

### TOWN BOARD REELECTS ALL ITS EMPLOYEES

#### Levy \$10 Privilege Tax On Franklin Taxi Cabs

During a lengthy three and a half hour session Monday night, the Franklin board of aldermen reelected all town employees, levied a \$10 privilege tax on local taxis, and approved a resolution condemning the phase of state prison law which allows sex perverts to become honor grade prisoners.

With more business on hand than time, the board postponed action on the town's clean-up campaign and water situation.

In addition the board approved measures (1) levying the town privilege tax on the same basis as 1950 (2) authorizing the clerk to send letters to local filling stations asking for discount bids on gasoline, oil, and other items for town vehicles, (3) authorizing the budget committee to include in the budget funds for paying a third policeman, (4) and authorized the street and water committees to investigate a number of situations, after hearing cases presented by delegations.

The board, by unanimous vote, reelected town employees. All of the employees, with the exception of the health officer, who is hired by the year, are on a monthly basis. Salaries of employees were not changed. Employees are, R. S. Jones, town attorney, C. D. Baird, chief of police, Homer Cochran, night policeman, Carl Tysinger, fire chief and building inspector, Dr. H. T. Horsley, health officer, Herman Childers, water superintendent, and Mack Franks, electrical inspector.

A motion to tax local cab drivers was introduced by Alderman Verlon Swafford following a discussion which centered around taxi owner's free use of town property. In the past, taxis have not come under the provisions of the privilege tax. By law the town board reserves

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### This Region

#### Picked As "Safety Area" In Event Of War

Western North Carolina has been selected as a "safety area," to which war refugees may be sent, and in the event of atomic bombing of the United States, Franklin might wake up some morning to find 30,000 refugees on its hands, J. Richard Queen told an audience that packed the courthouse to the doors Monday night.

Mr. Queen was here in connection with Monday night's courthouse event, the showing of the film, "Medical Effects of the Atomic Bomb". The film was obtained from the department of the Army by Representative Monroe M. Redden for audiences in this congressional district.

Mr. Queen, who spoke briefly, discounted this area's danger, in the event of all-out war, by reason of its proximity to Oak Ridge, Tenn.

### Plan For "Biggest And Best" Fourth Of July Celebration

Plans for making this year's Fourth of July celebration "the biggest and best yet" were mapped Friday night by representatives of various Franklin civic groups and organizations.

A pageant-like parade in the downtown area, complete with floats, bands, and "all the trimmings", and field events at the high school athletic field, including a beauty contest and a greased pole, were discussed. Action committees to put plans into effect were appointed.

The Independence Day planners left the decision to enter floats up to individual organizations, but agreed to judge all entries and award a cash prize to the winner.

Judging will be based on originality and minimum of cost. The group decided that decorating costs for each float should not exceed \$3.

The Fourth festivities will consume most of the day for

### Prisoner Flees Road Gang Near Ga. Line

#### BULLETIN

Milton Austin, who escaped from the prison camp here Monday, was captured near Clayton, Ga., yesterday morning.

A 23-year-old prisoner, serving a four-year sentence for auto theft at the Macon County prison camp, escaped from a road gang about 11 o'clock Monday morning on the Mulberry road near the Georgia line.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas expressed the belief that the prisoner's escape was prearranged and that someone met him nearby with an automobile.

The man was identified as Milton Austin, 23, of Gastonia, Route 2. At the time of his escape he was wearing brown pants and a white T-shirt. The sheriff said he is of medium build, and weighs about 163 pounds.

### LIONS SUBMIT MAP TO BOARD

#### To Be Used For House Numbering Project In Franklin

Door-to-door mail delivery, the ultimate goal of the Lions club Community Betterment project, moved a step closer to reality Monday night when a large map of Franklin was turned over to the board of aldermen for approval or disapproval.

The map, which lists all houses within the town limits, will prove to be invaluable for house numbering in Franklin, the first step toward mail delivery, Ted Reber, chairman of the organization's community betterment committee, told the board.

