

Franklin Ruled Out Of Cage Tournney

Seek New Location For Cowee Mountain Road

STUDYING ROUTE UP COON CREEK SURVEYS BEGIN

Would Mean Straighter, Shorter Drive On Macon Side

The State Highway commission is making surveys with a view to building a new road, in a new location, on this side of Cowee mountain. L. Dale Thrash, tenth division highway commissioner, announced this week.

The tentative plan calls for the road to go straight up Coon Creek valley, instead of making the long curve at the foot of the mountain, as at present, W. M. Corkill, division engineer, told The Press by telephone yesterday.

This route, if it proves practical, would eliminate many curves and would shorten the distance by one-half to three-quarters of a mile, Mr. Corkill explained.

Going east on the present road, the motorist turns sharply to the right at the foot of the mountain and follows a winding course along the south side of the ridge. The proposed new route would take him up the valley on the north side of that ridge. The new road would join the present one just this side of Cowee Gap.

The engineering party, which went to work here Monday, is making a traverse, (or tracing out) the present road, from which a plot will be made, the division engineer explained. On a basis of that plot, other possible routes will be studied, and the next step is expected to be a survey of the Coon Creek route. The engineers will not know, of course, Mr. Corkill explained, whether a road up Coon Creek is feasible until the survey is made. It might prove too steep, he added.

In discussing the situation, Mr. Corkill said the commission may seem to the public to be moving slowly, but he emphasized that the engineers are going to take enough time in making their plans to be sure the best route is chosen.

Macon Folk Give Polio Fund \$2075

Macon County raised \$2,075 for this year's March of Dimes, J. H. Stockton, 1951 infantile paralysis campaign chairman, announced Tuesday.

In announcing the final figure, Mr. Stockton expressed regret that this county did not attain its goal of \$3,000, but remarked that he realized there have been many drives this year, and voiced "deep appreciation" for the "splendid support" given the campaign.

He expressed thanks both to the general public for the contributions, and to workers in the campaign, including many organizations that conducted polio benefits.

Of the total raised, \$92.25 was collected in the mother's march conducted last Friday night, while approximately \$100 came from the coin collectors.

The Highlands community raised \$238.39. O. F. Summer, Highlands chairman, broke this total down as follows: Schools, \$83.73; business houses, \$86; theatre collections, \$43; and the coin collectors, approximately \$25.

SUNDAY SERVICES

Sunday services at Franklin Methodist circuit churches have been announced by the Rev. C. L. Grant. Services will be conducted at the Louisa church at 10 a. m., Snow Hill at 11 a. m., and the Lotts church at 7 p. m.

Bryson Submits Names Of Five Men Nominated For Board Of Education

Rep. C. Tom Bryson has submitted the names of the five men nominated in last spring's Democratic primary for appointment to the Macon County board of education.

The list was turned over last week to the house committee responsible for preparing the omnibus boards of education bill, Mr. Bryson told The Press by telephone this week.

The five are Bob Sloan, of Franklin township, T. T. Love, of Nantahala, J. C. Sorrells, of Cowee, and Charles W. Nolen, of Cartoogechaye. Mr. Sloan and Mr. Gibson are the only members of the present board who were renominated in the primary.

Under the state law, members

of county boards of education are nominated in the Democratic primary, but are officially appointed by the general assembly. Usually, the 100 boards are appointed in a single omnibus board of education bill.

Mr. Bryson had announced, both prior to the primary and just before he left for Raleigh, that he would name to the board those persons nominated in the primary.

He does not know, Mr. Bryson said, just when the omnibus bill will come up for passage. It originates in a house committee, is passed by the house, and then goes to the senate for passage.

Board members take office the first Monday in April for a two-year term.

Nearly 2,000 At Symphony '51 Concerts

The North Carolina Little Symphony, appearing here for its sixth consecutive season, played to audiences totaling nearly 2,000 last Thursday.

