

New Nantahala Road Is Now Assured

Car Plunges 160 Ft. Into Creek; 4 Hurt

Two Receive Serious Injuries In Monday Morning Wreck

An automobile carrying five persons pitched down a 160-foot embankment into Buck Creek shortly after midnight Sunday, injuring four of the five, two seriously.

In Angel hospital here with serious skull fractures are Ralph Hopkins, 18, of Franklin, and Mrs. Gladys Tallent Sanders, 26, of the Prentiss community.

Hospitalized, but with less injuries, are Robert Cunningham, 23, owner and driver of the auto, and James Ledford, 27, both of Prentiss.

The fifth passenger in the 1936 Ford Tudor, Miss Willa Jean Arnold, 15, of Prentiss, escaped injury.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas said (yesterday) Wednesday that Cunningham would be charged with drunk driving upon release from the hospital.

Sheriff Thomas and Patrolman C. M. Eyrd, who assisted in the investigation, said the automobile, traveling up the gravelled Buck Creek road, about a mile and a half off the Franklin-Highlands highway, apparently plunged over the steep incline after coming out of a curve.

The path out by the vehicle through the underbrush indicated that it struck a tree about 100 feet down the embankment, then pitched on over a still steeper incline into the creek. The car could not be seen from the road when a Press photographer visited the scene early Monday morning.

Officers surmised that Miss Arnold escaped injury by either jumping from the car or being thrown from it shortly after it dropped off the shoulder of the road. Cunningham and Ledford were catapulted from the vehicle when it smashed against the tree.

Mrs. Sanders and young Hopkins, the two seriously injured, apparently rode the overturning car to the bottom of the ravine. She was found at the side of the car, which came to rest with its radiator pointing back up the embankment.

According to the sheriff the boy's clothes were wet and he apparently had crawled from the wreckage. Sheriff Thomas found him lying about 30 feet to the right of the car in heavy underbrush bordering the creek.

While searching the wreckage Monday morning, the sheriff found a small quantity of non-tax paid whiskey in a fruit jar.

Hedden Youth Reported Missing, Was Killed In Action

Benjamin Lewis Hedden, reported missing in action in Korea November 6, was killed in action on that date, according to a Defense Department announcement received by his father, W. W. Hedden, of the Gneiss community.

The 18-year-old soldier enlisted in the army in March, 1951. His twin brother, Dewey Hedden, is serving in Korea.

DEATH TAKES C. CALLOWAY

Well Known Macon Man Dies; Funeral Held At Holly Springs

Claude Calloway, a retired Macon County farmer and a veteran of the Spanish-American war, died Thursday of last week in a Winston-Salem hospital after a long illness. He was 78 years old.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 2 p. m. at the Holly Springs Baptist church by the Rev. Arvil Swafford, pastor, and the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor of the First Baptist church.

Military rites at the graveside were conducted by the Rev. Hoyt Evans, chaplain of the local American Legion post, and the Rev. Robert Burnette, chaplain of the Veterans of Foreign Wars post. Colorbearers were E. W. Renshaw, R. E. (Tony) Welch, Bill Bryant, Reid Womack, Frank Plyler, and Curtis Pearson.

Surviving are three nieces, Mrs. Lon Dalton and Mrs. Truman Moody, of Franklin, and Mrs. D. W. Nichols, of Asheville; two nephews, Henderson Calloway, of Franklin, and Wade Calloway, of Ibapah, Utah; and a sister-in-law, Mrs. J. E. Calloway, of Franklin, Route 3.

Pallbearers were Frank W. Reece, Newell Pendergrass, W. W. Reeves, Pascal Norton, James McCollum, and Erwin Patton.

Arrangements were under the direction of Potts Funeral home.

Franklin Defeats Robbinsville And Murphy Teams

Franklin High's lads and lassies strengthened their chances for Smoky Mountain conference SEE NO. 1, PAGE 12

SCHOOL 'HOUSE WARMING' SET

An open house and benefit supper Saturday night will officially christen the new \$110,000 Cartoogechaye school, which was completed this week.

