

LOCAL CONCERN IS LOW BIDDER ON US 23 LINK

Survey Of Wayah Road Is Complete, Engineer Says

Macon Construction Company, a Franklin contracting concern, was low bidder with \$532,796 for grading and surfacing on the proposed link of US 23 from Dillsboro to Cowee Gap at the Macon-Jackson county line.

Other low bidders on the 9.42-mile project, which will tie in with the link now under construction from Franklin to Cowee Gap were Magill Contractors Company, Inc., of Whitmire, S. C., \$236,760.30 for structures, and G. E. Crouch Company, of Asheville, \$37,740 for moving buildings from the right of way.

Bids for the \$950,000 project were opened in Raleigh Tuesday by State Highway Commission engineers and are subject to the approval of the commission today (Thursday).

Asheville Paving Company, with a bid of \$14,747.50, was low for several small jobs in this county, including 1.55 miles of resurfacing on US 23 and US 64 from the Franklin city limits to US 64 on US 23; on US 64 from junction with US 23 to US 23; on US 23 and US 64 from the Little Tennessee River bridge south 17 mile (includes Palmer Street); and a county road connection from US 23 north for .06 mile.

Wayah Project

In a telephone interview Tuesday afternoon, Division Engineer G. G. Page, of Sylva, said the relocation survey across Wayah Gap to Fiesty Branch, near Nantahala School, has been completed, but the engineer added it would probably be more than a year before the project will be ready for letting.

Although the money is now available for the Wayah project, Mr. Page said his headquarters is giving the Dillsboro-Gap project top priority in order to open the section of US 23 from Franklin to Dillsboro as soon as possible.

An allocation of \$750,000 has been set up for the Wayah project, which runs through the Nantahala National Forest. The present road was decided to the state by the forest last year. New construction on this project will run from Cold Springs, at the end of the present blacktop on the Franklin side, for a distance of about 12 miles to Nantahala School.

Grading About Over

Meanwhile, Resident Engineer S. T. Usry yesterday (Wednesday) reported that grading on the Franklin-Cowee Gap project is complete, except for a cut in the gap. Trucks this week started putting down the first layer of stone in preparation for surfacing in the Spring.

Because of the season, the engineer said it is highly unlikely that any surfacing will be done on the project before Spring.

Structures on the project also are complete, except for some work in the Rabbit Creek Bridge, Mr. Usry said.

TEA HONORS NEW TEACHERS

Franklin P.T.A. Installs Leaders For New Year

A tea honoring the five new faculty members of the high school and the installation of officers for 1953-54 were highlights of the Franklin Parent-Teacher Association's first meeting of the school year Monday night.

The new officers are Mrs. John Bulgin, president; Mrs. E. W. Renshaw, vice-president; Mrs. James McCollum, secretary; and Mrs. J. L. West, treasurer. They were installed by Mrs. Weimar Jones, district P.T.A. director.

The five newcomers to the high school, who were introduced to the 165 attending the meeting by County School Supt. Holland McSwain, are Principal Ralph L. Smith, Coach R. A. (Art) Byrd, T. J. Edwards, Roy SEE NO. 1, PAGE 7

Women's Golf Champ Visits Here



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

The Highlands Country Club this week was host to a real golfing celebrity—Miss Mary Lena Faulk, who won the Women's National Amateur crown in Providence, R. I., on August 29. Miss Faulk, who hails from Thomasville, Ga., was the guest of Mr. and Mrs. R. C. Balfour and she kept in trim on the 18-hole course, which she described as "excellent". In the picture at left, Miss Faulk talks with (l to r) Mr. Belfour, Veazey Rainwater, former Georgia golf champ, and Highlands summer resident, and Scott Hudson, of the country club. At right, Miss Faulk tees off on the Highlands course, showing the form that makes her a champion.

Franklin Boy Scout 'Nixes' His Record — Maybe

Just for the record, Franklin's champion hiker, Explorer Scout Ben Edwards, is washing his hands of breaking records—at least for the present.

