

## Zoning Program To Get Hearing

Plan Will Be Explained In Detail At Public Meeting Jan. 15

Preliminary zoning plans for Franklin were unfolded by the five-man zoning and planning commission at Monday night's session of the board of aldermen.

At the joint meeting, January 15 was set as the date for a public hearing to explain the zoning plan to Franklin citizens, and to receive reactions concerning the proposed zoning ordinance before its adoption by the town board.

The zoning commission, headed by W. N. Sloan, brought out a number of minor points in question, and explained the project, with the idea of getting the board's opinion before presenting the zoning plan in its entirety to the public.

Maps, showing present and proposed zoning boundaries for business, industrial, and residential areas within the city limits, were employed by the commission to explain the plan. Mr. Sloan reviewed an ordinance drawn by the North Carolina League of Municipalities. After a few minor revisions, he said the commission felt that the ordinance would be suitable to the needs of Franklin.

Aldermen commended the commission for the job it has been doing. The five-man body was set up in July on order of the town board. In addition to Mr. Sloan, members are R. E. McKelvey, Wayne Faulkner, H. H. Plemons, and W. Roy Carpenter.

Monday's meeting was the shortest regular session for the board of aldermen since it took over the town reins in May. The meeting adjourned at 10:20. In the past, the board's sessions have been lengthy, often going past midnight.

The new courthouse traffic light, the subject of heated debate, was the center of discussion. According to Mayor Robert M. Dillard and most of the aldermen, an increasing number of complaints about the light are being received at the town office.

Under the present set-up, the signal controls the flow of traffic on Main street, Palmer street, and the one-way street circling the courthouse. The difficulty, aldermen said, seems to lie in the fact that drivers of vehicles entering Main street from the west side of the courthouse are unable to see the light.

The installation of four separate traffic signals—one for Palmer street, one for each end of the Main street intersections, and one for the courthouse circle—was discussed and the street committee was empowered to investigate to feasibility of that plan.

Provided that a proper lighting system can be installed at the intersection, the board moved that the four-way light now in use at the courthouse be moved to the intersection of Palmer and Phillips streets.

Other action taken at the session included the acceptance of the town's new well, recently drilled by the Virginia Supply and Well company; acceptance of a Merchant Construction bid to lay approximately 80 feet of sidewalk in front of the new Nantahala Power and Light company building; and setting machinery in motion to advertise for pump bids for the new well.

T. Cecil Tallent, son of Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Tallent, of Franklin, Route 3, recently was promoted to sergeant in the U. S. Air Force, it has been learned.

Sgt. Tallent, stationed at Mather Air Force base, Calif., is a cashier in the accounting and disbursing office. Prior to his enlistment, he was connected with the Wachovia Bank and Trust company in Asheville for three years.

Why, Lady, That's Not Poor Plumbing, It's Scenic Wonder

"Water's pouring over the highway, I think something is broken!" a woman tourist reported to Highlands Police Chief M. A. Nelson recently. Armed with chamber of commerce literature, Chief Nelson explained that the "something broken" was only Bridal Veil Falls, on the Highlands-Franklin road, one of Macon County's top scenic attractions.

"Well," the woman retorted after the chief's explanation, "I still think it ought to be fixed!"

## BLOODMOBILE IS GIVEN 124 PINTS

Volunteer Donors Include 20 Inmates Of Local Prison Camp

Maconites, including 20 donors from the Macon County prison camp, rallied behind the American Red Cross Bloodmobile Friday afternoon by giving 124 pints of blood.

It was the bloodmobile's final visit of the year here. To date, Macon County persons have given a total of 496 pints of the life-giving fluid, earmarked for wounded servicemen in Korea, since the unit paid its first visit here in February.

On the first visit 156 pints were given; in May, 102 pints; in July, 22 (Highlands); and August, 92.

The blood project here has been under the sponsorship of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post. Refreshments have been served on each visit by members of the V. F. W. Woman's auxiliary.

