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The Highlands Maconian

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FRANKLIN, N. C. THURSDAY, OCTOBER 24, 1940

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## Mountain Movie Arouses Indignation Of Audience

### Citizens Take Action To Have Film Of Movie Taken Destroyed

"Mountain Folks," WPA-produced movie of Macon people and scenes, ended its first showing in the sheriff's safe here last Saturday night, after a capacity audience composed of people it supposedly represented objected so strenuously to the film that Deputy Sheriff John Dills confiscated it in order to prevent a possible demonstration.

A crowd of around 500 which filled the courthouse auditorium to overflowing sat relatively quiet during the showing of the two-reel film, but when Miss Elda Keithly, who directed the making of the picture this summer, rose to ask for criticism, she was overwhelmed with comments. Members of the audience objected that the movie "showed the seamy side of life in the county," that it failed to show more prosperous farms and homes here, and that it was entirely unrepresentative.

### Film Returned Sunday

Feeling rose so high that finally Deputy Dills took the films into custody and gave Erwin Hartley, the photographer who made the movie for the University of North Carolina under Miss Hartley's direction, a receipt for them. Sheriff A. B. Slagle returned the films to the pair Sunday morning.

This week, action to prevent the films' being shown elsewhere took three definite forms. The town board of aldermen called a special meeting to pass a resolution condemning the movie; 17 members of the University of North Carolina alumni association here signed a letter to President Frank Porter Graham and University Professor Howard Odum, asking that the films be destroyed; and P. L. Threlkeld, county WPA superintendent, telephoned A. F. Weaver, Jr., of Asheville, district director of operations, informing him of the indignation roused by the picture here.

(Copies of the letter to the University and of the town board's resolution are printed elsewhere in this issue.)

Indications late this week were that the film would be barred from further showings. Director Weaver assured Threlkeld that the matter would be placed before C. C. McGinnis, state WPA head. A telegram was also received from Professor Odum, stating that he was "entirely in sympathy" with the movement to stop the picture. The narrative accompanying the picture described the characters as a sturdy, thrifty, independent people, but a people who had been little touched by progress. Scenes showed primitive chair-making done by hand in the home, apples being washed in a spring, wool being carded, churning being done in an old-fashioned dash churn, a one-room school, a street preacher exhorting a gathering in front of the Franklin courthouse.

The crowd particularly objected to a shot showing the feet of a group of women, one with bare feet, others with toes protruding from shoes and with ragged stockings and skirt fringes.

"Mountain Folk" was filmed during the summer. Expenses were borne by the visual aid department of the University of North Carolina extension service, with actual labor costs being paid by the WPA.

### Baptist Sunday School Convention At Iotla

The Macon County Baptist Sunday School Convention will meet on Sunday afternoon, October 27, at 2:15 o'clock at the Iotla Baptist church, it has been announced by Paul Swafford, president.

The program will open with a congregational song, followed by the devotional led by Fred Corbin. After the roll call and reports from the various churches, the Rev. Joe Bishop, of Prentiss, will speak.

A quartet from the Iotla church will give a vocal selection. The Rev. Fred Forrester, of Cullowhee, will deliver the principal address.

The public is invited to attend.

### Dr. Dick Slagle Visits His Mother

Dr. Dick Slagle of San Juan, Puerto Rico, arrived yesterday to visit his mother, Mrs. Henry Slagle, on Cartoogechaye. Mrs. Slagle and children have been here for some time.

Dr. Slagle's arrival was delayed by an attack of pneumonia which he suffered during a severe epidemic of "flu" on the island. He is in charge of a large hospital in San Juan.

## Resolutions Of Town Board Relating To WPA Movie

Whereas, it has been made to appear to the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Franklin that the Works Project Authority, under the auspices of the Visual Aid Department of the University of North Carolina has produced a two reel film, entitled "Mountain Folk", and whereas, said film purports to show scenes made in Macon County, North Carolina of the people of Macon county and of the conditions existing in the county; and whereas it appears that those who made the film took as its subject, in part, persons living in the most inaccessible portions of the county under the most adverse conditions, without showing that these subjects had been receiving free medical attention and hospitalization at a local hospital; and whereas said picture in no sense of the word truly depicts the citizenship of Macon county nor conditions as actually existing therein, the conditions as shown in said film being so badly distorted from the true facts as to arouse the righteous indignation of the citizenship of the community, and whereas the same can properly be classed as a libel upon the mountain people, and an insult to the intelligence of those living in other communities who know anything of the real conditions existing in this section;

Therefore be it resolved by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Franklin in call session duly assembled, that a protest of the further showing of said film, either in Franklin or elsewhere, be entered upon its minutes, and that a copy of this resolution be published in The Franklin Press, and further, that copies of the same be mailed to the University of North Carolina and to Elda Keithly, state supervisor of the WPA visual aid department.

