



The Franklin Press

and
The Highlands Maconian

66TH YEAR
★
Western North Carolina's
Oldest Weekly Newspaper

CIRCULATION
LAST WEEK - - - - 2702
Year Ago Last Week - 2447

VOL. LXVI—NO. 52

FRANKLIN, N. C., SATURDAY, DEC. 29, 1951

What Happened In Macon County

1951 Chronology

THIS YEAR

Following is a chronology of some of the more important occurrences in Macon County during the year just ended, as revealed by headlines in The Franklin Press during 1951:

JANUARY

W. L. Harper, work unit conservator, was appointed to head the recently organized Macon County Soil Conservation district.

Macon County entered the National Safety Council with one of the best safety records in the state. Fatalities on its highways in 1950.

The Franklin Press was awarded second place among North Carolina weeklies for editorial page excellence in the N. C. Press association's 1950 contest.

FEBRUARY

Six children and two adults died in a flash fire that destroyed a four-room house on the Rabun Bald road. Seven others in the dwelling escaped.

J. C. Jacobs was named president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce.

MARCH

Macon County was one of 160 cities and counties in the United States to qualify for the United States Public Health service's safe milk "honor roll".

Milburn Atkins, head coach at Franklin High since the fall of 1948, announced his resignation.

Franklin High won the Smoky Mountain conference basketball tournament, downing Nantahala High, 43 to 35.

APRIL

E. W. Long was appointed acting postmaster at Franklin, succeeding Zeb Meadows, who was ordered back to active duty with the U. S. Navy.

Franklin High ruled out of state cage tournament because of an over-age player.

MAY

Robert M. Dillard, retired attorney, defeated T. W. Angel, Jr., for mayor in Franklin's biennial non-partisan election.

Charles O. Ramsey was appointed clerk of the Town of Franklin, succeeding Mrs. Mary Louise Sherrill, resigned.

Holland McSwain, a former county superintendent and business manager of Flora McDonald college, was elected Macon County superintendent of schools by the county school board, succeeding G. L. Houk, resigned.

John M. Archer, Jr., president of the Nantahala Power and Light company here, was elected to the board of trustees of the Cherokee Historical association.

JUNE

Eighteen 4-H girls modeled clothes, their own handiwork, at a county-wide 4-H dress review at the Agricultural building.

Macon County held its biggest Fourth of July celebration, despite rain.

The Rt. Rev. M. George Henry, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Western North Carolina, was guest speaker at the county-wide series of interdenominational evangelistic services at the Friendship tabernacle.

A memorial plaque, honoring J. E. S. Thorpe, president of the Nantahala Power and Light company for more than 20 years, was unveiled at a ceremony near Glenville.

A five-man planning and zoning commission for Franklin was set up by the board of aldermen.

The forty-eighth annual session of the Macon County Baptist association—the largest church group in the county—reported a highly successful two-day meeting.

Members of the Siler family held their 100th reunion at the old home of Jesse R. Siler.

An estimated 300 persons attended the annual Franklin Garden club flower show at the Agricultural building.

Mrs. Q. M. Wilson was sweepstakes winner in the eighth annual Highlands flower show, sponsored by the Highlands Biological station.

Dr. George R. McSweeney nosed out John M. Archer, Jr., 4 and 2, to walk off with the mythical Franklin golf crown.

Construction of Macon County's first drive-in theatre started in Franklin on Phillips street.

PRESS MOVES TO NEW HOME ON E. PALMER

Machinery Is 'Sledged'; Change Made Without Missing Issue

The grunting-groaning-straining over The Press's heavy printing equipment is largely over, and, after a fashion, the newspaper is firmly entrenched in its new home on Palmer street.

Consequently, this issue comes direct to readers from the paper's new and roomy location. It was originally planned by the newspaper staff to move the print shop (the office occupied the new quarters the Wednesday before Christmas) this week-end, but good weather prompted the early move last week-end.

It wasn't easy! It took man power, an automobile wrecker, heavy-duty improvised sled runners, and strong constitutions to move the tons of printing equipment.

Here's what the movers faced: The print shop in the old quarters—the Mark Dowdie building on Main street—was situated in the basement, and to coin the words of a staff member, "they've been moving things in this shop for 26 years and haven't taken anything out"; the door leading to the street was exactly four feet wide, just inches short of being wide enough to take the heavy job presses and equipment through to the street—so partial dismantling of machinery was in order; heavy machinery takes plenty of lifting; and the new quarters are a good quarter of a "country mile" from the old.

So here's how the moving was accomplished: Runners were put under the heavy presses and a wrecker winched the big stuff out and lifted it to street level. Then the units were "sledged" down the street to the new building—no easy task, either, when runners sink several inches in the macadam surface of the street. On iron pipe rollers, the machinery then was moved into the new building, with human horsepower behind.

Strong constitutions were needed when the moving job penetrated into the night hours, but the job was done in three days—and nights! The moving part, that is! Positioning of the equipment will be going on possibly for the next several weeks, or possibly months, as the newspaper irons out the kinks in arrangement.

