

## TONY WELCH EMPLOYED FOR VETERAN POST

Job Is Made Full-Time; Commissioners O. K. Nantahala Road

The board of county commissioners, at its meeting Monday, appropriated \$1,000 for the next fiscal year, to match a like fund from the state, for a full-time veterans service officer for this county, and employed R. E. (Tony) Welch to fill the position.

The board also gave its approval to a road proposal from people of the Nantahala township, approved the county welfare department and forest fire fighting budgets, and transacted routine business.

Under an act of the 1949 general assembly, the state will match funds put up by the county (up to \$1,000 each) for full-time county veterans service officers, and the appropriation was made and Mr. Welch was employed upon recommendation of the local posts of the American Legion and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. Mr. Welch will succeed Mrs. Bill Bryson, who has been working on a part-time basis, July 1.

A delegation of six or eight from Nantahala presented a petition, signed by most of the citizens of that township, that the state take over and black-top the Nantahala Power and Light company road, which leads from just below the Nantahala dam down the river gorge to Nantahala station, and build a road from the present Forest Service road, connecting with the power company road, starting at White Oak creek, a distance of about three-quarters of a mile.

The delegation, which pointed out that this would reduce the distance to Nantahala Station and eliminate the necessity of going down the Winding Stairs road, told the commissioners the power company figures show that firm spent \$138,000 in building the river road.

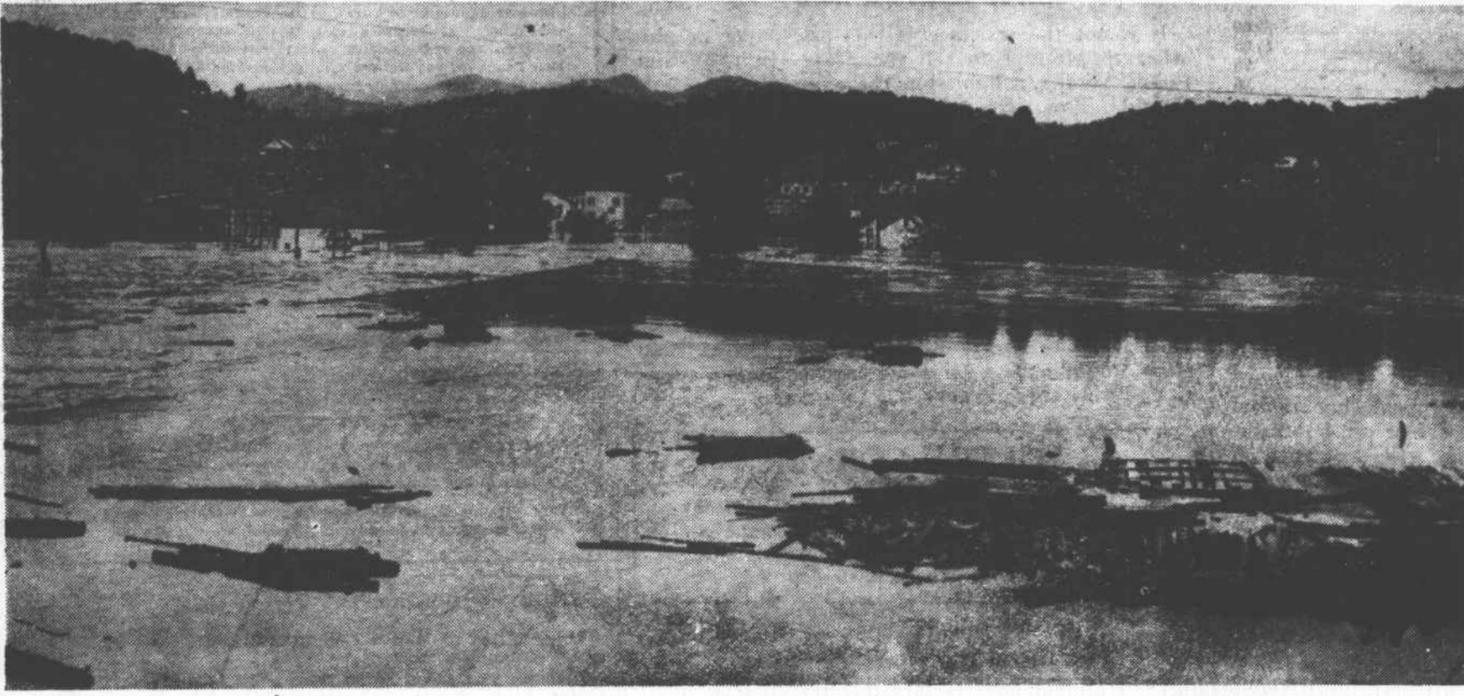
The delegation, it was understood, planned to present the petition in person to the division highway commissioner in Asheville.