I hereby certify that the above is a true copy of resolution adopted by the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Franklin, at a call meeting on October 21, 1940.

GEO. DEAN,  
Clerk of the Board

## Local Grocers Agree On Uniform Closing Time

Nine local grocery concerns signed an agreement this week to close their places of business at 6 p. m. every day except Saturday. No mention was made of Saturday closing time.

Concerns signing the agreement were: Swafford's Market, Dixie Store, Sloan's Market, the A. & P. Tea company, City Market, Farmers Federation, Roy F. Cunningham, C. D. Pendergrass and Ray Grocery and Feed company.

## Methodist Pastors Leave For District Conference

Five Macon Methodist ministers left this week for the Western North Carolina district conference at High Point to receive their appointments for another year.

They were the Rev. Ivon E. Roberts, of the Franklin church; the Rev. Phillip Green, of the Franklin circuit; the Rev. J. C. Swaim, of the Macon circuit; the Rev. J. S. Higgins, of the Highlands church; and the Rev. L. W. Hall, of the Louisa Chapel church.

## Willkie Partisan's Cash To Help Reelect F.D.R.

Readers of this newspaper who, with the publishers, resented the spirit of a piece of anti-Roosevelt literature published in last week's Press as "Paid Political Advertising" may be glad to know that the \$700 we received in payment is to be turned over to the Democratic campaign chest to help swell the majority for Franklin D. Roosevelt on election day.

We heartily disagree with the attitude of the advertisement, which was distasteful to say the least; but we accepted it for publication on the insistence of a Willkie partisan that we should be willing to print campaign material for either side of a political issue. So, leaning over backwards to be fair, we took his money and published the piece. Perhaps its publication gratified a few extreme anti-Roosevelt folks, but we doubt that it made any new votes for Willkie.

## Speaks Here Thursday



J. M. BROUGHTON  
Democratic Nominee for Governor, who will address a political rally in the courthouse auditorium here at 8 p. m. October 31.

## BIG RALLY OF DEMOCRATS

### Thursday Night With J. M. Broughton As Chief Speaker

A Democratic rally with J. M. Broughton of Raleigh, Democratic nominee for governor of North Carolina as principal speaker, will be held at the courthouse next Thursday evening, October 31, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Broughton will be accompanied by Oscar Pitts, director of prisons, of Raleigh, who will also speak.

Miss Lassie Kelly vice-chairman of the Macon county Democratic executive committee, has arranged for a string band to play at the rally and a large crowd is expected to attend this pre-election meeting of Macon county Democrats.

Messrs. Broughton and Pitts will be the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer Jones during their stay in Franklin. They are expected to arrive Thursday afternoon. Mr. Jones is Mr. Broughton's campaign manager for Macon county.

## R. F. Jarrett To Speak In Courthouse Here At 2 P. M. Next Saturday

Honorable R. F. Jarrett, of Dillsboro, Republican candidate for congress from the 11th district, will address the voters of Macon county in the courthouse auditorium here next Saturday, October 26, at 2 p. m. J. H. Dean, chairman of the County Republican executive committee, announced this week. Lewis Hamlin, of Brevard, will also speak on the same program.

Jarrett will be introduced by John E. Rickman, who is opposing Dr. W. A. Rogers for representative to the general assembly on the Republican ticket.

Jarrett and Hamlin will also speak at the Otto school house Saturday night at 7:30 p. m.

Everyone is invited to attend the two addresses, Mr. Dean said. Ladies are especially urged to be present.

## Halloween Carnival To Be Presented By Junior Class Here Saturday

Franklin high school auditorium will take on all the peacefulness and serenity of a country graveyard at midnight on a Friday the 13th when the Halloween carnival, sponsored by the junior class, opens there at 7:30 p. m. this Saturday, October 26.

Spooky entertainment and lots of it has been planned by the junior class under the direction of the president, Miss Helen Edwards. Stunts, clog dances, musical readings and other vaudeville entertainments are now in rehearsal. A spook house, fortune teller's booth, marksmanship booth, refreshment booths are also being set up. Cake walks and games with appropriate prizes are also being arranged.

All proceeds are to go to the junior-senior banquet fund.

Everyone is cordially invited to attend and come in costume if possible.

## Earl Dillard Called To Army Air Corps

Earl Dillard, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Dillard of Dillard, Ga., was called to the army air corps detachment at Albany, Ga., last week.

Dillard was a senior at the University of Georgia this year, before being ordered into service.

## Town Board

### Is Considering Widening Main Business Block

The widening of the business section of Main street from the postoffice to the courthouse, a project not included in the original street improvement plans, is now under consideration by the town board of aldermen.