Approximately 1,500 children, from schools throughout the county, packed the Friendship Tabernacle at 1 p. m. for the children's matinee, and between 300 and 400 attended the evening concert at the Methodist church here. For the first time in the history of Symphony concerts here, every seat was taken, and many persons stood until intermission time, when the ushers placed chairs along the aisles and at the rear of the auditorium.

Meanwhile, it was announced this week that, after the orchestra fee of \$750 for the two performances and all expenses were paid, the local Symphony organization has \$78.87 left over—a nest-egg for next season. The announcement was made by Mrs. Betty L. Alexander, secretary to Treasurer J. H. Stockton.

Plans for next season will be announced later. Franklin is one of about 15 small North Carolina towns which have had the Symphony each of its six years. Dr. Benjamin F. Swain, director, commented before the orchestra left here Monday. Most of the other 14 are considerably larger than Franklin, he added.

Dr. and Mrs. Swain and the 25 members of the orchestra spent the week-end in Franklin—Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights.

At the Thursday evening concert, the Rev. A. Rufus Morgan presented Dr. Swain and the orchestra, and Miss Laura M. Jones, this year's membership campaign chairman, expressed appreciation for the public's support, and for generous assistance. She specifically thanked...

SEE NO. 1, PAGE 6

Joint Meetings Of Farm Folk In County Announced By Agents

Joint meetings with farmers and farm women in Macon County communities for the coming week have been announced by the county farm and home demonstration agents. A feature of the meetings will be the showing of a motion picture and both men and women are urged to attend the meeting in their community.

This week's meetings are as follows: Today (Thursday) Mack Wilson's home at 7:30 p. m.; Friday, Lacy Harper's home at 7:30 p. m.; Monday, Liberty Baptist church at 7:30 p. m.; Tuesday, Cowee school at 7:30 p. m.; Wednesday, Clark's Chapel Methodist church at 7:30 p. m.; Thursday, Otto school at 7:30 p. m.

LONG IS NAMED TO POST OFFICE

Chosen, On Party Heads' Say, To Serve While Meadows Is Gone

E. W. Long has been recommended by Rep. Monroe M. Redden for appointment as acting postmaster at Franklin. The recommendation was made to the first assistant postmaster general, and the actual appointment is considered a mere formality, a congressman's recommendation usually being followed in such appointments.

In making the announcement, Mr. Redden told The Press by telephone that he chose Mr. Long on the recommendation of the Macon County Democratic executive committee. Mr. Long will succeed Postmaster Zeb Meadows, who has been ordered back to active duty with the navy. Mr. Meadows, a lieutenant (j. g.) in the reserve, plans to serve through March 22, and will leave Franklin two days later to report at Key West, Fla., March 26, in compliance with his navy orders.

Mr. Long, presently serving as Town of Franklin clerk, treasurer, and tax collector, is being named acting postmaster, to serve until Mr. Meadows' release from active navy duty. This will be the second time Mr. Long has moved from the town office to the post office. On the retirement of T. W. Porter as postmaster, May 31, 1949, Mr. Long resigned as town clerk, a position he had held for eight years, to accept appointment as acting postmaster. He served a year to the

SEE NO. 4, PAGE 6

Legislature Enacts Two Macon Bills

Two local bills affecting Macon County, introduced earlier by Senator R. S. Jones, have been ratified during the past week, and are now law.

One permits the Macon County board of education to sell school property no longer needed for school purposes at private sales to religious groups or municipal corporations. The measure provides that such sales must have the approval of the board of county commissioners.

The movement for the bill was inaugurated by the people of Highlands, and the measure was requested by the board of education. Highlands people wish that town to buy the present school for use as a municipal park and community center.

SEE NO. 3, PAGE 6

A Nasty Situation (EDITORIAL)

Much could be said about the situation that finds Franklin ruled out of the state basketball play-offs, just four days before the tournament. Much could be said, and none of it would make pleasant reading.

