

MINOR REPAIRS SUGGESTED BY GRAND JURORS

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the following report:
"Committee No. 1, composed of Tom Rollan, Mr. Keener, and Tom Allen, inspected the jail and found the following:

"Windows need to be replaced, including sashes. General repairs to plastering and complete interior paint job. Install grates and draft control door on one stove. Replace screen door on back porch and repair other screens. Replace bricks in back of fireplace. Furnish five padlocks for cells. Wire kitchen for electric range. Level up kitchen sink and provide minimum of kitchen cabinets. Replace lock on front door. Replace lock on storeroom door. Good sanitary conditions. Sufficient bedding and food. General plumbing overhaul.

"Committee No. 2, composed of Don Early, Lee Cook, Dan R. Reynolds, and John Cunningham, inspected the prison camp and found it in excellent condition.

"Committee No. 3, composed of Mrs. Hall, R. L. Holland, Les or Norton, Vernon Cunningham, and C. D. Hopper, inspected the county home and found the following:

"Three window lights on side of door upstairs on front porch. Banister on front porch badly in need of repair. Bed clothes in bad shape, need bed clothes. Wooden switch box is dangerous. Need paint inside and outside. Need a general clean-up job all on the inside. Have two beds in dining room with sick inmate in one. Need three window lights in front bedroom downstairs. We recommend that this work be done immediately.

"Committee No. 4, composed of Carey Cane, Henry Tippet, R. A. Batey, Doyle Painter, and E. J. Ayers, inspected the courthouse and found the following:

"Register of deeds office needs paint in office and vault, plaster needs repairing in spots in vault, need more book room, more book racks needed, need one window light replaced, replace one pane in cabinet door. Clerk of court's office needs new rug on floor, new pane in window, new paint job, repair cabinet doors, repair glass over door. Veterans' service office needs glass replaced over door. Men's rest room is in very good condition. Sheriff's office needs two window panes replaced. School superintendent's office is in fair condition, paper on wall in bad shape. Ladies' rest room is in fair condition. Downstairs hall is in fair condition. Upstairs of courthouse is in fair condition; need light on rear stairway. We recommend this work be done immediately.

"We find that all guardian reports are in order."

Will Elect Committeemen For PMA This Week

Community and county committeemen to serve on the Production Management Administration program here in 1951 will be elected by Macon county farmers December 14 and 15, the local P. M. A. office announced this week.

All farmers who participated in the 1950 program are eligible to vote in the election.

Five men and one county delegate will be elected by each community. The county, it was explained, is divided by the P. M. A. into 13 communities.

The 13 county delegates are scheduled to meet in Franklin December 15 to choose a county P. M. A. committee, composed of three members and two alternates.

Rides Are Sought For Band Members To Optimist Bowl

WANTED—Rides to Asheville Saturday morning for members of the Franklin school band.

The Franklin band was one of the first invited to play at the Optimist Bowl game in Asheville Saturday, and S. F. (Sammy) Beck, the director, this week appealed for cooperation from persons who plan to attend the game.

Anyone driving to Asheville Saturday morning who has room in his automobile is asked to get in touch with Mr. Beck at the school or at his home, or arrange with individual band members who need transportation to Asheville.

BUSINESS Making NEWS

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Canners	\$14.50 to \$15.50
Heifers:	
Medium	\$17.00 to \$18.00
Calves:	
Fat	\$30.00 to \$32.50
Medium	\$28.00 to \$30.00
Culls	\$25.00 to \$27.00
Stocker, good	\$23.00 to \$24.00
Stocker, fair	\$18.00 to \$20.00
Steers:	
Good	\$22.00 to \$24.00
Medium	\$20.00 to \$21.50
Fair	\$18.00 to \$19.00
Stocker, good	\$16.00 to \$17.00
Bulls:	
Fair	\$15.00 to \$16.00
Hogs:	
Top	\$18.50

Voters Ballot

For Soil Conservation Body Supervisor

A supervisor for the Macon County Soil Conservation district will be elected in balloting which started Monday and will end Saturday. Any person registered for a general election in the county is eligible to vote for the district supervisor, it was explained.

The nominees for the part, placed in nomination by petitions signed by 25 or more registered voters, are Herman Talley and Milton Fouts.

The association is controlled by three supervisors. Siler Slagle, one of the three chosen when the association was set up a year ago, has another year to serve, and Owen Ammons has two more years. Charles C. Sutton, the third man chosen last year, was named for a one-year term, which is expiring.