The welfare department budget, presented by Mrs. Eloise G. Potts, superintendent, is for a total of slightly more than \$16,000, representing an increase of about \$700 over last year's total. The increase in property valuation will make the larger appropriation possible without any increase in the tax levy, it was explained.

The fund for fighting forest fires, which is matched by the state, was increased from last year's \$1,000 to \$1,200.

Since the first Monday in July falls on July 4, a holiday, the board will meet next on Monday, July 11.

## Record Rain Sends Little Tennessee On Rampage



—Photo by Crisp Studio

**RAGING FLOOD QUICKLY COVERS RIVER VALLEY**—The photo above, made from near the Franklin depot, shows the Little Tennessee at the height of last Thursday's flood. Note the wood, drifted from stacks along the railroad tracks. Huge pile after pile floated from its location, teetered uneasily, and then slowly toppled into the rushing current, as the water rose higher. From the depot, the hundreds of spectators who rushed to the scene could see several pigs marooned on the Indian Mound (just left of the area covered by the photographer's lens), while on a nearby island of sawdust were a number of chickens. The water neared the floor of the highway bridge as the picture was made.

## Major Gray's Funeral Held At Salisbury

Last rites for Major Fred Judson Gray, Macon County man who was killed in action May 24, 1944, at the age of 26, were conducted at the National Cemetery in Salisbury yesterday (Wednesday) at 11 a. m.

A flier, Major Gray was shot down over Germany.

Persons from here who attended the service were Major Gray's widow, Mrs. Louise Blaine Gray; his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Javan J. Gray; a sister, Mrs. Gus Baldwin; his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Jim Gray; and Mrs. Louise Gray's mother and two brothers, Mrs. D. W. Blaine and Norman and Doyle Blaine.

Present from elsewhere were the other members of Major Gray's family—his brother, Elam Gray, of Delaware Water Gap, Penna., and his other two sisters, Mrs. R. F. Davis, of Demorest, Ga., and Mrs. Elmer W. Crawford, of Winston-Salem.

A native of this county, he was born December 15, 1917. He was a graduate of the Franklin High school and of Clemson college, having majored in dairying at the latter. Upon graduation from Clemson in 1940, he accepted a position with the South Carolina extension division, but resigned in September of that year—four months before Pearl Harbor—to enter the army air forces as a flying cadet.

He received his wings and commission as a second lieutenant at Kelly Field, Texas, in April, 1941, and was assigned to Randolph Field as a flight instructor. At the end of a year's duty there, he was transferred to Hendricks Field, Fla., for flight training on Flying Fortresses. In March, 1943, he became squadron commander of a bombardment group at Blythe, Calif. After duty at Geiger Field, Wash., and Rapid City, S. D., he was sent to England in April, 1944, as commanding officer of a heavy bombardment squadron. He was on his third flight over Germany at the time of his death.

His promotion was rapid. He became a first lieutenant in September, 1942, was promoted to captain in February, 1943, and received his commission as a major in October, 1943. He has been awarded the Purple Heart posthumously.

## ATHLETIC FIELD FUND IS SOUGHT

A movement is under way here to raise funds to build a permanent fence around the Franklin school athletic field, and to add 1,200 seats to the stadium, which would provide a seating capacity totaling nearly 1,800.

A goal of \$6,000 has been set. It is proposed to raise the fund by selling advertising space on that section of the fence that will run along the south (left field) side of the field and a committee this week is soliciting business houses for advertising.

It is proposed to build a six-foot woven wire fence, with three strands of barb wire above it. Some form of evergreen would be planted along the fence to provide a screen. The fence would be attached to metal posts, that are to be sunk in 36 inches of concrete.

The posts are to be 10 feet apart, and a space 5 1/2 by 9 1/2 feet between would be used for advertising boards. Forty such spaces are available.