At the beginning of the season the school here paid a \$30 fee to the state athletic association, and submitted for approval the names of its players and the required data about them. No question was raised about the eligibility of the players, and the fee was accepted. Now the head of that association has ruled that Franklin is ineligible.

If this man has the authority to rule arbitrarily on eligibility, should he not have the responsibility of making investigations at the beginning of the season? If he does not have that responsibility, the system is wrong. If he does, he has failed quite as signally as the Franklin school.

There is question, too, as to the sportsmanship of Hendersonville. The coach of that school also was submitted a list of Franklin's players, and passed on them. Then, after being defeated by Franklin, Hendersonville makes a check here of birth certificates.

Try as we may, however, we cannot escape the realization that there is fault here at home.

Either Jack Norton knew he was 20 years old, and covered up his real age, or his birth certificate is in error. Whichever one of those things happened, it is inexcusable.

And where did the Hendersonville coach get the tip as to what Jack Norton's birth certificate says? And why did the source of that information wait till the last minute? If that is sportsmanship, we want none of it.

Finally, if age is a major element of eligibility, and if birth certificates are the criteria for age, why weren't players' birth certificates checked here at the beginning of the season? That question takes on added significance in the light of the fact that the question of Jack Norton's age has been raised more than once during this school year.

The most unpleasant phase of the whole situation is the fact that the other boys on the squad—boys who are not 20, boys who have met the requirements, boys who have played their hearts out all season for a chance at this honor—are being made to suffer, cruelly and unjustly. Punishment is being inflicted on them either because the system is wrong or because somebody blundered, or because of both.

In fairness to those boys, and to other boys in other years, it is not enough merely to say "too bad!"

The whole high school athletic situation in North Carolina, and the country, needs airing.

TOWN ELECTION SET FOR MAY

The Franklin board of aldermen at its monthly meeting Monday night ordered the mayor and town attorney to set up election machinery for the coming May 8 election in which a mayor and six aldermen will be chosen for two-year terms.

The board also passed a motion to charge all establishments in Franklin that have been receiving free water a minimum fee until meters can be installed.

In a motion made by E. J. Whitmire, John Moore was named registrar and Lyman C. Higdon and James Palmer were appointed to serve as judges in the town election. The motion ordered the mayor and the town attorney to put the election machinery in action.

The motion to charge a minimum fee for water also was made by Mr. Whitmire. It was pointed out to board members that a number of churches and the Masonic lodge in Franklin receive water free of charge. The board agreed that "all consumers of water be charged a minimum fee until meters can

SEE NO. 6, PAGE 6

List Workers In '51 Drive Of Red Cross

The Rev. C. E. Murray, chairman of the 1951 Macon County Red Cross drive, announced this week that workers have been contacted throughout the county to assist in the drive and help the county reach its \$2,836 quota as soon as possible.

Pointing out that this year's quota is approximately 38 per cent more than last year's, the chairman said the chapter would have little trouble reaching the larger goal if everyone contributed in proportion to the increase. Last year's quota was \$2,044.

The chapter's slogan in the campaign this year is "every housewife a member." Mr. Murray emphasized the importance of every housewife's contributing a dollar or more.

The Korean war has added a great deal to the responsibility of the Red Cross, he said. "Not only is there a danger from disasters and floods but the war has entered into the picture, and there is by far more need this year than last."

Persons in the county who have volunteered to assist the chapter in county-wide collections are as follows:

