

BRIDE-TO-BE PERISHES IN AUTO WRECK

Student Is First
Fatality; Driver
Faces Charges

A 17-year-old Highlands High basketball player and bride-to-be became Macon County's first highway fatality in more than a year and a half when the automobile in which she was a passenger was demolished early Saturday morning in a one-vehicle mishap just outside Highlands on US 64, east.

She was Miss Lenora Elizabeth Lowe, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James N. Lowe, of Highlands, Route 3. A guard on her high school team, Miss Lowe had played in the Highlands-Franklin game several hours before the fatal accident. She was to have been married yesterday (Wednesday) to Dave McClain, of Rabun County, Ga.

Another passenger in the automobile, Mrs. Emily Sue Gibson Potts, 16, of Highlands, was hospitalized with lacerations of the face and hands at Highlands Community Hospital.

Highway Patrolman E. N. Hooper identified the driver of the automobile as John C. Caye, 19, of Highlands. A student at Georgia Tech, he was uninjured.

A warrant charging the driver with involuntary manslaughter, speeding, and reckless driving were served following the accident, the officer said.

Mr. Caye is free on \$3,500 bond.

Inquest Held

A coroner's jury empaneled Saturday morning by Coroner C. Jack Ragan returned a verdict of involuntary manslaughter. Members of the jury were Walter Bryson, Neville Bryson, Steve Potts, Tom Potts, Bill Pierson, and Harry Holt.

In his accident report, Patrolman Hooper suggested that racing led to the fatal wreck, about 12:40 a. m.

He said the Caye automobile, a "souped up" 1955 six-cylinder Ford, was traveling east at a "high rate of speed", apparently "attempting to pass another vehicle" when the driver lost control. On the left hand side of the highway, it traveled 207 feet before hitting a guy wire on a power pole, ripping loose a transformer, and going 40 more feet end-over-end before coming to rest on its right side, wedged between a tree and a wall at the foot of an embankment, the report related.

Services Sunday

Funeral services for Miss Lowe were conducted Sunday at 2 p. m. at the Highlands Baptist Church by the Rev. Eugene Walter, pastor, and burial was in the church cemetery.

Serving as pallbearers were Tommy Norton, Tommy Rucker, Robert Edwards, Leon McCall, James Newton, and Charles Watson. Flower girls were members of Miss Lowe's basketball team.

A senior, Miss Lowe was serving this year as associate editor of her school paper. She was a member of the Highlands Baptist Church.

In addition to her parents, surviving are three brothers, James Luther, William Joseph, and Roy Franklin and a sister, Nancy Joyce, all of the home.

Arrangements were handled by Bryant Funeral Home.



HALF-HIDDEN in the underbrush is the automobile in which a Highlands student and bride-to-be, Miss Lenora Elizabeth Lowe, 17, was killed early Saturday morning. She was a passenger in the vehicle which knocked a transformer (foreground) from its mounting on a power pole in its out-of-control course down an embankment just outside Highlands on US 64, east. Patrolman E. N. Hooper is shown shining his flashlight on a gash on the tree (circle) caused when the automobile flipped end-over-end as it came to rest, wedged between the tree and a low rock wall.

Auto Clips Off Pole And Power

Power was interrupted for about three hours along Highlands, highway (US 64) early last Thursday morning when an automobile went out of control and clipped off a main line pole near Dethel Church Road.

Highway Patrolman E. N. Hooper identified the driver of the automobile as Max C. Holland, 21, of Franklin, Route 5. He was uninjured. The officer charged him with driving on the wrong side of the highway and exceeding a safe speed.

The automobile, a 1948 Ford, severed the power pole at the base and carried it 35 feet, the patrolman reported. He listed the automobile as a "total loss".

A crew from Nantahala Power and Light Company replaced the pole and had power restored on the Highlands line in about three hours. The line serves homes in the area of the highway from Franklin to Highlands. Power also was off in the north section of Franklin for about an hour and a quarter.

The mishap occurred about 12:30 a. m.

Shope Still Confined By Illness To Home

Lake V. Shope, register of deeds, has been absent from his courthouse office the past 10 days, confined to his home with a physical ailment.

It is not known when he will be able to return to work.

The register's office is open for business as usual, with Mrs. James E. Perry, Jr., on the job.

