

Local Man First Fatality Of Year

Crisp Dies In Hospital After Saturday Wreck On U. S. 23

A 27-year-old Franklin man Sunday became the first highway fatality in this county for 1953.

J. L. Crisp, son of Mrs. Mary Teems Crisp, died at Angel Hospital about 6 p. m.—nearly 24 hours after he lost control of his automobile on the Georgia highway (U. S. 23) and overturned. He died of a fractured skull and internal injuries.

Three other men in the Crisp car were listed by Highway Patrolman C. M. Byrd, who investigated, as George H. Cochran, 27, of Bryson City, Hubert Bateman, 27, of Franklin, and Harley Gibson, 27, also of Franklin.

Mr. Gibson escaped from the crash uninjured, while Mr. Cochran suffered a fractured skull, and Mr. Bateman, minor cuts and bruises. Angel Hospital reported yesterday that Mr. Cochran was improving.

Patrolman Byrd said the three men are free on \$300 bonds, charged with drunkenness. All of the men in the car had been drinking, he said.

Just prior to the accident, the patrolman said he and Deputy Sheriff Newell Pendergrass, who assisted in the investigation, saw the Crisp car parked in front of a beer parlor just over the Georgia state line.

The wreck occurred about 6:30 p. m. some 1,000 feet north of Ed Norton's store. The car was traveling toward Franklin "at a high rate of speed" according to Patrolman Byrd, and the driver apparently lost control shortly after negotiating a sharp curve.

The 1949 Ford, struck the bank on the left side of the highway and turned end over end back across the highway, the patrolman said.

Funeral services for Mr. Crisp, who had been working in Pontiac, Mich., for General Motors as a driver, and had been home only about a week, were conducted Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the Sugarfork Baptist Church by the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor of the First Baptist Church, and the Rev. C. T. Taylor. Burial was in the church cemetery.

He was born March 19, 1926. His father was the late Iva Crisp.

In addition to his mother, Mr. Crisp is survived by seven brothers, Homer, William, J. W., Charles, and Lawrence Crisp, all of Franklin, and Fred and Furman, of Detroit, Mich.; four sisters, Mrs. Iva Jane Dills, of Franklin, Mrs. Betty Reschke, of Miami Beach, Fla., and Misses Katie Lee and Frankie Crisp, of Franklin.

Serving as pallbearers were J. D. Gibson, J. D. Tallent, E. G. Crisp, Don Tallent, Troy Crisp, and Edgar Younce.

Flower girls were Wayles Arrowood, Christine Cunningham, Dixie Lou Wilson, Shirley Lou Crisp, Barbara Britton, and Mildred Tallent.

Bryant Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

GEORGIA BEER IS LEGAL HERE

Assistant Attorney General Points To Commission

Buying your beer in Georgia? Then it's quite legal to bring it across the state line for private consumption if the quantity is not more than one gallon.

In its March 26 issue, The Press quoted a ruling by the attorney general of the state, taken from Popular Government, to the effect that it is illegal to bring beer into the state because of the non-payment of the North Carolina tax on beer.

However, a letter received from Claude L. Love, assistant attorney general, has thrown more light on the subject. Mr. Love's letter was in answer to one written by Fred Weissen-SEE NO. 2, PAGE 12

FOREST MERGER GOES FORWARD

Tentative Assignments Received By Several Employees Here

Consolidation of the Nantahala National Forest with the Pisgah National Forest is moving along and several Nantahala employees have received tentative assignments, according to forest officials.

The merger of the two forests, which eliminates the Nantahala headquarters in Franklin and places the administration of the two in the hands of the Pisgah supervisor in Asheville, is scheduled to be completed by July 1.

Apparently a protest registered by local citizens in Washington, D. C., is having little influence on the move, which was ordered toward the last of March as an economy measure.

Although the Nantahala forest is losing its headquarters, it still will retain its name, officials say. All of the forests in the state will come under the central name of N. C. National Forest.

At least two employees plan to retire as soon as the consolidation is complete, one already has resigned and is training for another job, and two others have resigned, effective with the merger.

A. R. Kinney and J. Roan Bradley said Monday they will retire. Mr. Kinney, who has nearly 38 years with the forest service in Washington, D. C., West Virginia, Virginia, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Georgia, and North Carolina, came to the headquarters here six years ago as a forest engineer.

Mr. Bradley, chief of land acquisition surveys, has 30 years' experience. SEE NO. 3, PAGE 12

J. C. Robinson Passes Monday; Services Today

J. C. Robinson, 84-year-old retired Macon County farmer, died Monday night in a Winston-Salem hospital.

Mr. Robinson, who had been in declining health for some time, was admitted to the hospital on May 12 for treatment.

