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TWELVE PAGES

IS RETURNING REWARD FUND FOR MURDERER

Slayer Of Macon Youth In Truck Bombing Still At Large

With the investigation into the mysterious booby-trap slaying of a 23-year-old Macon County youth apparently at a dead-end, a \$1,357 reward posted by local citizens for the killer is being returned by the sheriff's department.

The youth, William Homer Cochran, Jr., son of Franklin Police Chief W. H. Cochran, died December 31, 1951, in a Mt. Airy hospital several hours after an explosion blasted his small pick-up truck to pieces as he was leaving for work.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas is returning the money under a provision of the reward contract, stipulating that it would revert to contributors if the killer was not apprehended by July 7, 1952.

All leads in the murder case, which attracted nation-wide attention, dried up soon after the slaying, despite an all-out investigation launched by Mt. Airy police and S.B.I. agents.

At the time of the explosion, young Cochran was agricultural teacher at White Plains High school, near Mt. Airy, and he and his bride of four months lived in an apartment house in Mt. Airy.

He was leaving home for the school when the blast ripped through his truck. Police said an explosive charge wired to the ignition system of the pick-up was touched off when the young agricultural teacher stepped on the starter.

A \$2,500 reward was raised by citizens in the Mt. Airy area, and Gov. W. Kerr Scott offered a \$400 reward for the state.

NEW CHURCH IS DEDICATED

Special Service Conducted Sunday By Huneycutt At Maiden's Chapel

(See Picture On Page 3)

The new Maiden Chapel Methodist church was dedicated Sunday morning at a special service conducted by the Rev. W. Jackson Huneycutt, superintendent of the Waynesville Methodist district.

Construction began on the slag-block church in the winter of 1950 and it recently was completed at a cost of approximately \$7,600.

Timber for the new structure was cut and sawed by men of the church and the plans were drawn by Dr. E. J. Hammond, of Atlanta, Ga., architect of the Methodist church.

The chapel was organized by the Rev. George Maiden in 1878 and membership today stands at 68, according to Mrs. Isabelle E. Hull, who is serving her fifth year as pastor of the three-church West Macon circuit.

After the organization of the church, the congregation met in the community school house while the first church building was being constructed. It was completed late in 1878 and served the congregation until the new one was built.

Members of the church building committee are J. R. Southards, R. C. Enloe, Harvey A. Burch, John Roane, Lester Waldrop, Frank Roane, Jake Waldrop, and H. C. Hurst.

BULLETIN

Five men, Walter Johnson, Calvin Huscusson, James Huscusson, Dan Huscusson and Arthur Drake, received minor injuries when they were struck by a bolt of lightning Wednesday afternoon. The men were admitted to Angel hospital at 3 p. m. and were reported to be out of danger. The incident occurred at the home of Calvin Huscusson on Route 1, where the men were working.

Plan Annual Picnic Here On Saturday

Farmers Federation picnic time is drawing near—the annual outing and its star-studded entertainment is slated Saturday at Franklin High school.

Serving as master of ceremonies at the picnic, which gets under way at 10 a. m., will be James G. K. McClure, of Asheville, federation president.

As in past years, Pan Handle Pete—the one-man band—heads the list of expected entertainers, not to mention Patsy Messer, acrobatic dancer, Brenda Rice, and many others.

A special invitation is extended to all singers, quartets, choirs, and performers to take part in the program.

Short talks are planned on farm practices, poultry, and service programs sponsored by the federation.

Prizes will be given the largest family present, the youngest married couple, the oldest married couple, and cash awards will be awaiting the winners of the boys' and girls' relay races and tug-of-war teams after lunch.

Five and three dollar prizes will be awarded the first and second place winning quartets, and the winning choir will receive a complete set of song books. The second place choir will get 12 song books.

A prize is also being offered to those transporting the largest number of people to the picnic.

A grand prize of \$100 will be given to the best number at the entire series of federation picnics, with \$50 and \$25 going to the second and third best performers, respectively.

Watermelon and lemonade will be furnished free by the federation and a lunch counter will be operated on the grounds for those who wish to buy their lunch.

Boy Scouts Leave For Camp Monday

Twelve Macon County Boy Scouts left Monday for a week's camping at Camp Daniel Boone, between Canton and Waynesville.

