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NANTAHALAS CLOSED UNTIL RAINS COME

**Dry Weather Prompts
Issuance Of Order;
Two Blazes Reported**

An increasing number of forest fires and continued dry weather Monday forced the closing of the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests to all but through travel and lumber operations, Ranger John Wasilik, Jr., has announced.

The order will remain in effect until it rains, he said.

Meanwhile, two fires broke out this week in this county—one on Nantahala forest land, the other on county land. Both are now under control.

The fire on government land broke out Saturday afternoon on the southwest side of Nantahala Lake in the Laurel Branch section. Crews dispatched by Ranger Wasilik had the fire under control by 1 a. m. Sunday after approximately 50 acres had been burned over.

County Fire Warden J. Fred Bryson reported a small fire was brought under control early Tuesday night in the Watauga section near the Ridgecrest Baptist Church. The fire, which burned about an acre, was reported at 6:20 and by 7:30 some 23 volunteers from the community had it under control, the warden said.

The closing order for the national forests reads, in part:

"Whereas, the lack of rainfall, drying winds, and other causes have rendered forests within the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests highly inflammable and subject to great loss by fire, and whereas, forests and the resources, developments, and products thereof are a valuable and vital asset to the welfare of this country, and whereas, it is imperative that the forest be protected by the prevention of fire and the elimination of all possible sources of fire, now, therefore, pursuant to the authority of existing regulations made and promulgated by the Secretary of Agriculture, an emergency is hereby declared to exist within the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, and all lands of the United States within the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forest are hereby ordered closed to use by the public except as to those specifically permitted by a duly authorized forest officer and the right of those who actually and permanently reside or have settled within the Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests to ingress and egress ordinarily exercised by them in connection with such occupancy or residence. . . ."

Fire Chief Asks For Cooperation

With fire danger mounting daily because of dry weather, Franklin Fire Chief A. C. Tysinger yesterday (Wednesday) urged citizens to exercise the utmost caution.

The chief asked that no leaves be burned except in a cleared area and when there is no wind.

Pointing out that overheated oil heaters have caused four fires within the past two weeks, the chief also suggested that chimneys and flues be checked and cleaned. A burning chimney is difficult to extinguish and can burn a home quickly, he added.

The past four alarms have cost the town approximately \$200—proving that fire can not only be expensive to the home owner but to the taxpayer as well, Chief Tysinger said.

RATE DECISION UPHeld

The State Supreme Court has upheld Superior Court Judge Allen H. Gwyn's decision to refuse a rate increase to the Nantahala Power and Light Company, which has home offices in Franklin, against its industrial consumers. The supreme court reviewed the judge's action and handed down its decision Wednesday of last week. The rate increase request was appealed to the courts earlier in the year by the Mead Corporation, of Sylva.

Contest Winners, Raleigh Speaker Mark Dinner



Saturday night's awards dinner for the 1953 Macon County Rural Community Development Contest featured the announcement of the contest winners and an address by F. H. Jeter, of Raleigh, extension service editor. In the photograph at left, Mr. Jeter (center) is shown looking over the scrapbook of the first place Patton community with Western District Farm Agent Bryan Collins (left) and Morris McGough, executive vice-president of the Asheville Agricultural Development Council, Inc. In the photograph at right, the presidents of the winning communities are shown receiving checks from John M. Archer, Jr., president of Nantahala Power and Light Company; (L to R) Roy Potts, West Union; J. Fred Bryson, Carson; Calvin Roland, Oak Grove; Mr. Archer; Charlie Sutton, Clark's Chapel; Erwin Patton, Patton; Wallace Morgan, Bethel; and Woodrow Teague, Prentiss. The dinner was given by the 13 communities in the contest in honor of local business and professional men who contributed money to the contest fund.

—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

Franklin Hi Homecoming Set Friday

Tomorrow (Friday) night will be homecoming at Franklin High School as Coach R. A. Byrd's Panthers meet Clyde High School on the local field for the final game of the 1953-54 grid season.

Last Friday afternoon in Bethel the Panthers' win-loss record for the season became 3-6 when the Bethel Blue Demons handed them a 20 to 12 defeat, in a game which saw the locals almost upset the Bethel heavyweights in the last half.

A stiff contest is now going on at the high school to select a "Homecoming Queen", who will be crowned and entertained royally during half-time festivities tomorrow night. The queen contest is being sponsored by the Franklin Band.

Band members also reported they have a colorful and unprecedented performance planned during the half while the queen is being extended the courtesies of homecoming. The program will include a trumpet solo by Band Director S. F. Beck.

In the Bethel game the Blue Demons banged across all their scores in the first half, leaving Franklin the last half to register an upset. And the Panthers tried.

Trailing in the first half, the Panthers caught fire and ran and passed to the first score—a handoff from Bobby Womack to Vic Teague. Their second tally came in the third quarter when a pass interception by Junior Dills set up the paydirt play—a 28-yard pass from Bobby Jack Love to Doyle Clark.

