

GIRL DROWNS IN FONTANA LAKE FRIDAY

Heroic Rescue Effort Fails; Victim From Holly Springs

Despite an heroic effort by a companion to save her, a 19-year-old Holly Springs girl drowned about 3:40 o'clock Friday afternoon in Fontana Lake about two and a half miles above the Almond Boat Dock.

The body of Miss Barbara Jean Shepherd, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Garland Shepherd, was recovered at 9:05, about five and a half hours after she slipped from the grasp of a friend attempting to rescue her and disappeared under the waters of the TVA lake.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas, who went to the scene of the tragedy to assist with the recovery of the body, related an eyewitness report of the drowning as follows:

Miss Shepherd and two friends, Miss Lenore Day, 24, of Nantahala Station, and Miss Ann Bristol, 18, of Andrews, were swimming in the lake near Nantahala Inn, where all three were working for the summer. Miss Bristol was the only one who could swim. The other two were wading close to the shore. Miss Shepherd apparently stepped off into an old railroad grade under water. In trying to help her, Miss Day also got into trouble. Miss Bristol swam to her rescue and then went to Miss Shepherd's aid, pulling her almost into safe water. However, the struggling girl broke from her grasp and she was unable to locate her again.

The victim's body was recovered in 18 feet of water by Lt. Frank Smiley, of TVA's health and safety division, the sheriff said.

Divers searched for the body while dragging equipment was rushed by speed boat from Fontana, he added.

Miss Shepherd, a 1952 graduate of Franklin High School, would have celebrated her 20th birthday today (Thursday). She attended Blanton's Business College, Asheville, last year and planned to return and complete her studies this fall. She was a member of the Baptist church and was a contestant in last year's beauty contest at Holly Springs, a preliminary feature of the "Tobacco Queen" contest in Asheville.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock at the Holly Springs Baptist Church by the Rev. Arvil Swafford and the Rev. Lee Crawford. Burial was in the family cemetery at Cowee.

In addition to her parents, she is survived by two brothers, Steve and George; a sister, Ruth Ann; and her maternal grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dalton, all of Holly Springs.

Serving as pallbearers were Grady Corbin, Frank Deal, Hayes Gregory, Clyde Corbin, Fred Deal, and Terry Cabe.

Arrangements were under the direction of Potts Funeral Home.

Bryson Reunion Slated August 23

The annual Bryson family reunion has been set for August 23 at the Cowee Baptist Church, Thad D. Bryson, Jr., president, announced this week.

Last year's gathering of the Bryson clan drew more than 200 from this and neighboring states.

Dinner will be served at noon and the business meeting is planned in the afternoon.

Wheat Quota Vote Scheduled Friday

A wheat quota referendum is scheduled tomorrow (Friday) at the Agricultural Building from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m.

J. H. Enloe, Jr., chairman of the county PMA committee, said farmers who plan to plant 15 acres or more of wheat are eligible to cast ballots in the referendum.

Before quotas can be put into effect, the chairman said, two-thirds of those voting must approve.

Highlands Two-Day Flower Show Slated For Week-End

Highlands' tenth annual flower show will open at 3 p. m., Saturday at the Museum of Natural History, where the public will have a chance to view 81 classes in eight divisions.

The Highlands Biological Station two-day benefit is expected to bring many unusual floral specimens from the rich Highlands plateau area.

First on the schedule is the Junior judging, entries of which must be executed between 4 and 6 p. m., tomorrow (Friday). Other exhibitors must have their entries placed by noon, Saturday. Judging will begin 30 minutes later and the doors will be open to the public from 3 to 9 p. m.

The show will continue Sunday from noon until 5 p. m. Admission is \$1 for adults, 50 cents for children.

Some of the rules follow: The show will consist of three sections: Arrangements — flowers need not be grown by exhibitor; Horticultural — flowers must have been grown by exhibitor; and Junior — open to children 15 years old and under. Single specimens (up to three stalks) must be displayed in soft drink or milk bottles furnished by exhibitor. All containers must be marked with owner's name and address. An exhibitor is allowed only one exhibit in each class.

Awards include blue, red, and

white ribbons for first, second, and third places, respectively.

