

THRASH SAYS SURVEY NEAR COMPLETION

Announces Three Macon Roads To Be Paved In Future

A state highway survey now under way on US 23 from Cowee Gap to Dillsboro should be completed soon, according to L. Dale Thrash, 10th division highway commissioner.

Although this proposed strip of highway is in Jackson County, its completion is of importance to Macon County, since it will tie in with the new US 23 link from Franklin to Cowee Gap, which already is in the final stages of grading.

Mr. Thrash said field notes on the Jackson survey will be sent to Raleigh for plans and contract arrangements as soon as the survey is finished, and added:

"I hope this will not be too long, because the detour is a great inconvenience to many people."

The commissioner also announced that three Macon roads are due to be paved with non-bond funds made available by Governor Scott last year. These roads are Iotla School Road, 2.6 miles from Burningtown-Iotla Road at the Moody Farm to NC 28 at the Iotla Bridge; Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory Road, one mile; and the Middle Skenah Road.

Locally, the proposed highway stretch from Cowee Gap to Dillsboro has provoked considerable comment because its construction will lag far behind that of the one from Franklin to Cowee Gap. It is pointed out that, unless the two stretches are opened at the same time, motorists will have to detour around US 23 in this county for possibly another two or three years. The main artery of travel was closed to traffic between Dillsboro and Franklin in October of last year when grading operations on the Macon stretch started.

March Road Work Listed For County

During the month of March, the State Highway Commission completed 9.6 miles of stabilization and 5 mile of paving in Macon County, according to an announcement made this week by L. Dale Thrash, 10th division commissioner.

Roads stabilized, and their lengths, were River Bend Road, 3.1 miles; Mountain Grove Road, 1.3; Hudson Road, 1.1; Siler Road, 1 mile; Buck Creek Road, 1.5; and Wilson Road, .6 mile.

The 5 mile of paving was on the Bryson Branch Road. Mr. Thrash said a total of 2.85 miles of paving and 18.5 miles of stabilization was completed in the division during the month.

'Players' Second Play To Be Given Night Of April 17

A three-act comedy, "A Ready Made Family", will be presented by the Franklin Community Players Friday evening, at the East Franklin School auditorium at 8 o'clock.

The production is the second one for the non-profit amateur theatrical group, which was formed last summer.

Having roles in the play are Mrs. Ruby Mashburn, Mrs. Ted Reber, Miss Betsy Russell, Jim Williamson, Miss Margaret Crawford, Miss Patty Lou Phillips, Dan Angel, Mrs. Lucille Siler, and Holland McSwain.

Miss Inez Crawford is the director. Proceeds of the performance will go into the organization's treasury to buy lights and props for future productions.

Advance tickets are being sold by Franklin school children. Admission will be 75 cents for adults and 40 for children under the age of 12.

Local Woman District H.D. Head



A highlight of the District 2 Home Demonstration Club federation held here Wednesday of last week at the Franklin Methodist Church was the election of officers. In the picture above, (L to R) Mrs. J. S. Gray, former president of the N. C. Federation of H. D. Clubs, is shown installing Mrs. E. M. McNish, of this county, as district chairman, and Mrs. W. J. Grady, of Jackson County, as vice-chairman. Mrs. George Culbreth, of Swain, secretary-treasurer, and Mrs. Carl S. Slagle, of this county, the reelected historian, were absent when the picture was made. The event drew some 200 women from Macon, Jackson, and Swain counties.

Franklin And Highlands Prepare For Balloting

Horsley And Love File As Candidates; 10 Are In Race

Saturday's filing deadline found two men in the race for mayor and eight for the six-seats as aldermen in Franklin's non-partisan election slated May 5.

Bill Horsley, local restaurant owner, and T. T. Love, Cowee School principal, both tossed their hats in the ring Saturday. Last week, Mayor W. C. Burrell and the entire incumbent board—Verlon Swafford, A. G. Cagle, Oscar Ledford, Erwin Patton, Frank Martin, and J. C. Jacobs—filed for reelection.

C. Banks Finger, attorney, was the first to enter the race, filing as a candidate for mayor several weeks ago.

The town's registration books were thrown open Saturday in the town office and two more Saturdays, April 18 and 25, have been set aside as registration days. John M. Moore is registrar and J. A. Palmer and L. C. Higdon are judges. April 25 will be challenge day.

Apparently the election won't set the political woods on fire as in past years, for none of the 10 candidates has started actively campaigning.

However, with the balloting slightly more than two weeks away, campaigning could reach a fever pitch in the closing days.

