

## REPAIR JOB STARTED ON HIGHWAY 64

State Tearing Out  
Seven-Mile Stretch  
From Gneiss To Falls

An extensive repair project on US 64 (Franklin-Highlands highway) from Gneiss to Bridal Veil Falls was started Monday morning by the State Highway Department and the main artery will be closed to through-traffic during the day for at least four weeks.

The project entails the complete destruction of the present seven-mile stretch of blacktop, leveling and widening of the roadbed where the terrain permits, and new surfacing some time this summer, according to George Byrd, foreman of the local department.

Motorists traveling between Franklin and Highlands during the day must detour on US 23 (south) and NC 106, near the N. C.-Ga. state line.

Mr. Byrd said the highway will be open to through-traffic at night, "but it will be slow traveling." He recommended that motorists use the detour until the project is completed.

Weather permitting, the job should be completed in about four weeks, the foreman said. But even then, the section will be unpaved, since cold weather will prevent immediate surfacing.

The project starts at Gneiss, where the concrete highway from Franklin ends. The blacktop from this point on to the falls has been warped and cracked by heavy travel and weather.

## NANTAHALA WANTS ROAD

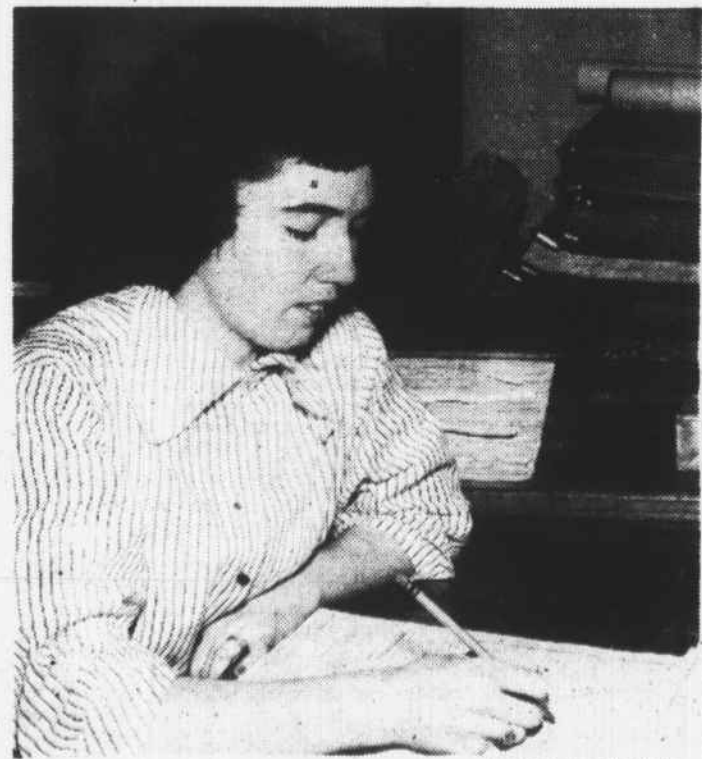
Citizens Organize  
League To Push For  
Proposed Highway

Citizens of the Nantahala Community, weary of waiting for the state to build a paved road into their area, have formed the "Nantahala Improvement League" and have set their sights on an all-weather road.

At a meeting following a session of the Nantahala P. T. A. last Thursday night, the citizens organized the league and immediately set their objective—a paved highway into the community before the 1954-55 school year.

Funds for the relocation and paving of the present Wayah Road into the community already have been allocated and the survey of the project was completed early last spring. The

## Want To Get Married?



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

Macon's proximity to a quick-marriage state (South Carolina) robs it of its share of brides. In 1953, only 48 marriage licenses were issued by the register of deeds. But, in case anyone (or two) would like to take a chance on Macon, Mrs. Mary Etta Keener (above), secretary to the register of deeds, is ready to fill out a license.

## This Story You Are Preparing To Read Is True—Even Names

The story you are about to read is true. Even the names are the same to give you factual reporting (just tryin' to get the facts, Mam!)

It's Monday night about 10:30. Dr. Edgar Angel, Franklin physician, is driving toward



Dr. Angel

Franklin on US 64, returning from a house call. He passes a man standing by the edge of the highway near the Wayah Road. The doctor slows down, turns around, and drives back to where the man is standing.

He jumps out of his car, grabs the man and searches him (finds two knives), and orders him into his car.

