

Frozen Lakes Bring Thousands To Town



Several thousand persons succumbed to the lure of frozen lakes and ice skating in Highlands over the week end, turning the small resort town into a bustling hive of activity. Automobiles, the majority from South Carolina, choked the highways and byways and parking space was hard to find. Bon fires and lights rigged along the fringes of Mirror Lake kept the winter sport going into the night hours. Restaurants, drug stores, and tourist establishments are reported to have done a brief but landslide business before warming temperatures Monday cut activity short.

SELLING IN SCHOOLS IS DISAPPEARING

Only Two Selling Items Other Than Ice Cream Here

Gradually, Macon County schools have gotten out of the candy, cracker, and soft drink business and today only Franklin High School and Highlands sell these items.

All of the county's schools sell ice cream, but not until after lunch, according to School Superintendent Holland McSwain.

Selling such merchandise as candy and other snacks is regarded as poor educational policy by the state agency which accredits schools. The agency refuses to give accreditation to any school selling these things.

(Of the 11 elementary schools in Macon County, only two are accredited. These are Otto and Cullasaja. However, Mrs. Beth Guffey, elementary supervisor for the county, said this week that several more are ready for accreditation, or soon will be.)

In addition to various foodstuffs, the schools long have sold a few school supplies, such as pencils and paper. School officials say the school stores have been necessary to provide needed operational revenue which is not provided by the county.

Since Christmas, Franklin High School has installed cracker and soft drink machines. It does not sell candy. The school began this school year without such machines, according to Mr. McSwain, but re-installed them because the revenue was needed for school expenses.

Mr. McSwain is "delighted" that such sweets are nearly out of the Macon County curriculum.

"I have never believed," he said this week, "that it is the schools' job to dispense candy. We spend a lot of time and energy getting ready a wholesome lunch and we don't want to see the children's appetites spoiled."

"Further, I don't believe the schools should have to help support themselves through the operation of school stores. The support is the job of all of us, as county taxpayers."

"If, temporarily, we must run school stores, I'm delighted we are now selling candy and other sweet items in but one or two of them. It is my hope that these remaining candy sellers will soon be out of the candy business."

It Kept 'Em Hoppin'...

Angel Hospital's nursery staff found itself in a slight dither over a four-day period last week.

From the 15th to the 19th, nine babies arrived, girls outnumbering the boys 5 to 4.

Although not a record breaker, the debut of that many infants was nonetheless "unusual," according to Dr. J. W. Kahn, who delivered three of the nine. As of the 19th, the hospital was only one baby shy of having a daily average of one-a-day for 1957.

BURNINGTOWN SING

The Fourth Sunday Sing will be held Sunday, beginning at 1:30 p. m., at the Burningtown Baptist Church, it has been announced by Lon Thompson, president. All singers and the public are invited.



MAPPING A PROGRAM for the coming tourist season are the new officers of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce. Seated is the reelected president, Verlon Swafford. Standing (L to R) are H. H. Gnuse, Jr., vice-president, and J. C. Crisp, treasurer.

Swafford Reelected

Verlon Swafford has been reelected president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and plans are now being made to kick-off the organization's annual fund campaign at a banquet later in the year.

Meeting Wednesday night of last week, the chamber board of directors, including four new members, started organizing for the 1957 tourist season.

Named to serve with Mr. Swafford were H. H. Gnuse, Jr., vice-president, and J. C. Crisp, treasurer. Mr. Gnuse is a reelected director, while Mr. Crisp is new to the board.

Arrangements for the annual banquet, tentatively planned for the latter part of March, are being handled by Dr. G. R. McSweeney and J. P. Brady, two of the new directors.

Mr. Swafford appointed Mr. Brady and Mrs. Laska E. Horsley, executive secretary, to look into possible revision of the town's publicity folder and make recommendations at the board's next meeting.

Meetings are to be held the second Thursday in each month. Employment of an executive secretary was postponed until Mrs. Horsley's present tenure expires later in the year.