Square Dance Saturday To Kick Off Dimes Drive

Macon County's annual March of Dimes campaign will have its official send-off Saturday night at Slagle Memorial Building in Franklin with a benefit square dance.

Dancing will start at 8:30 with music by Jay Dowdle and his band. Admission will be 75 cents and \$1.25. The American Legion is sponsoring the event for the dimes drive.

Meanwhile, the drive chairman, Dean Carpenter, is coordinating

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5,259 Polio Shots Given During Year

During 1956, 5,259 anti-polio immunizations were administered by the county health department.

Mrs. Frank Shope, public health nurse, said the shots went to persons under 20 years of age and to expectant mothers requesting them.

Actually, the year's total does not complete the immunization picture, the nurse pointed out, because several hundred children are due to receive third shots of the vaccine this coming May. Although related to 1956, this round of shots will be included in the 1957 program, she explained.

The present immunization program is administered with federal funds and does not include the general public, only school children and a few special groups, like expectant mothers.

However, the vaccine is available to the public through private physicians, she added.

activities of the campaign in an effort to raise the county's \$4,500 quota as soon as possible.

Coin collectors, fashioned like miniature iron lungs, have been distributed county-wide and letters have been sent to schools and communities requesting that they sponsor events for the March of Dimes.

One large donation — 1,500 pennies — has been received by Mr. Carpenter. The pennies were saved for the drive by Audrey and Tommy Roper, children of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Roper, of the Burn-

CLUB TO MARCH

Members of the Franklin Junior Woman's Club plan to stage a "Mothers' March on Polio" the night of Jan. 24.

A lighted porch light will be the signal that occupants want to contribute.

ingtown section. Last year the Roper children saved 1,000 pennies.

In calling for the cooperation of all Maconians in topping the year's quota, Mr. Carpenter said it is doubly important to raise March of Dimes money even though an effective vaccine has been developed.

"We owe it to those who were stricken with the disease before the Salk vaccine came out . . . they can walk again and our dimes can do the job," he declared.

Funds also are needed to continue the research program, he said, in order to develop more effective preventatives and better treatment procedures.

MORNING BUS BEING LOPPED FROM SCHEDULE

Changes Ordered
By Queen City
Effective Jan. 24

Queen City Trailways is lopping Franklin's early morning bus from its schedule under changes set to go into effect next Thursday, Jan. 24.

With the effective date, the bus from Atlanta that arrives now here nightly at 7:30 and lays over until 5:50 the next morning, before proceeding on to Asheville, will be eliminated.

This will leave Franklin with two buses going each way (Asheville-Atlanta) daily.

The 9:20 a. m. to Atlanta remains the same. The old 3:15 p. m. to Atlanta, however, is being rescheduled to 5:20 p. m.

Going to Asheville, busses will depart here at 11:10 a. m. and at 10:25 p. m.

In early October, the bus company proposed changes but cancelled them at the last minute when protests were lodged by people along the Atlanta-Asheville run.

Somebody Lost In Tie-Breaker Here Last Night

Weather permitting, Franklin and Glenville were to have played basketball here last (Wednesday) night, after which one of the girls' teams could no longer boast of being undefeated.

The match was postponed from Tuesday night when icy roads prevented the Glenville boys and girls from making the trip to Franklin.

Both girls' squads were undefeated in conference play, with six wins each. Franklin was undefeated for the season, counting 10 wins.

At Highlands last Friday night, Franklin won both the boys' and girls' games. Mavis Gibson, with 20 points, led the girls to a 53-45 victory. Dean Long's 16 points were high for the boys, as they whipped Highlands, 44-26.

Franklin High Has Bid In For Tourney

Franklin High has a bid in for the '57 girls' basketball tournament in the Smoky Mountain Conference.

Principal Harry C. Corbin yesterday (Wednesday) still had not learned if the school's move to get the tournament was successful, but he hoped to have some word by the last of the week.

Selection of tournament sites rests with a seven-man committee of coaches and principals in the conference.

The boys' and girls' tournaments are slated for the latter part of February.

County Is First To Top Quota

Macon County is the first of its size in the state to top its 1956 tuberculosis Christmas seal quota, according to information received by the campaign chairman, Sam Gibson.

Through Tuesday, contributions totaled \$688.55 and "more is still dribbling in", the chairman declared.

For the same period in 1955, the county had raised only \$446.

