

Do Your Part to Keep These Figures Down!

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

Beer, Wine Will Be Illegal Here After Midnight Wednesday

The sale of beer or wine anywhere in Macon County will become illegal after midnight Wednesday of next week.

Legal beer and wine were voted out by margins of about 10 to 1 in a county-wide election last August 28, and the effective date was fixed as midnight, December 15, by Judge H. J. Sink, when he dissolved a restraining order.

The temporary restraining order had forbidden the county board of elections from certifying the election suits. At a hearing in Waynesville, September 22, Judge Sink dissolved the injunction and gave the license dealers in this county until December 15 to dispose of their stocks.

HONOR BY HENSON Otto Man At U. N. C. Qualifies For Phi Beta Kappa

Perry Cleveland Henson, Macon County student at the University of North Carolina, has qualified for election to membership in Phi Beta Kappa, scholarship fraternity, according to an announcement received here from the University.

Membership in Phi Epsilon Kappa, one of the oldest collegiate organizations in the country, is considered the highest scholastic honor that can be won by an undergraduate. It is a mark of distinction awarded for excellence in scholarship.

Mr. Henson, who is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Thurmond Henson, of the Otto community, attended the Otto school and was graduated from the Franklin High school in 1940. Now 26 years of age, he served, it is understood, in the armed forces between high school and college.

His first two college years, friends here said, he made all 'A's'.

Presbyterian Youth Plan Program Sunday

The Presbyterian Youth Fellowship will present a program on 'Origin and Use of the Bible' Sunday night at 7:30 at the church. This program will take the place of the usual Sunday evening worship service, and the entire congregation is invited to attend.

Do You Remember...? (Looking backward through the files of The Press)

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK "Bony" Ridley was in town Saturday and became hilarious as usual when he comes to town. But "Bony" was more hilarious than usual and the Marshal packed him in the cooler where he had time to reduce the degree of his hilarity and to meditate on the frailties of human nature in general and town marshals in particular.

25 YEARS AGO The chestnut blight, a destructive fungous disease, has been steadily spreading southward as well as northward and westward since its introduction into this country from Asia. Representatives of the Department of Agriculture have given most exhaustive study to the question of control of the disease, but its character is such that all efforts to develop any way to stop it from spreading have been without avail.

10 YEARS AGO The residential decorative lighting contest sponsored by the Nantahala Power and Light company will begin on December 17 and end on the 25th. The first prize will be \$15 in cash and the second prize \$10. Judging will be made on originality, artistic arrangement, and beauty of display. There will be three judges, who are in no way connected with the company, and decision will be final.

SAYS ALDERMEN MIGHT BE DUE BLAME FOR FIRE

Board Asked To Cut Two Blocks, Install New Traffic Light

In the course of an action-packed session Monday night, a member of the Franklin board of aldermen told the board that it would be responsible, should Franklin have a serious business district fire originating in the Mrs. Kansas Stewart house, (the old Love, house), situated just off the square.

The assertion was made by Alderman E. J. Whitmire, Jr., during a discussion of the building, which has been condemned by state and town authorities, and of the alleyway which runs in the rear of the business buildings on the south side of uptown East Main street.

The board also adopted a resolution favoring extending the city limits to include the Franklin cemetery and the highway adjoining it, and requesting C. S. Slagle, representative from Macon County, to introduce a bill to that effect at the coming session of the general assembly.

This action was in response to a request by Gilmer A. Jones, secretary of the Franklin Cemetery association, that this property be put in the corporate limits in order to extend police protection over it.

Requested by Carl Tysinger either to cut, or allow the telephone company to cut, two trees on Main street, the board referred the matter to the street committee to determine if the trees were dead, and needed removing. The trees referred to by Mr. Tysinger are the maples standing by the southwest corner of the courthouse and a maple which stands in front of the telephone office. The committee is composed of L. B. Phillips, E. J. Whitmire, and Erwin Patton.

Upon the recommendation of the street committee, which at a previous meeting had been

Penland Wins

Kansas City Stock Show Gold Medal

Lewis Penland, 17, son of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Penland, of Sealy, won a gold medal—the highest of five awards—and \$67.50 as a cash prize at the National Livestock Judging contest in Kansas City. Official results of the event, held in October, have just been announced.

Penland and three other Macon FFA boys, coached by E. J. Whitmire, Jr., vocational agriculture teacher, competed in a field of 102 boys from 34 states.

Each of the boys and each team was given one of five ratings, gold, silver, bronze medals, honorable mention or participation.

Foy Dryman, 19, son of Mrs. Belle Dryman, of Otto, won the second high rating, a silver medal, and Billy Teague, 14 year old son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur Teague, of Prentiss, was given the participation rating.

The team, on which two substitutions were necessitated by circumstances, won a bronze plaque.

Benefit Musical Program At Highlands Nets \$182

The musical show, with all-local talent cast, given last Thursday night at the Highlands school auditorium, drew a record crowd. The entertainment was held under the sponsorship of the Highlands Parent-Teacher association for the benefit of the school gymnasium fund, and netted approximately \$182.

