

The Franklin Press

and
The Highlands Maconian

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FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, JUNE 2, 1949

TEN PAGES

'49 SCHOOL YEAR ENDS AS 89 ARE GIVEN DIPLOMAS

Event Marked By Medal Awards, Speeches, Chorus Numbers

The curtain was rung down on the 1948-49 school year for Franklin High school with the graduation exercises Friday night, when 89 members of the class of 1949 were awarded diplomas.

Featuring the program, held at the Macon Theatre, were the addresses of student speakers, music by the girls' chorus, and the presentation of awards.

The medal winners were: Miss Doris Dairymple, activities; Lewis Penland, agriculture; Robert Parrish, athletics; Miss Margaret Setser, athletics; Bergen Hall, citizenship; Miss Iris Cabe, commercial; Miss Ethel Roper, English; Miss Julia Ann Higdon, history; Miss Kathleen Webb, home economics; Miss Phyllis Moses, language; Max Cogbin, mathematics; Hall Calahan, science; Miss Iris Cabe, salutatorian; and Misses Mary Alice Archer and Elizabeth Ann Phillips, who tied for the top scholastic class honor, and each delivered valedictory addresses.

Student speakers, in addition to the salutatorian and valedictorians, were Lewis Penland, agriculture, and Miss Kathleen Webb, home economics.

Led by the class mascot, Carolyn Myers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Myers, and Bobby Porter, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert L. Porter, the seniors, in caps and gowns, entered to the March from Verdi's "Aida"—traditional processional at Franklin commencements—played by Mrs. Henry Cabe, pianist, and took their places on the stage.

The audience, led by the chorus, sang one verse of "America," and the Rev. A. Rufus Morgan, Episcopal minister, pronounced the invocation.

In a brief talk, Miss Cabe gave a gracious salutatory, and Miss Archer delivered the first valedictory.

Speaking on "Youth's Responsibility to the Future of America," Miss Archer declared this nation faces a decision "between free enterprise and experiment with some other form of society." The ambition of today's youth, she said, "is a world free from want and fear. We want more than anything else to leave a world of freedom for the youth of tomorrow."

Members of the 64-voice chorus, dressed in evening gowns of pastel shades, standing be-

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PLAN SQUARE DANCE
A benefit square dance will be held at Otto School tomorrow (Friday) night at 8 o'clock. Music will be furnished by the Seneca, S. C., string band. Proceeds will go to Otto school.

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

50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK
A. W. Horn has his new house up, weather-boarded, chimneys built, and porch covered, and is covering the main building.

The Franklin Order of the Sons of Rest are very busy these days shading themselves under the maples and spinning yarns of a dusky hue.

Misses May McDowell and Lizzie Kelly returned Saturday from the State Normal College at Greensboro.

25 YEARS AGO
The Study Club met with Mrs. John Wasilik and Mrs. Hattie Jones May 26.

For the next few days I am going to sell sugar at 10 cents per pound. Bill Cunningham. —Adv.

10 YEARS AGO
Andrew Lee Leach, 66, business and civic leader, died Sunday morning at his home in Franklin.

The Burningtown Baptist church will observe its 100th anniversary on June 15.

Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Ammons, of Franklin, Route 4, announce the marriage of their niece, Miss Katherine Ammons, to William G. Crawford.

Memorial Rites Held On Square Here By V. F. W.

An impressive memorial service was conducted by the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars on Rankin Square Saturday.

Members of the post erected a mound, symbolic of the graves of the war dead, and posted a guard of honor around it during the morning business hours. The ceremony closed about 2 p. m., with the honor guard saluting, the playing of "Taps", and prayer by the Rev. C. F. Morgan.

An annual memorial service is required by law of the V. F. W., and the local post plans a more elaborate observance next year.

Calendar Of The Week's EVENTS

(Data for this column should reach The Press by not later than 9 o'clock Tuesday. In order to keep the calendar accurate, secretaries of organizations are requested to notify the newspaper of changes in the time or place.)

THURSDAY, JUNE 2
7:30 p. m.—Post No. 108, American Legion, at Slagle Memorial building.