During last week's collection, J. R. Overton, superintendent of the N. C. prison camp here, appeared at the Franklin Presbyterian church, where the unit operated, with 20 volunteer donors from the camp.

## Santa Claus To Pay Preliminary Visit To Franklin Saturday

Radio station NPFC (North Pole For Christmas) beamed the following message this week to Macon County children:

"To all good children of Macon County . . . Santa Claus, after communicating with a number of Franklin merchants, has announced his intention of visiting Franklin Saturday for a preliminary survey of Macon's good children before making his scheduled visit December 25. During Saturday's visit, Santa's toy shop, situated on the top-most point of this rugged northland, will be under the direct supervision of Mrs. Claus, who, with the assistance of toy shop elves, will continue to maintain her husband's Christmas bag quota.

"Santa's reindeer, this year being led on the 25th by Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, will not carry the jolly old gentleman on his preliminary Franklin jaunt, having to continue with strenuous exercises in preparation for the heavy load they must take on Christmas night.

"So Santa Claus will arrive in Franklin by automobile sometime about 2 p. m. Saturday. All good children are urged to be present."

Christmas lights in downtown Franklin were installed last week by the town's firemen, and turned on Sunday night.

## Curtis, Serving In Korea, Is Promoted To Sergeant

Charles J. Curtis, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Curtis, of Dillard, Ga., Route 1, recently was promoted to sergeant. He has been serving in Korea since May 3 of this year.

## SHOPE CHOSEN CHAPTER HEAD OF RED CROSS

Advisory Council Member Is Guest Speaker; Reports Made

Weaver Shope, of Franklin, principal of Cullasaja school, Thursday night was elected chairman of the Macon County chapter of the American Red Cross.

Guest speaker at the chapter meeting was Romayne Barnes, of Greenville, S. C., a member of the southeastern area advisory council of the Red Cross. He was accompanied by Home Service Chairman Walter Johnson, also of Greenville.

All officers of the local chapter, with the exception of the chairman, were re-elected for another year. They are W. R. Potts, of Highlands, vice-chairman; J. C. Jacobs, treasurer; Mrs. Gladys Kinsland, Junior Red Cross chairman; Mrs. Robert R. Gaines, home nursing chairman; Miss Lassie Kelly, production chairman; Ed Whitaker, disaster chairman; Carl Tysinger, first aid chairman; J. Horner Stockton, finance chairman; R. E. McKelvey, home service chairman; John Edwards, water safety chairman; and Mrs. Lester Conley, publicity chairman.

Mr. Shope succeeds the Rev. Hoyt Evans, who has served as chapter chairman for the past two years.

During the meeting it was announced that a certificate of honor has been awarded the Macon chapter.

Chapter finances were discussed by Lake V. Shope, in the absence of Finance Chairman J. Horner Stockton. Mr. Shope reported a balance on hand of \$803.97.

It was brought out at the meeting that the chapter this year enlisted the aid of 36 volunteer workers; distributed 200 garments to needy families; and assisted an average of 35 persons each month during the past year.

Other committee members of the chapter include James O. Beal, Frank B. Cook, Charles Anderson, Stacy Russell, Lewis Edwards, and the Rev. Robert E. Early, all of Highlands, and Lake V. Shope, the Rev. M. W. Chapman, the Rev. C. E. Murray, the Rev. Hoyt Evans, the Rev. A. Rufus Morgan, John M. Archer, Jr., James L. Hauser, and Welmar Jones.

The meeting was held at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building on Palmer street.

## P. M. A. Body To Be Picked December 13

Macon County farmers will go to the polls December 13 to elect Production and Marketing Administration committee members for the county's 13 communities.

Polling places are as follows, by townships: North Franklin, Paul Swafford's mill; Southwest Franklin, Rufus Wells' home; Southeast Franklin, Prentiss Grocery store; Millshoal, Holly Springs school; Cartoogehaye, Ledford's store; Ellijay, Bert Mashburn's store; Sugarfork, Moses' Service station; Highlands, Potts' Brothers store; Flats, Scaly post office; Smiths Bridge, Norris store; Nantahala, high school gymnasium; Burningtown, Carl Morgan's home; Cowee, Tom Rickman's store.