Ben set a new unofficial hiking record over the week-end by walking 72 miles of the Appalachian Trail from Davenport Gap, on the eastern boundary of the Great Smoky Mountains, to Fontana Dam in 24 hours and 48 minutes, chopping better than three hours off the old unofficial record.

"They can have it," the 17-year-old and foot-sore Scout declared with some conviction, referring to anyone who breaks his record, "I was about dead when I got to Fontana."

Ben, who has been taking 15-mile hikes in his stride since joining the Scouts at the age of nine, hit the trail Saturday at 4 p. m. with Herbert McKelvey, another local Scout saturated with the love of hiking, and who, incidentally is somewhat of a celebrity in his own right. Herbert made headlines over the nation last October when he became lost in jungle-like Blue Valley near Highlands for more than 35 hours.

The two Scouts pushed through sleet, rain, and fog with an eight-cell light Saturday night over the graded leg of the trail from Davenport Gap to Newfound Gap.

"Did it get cold? We almost stopped a couple of times to build a fire," Ben recalled.

At Newfound Gap Ben had to go it alone when Herbert's legs began hurting and he dropped out of the race, hitching a ride to Fontana with Ben's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John W. Edwards, who were waiting at the gap for a progress report.

Asked why he decided to continue alone with the roughest part of the trail coming up, Ben thought a minute:

"Well, I just decided I wasn't going to hike that 31 miles for nothing."

The Scout, who decided to go in for record breaking about a week before his successful attempt, said he didn't pace his hiking and just rested about five minutes every hour. Traveling light with a small five-pound pack, Ben averaged 2.8 miles per hour, "just about as fast as I could go."

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G.O.C. UNIT IS ORGANIZED

Second Attempt Is Successful With Legion Sponsoring

A Ground Observer Corps unit was organized in Franklin last Thursday night and is now preparing to link itself with the nation's air defense network.

Previously, an attempt to set up a unit here failed because of public indifference, but the latest organizational meeting drew 20 persons who have pledged their time to the program.

With the local American Legion post as sponsor, the unit was organized under the supervision of Mac Whitaker and the Rev. R. D. Burnett. Mr. Whitaker is serving as chief organizer and Mr. Burnett as supervisor.

The following have volunteered their services as aircraft spotters: Mrs. Frank Shope, Mrs. E. W. Renshaw, Miss Dorothy Cabe, Holland McSwain, Jr., J. D. Reece, Lon J. Dalton, H. L. Bryant, Mrs. A. R. Hig-

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Swain High Maroons Defeat Franklin Panthers Here Friday, 21 To 0



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

Panther fullback Junior Dills (56) is thanking his fingertips and their adhesive qualities for snaring a touchdown pass from the outstretched hands of Swain High's Johnny Parton (47) in the game between the two teams here Friday night. But Swain High won anyway, 21 to 0.

A crowd estimated at 2,500 Friday night saw the Franklin High Panthers wilt under a bad case of fumbleitis and cliking Swain High aerial attack to drop their first home game of the season 21 to 0.

At times during the non-conference game which was arranged to plug a hole in the Panther schedule, Coach R. A. (Art) Byrd's charges displayed a hard-up brand of ball, peeling the line with the Maroons of the town.

But an outbreak of fumbleitis kept the way for Swain.

Friday Game

The Franklin High Panthers will play host to the Cherokee Indians here tomorrow (Friday) night at 8 o'clock for a Smoky Conference game.

High scores, three of which were called back because of penalties. Quarterback Carroll Wright, Jr., paced the Maroons with his passing and competent point-kicking toe.

On the ground, the Panthers outplayed the Maroons, chalking up 139 yards to their opponent's 123. It was Wright's passing arm that made the difference. The classy back completed seven out of 18 tosses, two for touchdowns, and carried through the line for a third score after setting it up with a pass.

In the opening minutes of the game, the Panthers bobbled the ball twice. They held on the first one but on the second Wright passed from the SEE NO. 2, PAGE 12

Men Purchase Controlling Interest In Franklin Bank

OTTO SCHOOL ACCREDITED

First Elementary School In County To Make List

Otto Elementary School is first of Macon County's 10 elementary schools to become accredited, according to information received by County School Supt. Holland McSwain.

