

PHONE CONCERN IS AUTHORIZED TO RAISE RATES

N. C. Utility Body Grants \$8,000 Increase; May Allow More Later

The Western Carolina Telephone company, with headquarters in Franklin, last week was given authority by the N. C. Utilities commission to increase its rates.

Pointing out that it had not had a rate increase since 1927, the local concern asked permission to so increase rates as to boost its annual gross income by \$22,618, on a basis of present facilities and business.

The Utilities commission, however, authorized increases at this time to provide additional total gross income of only \$8,000. In announcing its decision, the commission said further increases are likely as the local company completes its expansion program and its investment increases.

In the light of that statement, R. E. McKelvey, the company's general manager, said he did not know how the \$8,000 increase is to be distributed, whether over all of the exchanges the company serves in this state, or only among those where the plants have been modernized. He was in Raleigh yesterday to confer with officials of the commission.

Mr. McKelvey explained that, in seeking the \$22,618 increase, his company submitted a breakdown of proposed increases in rates. With a smaller increase than that sought, he said, he did not know just which rates would be increased, or how much.

The firm serves eight communities—Franklin, Highlands, Sylva, Cullowhee, Cashiers, Bryson City, Cherokee, and Hayesville—in this state.

It also serves Clayton, in Georgia, and has filed with Georgia authorities a request for authority to increase rates at Clayton sufficiently to bring in an additional \$3,358.

PMA Farmers Will Ballot For Officials

Community and county committeemen to serve on the Production Management Administration program here in 1951 will be elected today (Thursday) and tomorrow.

Robert Fulton, chairman of the committee, this week asked all farmers eligible to vote to turn out for today's balloting.

Polls will be open from 9 a. m. to 6 p. m. today at the following places: North Franklin, Paul Swafford's mill; Southwest Franklin, Rufus Wells' home; Southeast Franklin, Charles A. Rogers' home; Millshoal, Holly Springs school; Cartoogechaye, Ledford's store; Ellijay, Wiley Clark's store; Sugarfork, Moses' service station; Highlands, Potts Bros. store; Flats, Sealy post office; Smithbridge, Norris' store; Nantahala, high school gymnasium; Burningtown, Carl Morgan's store; Cowee, Tom Hickman's store.

All farmers who participated in the 1950 program are eligible to vote in the election, Mr. Fulton said.

Five men and one county delegate will be elected by each of the 13 P. M. A. communities in the county, he said, and the 13 county delegates will meet in Franklin tomorrow to choose a P. M. A. committee of three members and one alternate.

Gneiss Store

Robbed; Officers Are Investigating

A combination filling station-store at Gneiss, owned by Willie Moses, was entered sometime Wednesday night and \$36 in currency and silver and cigarettes was taken, according to Sheriff J. Harry Thomas, who is investigating the break-in.

The burglar entered the establishment by forcing the lock on the back door, the sheriff said.

Aiding Sheriff Thomas in the investigation is P. R. Kitchen, S. B. I. agent from Waynesville.

This County Tops State In Auto Safety Record

Macon county's automobile safety record topped all of North Carolina's 99 other counties from January through September of this year, thereby earning this county the right to the title, "safest county in the state."

Macon's record came to light after a comparative analysis of statistics from the North Carolina Department of Motor Vehicles and the Carolina Motor club was made.

Macon and six other counties in the state reported no fatalities for the nine-month period, but Macon is "safest" by virtue of having more automobiles than the other six counties.

A motor vehicle registration estimate, made by the department of motor vehicles, showed that this county has 3,080 registered vehicles, as compared with the next highest county

reporting no fatalities, Mitchell, with 2,950 vehicles.

Other counties reporting no fatalities for the period were Gates, with a registration of 2,678; Jones, with 2,317; Hyde, with 1,070; Tyrrell, with 910; and Clay with 848.

A press release from the Carolina Motor club last week showed that Macon county, for the nine-month period, had 45 highway accidents, in which 25 persons were injured, but none killed.

For the whole of North Carolina, up to October 1, 660 persons were killed and 8,701 were injured as a result of 19,601 reported accidents.

As compared with the corresponding period in 1949, the totals represent an increase of nine per cent in deaths, 27 per cent in reported injuries, and 34 per cent in total reported accidents.

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ONE OF 5 GETS DEER ON WAYAH

62 Hunters Get Dozen Bucks In That Area In Six Days

One out of five deer hunters bagged a buck in the Wayah wildlife management area during the two three-day hunts in November and December, Nantahala forest officials announced this week—an unusual record, considering that one deer for each 10 hunters has been the average in past hunts.