At any rate, Western North Carolina's oldest weekly newspaper is still printing and hasn't missed an issue in the shuffle. The new location is directly across from Woods Motor court on the east end of Palmer street.

Some 500 Jacksonites and Maconites attended the Walnut Creek road dedication in 4,091-foot high Walnut Creek gap, through which passes a road linking the two counties. L. Dale Thrash, 10th division highway commissioner, was the guest speaker.

Macon County rated one of the 10 best "Green Pasture" counties in the state.

This county's first Negro 4-H club was formed by Assistant County Agents T. H. Fagg and Mrs. Barbara B. Hunnicutt.

An estimated 1,500 viewed Achievement Day exhibits on display at the Slagle Memorial building. Macon's home demonstration and 4-H clubs pooled efforts for the highly successful event.

The Swain High Macon Devils rolled over Franklin, 13 to 6, to push the locals out of the race for the conference crown.

Macon County's 1951 tourist season, reported by chamber of commerce officials and tourist home and motor court owners, was the biggest yet.

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Children's Yule Vacation To End Monday Morning

Some 3,500 Macon County school children will pocket memories of Christmas vacation, 1951 style, and traipse off to school Monday morning—to work toward summer holidays, 1952 style.

Barring bad weather, County School Supt. Holland McSwain said all county schools will open Monday.

Halle Allan Dies At His Home Here; Rites Wednesday

Halle C. Allan, Sr., an active Rotarian who made his home in Franklin for the past year, died Saturday night after a long illness, at the age of 65.

Funeral services were conducted Wednesday at 2 p. m. at the St. Agnes Episcopal church by the Rev. A. Rufus Morgan. Members of the Franklin Rotary club were honorary pallbearers.

Mr. Allan was a native of Nebraska and lived in Florida for a number of years, where he was a citrus grower. He was a former director and vice-president of the Florida Citrus Exchange, of Tampa, and a former member of the Oak Hill Citrus Growers association.

He was a 32nd degree Mason and a member of the Rotary club, and while in Oak Hill, Fla., served as master of the Hillsboro Masonic lodge. Mr. Allan also was a member of the Universalist church here.

Active pallbearers were E. S. Purdom, William Katenbrink, Henry W. Cabe, Ellis Soper, Frank B. Duncan, and C. S. Brown.

Potts Funeral home was in charge of arrangements. The body was sent to Lincoln, Neb., for burial.

Mayor Dillard Suffers Series Of Heart Attacks

Mayor Robert M. Dillard is recuperating at his home, following a series of heart attacks suffered Friday and Saturday.

Press' First Saturday Customer At New Home Is Man Of 91; Next Arrives On Own, Artificial Leg

Before making the move to the new location on Palmer street, The Press' management many times asked itself: What effect will this move have on our "drop in" business? And what about Saturday? Will the people who come to town on business Saturday drive or walk the short distance down the hill to the new Palmer street home of the paper, to renew subscriptions, insert want ads, etc.?

What appeared to be the answer came early last Saturday—the first Saturday in the new place.

The first customer that day was W. L. (Bill) Ledford, of Dillard, Ga., Route 1. In town on other business, Mr. Ledford walked down to the new location to renew his subscription. Mr. Ledford is 91.

The second caller, arriving while Mr. Ledford was still in the office, was George Johnson, the saw filer, who walked down to the new office of The Press to insert his weekly want ad in rhyme. Mr. Johnson recently lost a leg.

PICK NATIVITY SCENE AS BEST CONTESTENTRY

Negroes' Exhibit Termed 'Outstanding' Among Yule Decorations

The outstanding entry in Franklin's 1951 Christmas outdoor decorations contest was the entry of Mr. and Mrs. G. L. Hines, teachers in the Chapel (Negro) school.

A nativity scene, in an old barn on Green street, it was placed in a class by itself by the contest judges, and selected by them as the outstanding exhibit. The entry was an elaboration of a similar entry by the Hineses last year, in the same location.

The other decorations were divided into four groups: Christmas scenes; doors and windows; doors; and outdoor trees.

The first, second, and third place winners in those divisions follow:

Christmas scenes: Mr. and Mrs. Lester Henderson, Mr. and Mrs. T. W. Angel, Jr., and Mr. and Mrs. C. S. Brown.

Doors (five entries were selected for mention in this division): Mr. and Mrs. Roy M. Biddle, Mr. and Mrs. Claude Crunkleton, Mr. and Mrs. I. T. Long, Mr. and Mrs. Hall Callahan, and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Arnold.

Outdoor trees: Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Bryant (this entry was prepared by children under 12 years of age), Dr. and Mrs. Furman Angel, and Mr. and Mrs. John D. Alsop.

Windows and doors: Mr. and Mrs. H. A. Wilhide, Mrs. Marvie Rogers, and Dr. and Mrs. Frank M. Killian.

The judges commented on the number, variety and excellence of the entries, and commended the Garden club for sponsoring the annual competition.