The Rev. R. B. DuPree, with silk hat and cane, under whose direction the entertainment was given, was master of ceremonies, assisted by Willard Crisp. The program opened with numbers by the Lamb band,

Every Official, As Court Opens, Is Macon Person

When the December term of superior court opened here Monday morning, it was an all-Macon tribunal. Every official of the court—judge, solicitor, juror, clerk of court, sheriff, and court reporter—was a Macon County person. Later in the day, out-of-town attorneys appeared, but when the court convened even all the lawyers present were citizens of this county.

A Little Bit Of Bull, A Worthy Cause

This is a "bull story". And there's a little bit of bull here for everybody who's interested.

But the story will have to be good if it measures up to its subject.

For the bull in question was the finest one raised in Western North Carolina this year. That's what the judges at the Western North Carolina Fat Stock show said.

It's about the Macon County-produced grand champion prize bull, in other words; and, like the other variety of "bull", here's enough of this one to go around.

For Hayes Gregory's prize-winning calf is going to be cut up into five pound packages, labeled as to cut. And the packages are going to be sold to the highest bidders at an auction set for 7:30 o'clock Saturday night, December 12, at the Slagle Memorial. E. W. (Bennie) McGlamery will be auctioneer.

It's customary for local people in a community to pay a premium price for a prize-winning animal, in order to encourage the raising of fine stock by the youngsters. A group of motorists here felt that Gregory's calf ought to bring 75 cents a pound, so the underwriter wrote the purchase of the 930 pounds of bull at that price.

By cutting the animal up and auctioning it, it is felt, everybody will have a chance to get some prize beef; every body will have a chance to do a little bit toward encouraging livestock farming here; and, most important of all, perhaps, at the same time everybody can help a worthy cause.

For it is hoped the bidding will be spirited enough to bring in a lot more than enough to pay for the calf. And the overage will go toward purchase of the furnace for the Slagle Memorial building.

Yule Cantata

A Christmas cantata will be presented at the Franklin Methodist church at 8 o'clock Sunday night, December 19.

It will be the fourth successive year that members of the choirs of the four Franklin churches have joined for a program of Christmas music. The event always draws an attendance that fills the church.

Between 25 and 30 persons are practicing for the cantata, which this year is under the direction of Mrs. Clarence Henry.

Members of churches throughout the county, regardless of denomination, are invited to attend, it was emphasized.

Garland Given 25 Years In Highlands Robberies

Judge Urges Full-Time School Attendance Officer Here

Terming Macon County's rate of illiteracy "alarming", especially among young people, Judge George B. Patton told the grand jury Monday that this county should have a full-time school attendance officer.

Charging the grand jurors at the opening of the December term of superior court, Judge Patton said:

"I think we should have some individual in Macon County to devote full time to the school attendance problem. That individual", he added, "should be such an individual as understands the difference between a legitimate excuse for absence from school and truancy, or deliberate failure of the parents to send the child to school."

"I hope that in future", he continued, "in Macon County it can become reality that every child has an equal opportunity to have at least a high school education. But it is a shame to have the schools and not take advantage of them."

"Under the law as it is now", he explained, "the question of compulsory school attendance is in the lap of the welfare department, unless the county provides an attendance officer, and the welfare department has plenty of problems of its own."

Judge Patton explained that what he said was not intended as a reflection on the welfare department, adding that it has many duties, and is handicapped by lack of personnel.

Turning to another angle of education, Judge Patton commented that "the state says we have a state-wide school system, but actually we don't", and he explained that, while the state provides the teachers, it is left to the counties to provide the buildings and methods of getting the children to attend school.

Commenting that the \$400,000 school building bonds voted by the people of this county in 1945 "is only a drop in the bucket" compared with needs, bonds to do the job would result in an almost hopelessly high tax rate. He urged the people of the county to "exert themselves and let this county's representative in the legislature know they want him to fight for adequate state aid for a school building program."

Dry Forces Here To Hold 'Victory Parade' On Dec. 18

The Dry forces of Macon County will hold a rally December 18 at 11 o'clock. While all details have not been completed, one of the main features will be a "victory parade" in celebration of winning of the election last summer when the sale of beer and wine was voted out in this county.

The parade will begin at the school building and continue to the courthouse, where a short program will be held. Transportation will be furnished those wishing to attend.

The Rev. C. E. Parker is chairman of the rally day program.

Guild Will Hold Bazaar, Food, 'Parcel Post' Sale

The Wesleyan Service guild of the Franklin Methodist church will hold a combination bazaar, food sale, and "parcel post" sale at the Nantahala Power and Light company office Saturday. The benefit event is set for 10 a. m. It was explained that, in a "parcel post" sale, donors send in packages by mail, and they are sold, unopened, for 25 cents.