This year is the first time, however, the Wayah area has been open to deer hunting, officials pointed out, and that



Pictured above is a 200-pound, 8-point buck, bagged by Tom Jenkins, of Franklin, near Rainbow Springs during the November hunt. (L to R) W. C. Burrell, Mr. Jenkins, and Leroy Berrong.

fact probably accounts for the unusually high kill average.

A total of 62 hunters took to the wood in the Wayah area for the six days of hunting and downed 12 bucks. In the November hunt, 54 hunters returned with nine bucks, and in the December hunt, eight with three.

In the Standing Indian area, the number of hunters participating was not known, but during the six days, 21 kills were reported, 14 for November and seven for December. Hunters also announced a total of 38 misses during the six days of hunting in that area.

In the Fires Creek area, 10 kills were reported in the November hunt, but the outcome of the December hunt was incomplete.

Nantahala Hi Boys, Girls Lick Franklin

The Nantahala school basketballers, boys and girls lengthened their winning streak Tuesday night by trouncing the fresh-starting Franklin High boy and girl teams, 37 to 23, and 26 to 12, respectively, in games at Nantahala.

The hardwood classic was the opening game for Franklin. The Nantahala boys have played four other games, winning them all, while the girls have chalked up two previous wins.

Leading the male Nantahala thin-clads was Herman May, a wily guard who dumped the ball through the hoop for 19 points to take high scoring honors for the night's play.

Franklin's lanky pivot man, Jack Norton, found the basket for 12 points, to lead the locals in high scoring.

More than 150 basketball fans, many making the trip from Franklin, watched the game.

Louise Owenby, a five-foot, seven inch forward, showed the Nantahala girls the way to victory by racking up 18 points, an impressive number, but low for Miss Owenby, who usually scores in the 20's and 30's.

Birdie Sue Carpenter was high for the Franklin girls with 8 points.

The Franklin teams journey to Hayesville next Tuesday night for their next scheduled game.

Macon Woman Gets Record Size Buck, Drags It One Mile

A local woman deer hunter added spice and a large measure of truth to the old saying, "Never underestimate the power of a woman," when she bagged what is believed to be the biggest buck downed by hunters in the three-day hunt in the Nantahala area last week.

And she wasted no time doing it either. Last Thursday, the first day of the hunt, Mrs. Clifford Cruse, of the Cartoogechaye community, stopped a 250-pound buck, antlers included, dead in his tracks, just to the right of Standing Indian.

The story, however, doesn't end here. Neither does the "power" of a woman.

She dragged said 250 pounds of venison, antlers, included, for about a mile down the mountain before deciding to go for help. Before leaving, however, she carefully hid her prize.

And to whom did she turn for help? Another woman, who helped her lug the huge buck down to the road and load it in a Jeep.

ANNUAL YULE CANTATA SET FOR SUNDAY

Choirs Of 3 Churches Combine To Present Music Program

Franklin's annual Christmas cantata will be held Sunday night at 8 o'clock at the Methodist church here, and will feature the combined choirs of three Franklin churches, singing "The Music of Bethlehem." It was announced this week.

The cantata is under the direction of S. F. Beck, Franklin school band director, and Mrs. Henry W. Cabe will be the organist.

The choirs of the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Episcopal churches will blend their voices in the cantata, which has been a popular Christmas event in Franklin for a number of years. As in the past, a capacity audience is expected to attend.

Members of the combined choir are:

Sopranos: Mrs. E. C. Harmon, Mrs. Roy F. Cunningham, Mrs. Gilmer L. Crawford, Mrs. Margaret M. Cooper, Mrs. C. N. Dowdle, Mrs. Hyldah Shepherd, and the Misses Rebecca Murray, Esther Wallace, Nancy Jane McCollum, Carolyn Nohsteln, Laura Lyle, Betty Lou Constance, Wilma Renshaw, Joan Willhide, and Betty Sharitz.

Altos: Mrs. Harold T. Sloan, Mrs. A. A. Bailey, Mrs. Neal Johnston, and the Misses Frances Barr, Elizabeth Murray, Julia Hunnicutt, Mary Ann Killian, and Caroline Crawford.

Tenors: P. B. McCollum and Richard Sloan.

Basses: The Rev. Hoyt Evans, S. W. Mendenhall, Robert Dowdle, and Bryant Hurst.

Music To Mark Monday Night Meeting Of P. T. A.