In the election, three regular members and two alternates will be chosen in each community. A community delegate to the county PMA convention, scheduled December 14 at the Agricultural building, also will be picked.

According to Mrs. Justice, delegates to the convention will elect a chairman, vice-chairman, a member, and two alternates—this body to serve for the year as the county PMA committee.

## WILL SPEAK SUNDAY

J. T. Mowery, of Chattanooga, Tenn., will be the guest speaker at the Franklin Church of Christ, Sunday at 11 a. m., it has been announced. The public is invited to attend the service, it was said.

## HEADS RED CROSS



WEAVER SHOPE

## SCHOOL BUS IS STRUCK BY AUTO

None Hurt In Accident In Fog On Highway Near Highlands

Fifteen Macon County children escaped injury when the bus carrying them to the Highlands school was rammed from the rear by an automobile on N. C. 106, near Highlands, in a heavy fog Monday morning.

According to the investigating officer, Highway Patrolman Sid Carter, the loaded school bus was picking up passengers when the accident occurred, about 8 o'clock.

The patrolman identified the driver of the automobile as Robert Dryman, 20, an employee of the Highlands Country club. He will be charged with reckless driving, the patrolman said. He was unhurt.

Two passengers in Mr. Dryman's automobile, Earl Dryman and Harry Brown, both of Scaly, were shaken up in the wreck, but were uninjured, Patrolman Carter said.

## Plan To Form Body To Back N. C. Schools

Plans for a United Forces for Education movement in Macon County were revealed at a meeting of the executive board of the county unit of the N. C. Education association Monday evening.

Representatives of a number of Macon County organizations have been invited to attend a special meeting tomorrow (Friday) night to discuss the movement. The meeting is set for 7:30 p. m. at the Veterans of Foreign Wars building on Palmer street.

At this meeting it is planned to organize a citizen's committee, composed of attending representatives, to further the movement by passing on information concerning it to their respective organizations.

The education movement, being backed by the state association, is designed primarily to further the cause of education in the schools by uniting the efforts of various civic organizations, it was explained.

Among local organizations planning to send representatives to tomorrow's meeting are the county unit of the N. C. E. A., the Junior Woman's club, the Franklin Garden club, the American Legion and its auxiliary, the Veterans of Foreign Wars post and auxiliary, the Lions club, the Rotary club, county home demonstration clubs, Merchants association, historic association, parent-teacher associations, the Order of the Eastern Star, and the Moose lodge.

The meeting here was called, following a district meeting at Bryson City Wednesday evening of last week. Macon persons attending the Bryson City gathering included Miss Roberta Enloe, Mrs. Pearl Hunter, Mrs. Lee Guffey, Weaver Shope, and Harold Enloe.

## ON DEAN'S LIST

The name of Miss June Teague appeared on the past quarter's dean's list at Pfeiffer college, Misenheimer, it has been learned here.

## Two Men Get Long Terms In Labor Day Robberies

Woman Given Suspended Term In Stabbing Of Her Nephew

A two-family squabble in August, climaxed by the near-fatal stabbing of a 15-year-old boy, was aired in superior court here Tuesday.

Mrs. Edith Lequire, of the Patton settlement, charged with assault with a deadly weapon after taking a butcher knife to her nephew, Donald Kirkland, was given a five-year suspended sentence by Judge J. C. Rudisill.

The youth's father, T. N. Kirkland, Mrs. Lequire, and her husband, Van Lequire, all were found guilty of taking part in a fight August 6, which led to the stabbing of the boy four days later. They were released on payment of costs.

Just what prompted the battle between the two families was not cleared up. Mr. Kirkland said "that he (Van Lequire) said I had been saying things about him." At any rate, he testified that he and Lequire started fighting and were soon joined by their respective wives, who pitched in to help their spouses.