A list of committee appointments is now being prepared by Mr. Swafford for presentation and approval at the next meeting.

OFF FOR CONFERENCE
Miss Laura M. Jones left today (Thursday) for Misenheimer to attend the conference executive committee meeting of the Woman's Society of Christian Service at Pfeiffer College.

Changes Blocked By State Agency

Queen City Ordered To Keep Schedule Of Busses Same

A move by Queen City Trailways to discontinue Franklin's early morning bus to Asheville has been blocked by the State Utilities Commission and the present schedule is to remain in effect until a special hearing is held.

The open hearing is scheduled for Feb. 1 at 10 a. m. at the Buncombe County Courthouse.

A delegation from here, led by Mayor W. C. Burrell and Verlon Swafford, president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, plans to be on hand for the hearing to oppose the removal of the bus and to call for more efficient service from Smoky Mountain Stages, Queen City Trailways' offspring that serves this area.

Notified
Here this week to discuss the

bus service situation. D. D. Davis, of Sylva, flatly declared the utilities commission had not been notified by Queen City Trailways of any proposed changes either here or in Brevard, where the company has proposed to "temporarily discontinue" all service to that area.

"A woman from here telephoned me," he said. "That was the first I knew of any changes... and I immediately informed Raleigh."

Mr. Davis is the area representative of the commission.

Order Given

Upon learning of the proposed schedule changes, he said, E. A. Hughes, Jr., director of motor passenger transportation for the commission, ordered Queen City to continue its present schedules until hearings were held. Mr. Davis had in his possession a copy of Mr. Hughes' letter to J. H. Quattlebaum.

SEE NO. 2, PAGE 10

Survey Results —

Officials Of 7 Neighboring Towns Give Water Situations

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the second of a series of articles reporting the results of a Franklin Press survey of the water situations in eight neighboring towns. These articles supplement another series, published several months ago, on the situation in Franklin.)

Water is in the news in eight Western North Carolina towns recently visited by a Press reporter.

It's in the news because there's either enough of it, or not enough because it either tastes good, lathers easily, and is clean looking, or because it isn't. Whatever the case, it's widely discussed.

SYLVA

Take Sylva, for instance. Here's a town with a situation similar to Franklin's, in that it has a large industrial concern which uses a lot of water (Mead Corporation), a small population (1,500), and residential fringe areas which are not part of the town but want town water. Sylva has met the problem and is in the best shape, water-wise, of any of the eight towns visited by The Press reporter. Sylva has so much water that hundreds of thousands of gallons are spilled daily.

How does this Jackson County town get its water? From a 1,046-acre, town-owned watershed on Fisher Creek. It is two and a half miles from the city limits.

With a \$75,000 bond issue in 1953, the town improved its watershed by adding a filter plant. Until that time the water ran directly into the system, but was chlorinated.

Edmond J. Nicholson, town

Continued On Page Eight—

The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall below are recorded in Franklin by Manson Stokes, U. S. weather observer; in Highlands by Tudor N. Hail and W. C. Newton, TVA observers; and at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory. Readings are for the 24-hour period ending at 3 a. m. of the day listed.

FRANKLIN

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Jan. 16	40	29	.00
Thursday	28	14	.00
Friday	32	8	trace
Saturday	48	6	.00
Sunday	41	13	.00
Monday	54	36	.02
Tuesday	58	46	.62
Wednesday	57	41	

HIGHLANDS

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Jan. 16	35	29	.19
Thursday	24	12	.00
Friday	25	8	.00
Saturday	39	12	.00
Sunday	36	18	.00
Monday	47	34	trace
Tuesday	46	36	1.25
Wednesday	46	48	3.35

COWEETA

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Jan. 16	40	32	.00
Thursday	29	15	.00
Friday	34	11	.00
Saturday	45	9	.00
Sunday	41	19	.05
Monday	53	38	.58
Tuesday	57	46	1.73
Wednesday	50	46	.00

"Uncle John" Gribble, One Of Macon's First Electricians, Dies At Age 84

A pioneer electrician in this county, John David ("Uncle John") Gribble, succumbed Saturday at 8:30 p. m. at the home of his son, Audell Gribble, on Franklin, Route 2. Eighty-four years old, "Uncle John" had been ill for three weeks.