A. B. Combs, acting director of the Instructional Service, of the N. C. Department of Public Instruction, informed the superintendent by letter this week that the elementary school, which is on US 23-south, was accredited as of July 1.

In making the announcement, Mr. McSwain praised the Otto Parent-Teacher Association for its fine work with the principal and teachers of the school and he said the credit for this new honor is largely due to the enthusiastic approach of P. T. A. In helping the school meet the minimum requirements for becoming accredited.

For a number of years, through benefit programs, the P. T. A. has raised funds for the purchase of materials at the school, with the long-range objective of having the school accredited.

E. G. Crawford is principal at Otto. This year's faculty includes Mrs. Eunice C. Siler, Mrs. Gladys Kinsland, Miss May McCoy, Mrs. Mary Byrd, Mrs. Beatrice M. Alley, Mrs. Hazel C. Norton, and Mrs. Pauline C. Holland.

Plyler Elected YDC President

Frank Plyler is the new president of the Macon County Young Democrats Club, succeeding W. W. Reeves.

Mr. Plyler was elected to the post at a YDC meeting last Thursday night at the courthouse. Others named to serve with him are Mrs. Bob S. Sloan, 1st vice-president, C. Banks Finger, 2nd vice-president, and Louis Potts, of Highlands, secretary-treasurer.

Mr. Reeves, the out-going president, and Mr. Finger, out-going secretary, both have been appointed to committees for the state YDC convention in Raleigh October 8-10, according to information received here from W. B. Harrison, state president. The former has been named to the Awards Committee, the latter to the Education and Program Committee.

'Old Folks' Gathering Is Next Month

The annual "Old Folks" gathering of Macon County's young people will be held over 60 years on the grounds of the annual "Fellowship Hour" at the county courthouse.

The event is set for October 10 at the Franklin Presbyterian Church at 2:30 p. m. according to the Rev. M. W. Chapman, pastor of the First Baptist Church and publicity chairman for the "Fellowship Hour".

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Potts Opens Highlands Law Office This Week; Plans One In Franklin

Jack H. Potts, a graduate of the University of North Carolina School of Law, opened a law office in Highlands Monday and plans to open another in Franklin within the next two weeks.

Mr. Potts, who received his degree from the university in June, Tuesday said he plans to divide his time between the two towns.

He passed the state bar in August and was administered the oath of office in Waynesville on Monday by Judge Grover A. Martin.

His Highlands office is over Steve's Country Store on Main Street.

Six local businessmen—principal subscribers of the proposed "Macon County Bank"—this week purchased controlling interest in the Bank of Franklin and four of them stepped into positions on the bank's seven-man board of directors.

The six—Frank B. Duncan, Verlon Swafford, Elmon Teague, H. L. Bryant, T. W. Angel, Jr., and W. E. (Gene) Baldwin—bought the interests of M. L. Dowdle, president of the board, and board members Grover Jamison, Sr., Fred M. Arnold, and L. B. Liner.

More than 400 shares of stock, of the bank's total

Former U. S. Senator Dies In Highlands

A 75-year-old former U. S. Senator from Florida and past president of the American Bar Association, Scott M. Loftin, died of a heart attack Tuesday while vacationing in Highlands.

A Highlands summer visitor for a number of years, Mr. Loftin was stricken Friday night at the Highlands Country Club and died Tuesday about noon at the Highlands Community Hospital. He was a well-known Jacksonville attorney and civic leader.

Mr. Loftin was in the U. S. Senate from May 26 to November 3, 1936. He filled the unexpired term of the late Senator Trammell. He served as president of A.B.A. in 1934-35, and had been practicing law in Jacksonville in recent years.

The body was sent to Jacksonville for services and burial.

Franklin Men On ALCOA College Board

John M. Archer, Jr., president of Nantahala Power and Light Company, this week announced the selection of Holland McSwain, Macon County Superintendent of Schools, and the Rev. Bryan J. Hatchett, Jr., pastor of the Franklin Presbyterian Church, to serve with him as the local sponsoring committee for the Aluminum Company of America Scholarship program.

