

The Franklin Press

and
The Highlands Maconian

PROGRESSIVE

LIBERAL

INDEPENDENT

VOL. XLIX. NO. 34

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, AUGUST 23, 1934

\$1.50 PER YEAR

JUDGE PLESS HOLDING COURT

Compliments Grand Jury For Efficiency and Service

Judge J. Will Pless, Jr., who at 36 is the youngest member of the North Carolina superior court bench, convened the August term of court here Monday, cleaned up the criminal calendar in schedule time and turned Wednesday morning to the heavy civil docket.

In his charge to the grand jury, of which Frank Hill, of Horse Cove was made chairman, Judge Pless emphasized the importance of examining the records of all administrators and guardians to see that they had properly disposed of their trusts and filed their reports as required by law.

Most of the cases coming before the court were of a petty character, a very large percentage of them having to do with violations of the prohibition law.

Sutton Case Continued

There was only one homicide case on the calendar, that in which Hyman Sutton, of Jackson county, was charged with manslaughter in connection with the death of Robert Shields, who was struck by an automobile driven by Sutton on May 24 about four miles south of Franklin on highway No. 285. A bill was presented to the grand jury, but the case was continued until the next term of court on account of the absence of witnesses and the lack of evidence.

Ted Campbell, charged with reckless driving in connection with an automobile accident Saturday, August 11, in which three girls were injured, was found guilty by a jury and sentenced by the judge to 90 days on the county roads.

Compliments Jury

When the grand jury turned in its report Wednesday afternoon Judge Pless complimented it upon its efficiency and unselfish service.

"You probably could have made more money than the dollar and a half a day you are receiving as grand jurors if you had remained at home," he remarked. "But you will never lose anything by rendering public service such as this."

The jury's report said the jail and county home were in excellent condition and the inmates well cared for, but recommended that steps be taken to exterminate insects at the county home. It reported that all guardians, administrators, executors and justices of the peace had filed their reports and the records were in good condition. Action to improve the sanitation of the courthouse comfort stations was recommended. The jury also urged that the salary of the courthouse janitor be increased to \$25 a month.

Solicitor John M. Queen submitted a report stating he had examined the office of the clerk of court and found the records orderly and efficiently kept.

Plan To Clean Cemetery on Saturday

The cemetery of Clark's Chapel Methodist church is to be mowed and cleaned Saturday, according to an announcement made this week. Members of the church and others who have relatives buried in the cemetery are requested to be present to aid in the work.

Davenport's Leave On Trip to Europe

Mr. and Mrs. John Davenport sailed last week from Norfolk for a six-weeks trip abroad. Mr. Davenport, who is president of the Franklin Mineral Products company, mica miners and manufacturers, plans to visit agents of the company in London and Paris.

Mr. and Mrs. Davenport are expected to return about October 1.

Polly's Sold

New Proprietor Assumes Management of Store

Change of ownership and management of Polly's store was announced this week, Sam Poliakoff, formerly of Blackville, S. C., having purchased the business from N. Poliakoff, of Anderson, S. C.

Polly's selling-out sale ended Saturday and what remained of the store's merchandise was moved out Monday. The new proprietor is installing a new stock of goods. He said the business in the future would be under the name of Polly's Department Store.

Mr. Poliakoff plans to bring his family to Franklin to live.

RETURN AFTER WEEK'S CAMP

Agriculture Students Report Great Time Spent At White Lake

Twenty-five members of the vocational agriculture class of the Franklin high school returned Saturday night after a week's stay at the Young Tar Heel Farmers' camp at White Lake, near Elizabethtown, N. C.

The boys left Franklin Sunday morning, August 12, and rode to Raleigh the first day, where they were guests of N. C. State College for the night.

The group left Raleigh about noon Monday and arrived at the camp about 4 o'clock that afternoon.

On Thursday the boys were loaded into a truck for a trip to Carolina Beach. It was the first time any of them had seen the ocean, and when they departed there was not a single shell and very little sand left in sight.

Friday night is always stunt night at the camp, and this is the second time that the Franklin boys have won first place.

Following is a list of the boys who attended camp:

Erwin Norton, Fred Gray, Bill Conley, Tim Patton, Siler Slagle, Roger Ammons, T. M. Johnston, Harold Enloe, Dan Reynolds, Harold Stewart, J. B. Lenoir, Edwin Youngs, Wayne Franklin, Newell Picklesimer, Jack Holland, Ernest Bennett, Billy Parrish, Elam Gray, Bobby Pattillo, Norman West, Vernon Swafford, Joe Shope, Hayne Arthur, and Carlos Rogers. Other members of the party was the owner of the truck and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Russell.

