

MANY GROUPS PLAN TOURS OF COWEETA

Some 700 Slated To Visit Hydrologic Laboratory Through October

The Coweeta Hydrologic laboratory, the only laboratory of its kind in the eastern part of the United States and once an obscure feature of Macon County life, will play host to more than 700 persons, including two groups of foreign visitors, between now and the middle of October.

A joint meeting of the American and North Carolina Forestry associations in Asheville October 12-15 lists a tour of the laboratory as a major item and plans are now being made to bring from 300 to 400 on the inspection here.

It is believed that this will be the largest single group to visit in the county.

Two groups of foresters and agronomists from Greece, Yugoslavia, Austria, Germany, Holland, France, and Italy (traveling with interpreters) are slated to tour Coweeta in July, according to E. A. Johnson, project leader.

Tomorrow (Friday) a group of approximately 150 Clay county farmers will visit the laboratory. A resource-use workshop of some 30 from Emory university plan a tour July 2.

About 35 foreigners will study soil and water experiments underway at Coweeta July 3, and a second group of some 30 will be there July 30 to study farm land planning.

Approximately 50 students of an education workshop at Western Carolina Teachers college, Cullowhee, plan to tour the laboratory July 22.

A group of from 60 to 75 delegates to the Sixth International Grassland Congress is scheduled to visit Coweeta September 4. The group will include representatives from Pennsylvania, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina. The grassland congress is being sponsored by the federal government and the food and agriculture organization of the United Nations and will meet at Pennsylvania State college.

Plans are now being completed at Coweeta for the October 14 visit of the large group from the joint forestry meeting in Asheville Mr. Johnson, who is in charge of arrangements locally, said about 10 buses will be engaged to bring the group here.

He also said a special brochure dealing with recreation, forests, and waters of Western North Carolina is being prepared for the joint meeting under the supervision of E. L. Demmon, director of the Southeastern Forest Experiment station in Asheville. Facilities available in this area will be the theme of the pamphlet, he said.

Mr. Johnson said the day's agenda at Coweeta will include demonstrations, observations, and discussions concerning the effects of land-use in relation to soil loss and water quantity.

C of C Membership Drive Totals \$1,578

About one-third of the Franklin chamber of commerce's \$3,000 membership goal has been reached, according to Mrs. Laska Horsley, secretary. Collections total \$1,578.

PLAN SING

The Fifth Sunday Singing convention will be held at the courthouse June 29, starting at 10 a. m., according to J. M. Raby, president. All singers and the public are invited, Mr. Raby said.



"Be out in a minute, lady... soon as I finish reading The Press."

'Cap'n, I've Been Around A Long Time', Says Ex-Slave



Ex-slave Wade Hampton "Ham" Penland, now more than 100 years old, takes life easy on the porch of his 65-year-old home and thinks back about the old days when a Yankee scouting party visited here and when Franklin was a dirt street village with log houses.

"Cap'n, ol' 'Ham's' been around for a mighty long time."

This matter-of-fact remark could probably be written off as "the understatement of the year" since it came from Wade Hampton "Ham" Penland, an ex-slave who was a good size lad when the Civil War was raging hot and heavy.

Just how long "Ham" has been watching the rest of the world march by is in slight dispute. He says he's a 101, but explains that a "Miz Crawford out in Smithbridge" is nearly 100 and that she says he is two years older than she is—as if a year at that age would make much difference one way or the other.

"If we could just run up on some of the ol' ones, maybe they could tell us... but folks tell me they is all dead," he mused from the front porch of the frame home he built in the Cat Creek section and has been living in for some 65 of the 101, or 102, years of his life.

"Ham's" age has slowed him up a bit:

"Gotta use my 'horse,'" he said pointing to a walking stick behind his chair on the porch.

While his sight and hearing "ain't what they once was," his memory is almost crystal clear. As he reflected on life in the old days in a detached, dreamy sort of way, his great-grandson, one of 22 great-grandchildren, played up and down the porch, stopping at intervals to listen to the old man.

This reporter found "Ham", of all places, in the hot sun hoeing in the garden at the back of his house—an act that brought a sharp retort from his daughter who told him "you're too old to be doing things like that". He gave up the garden for his shady porch and easy chair, but not before reasoning that:

"Somebody's gotta do it. You just can't get nobody to work for you these days... 'way back yonder when you wanted somebody to work for you, just as sure as I'm looking at you they'd be there."

Because of his age, "Ham" can lay almost first claim to the often used phrase, "a native and life-long resident of Macon County". In pre-Civil War days, as a youngster, he said he was first "owned" by Buck Bush... "course I was a little thing and was with my folks."

His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bush, took the name of their master, and "Ham" got his last name from the man who owned him when the slaves were freed in 1865—Billy Penland. In between these times, the ex-slave said he was owned by George Jacobs and Alred Angel.

Suddenly, in the middle of conversation, "Ham" broke into laughter.