Funeral services will be conducted this (Thursday) morning at 11 o'clock at the First Baptist Church by the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor. Burial will be in Woodlawn Cemetery.

Survivors include two daughters, Mrs. Clark Jenkins, of Clyde, and Miss Gay Robinson, of Miami, Fla.; seven sons, Winford Robinson, of Reno, Nev., Herman and Beauford, of Asheville, Roy and Horace, of Enka, Marshall, of Canton, and Leonard Robinson, who is serving with the U. S. Army. Potts Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

Radio And Faith Deliver Girl To Local Couple In Far North

A radio and a lot of faith delivered a baby girl to Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Stamey in Alaska on April 25.

The Stameys, residents of the Cullasaja community, went to Amlak, Alaska, to teach last year.

Here's their story, taken from a letter to members of their family, on the unusual birth of their daughter, Sonja Lee.

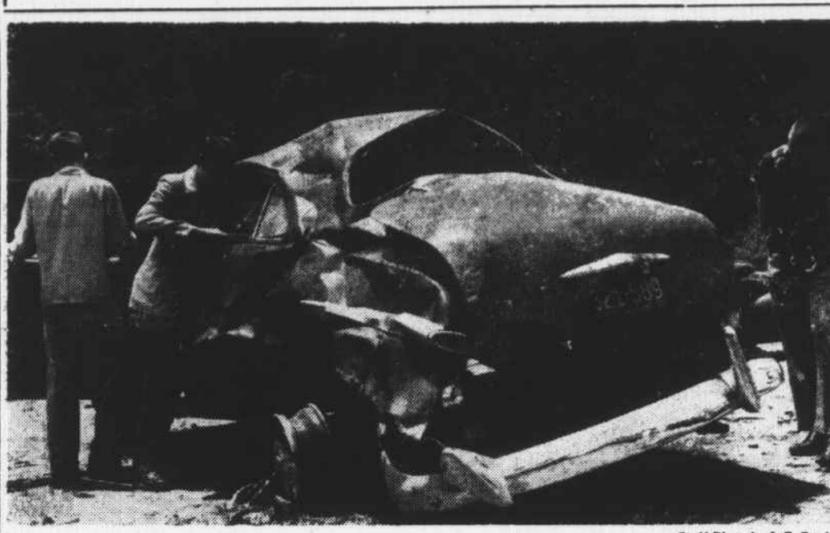
"Hello, Mom and All, "We have a nice baby girl (Sonja Lee), six and a half pounds, born at 3:20 a. m. on the 25th here in Amlak. No midwife, no doctor, no one around who ever delivered a baby before. We sure had a time.

"Got radio contact with Nome and a doctor up there gave the directions over the radio. Hazel (Mrs. Stamey) gave the directions to the women who helped her. Everybody was scared sick, except Hazel. Tried to get a mid-wife but it was so foggy a plane couldn't even taxi.

"It all happened so quick that it's hard to recall it exactly. The baby came feet first. We finally got a doctor to come from Bethel at 10:30 a. m. Cost me \$90 an hour for the plane. Had to charter it from Bethel to bring the doctor.

"The Lord was surely with us that night. Had a time getting the baby to breathe . . . all of Amlak stayed awake and tried to help some way or the other. The women here stayed right with Hazel. They used baby books to get directions, too. "We had to run a relay of men to the radio. It's located in the school house and there's no phone there. Hazel and baby are just fine now . . ."

First Death Car This Year



J. L. Crisp, 27, of Franklin, became Macon County's first highway fatality of 1953 when he died Sunday in a local hospital of a skull fracture and internal injuries nearly 24 hours after he lost control of his automobile on the Georgia highway. Two other passengers in the car were injured and a third escaped injury. The above picture illustrates the impact of the crash on the death car, which was nearly demolished as it turned end over end on the highway after striking a bank.

Prizes Set For Contest By Council

Cash prizes for the winning communities in the Macon County Community Development Contest were set up Friday night by the contest county council.

With \$1,025 donated by merchants for the contest, a council-appointed committee fixed cash awards for the top six communities as follows:

First place, \$400; second, \$250; third, \$150; fourth, \$100; fifth, \$75; and sixth, \$50.

This is the first year a rural contest has been conducted in this county and with 13 communities in the running it should prove to be a stimulating one, according to members of the council, which is overseeing the contest.

At Friday night's meeting, held at the Nantahala Power and Light Company building, a working manual was distributed among community presidents with suggestions and ideas for community projects. The manual was prepared by W. W. (Bill) Sloan, through the courtesy of the power company.

Erwin Patton, council president, presided at the meeting. The 13 communities in the local contest also are competing with other western counties in the W.N.C. contest, and statewide in the rural contest sponsored by the Progressive Farmer magazine.