A program of music will be presented at the December meeting of the Franklin Parent-Teacher association, set for 7:30 o'clock next Monday evening at the high school auditorium.

The Rhythm band of the first, second and third grades, under the direction of Miss Alice Weaver, will give several Christmas numbers. The Tonettes, of the fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth grades, will play some selections. The boys' choir, from the third, fourth and fifth grades, will sing Christmas carols. And the school band, under the direction of S. F. Beck, will be heard in several numbers.

The devotional will be conducted by the Rev. Hoyt Evans, and Mrs. Aileen Siler, the president, will preside.

A social hour will follow the program.

Milton Fouts Elected As Supervisor Of Soil Body

Milton Fouts defeated Herman Talley for a seat on the three-man board of supervisors for the Macon County Soil Conservation district, in an election he'd here last week.

Mr. Fouts and Mr. Talley were the only candidates for the seat being vacated by Charles C. Sutton, whose one-year term expires soon.

The election began Monday and ended Saturday, and a very light vote was reported.

The association is controlled by three supervisors. Siler Slagle, one of the three chosen last year when the organization was set up, has another year to serve, and Owen Ammons has two more years on the board.

100 Years Old Today



MRS. MARTHA JANE BRYSON

Born December 14, 1850—11 years before the outbreak of the Civil war!—Mrs. Bryson, known in her community as "Aunt Jane", will celebrate her 101st birthday today. All of her children, eight sons, will be on hand for the event, two of them having traveled from the Pacific Coast to be present when their mother attains the century-mark.

'Aunt Jane' Bryson Will Be 100 Years Old Today

Eight Sons To Help Her Celebrate Reaching Century-Mark

Today Mrs. Martha Jane (Aunt Jane) Bryson, Macon County's oldest resident, will celebrate 100 years of worldly existence. All of her eight sons, the eldest 75 years old, are expected to be present to help her usher in a new century, at her home on Bryson branch.

Two of her sons journeyed from their homes on the West coast to take part in the celebration.

At her 99th birthday party last year, friends recalled yesterday, Mrs. Bryson was still young enough to laugh at jokes, advance her philosophy of life, and remember clearly the outbreak of the Civil War.

"I don't think the world is as good as it used to be," she told a reporter then. "Too many are wanting a dollar. People don't care for one another like they used to."

Asked if she could give some reason for her longevity, she replied, "I worked hard all of my life, until I got so I couldn't."

Her neat, white frame house on Bryson branch has been her home for more than three quarters of a century. Her husband, the late John T. Bryson, took her there a year after they were married and it has been "home" ever since.

The daughter of Billy Deal and Mrs. Martha Jennings Deal, she was married to Mr. Bryson when she was 23, and they reared nine children, eight sons and one daughter. All are still living except the daughter, Mrs. Bryson's husband died 15 years ago at the age of 85.

Her eldest son, Will Bryson, of Cullasaja, is now 75 years old. The other seven are Charlie, Sam, and Elbert, Bryson, all of Cullasaja; George E., of Sedro Woolley, Wash., Joe, of Terrebonne, Ore., Burton, of Whittier, and Newton Bryson, of Raleigh.

5 Selectees

Will Leave Franklin Today For Army

Five men, making up Macon county's second draft contingent since the start of the Korean war, will leave this (Thursday) morning at 8:15 o'clock for Charlotte, where they will be inducted into the army.

The first group, numbering 30 men, reported for induction November 30.

The names of the selectees leaving this morning were made public this week by W. N. Sloan, chairman of the local draft board.

They are: Ray Eugene Yonce, Clarence Eugene Mason, Robert Marion Lunsford, James Edward Williams, and Claude Maxwell Cabe.

Press Employees To Take One-Week Christmas Holiday

Following a custom of several years, employees of The Franklin Press will take a one-week Christmas vacation, starting December 21 and continuing through December 27.

To make this holiday possible, it always is necessary to make slight changes in the newspaper's publication schedule.

This year only one issue will be affected. Next week's paper will be published at the usual time, reaching Macon County readers Thursday morning. But the following week the paper will be published and placed in the mail Friday night, December 29, and will reach Macon County readers Saturday morning.

The Press office, however, will be open for business as usual every week-day during this period, except on Christmas day.

TITLE TO REALTY IS TRANSFERRED TO POWER FIRM

Nantahala Concern Pays County \$15,000, Signs Agreement To Build

The deed transferring title to the West Main street county lot from Macon County to the Nantahala Power and Light company was put on record Monday.