The committee—T. W. Angel, Jr., John M. Archer, Jr., and Frank M. Henry, Jr.—is attempting to see all business firms this week, but yesterday requested that any interested firm that is not solicited get in touch with a member of the committee.

The movement grew out of a meeting Thursday night of last week, called by Robert R. (Bob) Gaines.



**REAPPOINTED**—Judge George B. Patton, of Franklin, Tuesday was reappointed by Gov. Scott as a special superior court judge. Mr. Patton is one of eight persons—seven men and one woman—appointed to special judgeships, which pay \$10,000 per year, plus \$2,500 travel allowance. The appointments are for two years, starting July 1.



—Photo by Crisp Studio

**HIGH WATER DRIVES FAMILY FROM HOME**—The floodwaters rose so rapidly that the Simonds family, driven from their home, hurried away without stopping to remove the family wash from the line on the porch. After the family had left, a son was said to have swum back to the house to get some article of special value. The house is situated at a low point, just back of the Standard Oil storage tanks (right), near the railway station. (Another flood picture on Page 2.)

## Calendar Of The Week's EVENTS

(Data for this column should reach The Press by not later than noon 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 23

7:30 p. m.—Franklin Lodge No. 452, Loyal Order of Moose, at Slagle Memorial building.  
8 p. m.—Co-Ed club at Hotel Hearn.  
8 p. m.—Y. W. A. of First Baptist church at home of Miss Nancy Calloway.

### FRIDAY

7:30 p. m.—Teen Age club at Hotel Hearn.  
8 p. m.—Dance (American Legion benefit) at Memorial building.

### MONDAY

7 p. m.—Franklin Lions club at Presbyterian church annex.  
7 p. m.—Franklin Troop No. 1, Boy Scouts, at Memorial building.

### TUESDAY

8 p. m.—American Legion Auxiliary at home of Mrs. John D. Alsop.  
8 p. m.—Co-Ed Club at Hotel Hearn.

### WEDNESDAY

7 p. m.—Franklin Rotary club at Memorial building.  
7:30 p. m.—Teen Age club at Hotel Hearn.

## 'Our Town' To Be Given Here July 11

The Highlands Community Theatre will present the well known play, "Our Town", in Franklin Monday evening, July 11, under sponsorship of the Franklin Rotary club, it was announced this week.

The play, the first of three to be produced this summer by the Highlands little theatre group, will be presented in Highlands July 7 and 8, and will be brought to Franklin the following Monday.

"Our Town", by Thornton Wilder, was successfully presented on Broadway several years ago, and since then has been produced in cities all over the country.

The Highlands Community Theatre has won recognition, both before and since the war, for the finished character of its productions, and one of its dramas, given in Franklin two summers ago, was well received here.

"Our Town" will be given at the Slagle Memorial building.

The Rotary club's share of the proceeds will be used towards paying for the heating plant the club installed in the Memorial building several months ago.

## Franklin SOFTBALL LEAGUE

Franklin softball fans tomorrow (Friday) night will see what are expected to be the most colorful games of the season to date, Coach Milburn Atkins said yesterday.

Starting at 7:30 o'clock, the undefeated Rotary team will clash with the fast-stepping Oilers. The game is expected to prove a test of youth vs. experience plus age.

The second game, starting at 9:15, will bring together the Forest Service and Zickgraf teams, fighting for No. 2 position in the league.

Following is a summary of Franklin Softball league results to date, and the schedule of approaching games:

Teams' Standing	W	L	Points
Rotary	3	0	1,000
Forest Service	4	1	800
Oilers	2	1	687
Zickgraf	2	2	500
Van Raalte	1	4	200
Power Co.	0	4	000

### Results

Friday Night, June 17  
Forest Service, 12; Oilers, 11.  
Rotary club, 6; Van Raalte, 1.  
Monday Night  
Forest Service, 11; Van Raalte, 10.

Zickgraf, 13; Power Co., 9.

### Coming Games

Friday (tomorrow): Oilers vs. Rotary club; Forest Service vs. Zickgraf.  
Monday: Van Raalte vs. Power Co.; Rotary vs. Zickgraf.

## Do You Remember . . . ?

(Looking backward through the files of The Press)

### 50 YEARS AGO THIS WEEK

H. G. Trotter, J. M. Carpenter, and N. L. Barnard spent Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week in town prying into everybody's business affairs. They are the tax assessors for Franklin township.