MEET SITE CHANGED

The meeting of the Macon County Men's Club tonight (Thursday) at 7:30 o'clock will be held at the Cartoogechaye School instead of at Carson Chapel, as previously announced. Ladies of Carson Chapel Church will serve the supper.

DEGREE GIVEN LOCAL RECTOR

Morgan In New York To Receive Honor From Seminary

The Rev. A. Rufus Morgan, rector of the St. Agnes Episcopal Church here, left Sunday for New York where he will receive the degree of Doctor of Sacred Theology.

It is understood that, as a general rule, this high honor is bestowed only upon bishops of the church.

The occasion also will mark the 40th anniversary of Mr. Morgan's graduation from the General Theological Seminary in New York.

He was graduated from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, took his theological studies at the New York seminary, and did post-graduate work at Columbia University in New York City.

Mr. Morgan will return here Friday.

Baptist Bible School Opening Slated Monday

A two-week daily vacation Bible school will open Monday at the First Baptist Church.

Tomorrow (Friday) is scheduled as preparation day. Registration will be from 9 to 11 a. m. and final plans for Monday's opening will be made.

The Bible school will operate daily from 9 to 12, ending with commencement exercises at the church the night of June 14, according to the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor.

Mrs. Glenn Holt will be principal. The school is for children from the ages of three to 16.

Mrs. Houston Named Manager Of Movie House

Mrs. Carrie Houston, cashier at the Macon Theatre for the past three years, Sunday took over as manager of the theatre, succeeding Clyde Galley, who resigned several weeks ago.

Hugh Prince, who is connected with the Rabun (Ga.) Amusement Company, which owns the local theatre, had been serving as manager temporarily while a new manager was being selected. He returned to his home in Toocoo, Ga., yesterday (Wednesday).

Mrs. Houston came here from Clayton, Ga.

Mr. Galley, who served as manager of the theatre for 15 years, is now working for Burrell Motor Company as an automobile salesman.

COURTHOUSE SING

The fifth Sunday singing convention will be at the courthouse at 10 a. m., J. M. Raby, president, has announced. All singers are invited to take part.

Center Site Is Inspected By Officials

C. S. Templeton and Bruce K. Jones, of the Medical Care Commission in Raleigh were last Thursday to inspect the site of the proposed health center.

The site for the center, which will cost approximately \$30,000, is on Riverview Street directly across from Angel Hospital. It was donated to the county by Dr. Edgar Angel, and is about two-thirds of an acre, fronting the street for 120 feet, with a depth of about 275 feet.

The county's cost of building the center will be about \$6,000, with the commission—an agency which allocates funds for health centers—covering the rest of the expense.

Final approval of the center rests with Dr. John A. Ferrell, head of the commission.

Georgia Man Succeeds Gioiando As Junior Forester In District

John L. Connell of Valdosta, Ga., has joined the Highland district of the Nantahala National Forest as a junior forester, succeeding Joe Gioiando, who has been promoted to assistant ranger on the Lake River district of the Mississippi National Forest. Headquarters of the Highland district are in Highlands.

WORK STARTS AGAIN

Construction of a new Catholic Church in Franklin, which was halted last week while church officials checked with the highway department to see if the building would be in the path of any future highway project, was resumed this week. Highway officials said at the present time they have no plans for bringing new construction inside the city limits. The church is being built at the intersection of US 23 and Maple Street.

Woman Victim Of Polite Motorized Purse-Snatcher

A motorized purse-snatcher "politely" relieved Mrs. Frank Blanton of her purse Monday afternoon in the most literal sense of the word.

Mrs. Blanton and Mrs. Emma West, her aunt, were walking home out Harrison Avenue when a male motorist stopped and asked the way to Asheville, explaining he couldn't read his road map. Mrs. Blanton said she stepped to the car, pointed out the detour route to Asheville, and:

"He said 'thank you' and grabbed my pocketbook on my arm and drove off."

She said she was dragged about 10 feet before the purse strap broke and the arm-load of groceries she was carrying scattered along the avenue. She said the purse contained only \$2.23.

Mrs. Blanton hailed Ed Carpenter, Jr., who drove her to town to report the purse-snatching to Highway Patrolman C. M. Byrd.

Apparently, the detour from Franklin to Cowee Gap meant little to the man. Patrolman Byrd said a car similar to the one described by Mrs. Blanton was seen heading for Jackson County over the new highway project.

Vote To Terminate Sutton's Contract

141 STUDENTS ARE GRADUATED

Commencement Exercise In Highlands Set For Tonight

Macon County this year sends 141 high school graduates out into the swift-moving stream of ambition.

One hundred twenty-nine seniors from Franklin and Nantahala already have received their diplomas. The remaining 12 make up the Highlands High School Class of 1953. They will be graduated at a commencement exercise tonight (Thursday).