The Kirkland boy said he used a two by four on Mrs. Lequire when she started choking his mother.

On the Friday following this battle, Mrs. Lequire met young Kirkland at her mailbox and stabbed him in the chest, arms, and shoulders with a six-inch butcher knife. She contended that the boy ran her down with his bicycle, but he denied it on the stand.

After the knifing, the youth was taken to a Franklin hospital by Miss Lucille Hannah, whose parents live nearby. He received four blood transfusions and plasma and remained in the hospital 13 days.

In court, Mrs. Lequire explained what she was doing at the mailbox with a knife. "I was carrying it to get him," she said, pointing to Mr. Kirkland. "I saw him going up the road that morning."

In pronouncing sentence, Judge Rudisill suggested that the two families return to their homes and try to get along together.

He also ordered Mrs. Lequire to pay \$600 to defray to cost of the boy's hospital bill. The total bill was \$624.

## Murder Case Is Continued To Next Court

As anticipated, the first degree murder trial of James Theodore Wood, charged in the May, 1950, death of a Macon County logger, was postponed, at the superior court term here this week.

It was the second postponement asked by the state. At the August term, the trial was continued to this term.

If additional witnesses being sought in connection with the

## REVEALS EVIDENCE

In an interview yesterday (Wednesday) Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., disclosed the new evidence which prompted the first degree murder indictment of James Theodore Wood for the May, 1950, death of Grady Ray, a Macon County logger. According to the solicitor, Jack Ragan, undertaker at Bryant Funeral home here, told him that a large amount of mud and debris was found in Ray's throat when the body was found in Ray's throat when the body was brought to the funeral home. On the strength of Mr. Ragan's findings, the case was reopened and Wood was indicted for the murder of Ray, he said.

case can be located, the trial probably will be set for the April term, according to Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr.

Mystery surrounding the death of Grady Ray, a 43-year-old resident of the Kyle community, brought about the indictment of Wood at the April session. SEE NO. 1, PAGE 6

## Grand Jury Urges New Courthouse

Branding the present county courthouse as a "disgrace to Macon County," the grand jury of the December superior court term Tuesday recommended that a new courthouse be built as soon as the county's financial condition will permit it.

Jurymen also deemed it impractical to make any major repairs on the present structure. These recommendations and statements were embodied in the grand jury's report, compiled following an inspection of the courthouse and the county jail, one of the duties of the body.

It also recommended that steps be taken to protect county records, stored in the courthouse, from the danger of fire. A similar suggestion was made by the grand jury at the August term of court here.

Presiding Judge J. C. Rudisill, in his charge to the jury, suggested that only the courthouse and jail be inspected at this term, pointing out that a thorough inspection of county facilities was made in August.

The jury's report on the courthouse is as follows: "We find offices in good condition, except for a window pane that should be replaced in the clerk of court's office."

That the records in all offices are in good condition, except that it is overcrowded in the register of deeds' office, there being space for only about four months of records. We recommend that something be done about this at once.

"We recommend that steps be taken to protect county records from fire."

"We believe that the present courthouse is a disgrace to Macon County and further believe it would not be practical to make any major repairs on it."

"Therefore, we recommend that a new courthouse be built as soon as the county's financial condition will permit."

A five-man committee inspected the jail. Its report:

"The jail is in good condition, except for a few minor repairs: (a) wash basins not connected with water system, (b) recommend that inmate rooms be cleaned, (c) recommend that mattress covers on beds of prisoners be changed, and that covers be put on those beds without them, (d) recommend that bath facilities be furnished the jailor and his family."

Names of the grand jurors were drawn from a hat by six-year-old Michael Hastings, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Hastings, of Franklin.

Erwin Patton, of Franklin, was appointed by the court to serve as foreman.