A similar map would cost around \$6,000, Mr. Reber said. The Lions map was made by H. H. Plemmons in his spare time at a cost of \$250. Mr. Reber asked the board to consider paying Mr. Plemmons for the map since it also could be used by the town for things such as zoning. The board postponed action for further consideration.

The presentation of the map is the second phase of the Lions' mail delivery project. The first phase, completed in the fall of 1949, was street naming. The club spent more than \$700 on that feature of the project.

Mr. Reber also submitted a number of recommendations to the board for consideration:

1. That one number be assigned for each 12 and a half feet in the business section,

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#### PLAN SUNDAY SING

The second Sunday sing of the Macon County Singing convention will be held at the Buck Creek Baptist church Sunday afternoon at 1:45 o'clock, Ralph McClure, secretary, announced this week.

### REAPPOINTED



JUDGE GEORGE B. PATTON

Judge Patton, of Franklin, is one of four special superior court judges reappointed by Governor Scott the latter part of last week. Judge Patton was reappointed for a two-year term. He has served since 1947.

### GRADUATE TEN AT HIGHLANDS

Diplomas were conferred upon 10 seniors by G. L. Houk, county school superintendent, at the Highlands High school commencement exercises Tuesday night.

Principal speaker for the event was Dr. Paul A. Reid, president of Western Carolina Teachers college. He was introduced by Mr. Houk.

The college president told members of the graduating class that education is a continuing process through life and stressed its spiritual and moral values.

"Education is essential for survival," Dr. Reid declared, "and is a most powerful weapon

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#### WILL HOLD REVIVAL

Simultaneous revivals will be held June 10 through 15 at the churches of the Franklin Methodist circuit, the pastor, the Rev. C. L. Grant, has announced. Sunday services will be held at Bethel, Clarks' Chapel, Iotia, and Snow Hill at 11 a. m. and 8 p. m., and at 10 a. m. and 8 p. m. at Louisa. During the week, the churches will come together for services at 11 a. m. at Bethel Monday, Clark's Chapel Tuesday, Iotia Wednesday, and Snow Hill Thursday, with lunch to follow the service each day. Guest preachers will conduct the Sunday services.

### This Thing Must Be Stopped

#### (EDITORIAL)

A boy and his dog, abroad in field and wood . . .

That is a picture that is etched deep in the memories of most of us who once were boys; a happy memory every boy has a right to treasure.

But last week a shadow fell across the picture . . .

A shadow cast by something in the shape of a man, a thing not only sex-crazed, but whose instinct is twisted and turned back upon itself. Eight-year old David met a sex pervert. The rest of the story is sordid . . . sickening.

A young inmate of the prison camp here, upgraded to become a trusty and thus have some liberty, is charged with the offense. His guilt or innocence is not established; it can be established only by the courts.

But whatever the verdict of the court in this case, it is true that this thing has been happening with alarming frequency in this state and others: A man convicted of a sex offense, or a prisoner with a history of sex perversion, is upgraded to become a trusty, or is paroled . . . and another child must pay, often with his life.

In such cases, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Reber, the child is the victim not only of a pervert, but of a system that is wrong. And so little David's parents have done a courageous thing; instead of hushing up the story of what happened to their son, they have deliberately brought it out in the open, so that something can be done to protect other boys and girls.

Prison reform in this matter is long past due. Something should be done, must be done about that. But we must go farther.

It is high time we dragged this ugly thing out of the dark corners. Time we let some light in on this fast-spreading blight. Time we stopped speaking of it in whispers. Time we examined this problem, and did some intelligent thinking and acting.

It is time we recognized it for what it surely is, a disease of the mind. We have learned better than to imprison our other insane; we put them in institutions for the insane, treat them, and release them only when they are whole again.

It is time we did something about this thing before some child has to suffer to prove the existence of perversion. We do not wait until half the population is infected before we isolate and treat a case of leprosy.

It is time we put some people to work to find out the cause of this type of insanity, to find out what is wrong with a society that breeds perverts.