Balloting places are the Agricultural building, the Farmers Federation, Downs Feed and

Room Packed When Court Term Opens

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ningham, Radford Holland, R. A. Batey, Wendell P. Keener, Lee Cook, Dan R. Reynolds, Doyle Painter, James I. Rowland, and Dewey Hopper.

Dan R. Reynolds was appointed by Judge Pless to serve as foreman of the jury.

The grand jury system, Judge Pless said in his charge to the jury, is one of many guarantees, made by the forefathers of this country, that a person will receive a fair and just trial. "It is the duty of the grand jury," he said, "not to try a case, but to consider the evidence against a person and determine whether or not it is sufficient to warrant a trial."

To illustrate the need for such a system, he pointed out that Americans are descendants of an oppressed people. The forefathers of this country, he told them, came to America from England to escape oppression. In England, in those days, Judge Pless said, there were 28 charges for which a person could be put to death.

"And," he continued, "more men died in English prisons awaiting trial than were tried and sentenced to die."

If a grand jury returns a true bill against an individual, he said, it does not mean that the person has been convicted—it only shows that there is cause for trial.

"Many persons have been acquitted," the judge told the jury, "after a true bill was returned."

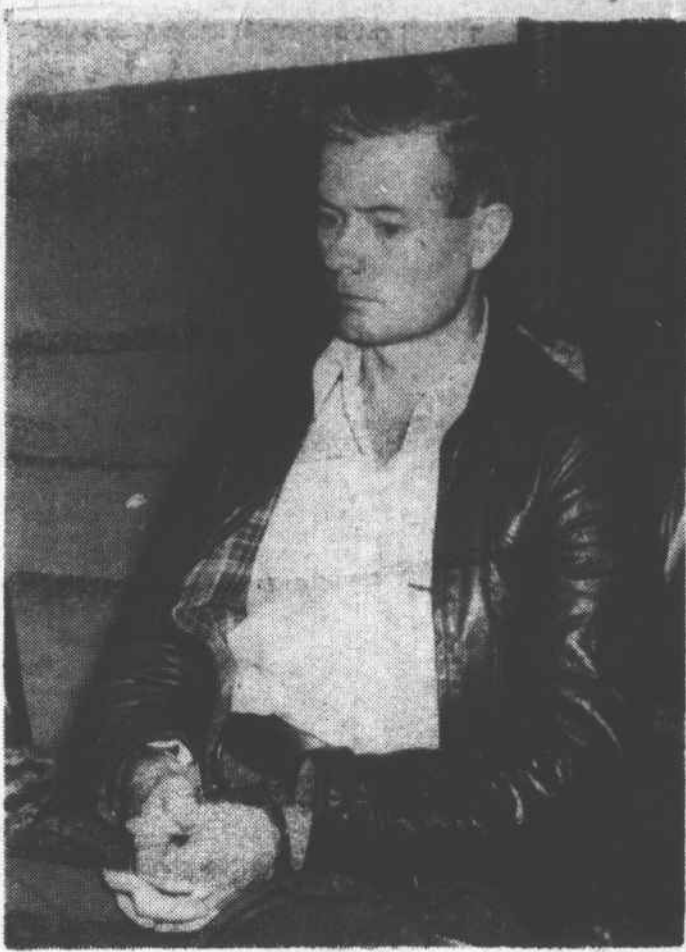
He pointed out the grand jury's responsibility in inspecting county institutions, emphasizing the inspection of the county home.

Not one person would be at the county home, Judge Pless declared, if they had anywhere else to go. Most of them are at the home, he said, because they can not help themselves—old folks are there because of diseases, or no family to turn to; some are there because of deformities and are unable to make a living—nearly all, he said, have to call on their fellow citizens for help.

"As our 'brother's keepers,'" he emphasized, "we owe it to them . . . to see that they have good, nourishing food, heat, clothes, kindness, affection, and consideration."

Judge Pless urged the grand jurors to report what they saw, and to make their report on the situation, regardless of any political implications that might be involved in the inspection and the subsequent report.

As honored jurors, he urged them to do their duty in all fairness to themselves and to others.



CURTIS SHEDD

BASKETBALLERS START TUESDAY CURTIS SHEDD IS SENTENCED TO GAS DEATH

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Tournament of Champions, and the team's chances this year for basketball honors are more than bright.

Reserve strength for the Franklin boys is shaping up well in practice and more than 20 basketballers have been showing up at afternoon practice sessions. Included are Guards L. A. Moore and Char'ez Shields, Forwards Prelo Crawford and Mack Lewis, and Center Dale Kiser, who played for Slagle school last year.