A lively party went up to Wayah Bald mountain yesterday and will return tomorrow. The party consists of Messrs. W. J. Neville, Sam L. Kelly, Lee Crawford, F. L. Siler, Will Sloan, T. J. Johnston and Misses Laura Jones, Kate Robinson, Carrie Sloan, Margaret Redding, Lizzie Kelly, and Isabel Elias. Mrs. T. M. Slagle is chaperon, and Coley Guess boss of the train.

### 25 YEARS AGO

Beautiful in its simplicity was the marriage of Miss Annie Lee Waldrop to Mr. Hal Slagle, which took place on June 12 at the home of the bride.

Of Interest to Women With Bobs—Hair bobbed, shampooed, and electrically dried in forty minutes. City Barber Shop, J. S. Conley, Manager. — Advertisement.

## MACON'S FLOOD DAMAGE HEAVY, CROPS HARD HIT

Farm Losses Alone Put At \$250,000; Roads, Bridges Suffer

A near-record rain that sent every stream in the county swirling across bottomlands last Thursday resulted in one of the worst floods in the history of Macon County.

The farm damage alone was estimated by personnel of the county agent's and the G. I. farm training offices at \$250,000.

While the most spectacular floods occurred in the valleys of the Little Tennessee river and Cartoogechaye, Ellijay, and Tellico creeks, every branch swiftly rose above its banks and muddy waters covered its valley, carrying away crops and top soil.

The rapid rise in the streams followed near-record rains. The weather observer at Coweeta Experiment forest reported a rainfall of 6.32 inches in the 23 hours ending at 8 a. m. Thursday. Manson Stiles, TVA weather observer at Franklin, recorded a fall from Wednesday morning to Thursday morning of 4.59 inches, with an additional .95 of an inch falling Thursday. And Mrs. Jo E. Setser, EVA observer in the Cartoogechaye community, reported .28 of an inch in the 24 hours ending Wednesday morning, 6.2 inches in the 24 hours up to Thursday morning.

The highway damage in Macon County, said to have been the hardest hit in this respect of any county in the region, was estimated at least \$35,000 to \$40,000.

The following bridges were washed away: Peach Creek bridge across the Cullasaja river; Asbury Gregory bridge across the Cullasaja; the Garner bridge across the Cullasaja; the Charlie Henderson bridge on Rabbit creek; the Bradley Creek bridge; the iron bridge across Tellico creek; the Robert Ramsey bridge across Tellico; the bridge at the mouth of Tellico; the Carl Slagle Bridge on Cartoogechaye; and the swinging foot bridges at Robert Fulton's and at West's Mill.

The people of the Tellico community were isolated, as far as motor travel was concerned, until Monday morning, highway officials said.

The farm damage, along every tiny creek as well as in the river bottoms, was not confined to crops washed away or ruined—in many cases all, or a part, of the top soil was swept away by the rushing waters.

To offset, in part, their loss of feed, farmers are being advised by the county agent's office to replant corn for silage, where their feed needs are chiefly for dairy or beef cattle; and to re-seed the land with millet and soy beans for hay.

Wherever possible, however, farmers should plan for the future, the county agents suggested, by getting all bottom land in Ladino clover and orchard grass for permanent hay crop and pasture, in order to hold the topsoil when another flood comes.

Contrary to widespread report, the Little Tennessee at Franklin did not rise as high as it did in 1940. J. S. Conley pointed out that the floodwaters at his Standard Oil warehouse lacked two or three inches of reaching the mark placed on his warehouse by Jim Palmer just after the 1940 flood.

The flood here, however, covered the highway and lacked little of reaching the floor of the highway bridge; covered the entire valley, with several feet of water in many business houses around the depot and on the east side of the river; and floated off an estimated 75 to 100 cords (valued at \$10 a cord) of acid wood stacked along the railroad tracks, the property of the Champion Paper and Fibre company. The Hays block plant was almost covered with water.

## The Weather

	High	Low	Prec.
Wednesday	70	63	.65
Thursday	72	59	6.32
Friday	83	55	.55
Saturday	79	51	.00
Sunday	85	52	.00
Monday	84	55	.08
Tuesday	80	62	.02
Wednesday	82	62	.12
Total rainfall, 7.14 inches.			