At intervals the Panthers threatened to tie up the game, but time ran out before they could get up a good head of steam.

DEPUTIES GET 2 STILLS HERE

**Over The Week-End
Units And Equipment
Destroyed In Raids**

Still-hunting Macon deputies had a field day over the week-end.

Saturday afternoon Deputies Newell Pendergrass and Van Frazier destroyed a 60-gallon unit and 220 gallons of mash in the Chatauge River section of the county.

Then Sunday afternoon, a 35-gallon still and "one of the biggest barrels of mash I have ever seen", fell under the axe, according to Deputy Pendergrass. This find was in the Buck Creek section. The deputy, who was assisted by Deputy A. V. Garrett, reported a big wood vat. Garrett, reported a big wooden vat at the still site held at least 300 gallons of mash.

Neither still was in operation at the time.

LABOR SURVEY IS SUCCESSFUL

**Estimated 1,800 Fill
Out Blanks; Committee
Now Compiling Results**

An estimated 1,800 persons filled out labor survey blanks Friday and Saturday during a county-wide maneuver by the Macon County Industrial Committee to obtain an inside picture of the county's over-all labor picture.

Although complete reports have not been received from some sections of the county, Chairman Frank B. Duncan termed the survey "highly successful" and expressed his appreciation for the fine spirit of cooperation shown.

Members of the committee are now busy tabulating and classifying results that have been received. When the entire job has been completed, the labor facts and other pertinent information covering the entire economy of the county will be printed in illustrated booklet form for distribution to industries interested in moving South.

In announcing unofficial results, Mr. Duncan gave the thanks of his committee to

SEE NO. 3, PAGE 12

Eagle-Eyed Housewife Watches Meteor Streak Across County

A phenomenal daylight meteor—reported seen in various sections of the state—was spotted here Monday afternoon by an eagle-eyed housewife, Mrs. W. T. Jenkins.

Standing in front of Reeves Hardware Company about 5 o'clock, Mrs. Jenkins saw the unusual "blue ball of fire" streak north-south at an altitude of several thousand feet.

"At first I thought it was a roman candle," she said. The object is reported to have exploded somewhere in the vicinity of Dillard, Ga., but The Press was unable to confirm this.

Macon's Record In Recent Bond Election Now Known

Annual Red Cross Meet Is Scheduled

Now it is known what a record Macon County made in last month's school bond election.

Unofficial returns indicated, soon after the October 3 balloting on the \$50,000,000 North Carolina school bond issue, that Macon was one of the leaders in piling up the majority by which the bonds were favored, but it took the compilation of the official vote in each of the state's counties to reveal how good a showing this county did make.

Analysis of the State Board of Election's official figures, county by county (and comparison of those figures with the 1950 populations of the counties) shows:

1. Although 77 counties have larger population than Macon, in only 12 of the 100 counties were more votes cast for the school bond issue.

2. In only three counties were the bonds favored by a larger percentage of those voting.

3. Macon ranked 2nd in the state in the proportion of its population that went to the polls and voted. It was topped only by neighboring Clay.

Sixty-five North Carolina counties that have more people than Macon cast fewer votes for the bonds. The only 12 where the vote for the bond issue was larger were Carteret, Duplin, Johnston, Stanly, Surry, Wilkes, and the counties containing the state's larger cities—Buncombe, Durham, Forsyth, Guilford, Mecklenburg, and Wake. Eastern Carolina's Carteret, the smallest among the 12 in population, has 23,059 people, as compared with Macon's 16,174.

Among the counties that trailed Macon in total vote cast for

SEE NO. 3, PAGE 12

Top Showmen And Reserve Champion



For the fourth straight year, Macon County swept the field at the W.N.C. Fat Stock Show and Sale. The F.F.A. and 4-H club members this year collected the reserve champion, 27 blue ribbons and one red, took 1st and 2nd places in showmanship, and won both county events. In the photograph at right, Charles Gregory, son of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Gregory, of Franklin, Route 4, is shown with his reserve champion. At left are (L to R) Bill Fouts and Johnny Killian, who placed 1st and 2nd, respectively, in showmanship.

—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

Patton Wins Rural Development Event

Patton, Carson, Clark's Chapel, Oak Grove, West Union, and Bethel-Prentiss—that's how the communities placed in the 1953 Macon County Rural Community Development Contest.

The winners, who received a total of \$1,050 in prize money, were announced at a special awards dinner Saturday at the Franklin High School cafeteria, given by the 13 communities entered in the contest in honor of Franklin business and professional men who contributed to the prize fund.

MACON SWEEPS SHOW AND SALE

**Youngsters Give Credit
To Supporters; Names
Of Winners Listed**

For the fourth straight year, Macon County Future Farmers of America and 4-H club members returned home from the annual W. N. C. Fat Stock Show and Sale with the lion's share of honors.