They are Tommy Gnuse, Mark Dowdle, Gary McKelvey, Franklin McSwain, Lewis Cabe, and Edward Shatley, all of Franklin, Troop 1; Leonard Long, of the Franklin Explorer post; James H. Newton and William Lowe, Highlands, Troop 7; and James M. Moore, Glenn Sanders, and Thomas C. Hopkins, of Union, Troop 4.

Eagle Scout Ben Edwards, of the Franklin Explorer post, is working as a counselor at the Scout camp for the summer. The local campers will return Sunday.

Mission Accomplished, But Korea Stalemate, Franklin Officer Says

"We have accomplished our military mission in Korea," but, paradoxically, have accomplished it, "we are at a military stalemate," Col. George B. Sloan, just back from a year's service in Korea, said in an interview here last week.

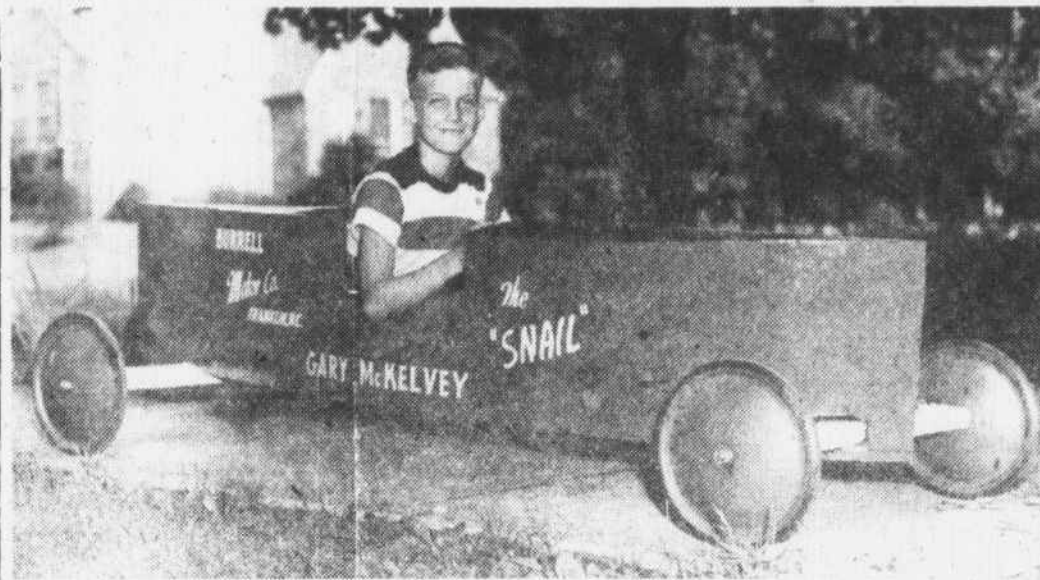
Col. Sloan, a native of Franklin, formerly commanded the famed "Wolfhound" infantry regiment in Korea. He was here with his family for a visit with his father, W. N. Sloan, and his brother, Bob Sloan.

"Our original military mission," he explained, "was to drive the North Koreans out of South Korea. We did that. Then the Chinese Communists intervened, starting a new war." Now, however, South Korea again is free of invading armies.

A small west coast area around Kaesong is the exception, but Col. Sloan explained that United Nations forces counterbalance that by holding a considerably larger area in North Korea.

As to the future, "I see no solution of the Korean situation, within the framework of our political policy, except around the peace table—and we have been trying that for more than a year."

Militarily, he said, the situation offers little for UN troops to accomplish. While they could



This sleek racer, built and driven by Gary McKelvey, (in the cockpit), 11-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. McKelvey, of Franklin, was Macon County's sole entry in the Soap Box Derby in Asheville Saturday, and is believed to be the first one ever entered from here. Sponsored by Burrell Motor company, Gary's speedster, aptly christened "The Snail," was eliminated in the first heat of the race. It took Gary about a month to build the 'coast buggy' and he's mighty pleased with it. An Emma lad won the derby, breezing over the 750-foot down-hill track in 21 seconds.

C. N. West Chicago-Bound Saturday For Convention

Clyde N. West, of the West's Mill community, will leave here Saturday, Chicago-bound for the Democratic National convention, which gets under way Monday.