Grandjurors were C. D. Raby, George E. Anderson, Oran Holland, James R. Norris, Jr., E. K. Buchanan, Paul Grist, L. C. Henderson, Armour G. Cagle, A. C. Holt, Fred Cabe, Claude Conley, Frank Bryson, R. D. Carson, M. S. Burnette, W. R. Mason, C. S. Cabe, and W. C. Arvey.

## Nicholson, Serving In Eastern Waters, Is Given Promotion

Grady B. Nicholson, of Prentiss, recently was promoted to radarman third class. He is serving aboard the heavy cruiser, USS Helena.

The Helena is participating in operations against the North Korean and Chinese Communist forces in Korea, a Defense department release said.

The Macon County sailor has served 10 months in Korean waters since the outbreak of hostilities there. He entered service in May, 1949, and received boot training at the U. S. Naval Training center, San Diego, Calif.

Women Accomplices Given Suspended Sentences By Judge Rudisill

The two men behind the Labor Day holidays robberies here were handed stiff sentences Monday afternoon by Judge J. C. Rudisill.

Clyde Miller, 27, of Gastonia, a one-time resident of this county, was sentenced to seven to 10 years at hard labor at state prison. His accomplice, Walter Ethridge, also of Gastonia, received six to 10 years at hard labor—a lighter sentence because he turned state's evidence.

Miller's wife, Betty, a comely blonde, and a woman companion of Ethridge, Ellen Barfield, 28, of Gastonia, received suspended sentences as accessories after the fact in break-ins at Roper's Service station, Sanders' store, and Frank Sanders' home here.

The Millers and Ellen Barfield were arrested in Gastonia September 10 by Sheriff J. Harry Thomas and S. B. L. Agent P. R. Kitchen. Ethridge was picked up by Gastonia officers last Wednesday, was returned here, and made a statement the following day before local officers.

Clothes taken from Sanders' store, Franklin, Route 2, and Frank Sanders' home, Franklin, Route 4, were found in the Miller's trailer home in Gastonia at the time of their arrest, officers said.

Ethridge and Miller became acquainted in 1947 while both were serving road sentences for breaking and entering.

In connection with the Labor Day robberies, both Miller and Ethridge faced double charges for breaking and entering and larceny, and charges of house burglary.

Mrs. Miller and the Barfield woman received three to five year sentences, suspended on good behavior.

Following the robberies, local officers moved on the trail of the four when a check stolen from Roper's Service station was cashed by Mrs. Miller at Duncan Motor company. Ed Conley, night station attendant at Duncan's, gave officers a description of the Miller automobile—a blue, 1949 Mercury.

Mr. Conley took the stand Monday, identified the check, and pointed out Mrs. Miller as the one who cashed it.

Ethridge's statement was introduced during the trial, and he also took the stand and explained the method of operation of the three robberies.

## Baptist Training Union Meeting Set For Monday

An "M" night mass meeting, under the auspices of the Macon County Baptist Association Training union, is planned Monday night at 7:30 o'clock at the First Baptist church, it was announced this week.

Theme of the meeting will be "Christ Speaks to His Churches". The Rev. Chester Lane, of Asheville, will be the speaker.

An award will be made to the church having the largest attendance at the meeting. A movie, carrying out the theme of the session will be shown.

Officers are investigating a break-in at Frank B. Duncan's lodge on Nantahala lake. Missing is an electric record player and some shot gun shells. Sheriff J. Harry Thomas and Highway Patrolman C. M. Byrd are conducting the investigation.

## The Weather

Temperatures and precipitation for the past seven days, and the low temperature yesterday, as recorded at the Covington instrument station.

	High	Low	Pct.
Wednesday	44	31	15
Thursday	57	24	---
Friday	57	18	---
Saturday	52	20	---
Sunday	60	22	---
Monday	58	34	11
Tuesday	66	51	230
Wednesday	---	27	---

Franklin Rainfall (As recorded by Menden Hall for TVA)  
Wednesday, .29; Thursday, .00; Friday, Saturday, .00; Sunday, .00; Monday, trace; Tuesday, .00; Wednesday, .27.