8 p. m.—Nequassa Chapter No. 43, Order of the Eastern Star, at Masonic hall.

SATURDAY
7:30 p. m.—Teen Age club party at Hotel Hearn.

8 p. m.—Dance (American Legion benefit) at Memorial building.

MONDAY
10 a. m.—Board of county commissioners at courthouse.

10 a. m.—County board of education at courthouse.

3 p. m.—Franklin Garden club at home of Mrs. Lester Conley.

7 p. m.—Franklin Troop No. 1, Boy Scouts, at Memorial building.

7:30 p. m.—Franklin board of aldermen at town office.

8 p. m.—Series of interdenominational evangelistic services opens at Friendship Tabernacle.

TUESDAY
7:30 p. m.—Junaluskee Lodge No. 145, A. F. and A. M., at Masonic hall.

WEDNESDAY
7 p. m.—Franklin Rotary club at Memorial building.

7:30 p. m.—Macon County Memorial Post No. 7339, Veterans of Foreign Wars, at Agricultural building.

Softball League

The 1949 Franklin Softball league season will open with twin games tomorrow (Friday) night at the Franklin school, it was announced this week.

Teams in this year's league are the Zickgraf Hardwood company, the U. S. Forest Service, the Nantahala Power and Light company, the Van Raalte plant, the Franklin Rotary club, and local others.

Games are to be played, it was announced, each Monday and Friday evening. The program is under the direction of Coach Milburn Atkins.

Tomorrow night the teams from the power company and Van Raalte will meet at 7:30, and at 9 Zickgraf will clash with the Forest Service.

ARMY RESERVE SIGNAL UNIT FORMED HERE

New Organization Will Hold First Meeting On June 15

A unit of the organized reserve corps, army ground forces, has been formed here, it was announced this week.

The Franklin reserve unit will be a signal company. It was organized Friday night by a group of Franklin reservists, meeting at Bryson City with Capt. Westbrook, of Asheville, sub-district reserve unit instructor. The company will hold its first meeting here June 15 at 8 p. m. at the Agricultural building. Capt. Westbrook will attend the meeting and outline in detail the work of the unit.

Lt. Geoffrey Green, of the Coweeta Experiment Forest, has been selected as the unit commander, and Lt. Gardner Holden is the local recruiter, who will be authorized to give the oath to men joining the reserve. Three officers—Lt. Green, Lt. Holden, and Lt. William F. Plyler—and 45 enlisted men, all present members of the reserve, have been assigned to the unit.

Men eligible to join the reserve are invited to attend the first meeting. Any former member of the army ground forces is eligible, it was explained. Those men may enlist in the reserve in their old grades, it was added.

Under new regulations, it was explained, men who remain active in the reserve may build up retirement time, to be added to the time they were on active duty with the army. At the end of a total of 20 years,

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52-Page Book On Franklin Is Off Press

A 52-page illustrated booklet on Franklin was issued this week.

Entitled, "Franklin, North Carolina, Scenic Center of the Nantahalas", the booklet was published by the Press for the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, under the direction of a Chamber of Commerce committee made up of T. W. Angel, Jr., R. S. (Dick) Jones, and Troupe Callahan.

A total of 5,000 copies were printed, for distribution by the Chamber of Commerce and Franklin business firms and individuals.

The booklet was financed chiefly by advertising, the cost of the 5,000 copies to the Chamber of Commerce having been less than \$100. Previously, Franklin booklets have been published by the chamber without advertising, with the chamber bearing the entire cost of the printing.

The idea for the new book was suggested by Donald C. Carr, of the staff of The Press.

WILL CLEAN CEMETERY
The Bethel Methodist cemetery will be cleaned today (Thursday), starting at 8 a. m. Those having relatives or friends buried there are asked to come and help.

Shoots 2 Snakes Through Backbone With One Bullet At Distance Of 100 Yards

This is a story of blacksnakes and marksmanship.

