

Budget Adopted; Tax Rate Same

Property Valuation Increases Slightly; Talk Library Gift

A budget identical to last year's has been adopted by the Macon Board of County Commissioners.

For the fiscal year 1956-57, the county will operate on \$585,187.36, with the same tax rate of \$1.40 per hundred valuation.

Additional revenue is expected to be gained by a slight increase in property valuation, from \$15,470,925 last year to \$15,800,000. This figure, the commissioners estimate, should bring in \$221,200.

The remainder of the budget will come from state and federal sources.

A request made by the Board of Education for an extra \$14,000 to operate the school system failed to make the budget. However, Lake V. Shope, secretary to the commissioners, said the county hopes to gain a surplus during the fiscal year and turn this over to the school system. The increased valuation alone, he explained, will bring in about \$2,000.

Mr. Shope also called attention to the fact that the county managed to raise \$16,000 to complete the gymnasium at Franklin High last year without setting up a special allocation.

"If we can build the surplus it will be given to the schools," he declared.

Under the budget, the schools get a total of 33 cents of the tax rate, 23 cents for current expenses and 15 for capital outlay.

Here is a breakdown of the tax rate, by departments:

General Fund, .20 cents; Pauper Fund, .02; Health, .05; Farm Demonstration, .03; Home Demonstration, .02; Fire Prevention, .01; Veterans Service, .01; Public Welfare, .15; Public Welfare Administration, .07; Schools, Current Expenses, .23; Schools, Capital Outlay, .15; County-wide Debt Service, .46.

In drawing the budget Monday, the commissioners also discussed a \$2,000 allocation for the library, but deferred a decision to a later meeting.

Suggestions Don't Change Budget Plans

Four recommendations dealing with school financing failed to alter the commissioners' plans when they drew the 1956-57 budget Monday morning.

The recommendations were prepared by a special P. T. A. committee and were stated in a letter to the commissioners. The letter was presented by Fred Vaughn, of the Franklin P. T. A.

In brief, the recommendations:

(1) Relieve the teachers and principals in the schools of the burden of operating candy stores, and the P. T. A.'s of raising funds for school operation and maintenance, by shifting the burden of supporting the schools to the taxpayers in providing the additional funds asked by the school board.

(2) Take proper steps to prevent future expenditures from current operating funds to cover capital outlay expenditures. This recommendation was made in view of past transfers of money between the two funds to help finance the construction of Chapel School and the new gymnasium.

(3) Consider replacing adult school bus drivers with student or teacher drivers wherever possible as an economy move. In 1955-56, \$16,920 was set in the budget for transportation, mostly driver salaries. "Student drivers have proven themselves to be safe drivers throughout the state and we see no need for any concern in this respect," the letter said.

(4) Consider that, in talking with the various P. T. A.'s in preparing the recommendations, a majority of those expressing

NOLEN WINS STATE FFA FEATURE

Dairy Judging Team Places Second; Deal Is Awarded Money

First place in the state-wide Future Farmers of America farm electrical contest has been won by Frank Nolen, a member of the Franklin chapter.

Frank, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Nolen, received a check for \$100 at the F. F. A. convention last week in Raleigh and will be the North Carolina entry in the national competition.

Win Second

Second place in the state was won by the local chapter's dairy judging team. It scored 1,300 points in losing to Mt. Ulla's 1,307. Members of the team are Buddy McClure, Mark Dowdle, and Bill McClure.

The three-man beef judging team — Bruce Houston, Johnny Killian, and Bill Fouts — placed fourth.

Free Trips

A check for \$75 was awarded

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McDowell Named Assistant Camp Superintendent

Sgt. John W. McDowell, a native of this county, has been elevated to the post of assistant superintendent at the Macon Prison Camp, according to Supt. John E. Cutshall.

Veteran guard Clyde Conley, of Whittier, is the new sergeant at the camp. A native of Swain, he has been here about six months. He has served at the Caledonia Prison Farm and at the Whittier camp.

The promotions of the two men, both of whom are veterans of World War II, were effective Sunday (July 1), the superintendent said.

The post of assistant superintendent has been vacant for several weeks, after the resignation of John Goins, who is now superintendent of a camp in another county.

Air Force Radar Station Slated For Wayah Bald

Mile-high Wayah Bald has been selected as the site for a U. S. Air Force radar station.

The U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers, has announced that the station, in the design stage now, will be an unmanned facility and will bear a "low altitude gap filler radar" title. It will be operated on a "need-to-do" basis.

Estimates of cost of the project range from \$40,000 to \$50,000, based on similar stations erected elsewhere in the state, the announcement disclosed.

Construction will be let to private contractor with award and supervision by the corps' district office in Wilmington.

It will be a small station with

a tower and a building to house generator and similar operating equipment. The entire site will be enclosed by a chain link fence.

Survey for the station is now under way about 1,000 feet southwest of the observation tower on the bald, near Raven Cliffs, according to Wayah District Ranger W. L. Nothstein.

The ranger said he has been informed the tower will be about 70 feet high and that, although the station is to be unmanned, living quarters for one man will be included in the cabin at the base of the tower.

Ranger Nothstein said the tower will not detract from the view from Wayah Bald's crest.

Water Rates Upped By Franklin Board

Water Reserves Down; Requests Conservation

With water reserves dropping under the pressure of increased consumption, Water Supt. Herman Childers this week requested all residents of Franklin to observe voluntary conservation measures.

The superintendent said dry weather has nothing to do with the decrease.

"They're just wanting more water than the wells have got," he declared.

The town storage tanks lost five feet Monday night, instead of gaining as they usually do, he said.