The public is invited to attend and inspect the new building.

Supper, to be prepared by the school parent-teacher association, will be served at 7:30 o'clock. The charge for the meal will be 65 cents per plate for adults, and 50 cents for children.

Proceeds from the inaugural event will be earmarked for the school lunchroom fund.

The menu includes baked chicken and dressing, homemade rolls, cake or pie, and all the trimmings.

Eight classrooms, a lunchroom, and an auditorium comprise the new structure.

Name Gnuse, Edwards To Scout Posts

A number of Franklin and Highlands men were named to offices and committee posts in the Smoky Mountain Boy Scout district, at a district meeting in Dillsboro Friday.

John Edwards, of Franklin, was appointed district commissioner. H. H. Gnuse, Jr., also of Franklin, was named district chairman.

Four other Franklin men were named to head district committees. They include John D. Aisup, advancement; Dr. George R. McSweeney, camping and activities; the Rev. A. Rufus Morgan, leadership training; and W. W. (Bill) Sloan, organization and extension.

Those named on committees are Louis Edwards, of Highlands, advancement, finance, and leadership training; Sid Carter, of Highlands, camping and activities; Grant Zickgraf and the Rev. C. E. Murray, of Franklin, finance; E. W. Renshaw, of Franklin, and Dewey Hopper, of Highlands, health and safety; James Hauser, of Franklin, leadership and training; John Crawford and R. E. McKelvey, of Franklin, organization and extension; and the Rev. C. E. Murray, inter-racial committee.

PLAN SALE

The fourth Sunday sing of the northern division of the Macon County Singing convention will be held at the Oak Dale Baptist church at 2 p. m. January 27, it has been announced by Harley Mason, president.

Heads Symphony Unit



FRANK B. DUNCAN

Mr. Duncan, Franklin business man and civic leader, has accepted the 1952 chairmanship of the local unit of the N. C. Symphony Society. He expects to announce plans shortly for the appearance of the N. C. Little Symphony orchestra here March 14. The orchestra is scheduled to give two concerts, one in the afternoon for Macon County school children, and another in the evening for adults.

Will Close Sign Shop For Period

Nantahala Forest officials plan to cease operations temporarily at the Wayah depot sign shop at an early date, because of a slack in job orders, Forest Supervisor E. W. Renshaw said Monday.

The sign shop, established in March, 1932, for the past several years has been supplying the whole Southern region (Region 8) of the U. S. Forest Service with signs of all descriptions, ranging from small trail markers to the large "portal shields", which mark the entrances and exits to national forests.

Since its beginning, the supervisor explained, the shop has been entirely self-sufficient, the sale of signs defraying all expenses. At present, he said, most of the 13 forests in the 11 states comprising Region 8 have an ample stock of signs on hand and there are not enough orders to keep the sign shop operating on a full-time schedule.

The shop was closed, for a brief interval in 1941 for the same reason, he pointed out.

Five men make up the shop staff—two in the paint shop and three in the carpenter shop. They will be laid off temporarily, the supervisor said.

Cochran Case Reward Fund Now At \$800

The Cochran reward this week totaled more than \$800, according to Sheriff J. Harry Thomas, who is heading a move here to raise a substantial sum for information leading to the arrest and conviction of the slayer of the 24-year-old Macon County youth.

Law enforcement officials are not eligible to receive the reward, the sheriff pointed out.

The youth, William Homer Cochran, Jr., a teacher at White Plains High school, died of injuries received when a mysterious explosion demolished his pickup truck in Mount Airy the morning of December 31. No motive for the slaying has been established.

Persons wishing to contribute to the reward are asked to contact the sheriff's office in the courthouse. A provision in the reward contract stipulates that funds collected will be returned after six months, if the murder is still unsolved.

Young Cochran's father, a Franklin policeman, said this week he is still confident that officers will solve the case.

1,900 DRIVERS STILL USING '51 AUTO LICENSES

Deadline Is January 31; Sales Here To Date Total 1,635

An estimated 1,900 motorists still have not purchased 1952 license tags, although the official deadline is just a week away—January 31.