The female basketballers have 11 returnees from last year. Jean and Grace Setser, Carolyn Bryson, Betty Henry, and Clara Jane Taylor, fill in guard positions, and Birdie Sue Carpenter, Connaire Nolen, Betty Lee Moore, Shirley Dean, Jean Duvall, and Laura Lyle round out at forward.

Gal'e Abercrombie, Evelyn Dean, Annette Dalrymple, Mary Nell Parker, Marie Lenoir, Lueta Browning, and Winona Buchanan make up the reserves.

- Following is the tentative Franklin schedule for the season:
- Dec. 12—Franklin vs. Nantahala, there.
 - Dec. 15—Open date.
 - Dec. 19—Franklin vs. Hayesville, there.
 - Dec. 22—Open date.
 - Jan. 5—Open date.
 - Jan. 9—Franklin vs. Cherokee, here.
 - Jan. 12—Franklin vs. Andrews, there.
 - Jan. 16—Franklin vs. Sylva, here.
 - Jan. 23—Franklin vs. Murphy, there.
 - Jan. 26—Franklin vs. Highlands, here.
 - Jan. 30—Franklin vs. Glenville, here.
 - Feb. 2—Franklin vs. Cullowhee, there.
 - Feb. 6—Franklin vs. Bryson City, here.
 - Feb. 9—Franklin vs. Webster, there.
 - Feb. 13—Franklin vs. Stecoah, here.
 - Feb. 15—Franklin vs. Andrews, here.

COUNTY'S LOT SOLD TO FIRM

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er company's lease on its present quarters, at the northwest corner of the public square, expires in September, 1952.

The commissioners have had the possible sale of the lot to the power company informally under consideration since last summer. When a formal offer was made by the power company in September, it was taken under advisement, with final action coming Monday. The question of the advisability of selling the property has been the subject of considerable public discussion.

Meanwhile, Bryson City has been seeking to have the Nantahala company move its headquarters to that town. The firm moved here from Bryson City a number of years ago.

A delegation from Bryson City conferred with Mr. Archer a fortnight ago, and Monday E. B. Whitaker came here to

make a formal offer. Bryson City, he said, would donate a lot to the power company, and agree to have a score of homes for employes built within a year, if the Nantahala firm would move its headquarters back to Bryson City.

of the older girl was too despondent to determine whether or not she had been.

The court-appointed defense attorneys, Gilmer A. and R. S. Jones, cross-questioned the witnesses as to whether they were positive the slayings occurred in North Carolina. The crime occurred near the N.C.-Georgia-S. C. state line intersections. Sheriff Eddie Weathers, of Oconee county, S. C., and Sheriff Lehman Queen, of Rabun county, Ga., admitted that they were not familiar with the territory where the girls were found, when Shedd led them there.

But Deputy Sheriff Walter Dean, of this county, took the stand and testified the point where the bodies were found is in this state and county.

Shedd, of Walhalla, S. C., was tried for the August 3 slaying of Johnnie Mae Boyter, 14, and Jo Ann Boyter, 8, and was indicted for murder during the August term of superior court. His trial was continued at that time because of the death of Solicitor Thad D. Bryson's father, and since that time the youthful confessed slayer has been held in the Waynesville jail.

He was picked up by Georgia and South Carolina officers after the shotgun-riddled body of John Boyter, 39, father of the girls, was found in a wooded section close to the North Carolina line. Shedd is not being tried in this county for the slaying of Boyter, since the crime presumably took place in Georgia.

After confessing to the triple slaying, Shedd led officers to a spot near the Highlands garbage dump where the bodies of the girls were hidden. Since the bodies were found in Macon county, the trial was moved here.

In a number of conflicting confessions, following his arrest, Shedd first said he strangled both of the girls. However, autopsy reports showed that the younger, Jo Ann, was choked with a sash from her dress. When confronted with the report, Shedd said he may have choked her with the sash, but did not admit that he did.

The actual trial got under way Tuesday afternoon, since most of the morning was spent in picking a 12-man jury from a special venire of Jackson county citizens.

Seven witnesses for the prosecution were called to testify during the Tuesday afternoon session by Solicitor Bryson.

They were Mrs. Christine Boyter, widow of the slain man and mother of the two girls; Mrs. Ida Pace, Mrs. Boyter's mother who cared for the children most of the time; Bobby Jean Bryant, a six-year-old who saw the girls get into Shedd's automobile on the day of the triple slaying; Rosa Lee Oakley, a 13-year-old friend of Johnnie Mae Boyter, who said she saw Shedd talking to Johnnie Mae on the day of the murders; Lambert Talley, the man who found the body of John Boyter; Woody Wilson, special agent with the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, who was one of the chief investigators in the triple slaying; and Thad Wood, a rural policeman who answered a call from Boyter on the night prior to the crime.