It is time, it is long past time we made it safe for a boy and his dog to be abroad. . . .

### CONDEMN PRISON PRACTICE AFTER ATTACK ON BOY

#### Recommend No Paroles, Honor Grades, For Sex Criminals

Town and county governmental bodies and Franklin civic organizations drew up resolutions this week condemning the practice of letting sex criminals become honor grade prisoners, or eligibles for parole.

The reaction followed an alleged attack on an eight-year-old Franklin boy last Thursday by an honor grade prisoner from the Macon County prison camp.

The prisoner, charged with "a crime against nature", was identified as David Cannon, 27, of Ayden. David Lee Reber, a fourth-grader, identified Cannon and told officers he was the man "who promised me a white rabbit" not to tell anyone.

The Reber child, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ted Reber, of Franklin, told investigating officers the man showed him dirty pictures before attacking him. Lewd pictures were found under the mattress of the prisoner's bunk at the camp.

Commending the child's parents for bringing the case out in the open, the town board and the board of county commissioners took action Monday, both organizations passed similar resolutions, copies of which are being sent to the governor and prison officials, condemning the practice of allowing sex criminals their freedom under the honor system while serving prison sentences. The Franklin Garden club, at a meeting Monday night, authorized a committee, composed of Mrs. Allan Brooks, Mrs. Gus Leach, and Mrs. J. Ward Long, to work with G. L. Houk in drafting a like resolution. The Junior Womans' club also plans similar action.

Cannon is serving two 15-year sentences, concurrently, for abduction and kidnapping. He was sentenced in Wilson County and began serving his sentence in 1948.

Officers investigating the case said that Cannon's record at the camp stated that he was found to be "mentally deficient with sex perversion", following an examination by Dr. Owens, psychiatrist for the state prison department.

According to the Reber child, his dog broke leash and he asked the man to help him catch it. After catching the dog,

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### Named Superintendent



HOLLAND McSWAIN

### 3 GRADUATED AT NANTAHALA HI

Nantahala High school's graduating class Saturday night became the first class to receive their diplomas in the new school building. Diplomas were

#### Honor Students



VESTER MAY Valedictorian



MISS SUSIE DOUTHITT Salutatorian

conferred on eight seniors by Guy L. Houk, county school superintendent.

The baccalaureate sermon

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### Nantahala Fourth Attraction In North Carolina During '50

The Nantahala National Forest rated fourth among North Carolina's "Big Ten" attractions during 1950, according to attendance figures recently made public by the N. C. department of conservation and development.

Figures show that 1,220,480 persons visited the scenic Nantahalas during the year. The top attraction in the state was Pisgah National Forest, the entrance of which is near Asheville, with an attendance of 1,199,775. Second and third places went to the Blue Ridge Parkway and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park with 1,825,491 and 1,774,265 respectively.

"Unto These Hills", the Cherokee drama in neighboring Swain county, which opened in 1950, drew 107,140 persons to its performances and rated eighth place.

Forty-four per cent, 147,177 acres of the Nantahala Forest's 414,123 acres are within

### McSwain Elected Superintendent Of Schools Here

#### McSwain Reelected; Three Committeemen Quit; Appoint Mitchell

#### Chosen By 4 to 0 Vote; Will Succeed Houk On July 1

Reverberations of a Highlands school controversy were heard at Monday's meeting of the county board of education.

Letters read at the meeting revealed that the Highlands district school committee had reversed its previous action, and selected W. C. Newton as a teacher in the Highlands school, and that three members of the five-man committee had resigned.

At Monday's meeting Chairman Bob Sloan announced that he had Walter Bryson's letter of resignation from the Highlands district committee. Mr. Bryson resigned to accept appointment to the county board. Chairman Sloan then read three letters.

The first was a copy of a letter from James O. Beale and James H. Crawford to Sidney McCarty, chairman of the Highlands committee. In the letter, dated May 29, Mr. Beale and Mr. Crawford resigned, "effective 10:30 p. m., May 28."