Accused Slayer Waives Hearing

Ledford Shooting
Case Bound Over
To Higher Court

In an unexpected move Tuesday morning, lawyers representing James Maney, 35-year-old Clay County man charged with the Christmas Eve shotgun slaying of a Macon County storekeeper, waived the findings of a preliminary hearing and had his case bound over to Superior Court.

A similar action was taken in the case of R. C. Ledford, also of Clay County, a companion of Maney's who is charged with aiding and abetting the fatal shooting of C. L. (Ceil) Ledford, in his Cartoogechaye store.

The preliminary hearing before Justices of the Peace Sam J. Murray and J. R. Morrison had been

scheduled for 2 o'clock Tuesday afternoon.

Maney was released Tuesday morning into the custody of Sheriff J. Harry Thomas from Angel Clinic, where he had been hospitalized for treatment of a .32 calibre pistol wound allegedly inflicted by C. L. Ledford shortly before the fatal shooting. He entered the hospital here several hours after the shooting while officers looked for him in Clay County. During his stay at the hospital, Maney was kept under special guard at night.

Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., set Maney's bond at \$5,000 and Ledford's at \$3,000.

Yesterday (Wednesday) morning, the two men were still in the county jail, although efforts were under way to free them on bonds.

Bank Deposits And Postal Receipts Show Differences

Post office receipts and bank deposits for 1956 gave conflicting pictures of the year's prosperity.

Frank B. Duncan, president of the Bank of Franklin, reported to stockholders last week that in 1956 the bank experienced one of the best years in its history. Deposits showed an increase of \$245,714 over the previous year, with total resources at \$2,667,542.56.

Postmaster Zeb Meadows said postal receipts for the year just ended showed an increase of only \$350 over 1955. In 1955, the Franklin Post Office increased its revenue by \$2,667 over 1954.

At the bank stockholders meeting, a semi-annual dividend of \$1 a share was paid.

Elected directors were Mr. Duncan, A. B. Slagle, T. W. Angel, Jr., Henry W. Cabe, John L. Crawford, W. E. (Gene) Baldwin, Richard S. Jones, Verlon Swafford, and Elmon Teague.

The directors elected Mr. Slagle, chairman of the board; Mr. Duncan, president; Mr. Swafford, vice-president; Mr. Cabe, cashier; and

Walter Dean and Robert C. Carpenter, assistant cashiers.

Announcement was made at the meeting of a remodeling program for the bank. New bank fixtures are being installed and the work is expected to be completed by Monday.

Receipts for the postal quarter just ended (Jan. 11) were up 2.6 per cent over the corresponding period last year. Postmaster Meadows said this week. Income this quarter was \$12,155.61; last year for the same period it was \$11,848.48.

Here are yearly revenues for the post office here since 1944: 1944, \$24,787.96; 1945, \$25,377.83; 1946, \$21,090.08; 1947, \$21,774.91; 1948, \$23,217.65; 1949, \$24,418.85; 1950, \$23,966.23; 1951, \$27,589.16; 1952, \$50,911.83; 1953, \$32,633.68; 1954, \$34,754.21; 1955, \$37,421.01; 1956, \$37,771.36.

Franklin, now a second class post office, is but \$2,300 short of moving into the first class bracket. When receipts total \$40,000 annually, the post office will be rated first class.

County And Towns Purchase Radios

Law enforcement agencies in Highlands, Franklin, and Macon County—heretofore without radio contact—will be linked by new radio equipment expected to be installed by April 1.

The equipment was ordered by the county last week after a conference between D. E. Marable, salesman for Motorola, Inc., who is promoting civil defense in four seaboard states, members of the Franklin Board of Aldermen, and the Macon Board of County Commissioners.

In a related action, the county commissioners named C. Jack Ragan, of Franklin, as director of civil defense for the county.

To cost \$4,044.50, half of the expense for the radio equipment will be borne by the federal government. Of the remaining \$2,022.25, costs will be pro rated among Franklin, Highlands, and Macon County, depending on how much equipment each will use. The equipment is being bought

from Motorola.

A radio set will be installed in a police car at Highlands, in one at Franklin, and in two for the sheriff. The county will pay for one for the sheriff and Sheriff J. Harry Thomas will pay for the other.

Base stations will be installed at the courthouse office of the sheriff and in the jail. Cars equipped with the units will be able to communicate with each, as well as the base station. The cars can communicate with the Asheville station of the State Highway Patrol, but cannot reach the patrol cars themselves.