- Verlon Swafford, William Katenbrink, J. L. West, Sam Gibson, R. R. Gains, Mrs. Hope Patton, Franklin Business section.
- Mrs. Myrtle Keener, Mashburn branch.
- Mrs. Wiley Clark, Bethel.
- Mrs. Gordon Gibson, Culla-aja.
- Mrs. Marion Bryson, Salem.
- Mrs. Tillery Henderson and Mrs. Charles Houston, Pine Grove.
- Lacy Harper, Gold Mine.
- Mrs. Mattie Keener, Walnut creek.
- Mrs. Ruby Young and Mrs. Pete Moses, Ellijay.
- Harry Corbin, Higdonville.
- Fred Corbin, Crisp branch.
- Mrs. Don Smith, Airport road.
- Mrs. Joe Setser, Cartoogechaye.
- Miss Roberta Enloe, Wayah road.
- Mrs. Homer Greene, Carson's Chapel.
- Andrew Ray, Negro section.
- Mrs. Georgia Young, Mountain Grove.
- Mrs. Ed. Henson, Otto.
- Mrs. Javan Grey, Hickory

SEE NO. 7, PAGE 6

JACK NORTON OVER-AGE, SAYS ATHLETIC BODY

Local Team Ineligible To Compete In State Play-Offs At Duke

The Franklin High basketball team Tuesday was ruled ineligible to enter the championship tournament in Durham.

The sports machine at the school collapsed with the announcement that the local thincads had been disqualified from the play-offs for the AA championship at Duke university because of an over-age player.

The Panthers were scheduled to meet the Kinston Red Devils in the Duke gym Friday afternoon. The locals rolled over Hendersonville, 44 to 42, last week to take the fourth division title and berth in the state tournament.

The athlete given "thumbs down" by the North Carolina High School Athletic association is Jack Norton, Franklin's high scoring pivot ace, who was top scorer in the recent Smoky Mountain basketball tournament and received the outstanding player award.

The locals were asked to withdraw from the tournament following an investigation which association officials said proved Norton was over-age.

According to R. G. Sutton, Franklin principal, the disqualification notice was received Tuesday morning by telephone. L. J. Perry, N. C. H. S. A. A. secretary, explained that the association found Norton was over 19 years old, and therefore ineligible for high school athletics. The entire team was ruled out of state tournament play because of the association's findings.

Hendersonville and Hickory High school will meet for a playoff to determine which team will represent the division in the state tournament.

Coach Milburn Atkins, who has led the local cagers on their spectacular rise, said all of the high school athletes had been cleared as far as their eligibility at the beginning of the season. A \$30 fee was paid at the beginning of the year to the association, the coach said, and it was understood that all of the athletes were investigated and cleared in regard to eligibility.

The association ruling also threw into jeopardy the school's right to keep the Smoky Mountain conference runner-up trophy in football, since Norton played end with the squad. Also hanging in balance is the basketball team's claim to the Smoky Mountain conference basketball tournament crown.

Mr. Sutton said the question of Norton's age arose February 28, two days after Franklin beat Nantahala High for the conference crown. At that time, in the county school superintendent's office, he said, Carl D. Moses, principal and coach at Nantahala, pointed out that Norton was over-age and presented a certified copy of Norton's birth certificate as proof.

Locally, Norton's age is still a big question because of an error in filing the certificate. The certificate shows that he was born April 2, 1930, making him 20 years old. However, the date of filing on the certificate is May 17, 1931, more than 13 months after the date of birth. A law, passed in 1913, requires that birth certificates be filed within five days after the birth of a child.

The lanky basketball star, when asked his age, said his mother says he is only 19 years old.

The ineligibility of the team came almost on the eve of the basketballers' departure for Duke university to enter the play-offs. The locals outfought Hickory High and Hendersonville in the division 4 play-offs last week in Spindale for the chance to enter the state tilt.

"Naturally, this is a hard one to take," Coach Atkins said, "but the boys have played

SEE NO. 8, PAGE 6



THE TRUCK pictured above, according to Chief of Police C. D. Baird, was on its way last Wednesday morning to have its brakes repaired but failed to make it any further than the side yard of the old Leach home. The driver, Wade Holbrooks, jumped from the vehicle about half way down Bidwell street, the chief said, and the truck crossed East Main, plowed through the hedge surrounding the Leach home, and smashed against a tree. The truck, owned by Grady Duvall, was a total loss.