Verlon Swafford, manager of the local Carolina Motor club, where the tags are sold, yesterday (Wednesday) urged motorists to buy immediately and avoid the expected last-minute rush.

Saturday, sales at the local office totaled 1,634—slightly higher than last year's figure of 1,594 for the corresponding period. On the basis of last year's total sales—3,583—less than half of the motorists here have purchased the new 1952 tag.

Franklin PTA Hears Mental Hygiene Talk

A program on mental hygiene, presented by Dr. Carl D. Killian, of Western Carolina Teachers college, Cullowhee, and a report on the landscaping of the school grounds marked Monday night's meeting of the Franklin Parent-Teacher association.

It was announced by Mrs. Allen Siler, president, that the February meeting would be a combination founders' day program, family night supper, and house warming for the new school building.

No business will be transacted at the February meeting, so it was decided to name a nominating committee Monday night, so that the officers for the coming year can be elected in March in time to attend the annual P. T. A. state convention, to be held in Asheville in April. John Crawford, Mrs. J. Ward Long, and Mrs. C. N. Dowdie were elected as the nominating committee.

Dr. Killian, introduced by Richard Stott, of the high school faculty, spoke briefly, and then presented a series of records on mental health. Dr. Killian emphasized that the trend in health circles today is to link a healthy mental attitude and a normal social adjustment with physical well-being. Both his comments and the records emphasized the physical effects of the failure of the individual.

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James V. Owenby Dies; Funeral Is Held At Briartown

Funeral services for James V. Owenby, 37, a former resident of the Nantahala community who died January 8 in a Portland, Oreg., veterans' hospital, were held January 15 at the Briartown Baptist church.

Survivors here include his brother, G. W. Owenby, of Nantahala.

Services were conducted by the Rev. Mose Woodard, of Almond. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Macon's Only '51 Polio Victim To Help With '52 Dimes March

Grady Henry wants to help with the Macon County March of Dimes drive.

Is that so unusual, you say? Aren't a lot of people willing to help put the county over the top of its \$3,500 goal?

Well, it's unusual in this case. You see, Mr. Henry spent 18 weeks in the polio victim's world of iron lungs, braces, and painstaking rehabilitation. And now, almost fully recovered, he is ready to help with the campaign which meant life for him.

Still wearing steel braces, the 37-year-old Ellijay postmaster Friday visited County School Supt. Holland McSwain, who is heading this year's drive, and offered his services. Speaking from experience, he told the chairman that the March of Dimes is worth every dime contributed and that it "saved my life".

Mr. Henry had the unenviable distinction of being Macon County's only polio victim last year. Stricken on June 13, he was rushed to the Asheville Orthopedic home where the March of Dimes took over the job of helping him back on the road to recovery. He was discharged from the Asheville center October 17—after 18 weeks of "excellent treatment... just like being at home".

And now Grady Henry wants to help with the March of Dimes drive!

Named As Mayor



W. C. BURRELL

A former vice-mayor and member of the Franklin board of aldermen, Mr. Burrell Friday night was appointed mayor by the board of aldermen, succeeding the late Robert M. Dillard. Mr. Burrell, head of Burrell Motor company, will serve the balance of Mr. Dillard's unexpired term.

MRS. PHILLIPS IS TAKEN BY DEATH

Rites for Macon Native Conducted Here Wednesday

Mrs. Augusta Phillips, wife of Frank J. Phillips, a native of Macon County, died Tuesday morning at her home here at the age of 57. She had been ill for some time.

Funeral services were conducted at the First Baptist church yesterday (Wednesday) at 3 p. m. by the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor. He was assisted by the Rev. C. E. Murray, pastor of the Franklin Methodist church. Burial was in Woodlawn cemetery.

Born February 23, 1894, Mrs. Phillips was the daughter of Mrs. Florence Crawford Garner and of the late C. L. Garner.

She had been a member of the Baptist church for more than 40 years. In 1915 she was married to Mr. Phillips, of Franklin.