The second letter, dated June 2, was from Mr. McCarty, suggesting to the board that the committee be reduced from five to three members.

The third letter, undated, informed the board that Principal O. F. Summer had recommended and the school committee, with four members present, had reelected Mr. Newton.

Emphasizing that it is the policy of the county board to go along with district committees on matters of personnel, the county board proceeded to reduce the Highlands committee to three members, and to name C. E. Mitchell as the third member, and to approve the employment of Mr. Newton as a teacher in the Highlands school.

All three actions were taken on motion of Mr. Bryson, the Highlands member of the county board. The three motions were seconded, respectively, by J. C. Sorrells, Walter Gibson, and Mr. Sorrells.

The board gave County Supt. G. L. Houk authority to make the necessary arrangements to provide for water storage at the new Iotia school. Mr. Houk explained that the recently-dug well supplies only about six gallons a minute, and that some method of storage would be necessary.

He also was given authority to have the necessary grounds grading done at the new Nantahala school, which he said would be ready for final inspection about June 20.

#### NAMED TO SOCIETY

John H. Wasilik has been made a charter member of the Manhattan honorary physics society at Manhattan college in New York, it has been learned here. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Wasilik, Jr., of Franklin.

Holland McSwain, a former county superintendent and presently business manager of Flora Macdonald College, at Red Springs, was elected Macon County superintendent of schools at Monday's meeting of the county board of education.

The vote was 4 to 0.

Walter Bryson, who earlier in the meeting had nominated G. L. Houk, present superintendent, did not vote.

After calling the meeting to order, Chairman Bob Sloan explained that all of the applicants had been considered by the board members in informal discussions, but read the list of the 20 who had been under consideration. He then called for nominations.

#### McSwain Nominated

There was a long pause.

Then Mr. Bryson nominated Mr. Houk. The latter immediately explained that "I am not an applicant . . . and I am not going to be a party to any ruckus, inside or outside of this board". There was no second to the nomination.

Next Walter Gibson nominated Ralph L. Smith, principal of the Sylva High school, Sylva. There was no second to that nomination.

At this point, J. C. Sorrells nominated Mr. McSwain, commenting that, "judging from the information available, I believe he would make us a good man."

Charles W. Nolen seconded the nomination, and Mr. Sorrells, Mr. Nolen, Mr. Gibson, and Mr. Sloan voted for him.

Mr. McSwain, who will take office July 1, at the expiration of Mr. Houk's present term, is a native of Shelby, and a graduate of the University of North Carolina. He also did graduate study at the University.

#### Served As Superintendent

After seven years as a school principal in Caswell county, he was elected superintendent of schools in that county, a position he held for 15 years. He went to Flora Macdonald college, at Red Springs, Robeson county, last fall. He is 47 years old.

The new Macon County superintendent is a Democrat, a past president of the Rotary club at Yanceyville, Caswell county, a past master of the Masonic lodge and a former district deputy grand master, and an elder in the Griers Presbyterian church and a former moderator of the Orange

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### Baptists Plan County - Wide Training Union This Week

Plans for a Baptist Training Union Enlargement campaign, Sunday through Friday, under the sponsorship of the First Baptist church, were announced this week by the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor.

The Franklin church campaign is to run in conjunction with similar Baptist campaigns throughout the county, conducted by the Macon County Baptist association.

According to Mr. Chapman, James P. Morgan, director of the North Carolina Baptist Training Union department, is sending more than 18 field workers here to assist in promoting the county-wide campaign.

At the First Baptist church, Miss Willa Marks, a former associational missionary, will teach the young people and adults. Miss Betty Brewer, state intermediate leader, will instruct intermediates, and Miss Mable Starnes, a former state junior intermediate field worker and present dean of women at Gardner-Webb college, will teach the juniors.

Mr. Chapman extended an invitation to Baptists, whose churches are not conducting a campaign, to meet with the Franklin church. The study groups will meet each night at 7:30 o'clock.

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