It is vouched for by Mrs. E. C. Bell, of Chicago, who was so impressed that she wrote The Press an account of the incident, which occurred May 20 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Dittmore at Flats. Dr. and Mrs. Bell were visiting the Dittmores at the time.

"We were sitting on the front porch early Friday morning," Mrs. Dittmore's account reads. "Mr. Dittmore announced that he saw a large black snake on the bare branch of a tree, against the sky, high up. We could not see it at first, but finally our eyes made out a thin black line on the high branch.

"Mr. Dittmore then announced that he saw two snakes, where-

upon we began to tease him. However, he ran into the house, fetched his .22 rifle, aimed carefully, wham, and a great long black snake came hurtling down out of that tree, followed in a few minutes by another smaller (but not small) one.

"Mr. Dittmore ran into the brush, we heard some whacking going on, and then he came back with two thick, five or six foot long black snakes on a forked branch.

"When we examined them, we found that the one bullet had pierced the backbone of each snake! At over 100-yards, we thought that was a real shot!

"Mr. Dittmore was very modest about his marksmanship, but Dr. Bell and I thought he deserved a little press notice for his feat."

Dirt Roads Make Up 38 Per Cent Of Macon Mileage

Dirt roads make up 38 per cent of the state-maintained highway mileage in Macon County.

Blueprints of the State Highway and Public Works Commission show that, as of January 1, 1949, this county has a total of 537.5 miles of roads maintained by the state, it was learned from Joe F. Setser, Mr. Setser, who is highway maintenance supervisor for Macon and Jackson counties, added that the Macon total is divided as follows:

Paved highways, 99.3 miles. Graveled roads, 233.3 miles. Dirt roads, 204.9 miles.

Since figures were compiled January 1, about seven additional miles of roads in this county have been gravelled, he said.

HERE'S TEXT OF ROAD BOND BILL

(EDITOR'S NOTE: There appears to be considerable confusion and uncertainty as to just what is provided in the bill, passed by the recent general assembly, calling for next Saturday's road bond election. With a view to clearing up this confusion, the bill itself (except for certain routine sections) is reprinted below.)

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That this Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Secondary Road Bond Act of 1949."

Section 2. That, subject to the vote of a majority of the qualified voters of the State who shall vote in the election called and held as hereinafter provided, the State Treasurer is hereby authorized, by and with the consent of the Governor and Council of State, to issue and sell, at one time or from time to time, bonds of the State, to be designated "State of North Carolina Secondary Road Bonds," in an aggregate principal amount not exceeding two hundred million dollars (\$200,000,000.00). The proceeds of said bonds are hereby appropriated to the State Highway and Public Works Commission, which appropriation shall be in addition to all other appropriations heretofore made or which may be made at the present Session of the General Assembly. Said proceeds shall be used by the State Highway and Public Works Commission exclusively for the purpose of building or improving roads and structures for those roads that now or may hereafter make up and constitute the State-maintained county road systems, also referred to herein and being commonly known as secondary roads as distinguished from primary roads, and shall be fairly and equitably divided among the highway divisions of the State by the State Highway and Public Works Commission.

That, the General Assembly has determined from available information based upon the formula in use by the State Highway and Public Works Commission that the following words and figures represent a fair and equitable distribution and allocation of said proceeds to be derived from said bonds, and that the proceeds from said bonds shall be allocated, and expended, for the purposes hereinabove set forth to the several counties of the State in the following proportions:

(At this point the bill lists the 100 counties, the percentage to be allocated to each, and the amount of that percentage. The amount listed for Macon is \$1,576,000.)

Notwithstanding the above provision for the allocation of said fund to various counties of the State, the State Highway and Public Works Commission may retain an amount not exceeding ten per cent (10%) of the total of said fund as an equalization fund to be used by the said Commission for second-

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Swain Man Collapses On Street, Dies Here
I. J. Lendsey, of Wesser, collapsed in front of Belk's Department store here about 9 o'clock Monday morning. He was taken to Angel clinic, where he died within a few minutes. Dr. Furman Angel said death was caused by a heart affection, from which he had been suffering for sometime.

Voters To Decide Saturday On 200 Million In Road And 25 Million In School Bonds

Vote!