"Cap'n, you gotta tell 'em about ol' 'Ham's' school days". Here's how he told it:

"Way back yonder before we're freed, they started up a school. I didn't have nuff education so I went the first day. I asked him (supposedly his master) if I could go the next day an' he sez 'yes, if you get your chores up', so's I run around like a fool and done my work and hollered to him that SEE NO. 1, PAGE 12

It Sure Is Hot! Mercury Breaks 3-Year Record

Did you say HOT? Well, maybe not as tepid as the lower region where there's no rainfall and snowballs don't stand a chance, but HOT ENOUGH!

Tuesday the mercury chinned up to 94 degrees, breaking a three-year high for the same day. On the same Tuesday last year the thermometer piped a not-too-comfortable 92.

However, Franklin received this week's heat wave (Wednesday to Wednesday) in the large economy package—the mercury staying around 90 during most of the week in the daylight hours. The scorching average of daily highs came to 91 degrees.

For the corresponding period last year, the climb up the thermometer was gradual, starting at 84 and working up to the then record-breaking 92.

Second Primary Slated Saturday

PROMOTING HIGHWAY 28 DISCUSSED

Commerce Groups Want Extension Of Route; Meet In Highlands

Promotion of NC 28 as a scenic route through the Cherokee Indian village to the Smokies is being undertaken by chambers of commerce in Franklin, Highlands, and Bryson City.

At a special meeting called by the Highlands commerce body last Thursday evening, representatives of the three organizations discussed the highway promotion deal and:

(1) voted to write the State Highway and Public Works Commission in regard to widening the much-traveled highway and extending it to the Cherokee village.

(2) moved to invite other commerce bodies from towns either near or on the highway to meet and discuss the matter further at an early date.

Highway 28 branches from US 123 just outside Westminster, S. C., passes through Highlands and Franklin, intersecting with US 19-129 on the outskirts of Bryson City.

Dr. Kelly E. Bennett, mayor of Bryson City and president of that town's chamber of commerce, pointed out at the Highlands meeting that the highway is rich in scenic beauty and mountain history and could become an ideal route for tourists visiting in the mountains of Western North Carolina, especially those coming from the lower southern states.

Also present at the meeting were members of the Highlands commerce group, headed by President Sid Carter, E. W. Renshaw, president of the Franklin C of C, and Frank B. Duncan, a member of the Franklin chamber's board of directors.

Three Lions Attending Mexico City Convention; First From Local Club

A new "first" has been set by the Franklin Lions club.

Wednesday of last week Lions Leroy Berrong, Bruce Palmer, and Clyde Sanders left for Mexico City as delegates to the Lions' International convention—the first delegates to attend in the history of the local organization.

Zoellner Kills 46-Inch Rattler Near Highlands

A huge rattlesnake, 46 and a half inches long, with 13 rattles and a button, was killed Saturday by Carl H. Zoellner on his truck farm near Highlands after he had "almost stepped on it".

Mr. Zoellner said he had killed many big rattlesnakes, but never one quite so long as that one.

Gospel Quartet Will Sing At Iotla School Saturday

The Modern Gospel quartet, of Toccoa, Ga., will present a program at Iotla school Saturday night at 8 o'clock. The proceeds are to go to the school. Willard Cabe, a native of this county, leads the mixed quartet. Admission prices will be 50 cents for adults and 25 cents for children.

Dr. Owen, Former Pastor Of First Baptist Church, Guest Of Mrs. Carpenter

Dr. and Mrs. J. C. Owen, of Spartanburg, S. C., were guests last week of Mrs. J. M. Carpenter. Dr. Owen is a former pastor of the First Baptist church here, and it was during his pastorate that the present church building was erected.

Pfc. Moses Returning

Pfc. George W. Moses, of Cullasaja, is returning to the States from Korea under the army's rotation plan, the Army Home Town News center has announced.

Election To Settle Three Races; Light Vote Is Forecast

Saturday — for the second time within a month—Macon County voters will go to the polls.

This second balloting will be a "runoff" election to settle three races—12th district congressman, 33rd district state senator, and associate justice of the supreme court. In the regular Democratic primary on May 31, the top men in the three contests failed to garner the majority support of the voters. Hence a second primary.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m. Local observers forecast a light vote because it is a second primary with a small slate of candidates.

In the congressional race, voters will choose either George A. Shuford, high man in the first primary, or Frank M. Parker. Both candidates are Asheville lawyers. The third candidate in the first primary, L. Dale Thrash, has thrown his support behind Mr. Parker.

Battling for the Democratic nomination in the state senatorial race will be two Graham county men, Dr. J. H. Crawford and R. B. (Jack) Morphew. Mr. Morphew is a former state senator, Dr. Crawford a former state representative who polled high man in the regular primary. The nomination of a state senator this election year comes from Graham county by virtue of a district rotation bill passed by the 1951 General Assembly. The district comprises Cherokee, Clay, Graham, Macon and Swain counties.

The only state office slated for a run-off is the associate justice post. Seeking the nomination for both short and regular terms of office are Sure for Court Judge R. Hunt Parker, who led the six-man field in the first primary, and Superior Court Judge William H. Bobbitt, of Charlotte. Judge Parker was high man in the first primary.