The doctor drives the man to the Macon Prison Camp—and for a good reason. His passenger is Will Henson, about 60, who escaped earlier in the day from a road gang on River-view Road.

Henson, of the Hanging Dog section of Cherokee County, is serving a life sentence for the murder of his nephew, according to Sheriff J. Harry Thomas.

Figuring that the prisoner, who is crippled in one leg, would come out on the highway during the night and try to hitch a ride out of the county, Sheriff Thomas, guards from the prison camp, and other officers threw up a cordon around the area and waited for him to appear. Sheriff Thomas and H. T. Ferguson searched cars and alerted residents in the Cartoogechaye, Wayah, and Rainbow Springs sections, while Deputy Newell Pendergrass patrolled the highway.

But Dr. Angel's many visits to the prison camp in the capacity of camp doctor paid off. He said he recognized the prisoner immediately "and just moved in on him fast before he knew what was happening."

In an interview, Sheriff Thomas praised the doctor's alertness, commenting "we certainly appreciate Dr. Angel's cooperation... too many citizens would have just gone on and forgotten they saw the man."

End of story—almost. Henson, of the Hanging Dog section of Cherokee County, is serving a life sentence for the murder of his nephew, according to Sheriff J. Harry Thomas.

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## E. WILLIAMS HEADS MACON N.C.E.A. UNIT

Shearouse, Angel  
Also Elected To  
Offices At Meet

Edwin T. Williams, teacher at Franklin High School, is the new president of the Macon unit of the North Carolina Education Association for the year 1954-55.

Mr. Williams, who succeeds Otto Principal E. G. Crawford, was elected to the post at a brief meeting of the local unit



Mr. Williams

last Thursday afternoon at East Franklin School following a county-wide teacher meeting.

Highlands Principal F. N. Shearouse was elected vice-president and Jack Angel, Franklin High teacher, went into the secretary post.

At the teacher meeting, Dr. Arnold Hoffman, of Raleigh, head of the state music department, was guest speaker. He emphasized the importance of music in school recreation programs and suggested the continued advancement of rhythmic activities.

Dr. Hoffman and Miss Doris Kimel, state music supervisor, were here last week assisting Miss Alice Weaver, county music supervisor, with the music program in the county schools.

Miss Kimel met with teachers at each school and also addressed a special meeting of home demonstration club women Friday morning at the Agricultural Building.

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## Scout Fund Drive Kicked Off Monday

The annual Boy Scout fund-raising campaign was kicked off here Monday morning by adult Scouters who hope to raise \$1,300 to further the movement in Macon County.

Campaign plans were mapped Sunday afternoon at a special meeting at the Franklin Methodist Church.

H. H. Gnuse, Jr., fund chairman for the county, explained Monday that the assigned quota for the county is \$1,000, but it is hoped that an additional \$300 will be raised for the services of a summer worker in the county. If the extra amount is raised, Mr. Gnuse said, the Scouters plan to hire Eagle Scout Ben Edwards to promote and assist with scout work in the county.

Last year's quota for Macon was \$700, but increased interest in the county makes it necessary to raise more money this year, the chairman explained. New troops have been formed at Carson Chapel and Cartoogechaye and the Highlands troop and the Franklin Cub Pack have been reactivated in recent months.

"This means that we have almost twice as many Scouts this year as last," Mr. Gnuse pointed out, "and it's important that we provide the money to stimulate growth in the movement."

The Smoky Mountain District quota also is higher this year (\$2,600) because a full-time field worker for the western area has been hired, he added.

Those assisting with the local campaign include R. R. Gaines, R. E. McKelvey, W. D. Simpson, the Rev. C. E. Murray, B. B. Scott, E. G. Crawford, John Bulgin, H. A. Whitlde, Edd Whitaker, H. A. McGlamery, Bob Pearl, Paul West, and Hunter Calloway.

Other men are now being contacted to help with the campaign, he said.

Persons not contacted for donations may leave them with Mr. Calloway at the Nantahala Power and Light Company office in Franklin.

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## Workers Now Planning For Opening Of Red Cross Fund Drive March 1

Volunteer workers this week started laying the foundation for the county-wide kickoff of the 1954 American Red Cross fund drive on March 1.

With the endorsement of Walter Taylor, president of the county rural community council, this year's rural campaign will be conducted by the 21 communities entered in the rural development contest.