He attributed the increased demand for water to the heavy influx of tourists in the last few days.

This is the second time in recent weeks that water reserves have dropped. During a dry period several weeks ago, voluntary conservation on the part of residents averted a serious shortage until relief came from rain.

Bids For Nantahala Job Given

Bids for the new highway project in the Nantahala community have been approved by the State Highway Commission.

Bids for the 5.29-mile relocation from Fiery Branch to Nantahala School totaled \$358,231.40.

Low bidders are Asheville Contracting Company, \$290,373 for roadway, and \$61,418.40 for structures, and G. E. Crouch, of Asheville, \$6,440 for moving buildings.

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Girl Seriously Injured In Car Accident Thursday

"Excessive speed" is blamed by Highway Patrolman H. T. Ferguson for a one-car wreck last Thursday night on US 23-441 south that injured four people, one critically.

Fifteen-year-old Victoria (Vicky) Ann Vinson, of Dillard, Ga., Route 1, yesterday (Wednesday) was reported by Angel Hospital to still be in a "serious condition", but recovering. The most seriously injured of the four, she received a fractured skull, broken jaw, and cuts on the head and face, it is reported.

Miss Vinson was riding in the front seat of a 1956 Ford driven by Lawton Jess Taylor, 21, of Clayton, Ga., Route 2. Patrolman Ferguson said Taylor apparently lost control of the car in a curve near Jake Addington's. He said it traveled 190 feet after leaving the highway, knocked down a section of fencing, and jumped an estimated 50 feet across a creek and hit the bank head-on on the other side.

The patrolman has charged the driver with speeding and

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More Protection Planned

With Dry Falls' accidental death figure now at three with last week's tragedy, steps are being taken by the Nantahala National Forest to provide additional protection for visitors to the attraction.

Although danger areas have been marked with signs and a fence blocks off the area at the top of the falls, a new fence to run parallel with the entire parking lot has been authorized, according to Highland Ranger Pat Int-Hout. Barbed wire will be strung along its top, he said, and more danger signs will be erected.

Work already is under way. The ranger said he hopes to receive authorization in the near future to extend the fence that runs along the trail leading behind the falls.

The child who was killed at the falls last week either skirted the end of the fence or crawled under it, it is reported.

Body Of Missing Child Is Recovered From Pool At Scenic Dry Falls



Volunteers recovered the body of 10-year-old Janice McGiverin from a deep pool at the base of scenic Dry Falls about 8:15 Wednesday night of last week after an extensive search operation involving scores of people. Up until the child's body was located with grappling hooks by Jimmy Lowe, of Highlands, many on the scene including Janice's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Paul L. McGiverin, of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, believed she was lost in the woods and had not fallen over the falls. This picture layout shows the extensive operations of the search. (1) The man in the foreground stands at a point where Janice's brother, Terry, said he looked up and saw her about 10 a. m.

at the top of the falls (X) and ran to get her out of danger. She had disappeared when he got there. In her death fall, the child closely followed the dotted line into the ravine below. (2) To hold back high water at the falls and enable volunteers to search the pools at the base of the falls, the Mirror Lake dam was raised with sandbags, a piece of strategy that slowed the flow considerably. (3) Meanwhile, spectators, many of them tourists who arrived on the scene unaware of the drama unfolding, lined the fence and peered over to watch dragging operations below. (4) Volunteers are shown dragging for the child's body at the base of the falls. (5) When the larger pools at the base of the falls did not yield the child's body, sand-

bags were used at the top of the cascade to divert the water so volunteers could probe some smaller holes under the falls. The arrow points to Highlands Mayor V. W. McCall, who helped coordinate the operation. (6) Under tons of pounding water, Earl Baty, of Highlands, (circled) holding to a life line, is shown searching one of the holes. In the foreground is Harry Holt, Jr., waiting to give him a hand. (7) About 7:45, Jim Hines reported striking something soft in one of the holes and soon after Lowe located the body with grappling hooks. The body was quickly brought up the steep walls of the ravine and taken to an ambulance. In the back seat of a car nearby, the child's father and brother wept quietly.

Late News and Briefs

FOURTH UNDER WAY
Macon County's July 4 celebration opened yesterday (Wednesday) morning with a parade through Franklin.

A beauty contest and field events were staged at East Franklin School in the morning and a Little League double-header in the afternoon.

With other organizations cooperating, the celebration was coordinated by the Franklin Jaycees.

MEETING POSTPONED
Regular meeting of the Franklin Board of Aldermen Tuesday night was postponed until Friday at 7:30 p. m.

The board is scheduled to adopt the town's new budget. No increase in the tax rate is anticipated.

OPENING DATE SET
September 4 has been tentatively set for the opening of the county schools.

The action was taken Monday morning by the education board.

4 ARE RETIRED
Four men officially retired from service with the State

The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall, as recorded in Franklin by Manson Stiles, U. S. weather observer in Highlands by T. H. Bell and W. C. Newton, TVA observer, and at the Coweta Hydrologic Laboratory.

	Temperatures		
	High	Low	Rain
FRANKLIN			
Wed., June 27	85	56	trace
Thursday	90	50	—
Friday	89	54	trace
Saturday	84	59	trace
Sunday	87	62	trace
Monday	88	63	.04
Tuesday	90	62	.08
HIGHLANDS			
Wed., June 27	83	60	—
Thursday	84	50	—
Friday	80	54	—
Saturday	75	61	.10
Sunday	80	60	.68
Monday	79	58	—
Tuesday	—	—	—
Wednesday	—	—	.05