This program recently was established by Alcoa for its employees' children and those of subsidiary companies.

The duties of this committee, Mr. Archer explained, will be to name a selection board for administering the scholarship plan and to establish general policies.

At the first meeting of the sponsoring committee the following men were named to serve on the selection board for 1954: Dr. Paul A. Reid, president of Western Carolina College, Highlands; L. B. Nichols, chairman of the Andrews, S. W. Branch, of Bryson City; William H. Fluke, county agent of Highlands; Ralph L. Smith, principal of Franklin High School; and William G. Crawford, principal of East Franklin School.

A joint final meeting of the sponsoring committee and the selection board is scheduled to meet Thursday, at 6:30 o'clock at Nantahala Inn, Mr. Archer said.

At this meeting, he explained, the program will be thoroughly explained to members of the selection board, who will have the entire responsibility of selecting the eligible applicants.

QUARTET COMING

Sam Peece's "Southern Tone" quartet will appear at the Cowee School Saturday at 7:30 p. m., under the sponsorship of the community. A cakewalk also is planned.

WALDROOP REUNION

The annual Waldroop reunion is slated for October 4 at Arrowood Glade, on the Wayah Road, it has been announced. Relatives are asked to bring lunch.

of 750, reportedly changed hands in the transaction, including smaller sales by others than the four board members. The amount involved was not disclosed.

Monday, H. W. Cabe, who resigned as cashier of the bank last month to accept a position with a local motor company, returned to his old post, succeeding Mr. Liner, who resigned following the closing of the deal.

Assistant Cashier Grover Jamison, Jr., also resigned. His post has not been filled.

The deal left four vacancies on the board of directors and Mr. Duncan, Mr. Swafford, Mr. Teague, and Mr. Bryant stepped into the posts. As yet, a new president has not been elected.

A. B. Slagle, R. S. Jones, and H. W. Cabe are the other members of the seven-man board.

The six purchasers were leaders in the recent move to charter another bank here and were listed as the proposed board of directors for the new bank on a charter application filed with the State Banking Commission. The application also included the names of 54 other subscribers.

These 54 persons will be offered a proportionate share of the stock bought this week from the Bank of Franklin, according to C. Banks Finger, attorney for the proposed new bank and six purchasers. This stock will be offered in the near future, he added.

New Scoreboard Lifts Football Haze For Fans

Football fans experienced no difficulty keeping up with downs, yards to go, quarters, and THAT score (21 to 0 in favor of the Swain High Maroons) here last Friday night at the Franklin Panther's first home game of the season.

The new electric scoreboard—just one in a series of improvements at the stadium—blinked out information for the estimated 2,500 who paid to see the game, and the several hundred draped over the trees, banks, and fences outside the stadium.

This latest addition, which cost \$1,200, was purchased through donations made by more than 25 fans and concerns "also fans," many of whom were tired of trying to figure out the progress of the games mentally.

But now the haze is lifted, thanks to:

Dr. and Mrs. Furman Ange (the doctor led the drive in donations and contributed \$225 to the cause), Dowdle Wholesale Supply Company, (\$25), The Prentiss Food Products Company and Teague brothers (\$25), Mrs. Hall Allan (\$5), Mrs. W. A. Rogers (\$25), John M. Archer, Jr. (\$25), J. Harry Thomas (\$5), Lake V. Shope (\$5), Harley Stewart (\$25), Macon Motor Company (\$10), Miss Kate McGee (\$5), Macon County Hardware (\$25), Conley Motor Company (\$25), Dr. Ben P. Grant (\$25), Frank B. Duncan (\$25), Bryant Furniture Company (\$25), Lee Poindexter (\$25), Carolina Pharmacy (\$25), Perry Drug Store (\$5), Dr. E. W. Fisher (\$25), Macon Cleaners (\$10), W. N. Sloan (\$5), and Wiley Clark (\$25).

Lumber for the scoreboard frame work was donated by Zickgraf Hardware Company, and Nantahala Power and Light Company and Western Carolina Telephone Company joined forces for the installation.