At a called meeting Monday, the board asked Town Clerk George Dean to get in touch with state highway officials and have them make a survey of the proposed enlargement. The survey was made Wednesday, and the board is awaiting the return of the specifications from Raleigh before taking definite action.

According to Mr. Dean, the state highway department is willing to pave the additional street width if the town will do the grading and provide curbs and gutters. The engineer in charge of the survey stated that the street would be widened from six to six and one-half feet under the specifications. It is understood that the highway department will recommend that the widening be carried out.

Widening the street according to the specifications would mean that all trees within the block from the postoffice to the courthouse would have to be removed.

It was pointed out by a member of the town board that if the existing traffic laws were enforced as to parking, there would be no necessity of destroying the trees.

## TRAGIC DEATH OF BABY GIRL

### Child Of Mr. And Mrs. Fred Sloan Strangled In Fall From Bed

Patricia Sloan, one-and-a-half year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Fred S. Sloan, was found strangled to death in her bed on Thursday afternoon.

The little child, who suffered a fractured leg in a fall two weeks ago and was still wearing a plaster cast, had been put to sleep in a sleeping blanket which was attached to the bed covering. It appeared that in an effort to roll off the little bed which was low, the zipper-up sleeping garment and the cast on the leg impeded the child's movements so that she was caught around the neck and strangled. When found by her nurse, Pauline Waldrop, the child was already dead.

Besides her parents, the little one is survived by a sister, Ann, four years old; her grandparents, Mrs. W. W. Sloan, of Franklin; Mr. and Mrs. Tom Morrow of Statesville, and aunts and uncles.

The sympathy of the whole community goes out to the bereaved parents and family.

Funeral services will be held at the home Friday afternoon at 4 o'clock. Interment will be in the Franklin cemetery.

## Group Conference Will Meet At Presbyterian Church Here Saturday

A Group Conference of the Auxiliaries of the Presbyterian church in the five Western counties of North Carolina will be held in the Franklin Presbyterian church on Saturday, October 26, beginning at 10:30 a. m.

Mrs. C. W. Savage of Murphy will be the presiding officer. Miss Kitty Sue McElroy, president of the Asheville Presbyterian, will be present for the meeting.

Other speakers will include Mrs. P. N. Gresham of the Kenilworth church, Asheville; Mrs. Gus Leach, the Rev. and Mrs. J. A. Flanagan of the Franklin church. Lunch will be served at the Tavern.

## Football Team Has Open Date After Bryson City Defeat Here Last Friday

Recuperating from the 21-0 lacing handed them last Friday by Bryson City, Franklin high's Red Panthers will take a well-earned rest this week-end to prepare for their game with Andrews here next Friday afternoon.

Coach J. C. Hawkin's charges were no match for the deceptive style of play practiced by the Bryson City boys. All three of the visitor's touchdowns were scored on laterals.

Rev. Rufus A. Morgan, who has accepted the charge of St. Agnes church, Franklin and the Church of the Incarnation, Highlands, is expected to arrive next week.

## Serial Numbers

### Are Assigned To Macon's 2,056 Registrants

Serial numbers for each of Macon county's 2,056 registrants have been assigned in readiness for the national drawing which will take place in Washington next Tuesday, October 29, George Dean, member of the county draft board, announced this week.

The numbers will be posted outside the draft board's office in the Ashlar building by Friday or Saturday, and all registrants should come by the office to determine their number in order that they may follow the drawing in Washington, which will probably be broadcast.

(A full description of how the lottery will be carried out is on page two of this issue.)

Mrs. Gilmer Jones was appointed clerk to the local board this week, subject to approval from Raleigh.

Members of the board and the board's physician and appeal agent attended a regional meeting in Bryson City Thursday, to receive instruction on their duties.

## Bowl of Rice

### Parties Will Be Held On November 18

J. Horner Stockton, chairman of the Macon county committee of Bowl of Rice Parties for the aid of China's war victims, announced today that November 18 had been chosen for the final day of parties in the county. The proceeds of these parties will go to the American Bureau for Medical Aid to China, of which Madam Chiang Kai-Shek is honorary chairman and Col. Theodore Roosevelt is national chairman.

Mr. Stockton said that while the committee was not yet ready to announce definite plans for the local Bowl of Rice Party, arrangements were now under way for an affair which would give Franklin an opportunity to help increase the total fund for medical aid to China by taking part in the Bowl of Rice Parties which will be held in hundreds of cities in this country throughout the fall.

## FRANKLIN PTA MET MONDAY

### Porter Garland Of WCTC Faculty Principal Speaker

Faculty of Western Carolina Teachers college, was the principal speaker at the Franklin P.T. A. meeting in the schoolhouse auditorium here Monday afternoon.

Speaking on "How All People in a Democracy Should be Educated," Garland pointed out that the future of education and the future of democracy are inseparable.