He was picked as an alternate delegate to the convention from the 12th congressional district at the state party convention in May.

Chimes Given In Memory Of Dr. W. A. Rogers

Prices like...



In addition to the programs, the chimes, which operate automatically, play each Sunday morning at 9:30 o'clock.

FLOWER SHOW DATE IS JULY 26

Invites Entries; Annual Event Will Be Held At Slagle Building

July 26 is the date for the flower show sponsored annually by the Franklin Garden club. The show, one of Franklin's outstanding summer events, will be held this year at Slagle Memorial building.

Anyone may enter flowers in the show and there will be no limit on the number of exhibits individuals enter.

All exhibits must be registered at the Memorial building between 9 and 11 a. m. the date of the show, club officials have announced.

The exhibitor who wins the most points in all divisions of the show will be given the sweepstakes award.

Mrs. Q. M. Wilson, of Highlands, will award a prize to the sweepstakes winner.

Flowers in the horticultural class must be grown by the exhibitor, garden club officials emphasized.

Divisions of the show are: Horticultural classes: Dahlias, largest and finest of one variety; Dahlias, best display of mixed variety; Roses; Zinnias, large and small; Gladioli, mixed; Gladioli, one color; Marigolds; Petunias; Asters; African violets; Potted plants; Tuberosus Begonias; and Snapdragons.

Arrangement classes: Modern arrangement; Yellow flowers; white flowers to blend with the container; mixed flowers; corsages; wild flowers; arrangement of either dried materials, fruits, or foliage, or any combination of these; miniatures of any material, flower and container not to exceed three inches overall; flower arrangement for lamp table or end table; wall niches; men's arrangement; arrangement for tables, dinner, breakfast, coffee, luncheon, or terrace.

Children's division: Doll corsages; vegetable figures or animals; dish gardens; arrangement representing school days.

No exhibit may be disturbed or removed until 9 p. m., at the close of the show.

Judging will be done by qualified persons and their decisions will be final, club officers said.

Several From County Attend Cherokee Meet

Frank B. Duncan, a director of the organization, and the following other Franklin persons attended the meeting and luncheon of Western North Carolina Associated Communities at Cherokee Tuesday of last week: Mrs. Lasca Horsley, Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Renshaw, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Russell, and Mr. and Mrs. Holland McSwain and two sons, Holland, Jr., and Franklin Lee.

LAST MINUTE ITEM

The Highlands board of aldermen has adopted a \$97,877 budget for the 1952-53 fiscal year—an increase of \$15,960 over last year's. The tax rate is the same, \$2.50 per hundred valuation.

Evangelistic Series Begins On Sunday

The Rev. G. Ray Jordan, professor of homiletics in the school of theology at Emory university, Atlanta, Ga., will be guest preacher at this summer's annual interdenominational evangelistic series here.

The series, to be held at the Friendship tabernacle, begins Sunday and runs through July 28. Services will be held nightly beginning at 8 o'clock.

Selection of Mr. Jordan as this year's guest preacher was made by the Franklin Methodist church. Since the annual series is interdenominational, local churches alternate in choosing a speaker each year. The Rt. Rev. M. George Henry, bishop of the W. N. C. Episcopal diocese, conducted the series last year.

An author and world traveler, Mr. Jordan has had a number

CLEARING GETS UNDER WAY ON NEW HIGHWAY

Engineer Says Present Span Will Close About Sept. 1

Clearing the right-of-way for the new \$612,000 Cowee Gap-Franklin highway (US 23) got under way this week, and grading operations are expected to begin sometime in August, according to S. T. Uary, state highway resident engineer.

Under present plans, the engineer said the span would not be closed to motorists until about September 1.

However, he pointed out that any speed-up in construction could cause the highway to be closed to travel earlier.

The new 7.34-mile highway, which will chop about one mile from the present distance from Franklin to the Jackson county line at Cowee Gap, in general follows the road-bed of the existing span.

When the road is closed, motorists traveling toward Sylva and points east, will have to detour through either Highlands (US 64) or Bryson City (NC 28).

The contract for grading and surfacing on the project was awarded J. C. Critcher, Inc., Asheville.