A small quota of food and \$6.50 each covered the cost of the entire trip, which was around 1,150 miles. The trip was under the direction of the instructor of agriculture, E. H. Meacham.

Georgia To Improve Tri-State Road

The state of Georgia has at last taken steps to improve the Georgia link of the Tri-State road between Walhalla, S. C., and Highlands, N. C. Contract for grading this section of road, a distance of slightly more than eight miles, was awarded by the Georgia highway board last Thursday to M. R. Woodall company, of Atlanta, for \$72,323.

The Tri-State road is one of the most important routes leading into Macon county from the south. The link in South Carolina is hard-surfaced and the North Carolina section is well graded and covered with crushed stone. Highlands folks are hoping that grading of the Georgia link will be soon followed by award of a contract for surfacing it.

BRYSON CLAN HAS REUNION

Nearly 300 Attend Family Gathering Held at West's Mill

The Bryson family reunion was held Sunday at the home of Mrs. J. L. Bryson at West's Mill with nearly 300 members of the clan and invited guests present, many of them having come from distant points for the annual meeting of the descendants of Samuel Bryson, one of Macon county's pioneer residents.

The crowd swelled the congregation of the Cowee Baptist church for the regular morning service, filling the church to capacity. Later a bounteous picnic dinner was served under the trees at Mrs. Bryson's home nearby. A table more than 60 feet long was laden with tempting food and, although the attendance was larger than expected, there was more than plenty for everyone.

Officers Elected

In the afternoon a family convale was held at which the following officers were reelected to serve during the coming year: C. Tom Bryson, president; Robert T. Bryson, vice president; C. A. Bryson, treasurer; Mrs. Lester S. Conley, secretary; T. C. Bryson, historian for life.

C. Tom Bryson presided at the meeting. The Dalton brothers quartet furnished music. Much amusement was afforded by the recital of essays and speeches by some of the younger members of the clan. Short talks were made by Dan Bryson, of Sylva; Frank Bryson, of Darrington, Wash.; Vance A. Browning, of Bryson City, and various others.

The reunion next year will be held at the same place on the third Sunday in August.

Among the Visitors

Among those attending the reunion from out of the county were: Mr. and Mrs. Dan Bryson, of Sylva; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Mallonee and Robert Fisher, of Sylva; Mr. and Mrs. Doc Bryson, of Spruce Pine; Mrs. N. C. Simpkins, of Asheville; Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bryson and four children, of Darrington, Wash.; Mrs. Ben S. Matlock and three sons, of Boise, Idaho; George E. West, of New York; Mrs. Martha Meadows and two daughters, Misses Floy and Juanita, of Bryson City; C. R. Browning and Vance Browning, of Bryson City; Mr. and Mrs. Ballard Bryson, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bennett and daughter, Louise, and Miss Dora Bryson, of Atlanta, Ga.; Miss Blanche Ashe and Miss Versie Whitlock, of Winston-Salem; Hixie Ashe, Green's Creek; Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Pressley and two children, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Scruggs and two children, of Canton; Mrs. Andrew Edward and three sons, of Ellijay, Ga.; Mrs. C. E. Crawley, of Macon, Ga.; Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Bryson and two children, of East LaPorte; Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Cole, of Candler; Mrs. Kate Parrish Younce, Haines City, Fla.

Dr. Coker Recovering

Dr. W. C. Coker, professor of botany at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, underwent an operation at Angel hospital Wednesday. His condition was reported satisfactory Thursday morning. Dr. Coker spends part of each summer at Highlands doing botanical research work.

Concert To Be Given At Bryson City Aug. 29

Thirty picked artists from the North Carolina Symphony orchestra, under direction of Lamar Stringfield, will appear in concert in the high school auditorium at Bryson City on the night of Wednesday, August, 29.

Mystery Shrouds Strange Death of Thomas Norton

POSSE SEEKS BANK BANDITS

Clayton Bank Robbers Believed Cornered in Yancey County

Four of the five bandits who held up the Bank of Clayton shortly before 3 o'clock Tuesday afternoon were believed Wednesday night to be in hiding in a wide mountainous region near Newdale, in Yancey county, North Carolina. A posse of Mitchell, Yancey and McDowell county officers was keeping watch on the section and Sheriff O. F. Adkins of McDowell said he believed capture of the men was imminent.