The contest was confined to homes within the corporate limits of Franklin.

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Yule Buying Here Heavy, Stores Say

Yule Mail Rush Heavier Than Last Year

The flow of Christmas mail and packages through the Franklin post office was considerably heavier this year than last, Acting Postmaster E. W. Long reported this week.

Machine cancellations totaled 84,170 from December 14 to the 24th and some hand cancelling also was done during the 10-day period, the postmaster said.

Since no records are kept on parcel post the number of packages handled by the office is not known. However, Mr. Long and other postal employees said the flow was heavier than last year.

Penny Postal Thing Of Past After Dec. 31

Three increases in postage rates and special service fees will become effective January 1, Acting Postmaster E. W. Long has announced.

A first-class and third-class boost will be effective January 1 (Tuesday), a second-class increase April 1, and a third-class rate hike July 1, all pursuant to an act of the 82nd Congress in October, 1951.

As of 12:01 a. m. January 1 (next Tuesday), the penny postal card will be a thing of the past. Postals issued from that date on will be two cents each, and when sold in quantities of 50 or more, an additional charge of 10 per cent of the postage value will be collected, the postmaster explained. In addition to the postal cards, private mailing cards will go from one cent to two, and drop letters and other first class matter mailed for local delivery through post office boxes or general delivery, at post offices where carrier service is not established, will be two cents per ounce.

Effective April 1, the total postage of second-class matter (newspapers), computed at the pound rates in effect under existing laws, will be increased 10 per cent. The increase will not apply to newspapers or periodicals maintained by and in the interest of non-profit religious, educational, scientific, philanthropic, agricultural, labor, veterans' or fraternal organizations. In no case, Mr. Long said, will postage on each individually addressed copy be less than one-eighth of one cent.

The January third-class boost will apply to books and catalogues having 24 pages or more, seeds, cuttings, bulbs, roots, scions, and plants, not exceeding eight ounces, when not mailed at the special bulk rates. Under this increase two cents will be charged for the first two ounces, and a cent and a half for each additional ounce.

Bulk mailing of circulars, other miscellaneous printed matter and merchandise, by permit holders in quantities of not less than 20 pounds or not less than 200 identical pieces will be 14 cents a pound—minimum charge of one and a half cent per piece—effective July 1.

A charge of 14 cents a pound—minimum charge of one and a half cents per piece—will apply to the bulk mailing of books and catalogues having 24 pages or more, when sent by permit holders in quantities of not less than 20 pounds or not less than 200 identical pieces, effective July 1.

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Merchants Report 1951 Was Better Business Year Than 1950

Business was booming for most Franklin merchants and businessmen during 1951, especially during the Christmas shopping season.

Merchants interviewed by members of The Press staff reported that the year's sales were definitely above last year's. One merchant reported sales up 25 per cent for this year.

Said another, "I personally didn't think the year was better, but figures just don't lie."

Whether the year 1951 was more profitable than 1950 is debatable. Franklin businessmen seem to think that increased operating costs and a general rise in merchandise on manufacturing levels will just about even things up.

The Christmas rush here was heavy and merchandise rapidly disappeared under the purchasing power of Macon County dollars. Toy sales seem to indicate that Santa Claus rated par excellence in the hearts of the county's children.

One thing was noted, however, by most merchants during the entire year; the number of customers was off, but each customer, on the average, purchased more.

Masonic Lodge Installs Its Officials For 1952 Year

E. L. Hyde is the 1952 worshipful master of Junaluskee Lodge No. 145, A. F. and A. M. He and other officers elected for the coming year were installed at a meeting Tuesday of last week.

Other officers for the year are: John Bulgin, senior warden; C. H. Bolton, junior warden; G. W. Faulkner, senior deacon; John L. Crawford, junior deacon; C. G. Moore, treasurer; J. Ward Long, secretary; James McCall, tiler; W. G. Crawford, senior steward; F. H. Calloway, junior steward; and the Rev. W. N. Cook, chaplain.

It was pointed out that 1952 is the lodge's centennial year.

Will Open Bids For Well Pump Saturday At 2

Sealed bids for a pump for Franklin's new well will be opened by the town board of aldermen Saturday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Town Clerk C. O. Ramsey announced Thursday.

The meeting was called for the express purpose of opening bids, he said, and it is unlikely that action will be taken on other town matters. The board's next regular meeting is January 7.

Drilling of the new well, situated near the Friendship tabernacle, was completed last month.

The Weather

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

	High	Low	Pct.
Wednesday	44	13	...
Thursday	45	25	2.45
Friday	61	36	1.36
Saturday	44	17	...
Sunday	50	14	...
Monday	58	19	...
Tuesday	52	27	...
Wednesday	57	41	5.1
Thursday	45	26	...
Friday	...	11	...

Franklin Rainfall (As recorded by Manson Siles for TVA): Wednesday, .10; Thursday, .55; Friday, 2.59; Saturday, none; Sunday, none; Monday, none; Tuesday, none; Wednesday, .48; Thursday and Friday, none.