During the testimony of the witnesses, Shedd sat motionless; his wife Dollie, was at his side, her head buried in her arms most of the time.

When Mrs. Christine Boyter, wife of the slain man and mother of the girls, took the stand Tuesday afternoon as the prosecution's first witness, she appeared to be remarkably composed. Her young son, Sammy, about five years old, sat at her feet as she testified. As she continued, the child found a vacant chair, carried it to the witness stand, placed it beside his mother, and took a seat.

Mrs. Boyter related the details of an all-night ride August 2, the night prior to the slaying, in Shedd's car. According to Mrs. Boyter, she, her husband, and the oldest daughter, Jimmie Mae, were riding with Shedd. Her husband, she said, had been drinking and she was "scared because Shedd said he would take us to Seneca to a carnival and then drove to the Hunnicutt bridge (outside Walhalla) and there attacked her. When asked where her husband was, she said he was in the woods "somewhere." She did not report the attack, she said, because she was afraid of Shedd. Her husband called "the law," she continued, because Shedd had a knife. Thad Wood, a rural policeman from Salem, S. C., was the man who answered Boyter's call.

Mr. Wood told the court that he met the Shedd car about 3 a. m. (August 3) returning from the Hunnicutt bridge section, as he was on his way to investigate the call. Boyter was drunk, Mr. Wood told the court, and when searching the car he (Mr. Wood) found a knife between Shedd's feet. The policeman said he first took Boyter

into custody but later released him.

Mrs. Boyter said she and her husband and the girl returned to her mother's home in Walhalla early Wednesday morning, August 3, and stayed there until about 11 a. m. She and Mr. Boyter left about that time, she recalled, leaving both of the girls with their grandmother. That was the last time she saw either of the girls, she said.

The grandmother, Mrs. Ida Pace, took the stand and confirmed the parts of Mrs. Boyter's story involving the arrival and departure times from her home. However, Mrs. Pace told the court that when she learned the girls were missing that afternoon, she was "scared that John (Boyter) might have killed the children." She explained that he was "mean" when he drank.

The older girl, Johnnie Mae, she said, lived with her all of the time, and the younger, Jo Ann, spent part of the time with her and part with her parents.

Mrs. Pace told the court that when she returned home from work Wednesday afternoon, and learned from some neighborhood girls that her granddaughters were seen leaving with Shedd, she tried to locate John Boyter to see if he knew where they were. Unable to locate the father, she recalled that she and Mrs. Boyter drove to Shedd's home to see if he knew the whereabouts of the girls. Shedd told them he did not know.

On Friday, August 5, Mrs. Pace said she notified the sheriff the girls were missing. Miss Rosa Lee Oakley, a seventh-grader and close neighbor of Mrs. Pace, took the stand and related how she saw Shedd talking to Johnnie Mae "sometime after lunch" on the steps of the Pace home.

A cute little six-year-old, and the brightest witness during the Tuesday afternoon session, Bobbie Jean Bryant, also a close neighbor of Mrs. Pace, emphatically answered Solicitor Bryson's questions about what she saw the afternoon of August 3. Yes, she knew Curtis Shedd, and pointed him out in the courtroom. Yes, she saw him drive off in a car with Johnnie Mae and Jo Ann Boyter that afternoon.

The body of John Boyter was found August 9 by Lambert Talley, who took the stand and told the court the facts leading up to the finding of the body about 500 feet from his house; the arrival of law enforcement officials; and the subsequent removal of the body. He identified pictures of the body taken at the scene of the slaying.

Woody Wilson, G. B. I. special agent, who aided in the investigation, said that Boyter was identified by a power company receipt which bore his name. There was no other identification, he said. He then related how he and other law enforcement officers picked Shedd up at his home after learning that he had been seen with the girls. When they went to Shedd's house, Mr. Wilson said, they asked Shedd if he had a shotgun, and when he answered, yes, they asked to see it. Shedd showed them a .12 gauge shotgun, covered with cobwebs and dust, he said.

This was on August 9, the special agent said, and nothing was said to Shedd about finding Boyter's body. Shedd agreed, he said, to go along with officials to check identification of his (Shedd's) automobile.

Mr. Wilson said they asked Shedd to drive up to a certain spot, (actually near where the body of Boyter was found) so Mr. Talley could identify the car. Then, he said, Shedd was asked to stop the car and he'd look for a lost billfold. Mr. Wilson explained that the move was an excuse to get Shedd to the spot where Boyter's body was found.