Flower show committee chairmen are: Chairman, Mrs. Sidney Farnsworth; schedule, the committee chairmen; entry, Mrs. Forrest Fay; classification, Miss Rebecca Nall; staging, Henry Wright and Hugh Sargent; treasurer, Miss Gertrude Harbison; Hostesses, Mrs. Gordon Kenna; property, Mrs. Elliot Carzic; publicity, Miss Thelma Howell; judges, Mrs. Green D. Warren; tickets, Mrs. Ralph M. Sargent; clerks, Mrs. Brandon Smith; and awards, Mrs. H. D. Porterfield.

23 Telephone Employees Get Service Pins

Twenty-three local employees of the Western Carolina Telephone Company were awarded public pins at a special dinner last Thursday at Dillsboro.

Receiving pins set with diamond stones for over 15 years' service with the company were A. Carl Tysinger (20 years), Mrs. Gertrude Gailey (20 years), SEE NO. 1, PAGE 8

Folk Festival Set For September By Jaycee Sponsors

September 3, 4, and 5 have been set as dates for the first Macon County Folk Festival, according to the sponsoring Franklin Jaycees.

Three nights of elimination contests between string bands, square dance teams, fiddlers, clog dancers, and other entertainers are planned, according to Frank Plyler, co-chairman. The event will be held at the Franklin stadium.

Everyone in the county is eligible to join in the fun, he said, and trophies will be awarded on the final night of the festival to the winners in each event.

Further plans will be announced next week. Bands, teams, and individuals wanting to compete in the festival are urged to register at once with Mr. Plyler at Farm and Home Supply, or J. P. Brady at The Franklin Press.

Families Set Reunion Sunday In Franklin

The Crawford-Slagle-Hogsdad reunion is slated Sunday at Slagle Memorial Building, according to Eugene Slagle McConnell, secretary.

Co-hosts for the gathering will be the McClure and Gray families.

Beverages will be served, but members of the families are asked to bring a picnic lunch.

IOTLA PASTOR IS MODERATOR FOR BAPTISTS

Sorrells Elected At Church Group's Meeting

The Rev. W. L. Sorrells, pastor of the Iotla Baptist Church, is the new moderator of the Macon County Baptist Association.

Mr. Sorrells, who was elected to the post during the church group's two-day annual meeting last Thursday and Friday, succeeds J. Horner Stockton, Franklin attorney, who has served as moderator for the past nine years.

Others elected to serve with Mr. Sorrells include the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor of the First Baptist Church, vice-moderator; Mrs. Jeter Higdon, of Franklin, Route 4, clerk-treasurer; and the Rev. W. N. Cook, of Franklin, historian (reelected).

Mr. Chapman also was named chairman of the promotions executive committee, succeeding Mr. Cook.

An estimated 800 Baptists turned out for this year's session. Opening day business was conducted at the Newman's Chapel and on Friday the sessions were at the Tellico church. SEE NO. 2, PAGE 8

Farm-Home Tour Slated For Friday

"There is no limit to what a community can do—if it wants to."

This will be the keynote of tomorrow's (Friday) annual Macon County Farm and Home Tour, which will get under way at the Agricultural Building at 9 a. m.

The several hundred persons expected to show up for the tour are going to see first hand how Macon County has turned the above slogan into something other than just words, according to County Agent S. W. Mendenhall.

Seven of the 13 communities entered in the W. N. C. Rural Community Development Contest will be visited during the morning half of the tour. Following lunch at the Cartoogechaye School, the tour spotlight will swing to the Franklin High School Vocational Agricultural Building for a stock show.

"This is going to be one tour no one will want to miss," the county agent commented this week. "They're going to really see some eye-openers in these communities . . . from uniform white mailboxes to picnic areas and community buildings . . . all the end results of working together as a community."

Sidelights will be a number SEE NO. 3, PAGE 8

WIND BLOWS CHURCH OFF FOUNDATION

Saturday Storm Inflicts Crop Damage In Parts Of County

A triple barreled wind-hail-rain storm roared down on parts of the south end of the county early Saturday afternoon, knocking the Dryman's Chapel Methodist Church from its foundation and inflicting heavy crop damage.