At the show and sale, which was held at the Homy Valley Horse and Hound Pavilion, near Enka, last Wednesday and Thursday, the local youngsters turned in another impressive performance—nothing new with them—by having:

(1) the reserve champion—a 1,150-pound steer owned by Charles Gregory, son of Mr. and Mrs. Parker Gregory, of Franklin, Route 4.

(2) 27 blue ribbons and one red.

(3) 1st and 2nd place in showmanship, and

(4) 1st places both in the "best county group of three animals" and "best county group of five animals".

With the exception of the grand champion, which has been from this county for the last three years, there was little else they could have won. This year's grand champion was a Haywood calf.

The credit for their success at this and past shows, the youngsters feel, goes entirely to local citizens who have thrown their support behind them.

At Thursday's sale, these local boosters turned out in force to support the price of the calves.

The 28 Macon entries, which tipped the scales at 26,305 pounds, brought \$7,991.11—slightly more than 30½ cents per pound.

Young Gregory's reserve champion was purchased by the Bank of Franklin for 40 cents per pound.

SEE NO. 5, PAGE 12

Draft Board Inducts 11 Men Monday

Eleven Macon County men reported to Knoxville, Tenn., Monday for induction into the army in the largest induction call here since June.

Reporting were Lloyd B. Gregory (volunteer), of Highlands, Kenneth M. Dills, of Franklin, Miller S. Norris, of Otto, Harold D. Gregory, of Franklin, Weaver L. Shuler, of Route 3, Kenneth R. Bleckley, of Prentiss, Buster M. Thomas, of Route 1, James R. Barnes, of Sealy, Charlie C. Gibson, of Highlands, Thomas T. Guy, of Route 3, and Norman A. Seay, of Cullasaja.

Another local registrant, James Deal, of West's Mill, reported for induction in Youngstown, Ohio, the board secretary, Mrs. Gilmer A. Jones, said.

Five men went to Knoxville for pre-induction examinations, the secretary added.

Cruising Crane Ends Cruising

A crane-feathered variety—brought his migration plans to an abrupt and shocking halt here last Thursday night about 10:30 when he flew into a power line in the East Franklin area.

Some homes were without power for about half an hour while power company crews replaced a blown fuse.

The blue and white crane, which had a wing span of about six feet, was found on the ground under the wires—dead. It was a 2,300 volt wire he cruised into.

John M. Archer, Jr., president of the Nantahala Power and Light Company, presented checks to the seven winners, who were selected last week by two out-of-county judges. Because of a tie, duplicate prizes were awarded to Bethel and Prentiss in 6th place.

In addition to the announcement of the winners, the highlight of the dinner was an address by F. H. Jeter, of Raleigh, extension service editor.

Mr. Jeter, who was introduced by Western District Farm Agent Bryan Collins, of Asheville, proved to his audience he is a master of the joke as a means of driving home the pertinent facts he wishes to emphasize.

For nearly an hour the extension service editor kept dinner guests laughing almost constantly as he put across a speech studded with thought-provoking points and sound advice.

The winners of this year's rural contest were selected by Mrs. Velma B. Moore, Clay County home agent, and Homer Gilliland, head of the community development program on the Cherokee Indian Reservation. The judges spent Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday of last week touring the 13 communities and devoted the nights to studying scrapbooks submitted by each community.

In making their decision, the judges paid special recognition to: Tellico for effort and vision; Smithbridge for handling a large, unwieldy, and widely scattered community; Mulberry for originality and enthusiasm for future projects; Cartoogechaye for runner-up position in the contest; Longview for ambition to "do more next year"; and to Holly Springs for setting the pace for the entire county.

Prize money for the contest, which was formed here in the spring, was contributed by local businessmen. The awards schedule was \$400, 1st; \$250, 2nd; \$150, 3rd; \$100, 4th; \$75, 5th; and \$50, 6th.

Saturday night's awards dinner was a joint "thank you" by the 13 communities for the support received from the businessmen.

Erwin Patton, president of the winning Patton community and head of the county contest council, presided at the dinner.

The welcome was given by Walter Taylor, president of the Holly Springs community, the first to enter the contest. In his address, Mr. Taylor remarked, "Holly Springs couldn't have placed where it did in last year's area contest (tie for 5th) without the assistance of the businessmen of Franklin, and we are grateful for their help. . . . and the 13 communities now in the contest feel that when businessmen in a town the size of Franklin can raise more money than a city the size of Asheville, they deserve a good supper."

In responding for the businessmen, W. W. Reeves, who was one of the leaders in the movement, declared "the business and professional men of

SEE NO. 6, PAGE 12

The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall, as recorded in Franklin by Manson Stiles, U. S. weather observer, and at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory:

FRANKLIN	
Temperatures	
High Low Rain	
Wednesday	71 31
Thursday	55 40
Friday	51 37
Saturday	54 17
Sunday	58 21
Monday	62 16
Tuesday	59 15
COWEETA	
Temperatures	
High Low Rain	
Wednesday	67 33
Thursday	53 44
Friday	49 35
Saturday	53 16
Sunday	57 25
Monday	61 18
Tuesday	58 16