Survivors include her husband and mother; two sons, Bill and Bob Phillips, of Franklin; two brothers, Marvin Garner, of Franklin, and Newell Garner, of Newland; five sisters, Mrs. Bertha Roper, of Arlington, Va., Mrs. Tom Phillips, of Camden, S. C., Mrs. Paul Carpenter and Mrs. Charles A. Conley, of Franklin, and Mrs. Charles Nolen, of Franklin, Route 1; and

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Child In Asheville Hospital, Peanut In Lung

Five-year-old David Stiles, son of Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Stiles, of Franklin, is in a serious condition in an Asheville hospital, a peanut lodged in his lung.

It is understood that the child choked Saturday morning while eating peanuts, drawing one into a lung. He was rushed to St. Joseph's hospital that afternoon by his parents.

PLAN \$750,000 HIGHWAY TO GO VIA WAYAH GAP

State To Match Federal Funds; Will Provide Scenic Drive

A new three-quarter million dollar highway is to be built into the Nantahala section of Macon County.

While no date has been set for start of construction, and action awaits one or two formalities, statements this week by E. W. Renshaw, supervisor of the Nantahala National Forest, and L. Dale Thrash, tenth division highway commissioner, assured the road.

To be designated a forest highway, it will pass through Wayah Gap and extend to White Oak creek (site of the new Nantahala school). It will be paid for on a matching basis, with federal and state funds.

Plans call for the expenditure first of \$512,500 on that section of the new road between the end of the present blacktop, near Cold Spring, and Feisty branch (the point where the road to Andrews turns off). The Forest Service's share of that total is now available, and an additional \$233,400 will be programmed for fiscal year 1954 to construct the road from Feisty branch to the new school.

There the new highway will join a five-mile link, recently built by the state, from the school to Beechertown, where it connects with Highway 19.

The first link in the new road will be about 12 1/2 miles long, the second a little over five miles.

When completed, the road will provide the people of the Nantahala area, long isolated, with a paved highway to their countyseat, Franklin.

It also will open to tourists a section of remarkable scenic beauty, highlighted by Nantahala Lake, in its mountain setting.

The tourist, making a trip from Highlands to Franklin, thence through Wayah Gap, by Nantahala lake, and down to No. 19, it has been remarked, will be offered perhaps the widest variety of scenery to be found, within the same distance, anywhere in Eastern America.

The new road project required the approval and cooperation of three agencies—the Forest Service, the Bureau of Public Roads, and the State Highway Commission.

It has the approval of the Forest Service, Mr. Renshaw said, and he now has received an approving letter from A. L. Hooper, district engineer (at Raleigh) of the Bureau of Public Roads. The road, which will lie within the Nantahala Forest, must be approved by the bureau as a "forest highway" before Forest Service funds can be spent on it. That approval is now assured, Mr. Hooper indicated. The proposal will be forwarded, through channels, for approval, he wrote. That approval now is a matter of form, The Press learned.

Mr. Hooper added that he also has cleared the project with the State Highway Commission, which will provide half the funds and be responsible for the actual construction work.

Meanwhile, Mr. Thrash told The Press that he will recom-

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The Weather

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

	High	Low	Pct.
Wednesday	67	43	.12
Thursday	59	46	.35
Friday	62	48	.35
Saturday	52	29	.46
Sunday	60	43	.46
Monday	54	28	...
Tuesday	55	37	.91
Wednesday	...	37	.86

Franklin Rainfall

Wednesday	.05	Thursday	none
Thursday	.15	Friday	.55
Friday	.55	Saturday	none
Saturday	.55	Sunday	.55
Sunday	.55	Monday	none
Monday	.55	Tuesday	.54
Tuesday	.54	Wednesday	.76



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

Plunges 160 Feet—In the photograph above, Charlie Mashburn, of Franklin, is shown examining the wreckage of the automobile which overturned down a 160-foot embankment on the Buck Creek road shortly after midnight Sunday, injuring four of the five occupants, two seriously. The car came to rest in Buck Creek, its radiator pointing back up the incline.