His passing removes still another "landmark" of the old days, for "Uncle John" was widely known and quoted. As one of the county's first electricians, back in the days when electric lights were an envied luxury of the well-to-do, he worked as a lineman at Franklin's first power plant, a small privately-owned enterprise established near the old Roller Mill on Cartoogechaye Creek by Henry O. Cozad. This was about 1908. When Mr. Cozad sold out to the town in 1926, "Uncle John" stayed on a while as manager of the light, power and water department of the town before taking up farming in the Prentiss section. He sold his farm in the early 1940's.

Up until his death, "Uncle John" held claim to being one of the best buck dancers in the area. He staked this claim as a very young man and defended it against all comers. During Franklin's Centennial celebration in 1955, "Uncle John" won first place for "warming the boards", using his cane to add some of the rhythm time

had removed from his agile legs. He was 82 then and the judges awarded him the top prize solely on the basis of ability and not because of his advanced age.

Funeral services for "Uncle John" were conducted Monday at 2 p. m. at the Franklin Presbyterian Church by the Rev. Hoyt Evans, a former pastor, assisted by the Rev. Andrew Cloer, pastor of the Longview Baptist Church. Burial was in Woodlawn Cemetery. Masons conducted rites at the graveside.

The son of Lucius and Mrs. Sarah Carpenter Gribble, he was a member of the Franklin Presbyterian Church and the Bakersville Masonic Lodge in Mitchell County. He was married Jan. 10, 1897, to Miss Annie Davis, of this county, who survives.

Survivors, in addition to his wife and son, include another son, Ted Gribble, of Franklin, Route 2; two brothers, L. D. Gribble, of Demorest, Ga., and Andie Gribble, of Franklin; a half-brother, Clabus, of Enka; two sisters, Mrs. Minnie Foster, of Clarksville, Ga.; and Mrs. E. B. Foster, of Hiawassee, Ga.; and five grandchildren.

Pallbearers were Mac Ray Whitaker, George M. Slagle, B. L. McGlamery, J. Ward Long, T. H. Page, and John Ray.

Arrangements were handled by Bryant Funeral Home.

'Uncle John' Dancing At 82...



A HALF-GNAWED tree is sealed with a pencil by Frank Plyler, employe of Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, to give some idea of the energy expended by a rare beaver colony—rare here—that has taken over a small valley just off Coweeta Creek.

They're At Work...

An uninvited band of vagabond engineers are revamping the landscape in a small valley just off Coweeta Creek on the old Brabson property.

These energetic industrialists are beavers, amphibious rodents that haven't been seen in this neck of the woods, except in very rare instances, in many, many years.

Where this band migrated from is anyone's guess. But the fact remains that they're here and are busily damming up a small spring-fed stream. At last count, they had no less than eight dams flooding a wide area of bottom land. The dams range in size from a foot high to one about four feet high and 10 feet long.

Few, if any, have spotted the animals at work. They've set up shop in a thickety section that makes observation difficult.

A large house of sticks and wood has been built by the "broad tails"

about 25 yards from where the small stream and Coweeta Creek Join. When an interloper approaches (ankle deep in water and covered with brambles and briars) they disappear inside and remain until the coast is clear. The house has at least two entrances, one on land and one under water. The latter can be spotted in the deep water near a dam. Look for a cluster of corn stalks; they mark the channel and keep the doorway clear.

There are many other signs of industry around — half-gnawed sapplings, trails to a nearby corn patch, mud slides along the small dammed lakes, and tracks, lots of tracks.

These tracks may forecast a rather ambitious project by the beaver colony.

Several have been found on a sandbar in swift Coweeta Creek, made, no doubt, by a resolute beaver with a dream!