The storm, of about eight to 10 minutes duration, hit first in the Coweeta section west of Bob McClure's farm, about 2:30, moved then to Leonard Myers' north of Otto, and into the Tessetee section around Tom Hunt's farm, before abating.

After making a damage survey of the area, County Agent S. W. Mendenhall said about 150 acres of corn was flattened and destroyed by wind and pounding hail. A tree also fell on Mr. Hunt's home, he said.

Wind completely bowled the one-story Dryman's Chapel from its foundation and it is understood members of the church plan to build a new structure rather than attempt to repair the storm-twisted old one.

Mr. Hunt told the county agent it was almost "as black as midnight" during the brief storm.

Earlier in the afternoon, a storm of lesser force roared into the Highlands area. No damage was reported, but Mrs. Maurice Cleveland, working in the kitchen of a lunchroom, received a heavy jolt from a bolt of lightning. With one hand resting on the sink, she reached for a pot on the range just as a lightning charge apparently rolled in on one of the water lines. She was taken to the Highlands Community Hospital for observation, but was released about an hour later.

W. C. Newton, T.V.A. weather observer, reported a half-inch fall of rain for the 20-minute period. Tudor N. Hall observed a 16-degree temperature drop during the storm.

Spotter Unit Organization Again Slated

Another attempt is being made to form a Ground Observer Corps unit in Franklin.

In June, the organization of a GOC unit, a volunteer aircraft spotter program, fell flat on its face here because of public indifference.

But on this second try, the American Legion post is swinging behind the organizational procedure and hopes to convince the public of the worthiness of such a unit in the nation's air defense set-up.

Last Thursday night, S/Sgt. George Cook, of the air defense filter center in Knoxville, Tenn., met with Legionaires. Commander John Crawford appointed the following committee to work out details and to enlist the support of the general public:

The Rev. R. D. Burnette, chairman, Arvil Parker, and Adolph Zoellner.

"The Legion is only trying to get the unit started", Commander Crawford explained this week, "and it is going to take the help of every individual and civic organization to do it."

The sergeant will return here August 26 to receive the committee's verdict.

SILER CLAN HAS REUNION

One hundred twenty-four descendants of Weimar Siler and 12 guests packed the Slagle Memorial Building here last Thursday for the clan's 101st annual "Family Meeting".

The family register shows roughly 50 per cent of those attending were from outside this county. States represented, in addition to North Carolina (Tar Heels were present from just about all sections), included New York, Virginia, Ohio, Tennessee SEE NO. 4, PAGE 4

Here's Panorama Of 'Hillbilly Day' In Highlands

... Here it is folks! A panorama of last Wednesday's 'Hillbilly Day' in Highlands. (Top, L to R) 'Annie Oakley' (Mrs. Sidney K. Russell) draws a bead on a mule-riding, gun-totin' mountaineer (Earl Young, Jr.). The two were named 'Highlands Belle' and 'Country Squire' in the costume contest—Those wide-eyed, enthralled youngsters are all wrapped up watching the hock-calling contest—The 'Tulist Tearers' and their T-Model drew a thousand laughs during the day—(middle row) 'Sheriff' Riley Johnson, at right, tossed non-dressers in the 'stockade' all day, including Florida Congressman James A. Haley, of Sarasota. Preparing to conk the congressman on the bean if he resists arrest is 'Deputy' Bryan McCall—And even Sheriff J. Harry Thomas

and Deputy Newell Pendergrass were jugged briefly for appearing dressed like 'human beans'—Afternoon events included log rolling and cross-cut sawing, with the Jaycees coming out on top—(bottom row) This is a shot of the festive parade of 'hillbilly' revelers in the afternoon—Judges for the contests were (L to R) J. E. Hicks, of Highlands, Comm. Dwight C. Paul, Highlands and Palm Beach, Fla., Tomy Chambers, recreation director, and C. F. McKinney, who, at 68, is the oldest living person born in the Highlands Township—Highspot of the morning activities was a free barbecue on the recreation center grounds. The several thousand present consumed more than a ton of meat.

—Staff Photo by F. Brady