The Highlands exercise is set for 8 o'clock at the school. The Rev. R. W. Walters, pastor of the Mills River Methodist Church, will deliver the main address to the graduating class and County School Supt. Holland McSwain will present diplomas.

Robert Ayers, ministerial student at Furman University, delivered the baccalaureate sermon to the Highlands seniors Sunday evening at the Highlands Methodist Church. The school held its Junior-Senior banquet on May 15 and an athletic banquet on May 22.

Making up the Highlands graduating class are Misses Lillian Eulene Calloway, Hazel Louise Chastain, Audrey Raye Deal, Ann Stevens McCarty, Muriel Naomi Miller, Lois Marie Potts, Virginia Dare Vinson, Margaret Alice Zoellner, and Walter Eugene Houston, Sidney Louis McCarty, III, Gordon Napoleon Reese, and Vernon Josh Wilson.

Commencement exercises at Franklin High School were climaxed Tuesday evening at the athletic field with the presentation of diplomas to 116 seniors—46 boys and 70 girls—by Principal Clarence R. Lowe. The baccalaureate sermon was delivered Sunday evening at the Franklin Methodist Church by the Rev. M. T. Gales, pastor of the Cowee Baptist Church.

"Class Day" was marked Monday afternoon at the athletic field, and included the presentation of awards to outstanding members of the graduating class. SEE NO. 1, PAGE 7

'Poppy Day' Sale Slated Saturday, In Franklin

"Buy a Poppy?" This will be voiced throughout Franklin on Saturday by Girl Scouts, who will be assisting the local American Legion Auxiliary with "Poppy Day" sales.

The proceeds from the sale of the artificial flowers, which are made by disabled American veterans, will be used to help the families of needy veterans, according to auxiliary members.

Mrs. Frank I. Murray, Sr., is serving as chairman of the sale and is being assisted by Mrs. Gilmer A. Jones, Mrs. H. W. Cabe, and Mrs. Joe Dowdle.

A movie trailer on "Poppy Day" is being shown in the theatres in the county this week.

Action Recommended By District Committee; Delegations Heard

Reversing a prior decision, the Macon County Board of Education last Thursday night voted to terminate District Principal R. G. Sutton's contract at the end of the present school year.

The move came after the board had studied a "reconsideration" recommendation from the eight-man Franklin district committee.

In special session May 18, the education board decided to ask the district committee to reconsider its stand on the principal, who previously had been approved by the board upon the district committee's recommendation, and set Thursday night to hear its findings.

By signed letter, five of the district committee recommended termination of the principal's contract. The remaining three members did not vote.

The board's approval of the principal for another year, at a meeting May 4, and the principal's subsequent recommendation that Franklin Coach Ralph (Chuck) McConnell be dismissed, threw the school district into a ticklish situation. Both school patron and student protests were aired.

Actually, the education board voted twice at Thursday's meeting to terminate Mr. Sutton's contract, but one vote was wiped off the record when Board Member John M. Archer, Jr., withdrew his motion, and left the meeting. That action followed a motion by Board Member Claude W. Case that County Supt. Holland McSwain submit his resignation—that "we clean the slate deal the cards over."

Mr. Archer declared, "I will not be a party to such a thing," and left the room.

Mr. Case's motion received no second. Mr. Archer withdrew it, and seconded Board Member Allen Siler's motion to terminate the principal's contract. Mr. Case later shook hands with the superintendent and said there was no personal feeling.

Throughout the proceedings, Board Member Neville Bryson stood firm, contending the board already had voted to rehire the principal. He voted against the first motion and did not vote on the second. Mr. Bryson said he was opposed to the measures because they put the jobs of three men at stake, apparently referring to the principal, coach, and superintendent.

The district committee's new recommendation also terminated the contract of Coach McConnell and leaves the selection of a coach up to the new principal.

Supt. McSwain said Monday he had received the coach's resignation.

Prior to going into session, the board heard the pros and cons of the issue.

A delegation of 11 high school teachers and a man who said he represented the school bus drivers appeared in behalf of Mr. Sutton. Arguments presented to the board by this delegation are not known, since a closed session was requested and reporters were asked to leave.

A second delegation, of school patrons, openly spoke out against the principal, explaining "we have nothing to hide."

Mrs. Pearl Hunter, Franklin elementary teacher, told the board elementary teachers had been asked to join the delegation of high school teachers. However, she said the elementary teachers had decided to let the board make the decision and not tell it what to do. The board then moved into official session to study the district committee's recommendation.

OFFICER ON VACATION

Highway Patrolman C. M. Byrd left Tuesday on his annual vacation and will return to duty in Franklin on June 10. In his absence, his patrol area will be covered by Patrolman V. E. Bryson, of Highlands