The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall below are recorded in Franklin by Manson Stiles, U. S. weather observer; in Highlands by Tudor N. Hall and W. C. Newton; TVA observers; and at the Coweta Hydrologic Laboratory. Readings are for the 24-hour period ending at 8 a. m. of the day listed.

FRANKLIN

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Jan. 9	59	40	.00
Thursday	66	36	trace
Friday	41	21	.05
Saturday	59	32	.00
Sunday	60	30	.00
Monday	52	33	.00
Tuesday	41	32	.00
Wednesday	32	.06

HIGHLANDS

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Jan. 9	58	36	trace
Thursday	40	35	.13
Friday	38	20	.00
Saturday	54	32	.00
Sunday	55	34	.00
Monday	50	30	.00
Tuesday	34	27	trace
Wednesday	29	.19

COWEETA

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Jan. 9	61	40	.16
Thursday	60	56	.00
Friday	42	22	.00
Saturday	59	31	.00
Sunday	58	28	.00
Monday	52	33	.00
Tuesday	34	30	.00
Wednesday	32	.00

Water Supply Setups In Neighboring Towns Aired

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Since Franklin is facing the problem of expanding its water supply, it seemed worth-while to find out how other communities have met the problem. So a Press representative visited eight neighboring towns and talked to officials and citizens. This, the first in a series of articles telling what he found, gives the answers to questions about the source of the supply and how satisfactory it is.)

Six of eight Western North Carolina towns just visited by a Press reporter get part, or all, of their water from watersheds, controlled areas set aside for the purpose. A seventh uses wells but has had ex-

perience with a shed, and the eighth always has used springs.

There is no disagreement over the desirability of a watershed, provided the water is filtered, but different towns have had varied results. Here is a breakdown:

Sylva—"We have the best water in the world and throw away more than a million gallons a day," says Town Clerk Edmond J. Nicholson. The town draws all its water from a watershed.

Dillsboro—Now gets its water from two wells. Until 10 years ago, Dillsboro used a watershed. It proved to be inadequate and no land was available to enlarge it.

Bryson City—With a well and two watersheds, this town has enough water, says Town Clerk Jack Welch. Probably, Bryson's is

the dirtiest looking water in Western North Carolina, the sediment being particularly noticeable after a rain. This is due to lack of filters at the watersheds; foreign matter flows into the town's water system.

Hayesville—Enough water here. All supplied by springs.

Murphy—A watershed supplemented by the Hiwassee River gives Murphy its water. The town needed more water. There being no watershed available large enough to provide all it would want in future years, Murphy voted bonds for a big, new filter plant on the river. It will provide what the watershed doesn't.

Andrews—"There is no better water, anywhere," says Claude Angel, superintendent of the water

works. "We have available all we can ever use. It all comes from our watershed."

Robbinsville—"We have the best water in North Carolina." That statement from J. B. Cory, the town engineer. This town's watershed will provide "more than we can ever use. We just add a creek, as we need it," says Mr. Cory.

Highlands—Trouble here. Water in Highlands comes from two watersheds and two wells. More water is needed and an engineering firm has recommended the town tap a creek. No more watershed land that is higher than town is available.

Town officials, prominent citizens, and business and residential water customers in watershed towns are unanimous about the qualities of a watershed: the water

is good to the taste, soft (which means easy lathering), but dirty if it is not filtered. They all agree that it should be chlorinated.

(State law requires that all surface water be chlorinated. The State Board of Health recommends that a minimum of 0.3 parts per million (ppm) and a maximum of 1.0 ppm of residual chlorine be carried in the finished water.)

Those who have had experience with watersheds point out that a great deal of money is saved by gravity flow; that is, there are no costs for pumping. The one expense they cite is the once a year, or every two year, job of bulldozing the mud away from dams.

Further, they point out that watershed locations affect how much water comes into them. The

farther up a creek the shed, the less water received. The farther down the creek, the less pressure in the mains.

Another advantage of a watershed is that there is revenue from the cutting of timber on it.

A drawback to watersheds cited is that Western North Carolina rainfall in the last eight or ten years has declined and as a result, the area is slowly getting hotter and drier.

(NEXT WEEK: The experience of each of seven towns in meeting its public water supply problem will be told in detail in the second of this series of articles, to appear in The Press next week. A third article will discuss Highlands' situation.)