(Editorial)

This newspaper believes that if the people of North Carolina approve the school and road bonds in Saturday's election it will mark an important step forward. It believes approval will mean better education, more rapid progress, and greater wealth for the people of the state.

It hopes, therefore, that a majority of Macon County's citizens, in the good judgment, not only will approve the bonds, but that Macon County will provide a large enough "for" margin to overcome an "against" majority in some other county.

What is most important of all, however, is not how the election goes, but that the result represent the will of the majority. And it cannot represent the will of the majority if any considerable number of voters fail to cast their ballots.

This editorial is to urge upon every registered voter in this county (that it is his or her duty to go to the polls and vote his convictions, whether the vote be for or against the bonds.

The issue is much too important for a small proportion of the voters to decide.

The Bond Election

Pros and Cons

Most of the discussion of Saturday's special bond election has centered around the proposals to issue \$200,000,000 for improvement of North Carolina's rural roads.

If there is widespread opposition to the \$25,000,000 bond issue to build schoolhouses, it is not vocal—some of the bitterest opponents of the road bonds, in fact, are emphatic in favoring the school bonds.

But while the Petroleum Industries committee appears to constitute the chief organized opposition to the road bonds, many groups and individuals have expressed disapproval of the proposal.

The major points of dispute are outlined briefly below:

It would be "foolhardy" for the state to assume a debt of \$200,000,000, opponents declare.

It is just as good business to issue \$200,000,000 for rural roads today as it was, in the twenties, to issue \$115,000,000 for the primary road system, bond advocates reply.

The state Highway commission will have \$291,580,000 available for highway work during the next four years, and so it is not necessary to issue bonds, say the opponents.

Bond advocates reply that most of that sum will be required for maintenance; that, at best, not more than 3,000 miles could be paved from current revenues.

It will be necessary to levy exorbitant taxes to pay off the bonds, opponents argue; the one-cent gasoline tax increase will give this state one of the highest gas taxes in the union, and a one-cent increase in gas tax will not be enough to pay the interest and principal on the bonds.

Elimination of the "mud tax", reply advocates, will offset one cent on the gallon of gasoline; and that one cent tax, plus gas taxes to be available after outstanding road bonds are taken care of in 1953, will retire the bonds.

It is economically unsound to spend large sums improving roads on which only a few families live, say opponents.

The state has a duty to provide roads for rural people the same as for people in town; besides, when roads are improved, new houses will go up on them, bond advocates answer.

It will not be possible to spend \$200,000,000 in four years without great waste, argue opponents.

It need not all be spent in four years, is the reply; it will be spent only as fast as it can be spent economically.

Plan Blood Donor Drive

The American Legion emergency blood donor campaign will be conducted at Angel hospital June 6, June 8, and June 10, from 5 to 8 p. m., it was announced this week. Names of volunteers, it was explained will be listed, their blood typed free of charge, and results recorded in permanent records. The list then will be available to all physicians for use in emergency cases where a resident of Macon County needs a transfusion.

Facts and Figures

The time:

Saturday (June 4). Polls open at 6:30 a. m.; close at 6:30 p. m.

The issues:

(a) Shall the State of North Carolina issue \$25,000,000 in school bonds?

(b) Shall the State of North Carolina issue \$200,000,000 in road bonds?

The purposes:

(a) To build and repair public school buildings.

(b) To improve rural roads.

Apportionment of funds:

The acts of the 1949 general assembly, authorizing the bond election, provide that the proceeds from the school bonds shall be divided among the counties on a per pupil basis, and that the proceeds from the road bonds shall be divided on a basis of area, population, and mileage. Macon County's share of the school bonds, on a per pupil basis, would be \$112,000. The road bond bill sets up the exact percentage each county shall receive from the proceeds of the road bonds, and states what that percentage would be in dollars. The act fixes Macon's share as \$1,576,000. Ten per cent of the total, however, may be used as an administration and equalization fund.

Who will spend the money? The school bond proceeds would be turned over to the county boards of education. The road bond proceeds would be handled by the State Highway and Public Works Commission.