BASEBALLERS WIN 2 GAMES

Coach Stott's Nine Puts Bryson City, Cullowhee Out Of The Way

The Franklin High School baseballers waded into season's play this week by winning their first two games.

Last Wednesday afternoon Coach Dick Stott's lads opened the season on the local diamond against Bryson City, winning the game 16 to 3.

Then on Friday in Cullowhee, Richard Renshaw uncorked some of the speed he displayed on the gridiron last fall to steal home from first base and give the locals a 2 to 1 victory in a game that went into two extra frames.

Vic Teague started on the mound in Wednesday's game against Coach Norris' (Peewee) Jones' nine and Grady Corbin took over the last three innings of the seven-inning high school game.

Catcher Roger Seay was the backbone of the Franklin team, pounding out two home runs.

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GETS GRADE A

The Cullasaja lunchroom, the last one built in the county, is the first school lunchroom to receive a Grade A rating. The rating was given this week following an inspection by Sanitarian H. T. Collins.

DEAN'S BILL UNFAVORABLE

School Board Election Measure Killed By Committee

Macon Representative Walter Dean's bill to provide for the election of the county board of education by the people last Friday was reported out unfavorably by the house education committee.

The proposed bill called for sweeping changes in the present election set-up, including the nomination and election of the five-member board in the primary and general election without confirmation by the general assembly, staggered terms of office, and a stipulation that no candidate be required to make or sign any statement regarding party affiliation.

He introduced the bill in the house on April 1.

Cancer Drive Is Under Way

The annual American Cancer Society fund drive is now under way in this county under the leadership of Mrs. Lester Conley. This year's goal is \$433.35.

Mrs. Conley, who has headed the drive here for the past eight years, during which time the county has never failed to top its goal, has been ill at her home for several weeks.

However, she still intends to conduct the drive and this week requested citizens, schools, clubs, and civic organizations to mail contributions to her in Franklin.

PLAN BAKE SALE

The St. Agnes Episcopal Auxiliary will hold its monthly bake sale tomorrow (Friday) at 9 a. m. at the Children's Shop, it has been announced.

N. DOCKERY SENTENCED TO CHAMBER

Macon Jury Finds Man Guilty Of Killing Law Officer

A Macon County jury last Wednesday afternoon returned a verdict of guilty of murder in the first degree in the Cherokee County trial of Noah Dockery, a 45-year-old wood cutter charged with the shotgun slaying of Cherokee Sheriff Frank C. Crawford on March 3.

Judge Allen H. Gwyn sentenced Dockery to death in the state gas chamber and set the execution for May 29. However, defense council, G. L. Houk, of Franklin, and O. L. Anderson, of Murphy, announced intentions of appealing the verdict to the state supreme court.

The Macon jury, which deliberated for 45 minutes, made no recommendation for mercy.

Members of the jury were H. W. Cabe, foreman, J. B. Brendle, Earl Justice, Vernon Bryson, Van Vanhook, G. B. Dayton, Ted Campbell, Morris Ledford, James McCall, Harry Higgins, Nat Phillips, Earl English.

The jury was selected from a special venire of 100 citizens.

District Meeting Of V.F.W. Slated Here This Sunday

The local Veterans of Foreign Wars post will be host to some 75 V. F. W. men and Ladies' auxiliary members at a District 17 meeting here Sunday.

Election of district officers will be the main feature of the session, which is set for 2 p. m. The men will hold their meeting at the post home on Palmer Street and the Auxiliary members will gather at Slagle Memorial Building.

Judge Will Discuss Delinquency Tonight At Otto PTA Session

Judge Allen H. Gwyn, who is presiding at the April term of superior court here, will speak on juvenile delinquency at a meeting of the Otto Parent-Teacher Association tonight (Thursday) at the school.

All-Night Service Slated At Calvary Baptist April 25

An all-night church service at the Calvary Baptist Church, about 12 miles from Franklin on the Georgia road, was announced this week for April 25. The service is set to start at 7:30 o'clock.

REINSTATED



Franklin Postmaster Zeb V. Meadows, who was recalled to active duty in the U. S. Navy on March 23, 1951, has been reinstated and took over his post at the post office this (Thursday) morning. E. W. Long has served as acting postmaster in his absence. Mr. Meadows, who holds the rank of lieutenant in the navy, served 14 months in the Atlantic as executive officer of the minesweeper, USS Jubilant, and then became commanding officer of the USS Pelican, another minesweeper, which spent 10 months in Korean waters.