He then told the court about confessions made by Shedd in his presence, and he said that during one confession Shedd demonstrated on him (Mr. Wilson) how he killed the girls by choking them. "He said he squeezed down with his thumbs," Mr. Wilson told the court.

When asked how many times the youthful defendant made confessions, Mr. Wilson declared "he made at least a half dozen variations of his story."

Judge Pless ordered a special venire, numbering 60 men, summoned from Jackson county.

A special court order was radioed by highway patrolmen to Sheriff Middleton, of Jackson county, ordering him to summon 60 Jackson county citizens and have them assemble at the Jackson county courthouse Tuesday morning at 9 o'clock, at which time they would be transported to this county. Judge Pless arranged with Guy L. Houk, Macon county school superintendent, to send two buses to Sylva, the Jackson county seat, to bring the veniremen here.

During the Monday session, Judge Pless also ordered Sheriff J. Harry Thomas to post

Girls Quint

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ladies, the "Travelers" play strictly by the men's rules, with no holds barred.

The faculty team roster carries the names of the following who will take the floor to play the ladies: Sammy Beck, R. G. Sutton, Milburn Atkins, Harry Corbin, Jack Angel, Ed Williams, Wayne Proffitt, Richard Stot., and Clarence Lowe.

Miss Walker is known as a record-breaker in basketball circles. She was selected on the All-American team 10 times, a record that still stands; played on five national championship teams, and runner-up three years; won the national free throw championship six years; international championship for two years, with a record of 49 out of 50 tries; and has never been beaten in national tournament history.

OATH OF OFFICE GIVEN OFFICIALS

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all, this is not the sheriff's or the county commissioners' county. It belongs to the people. Every person in it has one share of common stock, and that goes for each person's responsibility."

Judge Pless gave the oath of office, in order, to Mr. Thomas, Miss McGee, Lake V. Shope, register of deeds, George R. Henson, the new coroner, Lake R. Ledford, the new surveyor, and the three reelected county commissioners: W. E. Baldwin, chairman, John A. Roane, and W. W. Edwards.

In administering the oath to the commissioners, Judge Pless commented:

"I am proud of the fact that in any county there are men who are willing to give their time, talent, and ability to the office of county commissioner, one of the most important offices I know of." Pointing out that the office often is thankless, he said "I consider a man who will serve as a county commissioner a patriot, pure and serene."

After the elected officials had been sworn in, Judge Pless administered the oath to Newell Pendergrass, appointed by Sheriff Thomas as his deputy. Meanwhile, Calvin Roland, of Franklin, Route 3, took over Monday as jailer, moving into the jail from which the retiring sheriff, J. P. Bradley, and his family had moved earlier to their home in East Franklin.

Miss McGee reappointed Mrs. Elizabeth McCoilum as deputy clerk, and the oath was administered to her by Miss McGee. Mr. Shope has not yet appointed a successor to Miss McGee as his assistant in the register of deeds office, but Miss Jo Ann Hopkins is assisting him temporarily.

Mr. Brookshire, the retiring clerk of court, plans to leave shortly for Western Carolina Teachers college, Cullowhee, where he will continue his education. Sheriff Bradley and Deputy Dean will continue in their present office until the 1950 taxes have been collected, since Mr. Bradley's term as tax collector continues until that time. Meanwhile, Mr. Thomas has his desk in the office of the clerk of court.

The county commissioners, following their oath-taking for the new term, approved bonds of the other officials as follows:

- Mr. Thomas, as sheriff, \$5,000, and as treasurer, \$3,000.
- Miss McGee, as clerk, \$10,000.
- Mr. Shope, as county accountant, \$5,000, and as register of deeds, \$5,000.
- Mr. Henson, as coroner, \$2,000.
- Mr. Ledford, as surveyor, \$2,000.

special guards on the courtroom doors, to keep spectators from over-crowding the courtroom after all seats were filled Tuesday morning.

More than three hours were consumed Tuesday morning and afternoon, after the arrival of the special venire, as members of the venire were examined by the defense and prosecution to determine whether or not they were qualified to serve as jurors. Of the 60 men, 31 were examined, and from that number 12 jurors and one alternate were chosen. The defense rejected 15 members and three were dismissed by the prosecution. The names were drawn from a hat by Sandra Henson, five-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Henson, of Franklin.

Jurors selected were Britton Moore, David Cagle, Tyre M. Davis, Walter Middleton, Will Buchanan, R. L. Higdon, T. T. Varner, W. E. Haskett, James F. Patton, Clifford Beck, Walter H. Allman, and John G. Farley. The alternate, to sit with the jury, and act in the event that one of the regulars became ill, was Will Nations.