Methodist Bible School Begins Here On Monday

The Franklin Methodist church daily vacation Bible school will open Monday morning at 9 o'clock. It has been announced.

Registration is planned Sunday, during the Sunday school hour at the church.

Teachers, by departments, will be:

Kindergarten: Mrs. Frank Martin, Mrs. R. S. Jones, and Mrs. Grover Jamison; Primary: Mrs. John Swan and Miss Ruth Angel; Helpers will be Misses Margaret Crawford, Margaret Jones, Margaret Thomas, Jeanne Russell, and Julia Moody; Junior: Mrs. Guy Sharitz, Mrs. Lawrence Patten, Miss Carolyn Long, and Miss Clayton Ramsey.

The church pastor, the Rev. C. E. Murray, will instruct in the intermediate department, using the text book, "Our Church," by Bishop Paul Gardner.

Mrs. H. H. Gnuse will serve as chairman of refreshments.

The Bible school will meet daily through next Friday, July 25.

Power Company Workers Get New Rate Schedule

A rate range schedule providing merit or length of service increases for employees of the Nantahala Power and Light company, with home offices in Franklin, has been granted by the Fourth Regional Wage Stabilization board.

John M. Archer, Jr., power company president, said the new schedule is in line with a long-standing policy of the company to reward its employees on the merit and length of service.

The increased fund is limited to six per cent of the employee's aggregate straight time earnings per year.



THE REV. G. R. JORDAN

of books published and six of the last seven he has written were chosen by the Pulpit Book club. His latest book, "You Can Preach!", was written in 1951. His travels have taken him to Palestine, Syria, the Near East, Europe, Central America, Colombia, Canada, and Mexico. He made a special study tour of the Middle East and Europe in 1951.

Churches Mr. Jordan has served include College Place Methodist, in Greensboro, Wesley Memorial, High Point, Centenary Methodist, Winston-Salem, and the First Methodist church, Charlotte.

He received his A. B. degree from Duke university (Trinity) in 1917; B.D. from Emory university in 1920; A.M. from Yale in 1921; D.D. from Duke in 1935; and Litt. D. from Lincoln Memorial university in 1950. In addition he did summer study work at the Union Theological Seminary, New York, and the University of Chicago.

SUFFERS SNAKEBITE

Mrs. Octa Jones, 35, of the South Skeenah community, was admitted to Angel clinic Tuesday, suffering from snakebite.

Mrs. Jones, who was bitten on the lower right leg, told attendants at the clinic that the snake struck her while she was picking blackberries. She thinks it was a pilot snake.

It was later announced at the clinic that it was a rattler.

School Year Was Good One

	1950-51	1951-52	Per cent
Membership Last Day of School	3,637	3,647	+28
Total Enrollment	4,093	4,007	-2.1
Losses (drop-outs)	483	360	-25.4
Average Daily Attendance	3,391	3,402	+3
No. Pupils Absent Daily	373	341	-8.6
No. Pupils Promoted	3,268	3,333	+1.9
No. Pupils Not Promoted	389	314	-15.0

Enrollment Was Lower, But Attendance Higher Than Past School Year

The 1951-52 school year in Macon County was an exceptional one—while enrollment was lower, there were fewer absences and drop-outs, and more pupils were promoted.

Figures in the county school superintendent's office, comparing the 1951-52 school year with the previous one, show that:

(1) Membership the last day of school for the school year

just ended was 28 per cent higher than the previous year, although total enrollment was 86 pupils less.

(2) There were 32 fewer absences each day, a decrease of 8.6 per cent over the 1950-51 school year.

(3) The number quitting school decreased 25.4 per cent. In 1950-51, 483 pupils dropped out of school, as compared with 360 in 1951-52.

(4) The number of pupils promoted jumped 1.9 per cent. Those promoted in 1950-51 totaled 3,268—in 1951-52, 3,333.



RALPH R. RICKMAN

Mill community, were conducted Friday at 3 p. m. at the Cowee Baptist church.

After the boy's body was removed from the pool, a small, hushed crowd of swimmers and spectators hovered around for more than two hours as an unsuccessful attempt was made to revive him.

Several men worked steadily applying artificial respiration until about 6:30 o'clock.

Coroner George Henson ruled accidental drowning and said

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