Judge Bobbitt has received the endorsement of the Macon County Bar, composed of Franklin lawyers G. L. Hook, R. S. Jones, Gilmer Jones, J. L. Stockton, T. D. Bryson, Jr., and C. Banks Fingers. In a signed statement the lawyers said, "... Judge Bobbitt has had a long and distinguished career as judge of the superior court and it is our considered opinion that from his thorough knowledge of the law, his balanced temperament, and earnest desire to promote justice in all cases, he is the ideal candidate for the position he seeks..."

Bowers Taking Machinist Training At Navy School

Seaman Apprentice C. Eugene Bowers, who recently completed his "boot" training at the U. S. Naval Training Center, San Diego, Calif., is now training as a machinist at a navy school in Astoria, Oreg., according to information received by his mother, Mrs. Charles J. Bowers, of Cullasaja. Seaman Bowers recently spent a short leave here before returning to the coast for new assignment.

RESTAURANT OPENS Skywater restaurant, half-way between Franklin and Highlands on US 64, opened this week.

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	88	59	trace
Thursday	87	56	.01
Friday	90	59	---
Saturday	85.5	60	1.00
Sunday	86	62	.06
Monday	87	61	.12
Tuesday	91	60	---
Wednesday	91	60	---

Franklin Weather

	High	Low	Pct.
Wednesday	91	65	.31
Thursday	91	60	---
Friday	91	67	---
Saturday	86.5	60	1.00
Sunday	91	68	trace
Monday	91	64	---
Tuesday	94	65	---
Wednesday	94	65	---

FLYING ROCK INJURIES MAY

Highway Employee Struck During Dynamite Operation

Clint May, a state highway employe and well-known resident of the Nantahala section, received a serious head injury during dynamite operations on the Outer Mountain road last Thursday.

Although he was standing behind a tree when the charge was set off, highway officials said he was struck in the head by a flying rock.

Mr. May was rushed to an Andrews hospital and was later moved to Chattanooga, Tenn. for treatment. He is expected to return to his home this week.

Curd, Church Of Christ Minister, And Family Will Arrive Tuesday

Brother Bruce R. Curd, accompanied by his family will arrive in Franklin Tuesday to serve as full-time minister of the Church of Christ here, it was announced this week. (The Church of Christ designates its ministers as "brother", rather than "reverend".)

Mr. Curd, a native of Marion, comes to Franklin from Mountain City, Tenn., where he has been serving as minister.

He and his family will make their home in the Church of Christ building, on Bidwell street.

Enlistment Of Eight Men Announced

The enlistment of eight Maconites in the U. S. Army was announced this week by Sgt. Clay Hensley, local army and air force recruiter.

Enlisting under the army's three-year career plan were Boyd E. Shepherd, son of Mrs. Joan S. McGaha, of Franklin, Route 3; Alvin Ray Shuler, son of Mrs. Daisy Shuler, of Franklin, Route 4; and Cecil Ray Rankin, son of Mrs. Clara Mae Rankin, of Franklin, Route 4.

S. J. Waters and Billy Cope both enlisted for a three-year tour of duty and will attend a 23-week infantry radio maintenance course at Fort Benning, Ga. Upon graduating, they will receive assignment as radio repairmen, the recruiter said. Mr. Waters is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Waters, of Flats, and Mr. Cope the son of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Cope, also of Flats.

Frank L. Henry, III, and Paul E. Plyler, both of Franklin, have passed the required examination for officer candidate school and are awaiting orders to active duty, the sergeant said.

Edwin Laxton Poindexter, a 1952 Franklin High graduate, enlisted for three years and is awaiting a call to active duty and assignment to the quartermaster office machine repair school at Fort Lee, Va.

Sgt. Hensley is in Franklin Tuesday of each week at Angel's Drug store.

HIGHLANDERS BEAT ALL-STARS

Turn Tables With Rally In Ninth Inning; Win 4 To 3

Highlands pulled a flashing ninth inning rally to turn the tables on the Franklin All-Stars to the tune of 4 to 3 Sunday afternoon in Highlands.

The two clubs have a game slated Sunday afternoon at the Franklin athletic field at 2:30 o'clock.

Behind the pitching of Jake Deal, who fanned 10 men, Franklin led 3 to 0 going into the last of the ninth. But Highlands deiced the game for the All-Stars when Deal developed arm trouble and gave up two hits. Grady Corbin took over the mound chores but was unable to put a kink in the Highlands bid for the game and handed out a walk and two hits.

Wally Henry was the winning pitcher. Richard "Snooks" Thompson started on the mound for Highlands and struck out nine and walked two before handing the hurling department over to Henry.

Tax Man Coming Here Each Month To Assist With Revenue Problems

A representative of the N. C. Department of Revenue will be in Franklin the second Tuesday in each month at the county courthouse to assist taxpayers with sales, income, and privilege license tax problems. Hours will be 9 to 12 noon.