At the same time, the power company gave the county a check for \$15,000, in payment for the property, and an agreement, under which the Nantahala firm agrees to construct a business building on the lot within 10 years, was put on record.

The board of county commissioners, at its meeting last week, had accepted the power company's offer of \$15,000 cash for the lot, and this week's formalities closed the deal.

The \$15,000 was placed in the county general fund, officials said.

Nantahala company officials have assured the commissioners they will put up a two-story office building and a one-story service building, the two structures to cost approximately \$150,000. Present plans call for construction to start next spring, but the 10-year period was requested in view of unsettled international conditions.

The agreement, signed by John M. Archer, Jr., Nantahala firm president, and Claude Bolton, secretary, is set out that "Whereas, in addition to the purchase price for said lot, a moving consideration actuating said board (of commissioners) in agreeing to sell said lot was the expressed plan and intention of the party of the first part (the power company) to construct and erect a building on the property, to be used by it as a general office building and for other purposes, now, therefore, in consideration of the agreement on the part of the Board of County Commissioners to sell and convey said lot, as aforesaid, the party of the first part (power company) covenants and agrees that if said party of the first part has failed to erect said building on property on January 1, 1961, then, and in that event, the Board of County Commissioners of Macon County shall have the right and option to repurchase said property from the said party of the first part, its successors and assigns, for a period of six (6) months, for Fifteen Thousand (\$15,000) Dollars.

The lot, bought by the county for \$6,000 in 1937 as the site for a new courthouse, fronts 115 feet on West Main street, has a depth of 228 feet, and has a width of 145 feet at the back. The width at the front is 30 feet less than at the rear, due to the fact that the telephone building cuts off a plot 30 x 46 feet at the southeast corner.

The county retains title to the remainder of the lot, fronting on Church street. The Agricultural building stands on the northeast corner of the remaining property.

BAPTISTS PLAN PROGRAM
Members of the First Baptist church will present a Christmas play, "Why Christmas," at the church December 23, under the direction of Mrs. M. W. Chapman and Mrs. Clarence Henry, it has been announced.

PLAN BAKE SALE
St. Agnes Episcopal Auxiliary will hold a benefit bake and food sale tomorrow (Friday) morning at the Children's Shop from 9 o'clock until noon.

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

	High	Low	Pct.
Wednesday	50	35	.07
Thursday	47	32	3.69
Friday	39	17	.00
Saturday	42	28	trace
Sunday	35	25	trace
Monday	37	19	.00
Tuesday	39	21	trace
Wednesday		13	.00

Franklin Rainfall
(As recorded by Manson Siles for TVA)
Wednesday, trace; Thursday, 1.59 of an inch; Friday, .03; Saturday, none; Sunday, none; Monday, none; Tuesday, none; Wednesday, none.

Shedd To Be First Man Tried In This County To Die For Crime

When, and if, Curtis Shedd steps into the gas chamber January 26, and dies . . . he will be the first man tried, convicted, and sentenced in Macon county to keep his date with death.

Shedd, of Walhalla, S. C., was convicted in superior court here last Wednesday by a Jackson county jury for the strangulation slaying of two Walhalla, S. C. girls. Friday he was taken to the state prison in Raleigh

by Sheriff J. Harry Thomas and Patrolman C. M. Byrd to occupy a cell on "Death row" until the day of execution.

In Macon's history, only two crimes committed, in this county, not counting Shedd's, resulted in the killers' receiving death sentences.

This county isn't a haven for first degree murderers, and the scales of justice are probably as evenly balanced here as any-

where . . . but the records speak for themselves.

Both of the other crimes happened in Macon, but the trial of one was moved out of the county because of public feeling. The killer in the other case was tried in Macon, by a Macon jury . . . twice . . . and was twice sentenced to die . . . but managed to elude the executioner at the last minute.

In present-day mystery novel language, one case might have

been tagged, "The Case of the Heel-less Shoe," but in 1872 it was known as the State vs. Henderson.

The other case, which incidentally was one of the most sensational trials in the annals of North Carolina crime, could have been known as, "Lady Luck and I." However, it was known as the State vs. Jerry Dalton.

For the first case, a shift back through the years is in

order. It is the year 1872, to be exact.

According to reports, one Bayless Henderson, a tramp from Tennessee, was door-to-dooring his way around this county, begging hand-outs.

Making his rounds through this section he just happened to overhear someone remark that Nimrod S. Jarrett, a well-known farmer, had a large sum of money on his person. Rumor

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