CRIMINAL END OF TERM NEAR

Judge Gwyn Wraps Up Most Cases; Civil Docket Next

With the exception of a few cases, Judge Allen H. Gwyn, resident judge of the 21st Judicial District, Tuesday afternoon wrapped up the light criminal docket for the April superior court term, which convened Monday morning.

The judge is expected to complete the civil docket, which lists 21 cases, including 11 divorces, by the end of the week. Approximately 80 cases were scheduled for trial on the criminal docket, 25 of them involving drunk driving.

A packed courtroom of spectators was on hand for the opening of the term Monday morning, but the audience began to dwindle as court progressed.

Court dispositions will appear in next week's issue of The Press.

SCOUTS SET RALLY

The Nantahala Girl Scout Area will hold a rally and training day program at the East Franklin School Saturday from 10 a. m. to 3 p. m., it has been announced.

REPORT SAYS COUNTY HOME 'A DISGRACE'

Three-Man Grand Jury Body Gives Findings On Conditions

A three-man committee from the grand jury leveled a barrage of criticism at conditions at the county home and other county facilities and after hearing the committee's report Judge Allen H. Gwyn called the board of county commissioners in for a conference.

After his talk with the county commissioners, Judge Gwyn said he reviewed the report with the commissioners and suggested they give "diligent consideration" to its recommendations.

The judge added that, being unfamiliar with the situation in the county in regard to taxes and financial condition, he did not take any judicial steps to assure that the recommendations were carried out.

Here's what the committee, composed of John M. Archer, Jr., Harold Enloe, and Eugene Crawford, said about the county home, which has been under constant fire from grand juries and citizens for several years:

"It is a disgrace and a shame on the citizens of Macon County that such a place should exist and be called a home for our unfortunate aged people."

"An adequate new home with complete new furnishings are urgently needed."

"Immediate action should be taken—not tomorrow—but today. We urge the citizens of Macon County to visit the county home and take whatever action is necessary to see that the above recommendations are carried out."

In addition to the county home, the committee inspected the jail, prison camp, courthouse, and six of the 10 white schools in the county.

Only minor things were noted at the prison camp, but a visit to the jail gave rise to a recommendation for a new and modern building and a suggestion that the jailer be paid an adequate monthly salary, in addition to the present \$1 per prisoner and a 60-cent turnkey fee.

Rather than recommend building a new courthouse, as prior grand jury committees have done, the three men urged the modernization of the 71-year-old landmark, with the suggestion that the offices of the sheriff and the county superintendent be shifted to another building so the entire east side of the ground floor could be converted to offices and vault space for the register of deeds and clerk of superior court offices.

The report pointed out the need for additional vault space in all county offices for storing records.

All of the schools inspected were reported in good condition, with the exception of the Chapel (Negro) School. Construction of a new Negro school is expected to get under way this month.

Overcrowded conditions at several schools was found, the committee said, and it pointed out the need for 10 to 12 additional classrooms. Also recommended was the expenditure of an estimated \$30,000 for furniture and equipment in the schools, and the purchase of seven or eight new school buses. The three men noted that several buses are operating with overloads of pupils to "a dangerous extent."

SHORT CALL

The Franklin Fire Department didn't have to travel far to put out a chimney fire shortly after noon Monday.

Roaring out of the fire house, its siren screaming, the truck took a sharp turn to the right to Mrs. Margaret Ordway's house on Iotla Street—two doors from the fire house.

CALLING PLAYERS

All baseball players interested in organizing an All-Star team in Franklin are asked to meet at the Franklin stadium Saturday at 4 p. m.

G. O. P. PLANS MEETING

The Republican Party here plans a county-wide meeting tonight (Thursday) at the county courthouse at 8 o'clock, it has been announced.

Macon's Rural Community Contest Council



Pictured above is the Macon County Rural Community Development Council, which was elected at a special meeting Tuesday night of last week to conduct a rural contest in this county. Members of the county council will function as a steering committee. In the photo are (L to R): Morris L. McGough, manager of the Asheville Agricultural Council, Inc., who explained the community development program at the meeting, and the following members of the council: Walter Taylor, president of Holly Springs, W. W. (Bill) Sloan, representative of the Nantahala Power and Light Company, John Crawford, American Legion representative, County Agent S. W. Mendenhall, secretary, Erwin Patton, Patton community president, W. W. Reeves, Veterans of Foreign Wars representative, and Frank Plyler, Franklin Jaycees representative. Presidents of the other nine communities entered in the contest will serve on the council as directors.