At least one of the bandits, possibly more, was believed wounded, as a stolen car they abandoned in a mad flight to the bushes bore profuse blood stains. The bandits were said to be armed with sawed-off shotguns and a machine gun.

The officers said they felt sure the men were the same gang, probably the Bailey gang, which held up the Clayton bank, escaping in a Ford automobile with about \$1,200 in cash after firing a few random shots. Although the streets of Clayton were crowded, none of the bullets took effect. Officers gave chase to the bandits but lost track of them just below Tiger. It is thought possible that the men cut across on the War Woman road and may have come into North Carolina by way of Highlands.

2 WOMEN HURT IN AUTO WRECK

Mrs. J. J. Carswell, of Augusta, Ga., and Mrs. Gus Yorke, said to be from Florida, were seriously injured Monday afternoon when an automobile in which they were riding was in a collision with a large tar road-surfacing truck at the intersection of the old Georgia road and highway No. 28.

Mrs. Carswell, who suffered a fractured pelvis, a crushed chest and severe shock, was in a critical condition when taken to Angel hospital. She was given two blood transfusions, however, and responded to treatment. The blood was drawn from her son, J. G. Carswell, a boy of about 15, who was said to have been driving the car. He was uninjured in the accident. Mrs. Yorke suffered a fractured pelvis.

Both women were reported Wednesday to be recovering.

The tar truck was said to have been operated by a driver for Kiker and Younts, Reidsville contractors who have two road projects in this county.

Iotla Young Democrats To Meet Saturday

A meeting of the Iotla Young People's Democratic club has been called for 8 o'clock Saturday night at the Iotla school by Vance Fouts, president of the club. J. Frank Ray, Democratic nominee for representative, is scheduled to address the meeting. Mr. Fouts said there also would be string music.

Charlie Shepherd, who has been in a hospital in Norfolk, Va., arrived here Tuesday for a visit.

Found on Road with His Neck Broken and Chest Crushed

INQUEST IS HELD

Witness Tells of Drunken Fight at Chicken Roast

Macon county officers are puzzling over the mysterious death of Thomas "Brack" Norton, 23, whose body was found on state highway No. 285 half a mile north of the Georgia line about 2:30 o'clock Tuesday morning, a few hours after he had had a drunken fight with Herbert Bradshaw at a chicken roast in the vicinity.

Norton's neck was broken and the right side of his chest crushed. After an inquest called by Coroner Charlie Moore at which evidence indicating foul play was submitted, the coroner's jury returned a verdict that Norton came to his death as the result of "some criminal act or fault of some person or persons unknown."

Accident Theory Scouted

At first it was thought Norton might have been the victim of a hit-and-run driver, but this theory was scouted after witnesses at the inquest testified that there was no blood on the pavement near Norton's body, although there was some dried blood on his face. Evidence also was given that there were no tire marks on the paving or other indications of quick application of automobile brakes.

In reply to a question by the jury as to whether he thought the body had been placed on the highway where it was found after the death, Dr. Charles Solms replied:

"After I looked around and saw no car skids and no blood, it made me suspect he might have been put there."

The body was found by Charlie Wikle, Wiley Hayes and Friday Hawshaw, negroes, who went to the nearby home of Marvin Howard and told of the discovery. The body was still warm, they said. Dr. Solms was called and Sheriff Slagle notified.

Tells of Fight

The jury learned of the fight between Norton and Herbert Bradshaw from Edgar Howard, at whose house the chicken roast was held. He said there had been drinking in the crowd and that Norton and Bradshaw had a fist fight, but were separated. About 2 a. m., he continued, the party broke up and Norton said he was going to the Georgia line to get some more whisky, while Bradshaw said he was going home, in the opposite direction from the Georgia line.

Bradshaw was not present at the hearing.

Funeral services for Norton, who recently returned to this county from the CCC camp at Pisgah, were held at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at the Asbury Methodist church with the Rev. J. B. Tabor, Jr., officiating. A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Berrick Norton, he is survived by an uncle, Jim Norton, of Otto; two sisters, Mrs. Carrie Holt, of Tryphosa; and Miss Claire Norton, of Otto, and a brother, Robert L. Norton, of Otto.

Mr. and Mrs. Weyman Crawford, of Milton, N. C., came Wednesday for a visit with friends and relatives here.