SEAL SALE OPENS The annual tuberculosis seal sale got under way this week, under the chairmanship of R. E. (Tony) Welch. The sale is sponsored by the Franklin Lions club. Three-fourths of the funds raised will be kept in Macon County.

Developments

looking to improvement of Macon County school attendance:

Judge George B. Patton spoke out strongly on the problem in his charge to the grand jury.

The county board of education moved to employ an attendance officer.

Supt. G. L. Houk made public detailed instructions sent to all principals.

The Macon County grand jury's report urged action by all officials responsible.

Attendance Officer May Be Employed

Macon County school authorities have taken action looking to improving school attendance and enforcement of the compulsory attendance law.

The county board of education, at its meeting Monday discussed a proposal that it employ a school attendance officer, and Supt. Guy L. Houk distributed to board members copies of a 1,200-word mimeographed memorandum on the subject which, he explained, he has sent to all principals in the county.

Employment of an attendance officer was proposed by Board Member Bob Sloan.

Some months ago, at the request of the board of education and the county welfare department, the board of county commissioners appropriated funds for an additional case worker in the welfare department, which now has the responsibility for prosecution of compulsory attendance law violation. The purpose was to give the welfare department sufficient personnel to push for better school attendance.

The worker employed, however, soon resigned, and the welfare office, it is explained has been unable, with the funds available, to employ a person meeting federal-state qualifications.

Mr. Sloan proposed, therefore, that the commissioners be requested to transfer this additional welfare department appropriation to the school board so that it could employ an attendance officer, an arrangement that has the sanction of the attendance law.

His suggestion appeared to meet with the approval of other board members, and he was delegated to take the matter up with the commissioners.

Members of the latter board indicated that they favor such an arrangement, but pointed out that the county has to pay only a part of the salary of a welfare department worker, while an attendance officer's salary would all have to come from county funds. The commissioners agreed to take the matter under consideration.

Grand Jury Report Urges Better School Attendance

The Macon County grand jury Tuesday called on the officials responsible to do everything possible to improve school attendance in this county.

Prior to making and filing their report in superior court, the grand jurors called in the county superintendent of schools, the superintendent of welfare, the chairman of the board of county commissioners and questioned them about the problem of school attendance and the related problem of illiteracy.

The grand jury report closed its report with this paragraph:

Youth Breaks Down When Attorneys Mention Wife, Parents

In a tensely hushed courtroom, Berne Arch Garland late Monday was sentenced to 2 1/2 years for his part in last summer's robberies of three Highlands places of business.

It was not a question of a jury's verdict, for the youth had entered a guilty plea. Then he had taken the stand and told his story of what happened during his some six weeks' association with Floyd Philipotts, 43, who has a long criminal record. Finally, Garland's attorney, appointed by the court, had plead for mercy. During those six weeks he told the court, "about all the boy got was heartaches, for himself, and his wife, and his father and mother".

It was to learn, therefore, what the sentence would be that the spectators listened so intently as darkness fell outside the courtroom.

Garland, red-haired and slight, wore a hard mask of apparent indifference as he chewed gum while sitting in the courtroom for his case to be called.

But he lost that mask as the case progressed.

On the stand, he told a story of youth succumbing, first to the lure of easy money as a chauffeur, then to the dominating personality of an older man, and finally to fear.

He declared Philipotts, whom he knew as Phillips, posed as an insurance adjuster and offered him \$75 a week to drive Philipotts' fine new car, instead of the \$27 Garland was then earning as a laborer at Lincoln Memorial university. He said he did not know Philipotts' business until after the robbery of the Spruce Pine Laundry. He declared all he got out of the \$2,000 Potts store robbery was \$75. And he said Philipotts repeatedly threatened him. When the two broke jail in Bryson City, he said, Philipotts sawed the bars, and threatened him with a knife Philipotts had made from a putty knife when Garland at first refused to leave the jail.

Mrs. Garland, who previously apparently knew nothing of her husband's activities, was in the automobile when the officers arrested the two men and their wives, and officers said that Mrs. Garland, while she was in jail here, and her husband at Bryson City, wrote him daily, urging him to tell the truth, and then "build" his time; that she would wait for him, and they would start life over together when he was free again.

And when he took the stand, Garland several times hesitated at a question, then made damaging admissions. Asked, for example, if he knew, when Philipotts gave him a shirt and pair of pants after the Spruce Pine Laundry robbery, that they were stolen, Garland swallowed hard, then said, "Yes, sir". And when he denied entering any of the Highlands places of business, saying he had served as a lookout for Philipotts, he added: "But I know I am just as guilty as if I had gone in".

Later, when his attorney

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"We the grand jury, do recommend that the board of education, county commissioners, and county welfare board do all they can to encourage school attendance and enforce the (compulsory school attendance) law were necessary". The report was signed by Walter Bryson of Highlands, who was appointed grand jury foreman by Judge George B. Patton, presiding, shortly after the grand jurors were drawn Monday morning. Other members of the jury, whose names were drawn from

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