theft of automobile batteries valuing \$50 from Burrells garage.

The three men apparently used the plumbing fixtures in their cell to stand on while tearing a hole in the cell's tin ceiling. They then pushed their way through the composition roof of the jail and made ropes of their blankets to reach the ground. The escape was thought to have taken place around 5 a. m.

Before taking their departure, the three contrived to jam the lock on the door of their cell, reached through another cell in which John Jones was being held at the time. The door had to be forced to gain entry when the break was discovered at breakfast time by John Dills, the jailor. Jones says he did not hear the men leave.

The break, the fourth since last April 15, brought the total of escaped prisoners to nine, one of whom has been recaptured.

## FINAL CENSUS FIGURES GIVEN

### Official 1940 Count Gives County Population As 15,880

Official 1940 census returns released this week by William Austin, director of the census, show that on April 1, 1940, Macon county had a population of 15,880 and Franklin a population of 1,249.

Preliminary returns early this summer gave 15,894 for the county and 1,250 for Franklin.

According to the census report, Macon's population increased 16.1 per cent during 1930-1940, as compared with a 6.1 per cent increase from 1920 to 1930. The county's population was 13,672 in 1930, and the amount of increase in the 10-year period was 2,208.

Franklin's population increased 14 per cent, or 155 persons, from 1930 to 1940.

In the state as a whole, urban areas grew more rapidly than rural districts during the past 10 years, with 20.3 per cent increase as compared to 10 per cent increase for the rural population. The state's total population was 3,571,623.

There were 26 incorporated cities of 10,000 or more, five (Burlington, Greenville, Hickory, Lexington, and Reidsville) having reached this size since 1930. Hickory had the most extensive growth of any city in the state, with 83.2 per cent increase, while Charlotte became the first city in the state to exceed 100,000.

Ninety-one of the 100 counties gained population during the 10-year period, Alamance leading with an increase of 36.2 per cent.

The smallest incorporated town in North Carolina, according to the census, was Dellview in Gaston county whose total population was eight.

## Christmas Club Makes Report

At a meeting last week of the executive committee of the Macon county Christmas club, the chairman, Harley R. Cabe, reported that bags of candy, nuts and fruit were distributed to 1,378 children by the committee. Over 200 children received gifts from the Franklin tree.

Christmas baskets were sent to elderly people and families numbering more than 150.

The generous response from the people of the county to this method of scattering Christmas cheer insures the continuance of the Christmas club this year. A balance was reported in the treasury.

An army, according to Napoleon, travels on its stomach. Not the army of unemployed—it travels via its thumb.

## As The World Turns

A Brief Survey of Current Events In State, Nation and Abroad.

### CAIRO, EGYPT

Britain's mechanized desert cavalry—"hell on wheels"—set the stage for the pounding of Tobruk from land, sea and air, Italian base 60 miles west of Bardia, captured last week.

The British say 94,000 Italians have been captured, killed or wounded since the African offensive began on December 9, with the addition of 30,000 with the fall of Tobruk, expected shortly. The British report 600 men killed and wounded. Disposition of thousands of prisoners a major problem.

### LONDON

R. A. F. bombings from Norway to the Mediterranean are reported on supply bases, troop concentrations in Germany, Italy and occupied countries, and munition factories. Halted somewhat by bad weather, Germany continues destructive bombing of London and other cities. Bombing of Dublin has called forth protests from the Eire government to Berlin, who denies responsibility. Additional losses are reported of British shipping.

### SOFIA, BULGARIA

Concentrations of Nazi troops in Rumania continue, but the Bulgarian ministry is reported to have rejected German requests for passage of troops through Bulgaria.

### GERMANS IN ITALY

Italy's defeats in Albania, where the Greeks still hold the offensive, and in North Africa with British sweeping victories, has called for help from Mussolini's axis partner. Many Nazi troops and planes are reported to have gone to the rescue of Italy.

### BUDGET MESSAGE

President Roosevelt submitted to congress a record peacetime budget of \$17,485,528,094.

### PRESIDENT CREATES THREE FLEETS

"The Atlantic fleet, the Pacific fleet, the Asiatic fleet will represent the U. S. Navy in the oceans around the world, beginning February 1. Yesterday President Roosevelt created the three fleets, ordered each manned on a war basis, with an increase of 42,000 men.

### AUSTRALIA AND U. S. SEEK MUTUAL DEFENSE

It was disclosed yesterday that Australia and the U. S. have been conducting talks for mutual defense in the Pacific, and were exchanging naval attaches.

### LORD BADEN-POWELL, SCOUT FOUNDER, DEAD

Lieut. Gen. Lord Baden-Powell, 84, founder of the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides, soldier, author, sculptor, distinguished for his brilliant defense of Mafeking, South Africa, died in Kenya, Africa, after a long and distinguished career.

### HARRY HOPKINS GOES TO LONDON

President Roosevelt has sent Harry L. Hopkins, former secretary of commerce and WPA administrator, as his personal representative on a mission to London. It is understood that Mr. Hopkins' close friendship with the president will enable him to bring back information valuable in relating the economic and military needs of the two nations.