Campaigns in the county's two towns—Franklin and Highlands—will be handled by volunteer workers, according to Mrs. Elizabeth McCollum, A.R.C. chapter secretary.

Macon's quota has been set at \$3,000, Mrs. McCollum said, and a larger percentage of the

## Barnard Nominated For Elections Post

Post Offices  
Being Closed

The small Cullasaja and Ellijay Post Offices in this county are to be closed February 28 by the U. S. Post Office Department and a new rural route formed to serve patrons in the two areas, it was learned this week.

Cullasaja Star Route also will be discontinued, according to local post office officials.

The new rural carrier route will be Route 5, Franklin.

The two 4th class offices probably are among the oldest small offices in the county. Just how old they are isn't known, but oldtimers report "they were here long before I was."

Sunday, Mrs. C. T. Bryson will mark 32 years as postmaster of the Cullasaja office, which is housed at Bryson's Store on the Franklin-Highlands highway (US 64).

Grady Henry is postmaster at Ellijay.

The two offices will join a string of others that have bowed to the more efficient rural carrier system, among them being Tellico, Stiles, Etna, Iotla, and Leatherman.

## 4-H CHORAL UNIT FORMED

The Macon County 4-H choral group, under the direction of Mrs. Jessie Lee Cabe and Mrs. Roy F. Cunningham, was organized Saturday.

The group elected the following officers for the coming year: Barbara Waldroop, president; Patsy Cabe, vice-president; June Cabe, secretary; Konda Teague, reporter.

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## Raby Announces He Will Be Running For Legislature

In special session Monday night at the courthouse, the county executive committee picked Lee Barnard, of Franklin, to head the three-man county elections board.

Fred S. Moore, of Franklin; Route 1, and Walter Bryson, of Highlands, were selected as members.

The committee's recommendations have been forwarded to Raleigh for approval by the State Board of Elections and an answer from this body is expected some time early in March.

The special meeting of the county committee was called last week when Siler Slagle resigned as chairman of the local board.

Meanwhile, candidates for the Democratic primary in May are unable to file and are marking time until Mr. Barnard's appointment is approved.

Unofficially, several are now in local races, including Sheriff J. Harry Thomas, Register of Deeds, Lake V. Shope, and Jack Ragan, Franklin mortician, for county coroner.

J. M. (Jim) Raby is the first of several rumored candidates to announce plans to run for the House of Representatives from this county. In a letter to The Press, Mr. Raby said he will be a candidate.

No one has yet indicated plans for entering the Clerk of Superior Court, Surveyor, Commissioners, or Board of Education races.

Another man jumped into the 20th Judicial District solicitor race this week. Gene Alley, Waynesville attorney and son of Judge Felix E. Alley, has filed. Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., of Bryson City, filed last week and Grover D. Davis, Waynesville attorney and a former solicitor, announced several weeks ago.

Two men have filed for state senator for the 33rd Senatorial District, who will come from Clay County this year. H. M. Moore, who served in the General Assembly as Clay representative from 1947 to 1951, was the first to file for the post. At the present, he is opposed by Tom J. Herbert, of Hayesville.

## SCHOOL VOTES UNDER WAY

Students Will Take  
Over Governments  
Here Next Friday

Hot elections are being waged in Macon schools this week as students prepare to take over county and town governments for a day next Friday.

This experiment in government is designed to acquaint students with politics and public service and is being sponsored by the Franklin Jaycees. For several weeks now, party organization and electioneering has been going on in all schools.

Posts in Franklin and Highlands will be filled by students from the high schools in the two towns. Elementary schools are electing student county commissioners, and other county officers are being filled by Nantahala School, which has held its election. Joan Solesbee was elected by Nantahala students to a county commissioner post, Mitchell Grant as Sheriff, Juanita Passmore as Clerk of Court, and J. D. Owenby as Register of Deeds.

G. A. Jones, Jr., chairman of the Jaycee project, said officers of the other school will be announced next week as soon as elections end.

## The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall, as recorded in Franklin by Manson Stiles, U. S. weather observer, and at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory:

COWEETA			
Temperatures			
	High	Low	Rain
Wednesday	71	25	...
Thursday	53	37	...
Friday	46	17	.11
Saturday	48	18	...
Sunday	64	25	...
Monday	68	11	...
Tuesday	64	46	...