The meeting was opened with a devotional period, conducted by the Rev. C. F. Rogers, pastor of the Franklin Baptist church, Jessie Barnard, member of the dramatic club, gave a reading entitled "Candle," and Mrs. Phillip Green led the group in singing "Carolina".

### Safety Signs To Be Installed

Following Mr. Garland's address, a short business meeting was held. W. H. Finley, principal of the Franklin school, reported that safety signs had been made, and were ready to be installed on the highway near the school.

Mrs. Fred Slagle, president of the local P.T. A., presented the group with a banner that the P.T. A. had won for the largest increase in membership in the western district in 1939-40.

The P.T. A. decided to place small flags in every classroom in Franklin high school. John Wasilik generously offered to furnish the school with a flag pole for outdoor use, and Mr. Finley requested that the P.T. A. give the school a large flag also.

The treasurer reported that the local P.T. A. had made a contribution so that Mrs. E. N. Howell, retiring district director, might become a life member of the P.T. A.

### Grade Mothers Elected

The following grade mothers were elected:  
First grade (Mrs. Lee Guffey); Mrs. Frank Killian, Mrs. Dick Jones, Mrs. Carl Tysinger and Mrs. George Pattillo.

Second grade (Mrs. Kate Williams); Mrs. Frank Henry, Mrs. Jack Sherrill, Mrs. Hugh Leach

## STRIKE SETTLED AT NANTAHALA

### Company Officials And Union Leaders Reach Final Agreement

Meeting in Washington Wednesday, officials of the Utah construction company, contractors for the Nantahala dam construction project, and American Federation of Labor leaders reached final adjustment of the differences which sent more than 500 workers on the project out on strike last week.

The workers returned to their jobs at 8 o'clock Tuesday morning, following an announcement by union representatives that a closed shop agreement, wage increases, and other labor provisions were forthcoming. The Utah company also assured workers that it would take steps to have released from jail men who were arrested due to picketing activities, and that any worker fired because of the strike could come back to work at his same job.

Picket lines were withdrawn late Monday from the Beachertown, Aquone and Dicks Creek entrance to the job.

Detailed provisions of the agreement between the Utah company and the A. F. of L. were not released, but it was understood that the agreement was essentially the same as that signed several weeks ago by the Morrison-Knudsen company, which provided for:

1. Hiring of men: The contractors agreed to employ only men who are in good standing with some union affiliated with the A. F. of L., except when the contractors apply to the union for men and such men are not supplied within 48 hours, the contractors may hire non-union help, provided such help joins the union upon being asked to do so. Persons employed in confidential and supervisory positions need not be union men. Employees hired prior to the signing of the agreement are not subject to it, unless they are, or become, members of the union. The contractors shall have the right to interview men before employing them, and may discharge any employee for any cause which it may deem sufficient.

2. Union representation: All union workers on the job shall be represented by a union representative whose duty it is to take up all grievances and disputes with the contractor. Any worker may appeal through the representative to the contractor, but the contractor's decision will be final.

3. Hours of Work: Hours of work shall not exceed eight hours per shift, 40 hours per week. Work performed by an employee in excess of eight hours per shift or 40 hours per week shall be paid for at one and one-half time the union scale.

4. Working conditions: Contractor agrees to furnish reasonably, safe equipment, sanitation appliances, and places of work, including locker and shower-rooms for tunnel men, and proper clothing, charged to the men but credited on return.

5. Wage Scale: Union rates to be paid to all workers, ranging from 40 cents an hour for common labor to \$1.50 an hour for foremen and shovel, crane and dragline operators.

6. Arbitration of Dispute: Any dispute arising on the job that the union representative and the representative of the contractor are unable to settle, will be submitted to an arbitration board consisting of a representative of the union, a representative of the contractor, and a third member to be appointed by mutual agreement. The decision of the board will be final.

### Officials Sign Contract

The Glenville contract was signed by C. R. Shinn, vice-president of the Morrison-Knudsen company, representing the contractors; by Harold Dalrymple and Lee Barnard for Local 635, Tunnel Workers and Construction Laborers; by C. M. Miller for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Engineers, and by James C. Turner and J. P. Shields for Local 77, International Brotherhood of Operating Engineers.

and Mrs. Paul Potts.

Second grade (Mrs. Elsie Franks); Mrs. Alfred Higdon and Mrs. C. E. McFalls.

Third grade (Miss Molly Slagle); Mrs. W. Wright, Mrs. Tom McColum, Mrs. Earl Smart, and Mrs. H. H. Plemmons.

Fifth grade (Mrs. Albert Ramsey); Mrs. Henry Cane, Mrs. Zeb Conley and Mrs. Thad Bryson.

All parents are cordially invited to attend the meetings of the P.T. A.