What roads to be improved? The state highway system, including all roads taken over for maintenance by the state, covers 63,000 miles. Of that total, 16,000 miles have been paved; 47,000 miles are unpaved. Gov. Scott proposes to pave 12,000 miles of these secondary roads, and put the remaining 35,000 miles in all-weather condition.

How long will the bonds run?

For 20 years from the date of issue. It is anticipated that the school bonds would be issued and sold all at once. Gov. Scott has said the road bonds will be issued and sold as the money is needed.

How will this debt be paid? It is proposed to pay the principal and interest on the school bonds from general fund revenues of the state.

It is proposed to pay the road bonds with the gasoline tax, and, if the road bonds are voted, the present gas tax of 6 cents per gallon will automatically be raised to 7 cents. The Scott administration estimates the annual carrying charge (for principal and interest) at \$14,000,000 per year. It is estimated that the one-cent increase in the gas tax will raise \$7,000,000 a year at the start. With more and better roads, it is argued, the consumption of gasoline will increase, thus increasing the gas tax collections. And the state expects to have enough in the highway sinking fund by 1953 to take care of road bonds now outstanding, so that gas tax collections now being applied on these old bonds would be available to pay on the new ones.

No ad valorem (real estate)

Acts Provide How Funds To Be Divided Among State's Counties

Voters in Macon and the state's other 99 counties will decide Saturday whether the state shall issue school bonds totaling \$225,000,000.

There are two separate proposals:

(a) Issuance of \$25,000,000 in school bonds to aid the state's counties in building schoolhouses.

(b) Issuance of \$200,000,000 in road bonds for the improvement of the state's rural roads.

The proposed \$25,000,000 for schools is in addition to another \$25,000,000 which was appropriated outright by the 1949 general assembly from the state's surplus. The first \$25,000,000 was ordered divided among the 100 counties. The proceeds of the \$25,000,000 bond issue would be divided, under provisions of the act authorizing Saturday's special election, among the counties on a basis of the number of pupils in school. Macon's share, on that basis, would be \$112,000.

The act authorizing the election on the road bonds also sets forth the method of apportionment among the counties. The act says the funds shall be divided on a basis of three factors—area, population, and road mileage. It then says what each county's percentage and amount in dollars would be on that basis, fixing Macon County's share at \$1,576,000. There is a provision, however, that 10 per cent of the \$200,000,000 may, if deemed desirable, be used as an equalization fund.

The act also provides that, should the road bonds be approved in Saturday's election, the state gasoline tax is automatically to be increased from six to seven cents per gallon. The increase will not go into effect if the bonds are disapproved.

Gov. Scott, who has campaigned for both the school and road bonds, proposes, with the road bond proceeds, to pave 12,000 miles and put in all-weather condition 35,000 miles of the unpaved rural roads in the state highway system.

The governor proposes to retire the school bonds from revenues that come into the state general fund. He proposes to retire the road bonds from gasoline tax revenues.

Most political observers predict a comparatively light vote, both here and over the state. In Macon County, the election officials who conducted the general election last November have been reappointed for Saturday's special election.

No absentee ballots will be permitted in the bond election. The two issues will be decided by majorities of the votes cast.

The polls will open at 6:30 a. m. and close at 6:30 p. m.

taxes will be needed to pay off these bonds. (North Carolina abolished state ad valorem taxes about a quarter of a century ago.)

Will there be two ballots in Saturday's election? No. Only one. On that ballot the voter may vote for or against the school bonds and for or against the road bonds.

How will the issues be decided? By the majority of the votes cast.

Who may vote? Any person registered to vote in general elections, except that no one may vote absentee.

The Weather

Temperatures and precipitation for the past seven days, and the low temperature yesterday, as recorded at the Coweeta Experiment station.

	High	Low	Pre.
Wednesday	74	50	.28
Thursday	72	35	.09
Friday	73	37	.02
Saturday	76	42	.00
Sunday	74	42	.00
Monday	65	52	.31
Tuesday	73	58	1.22
Wednesday	—	46	.16