

SCHOLARSHIP GROUP PICKS BEN EDWARDS

Selection Is Made From Five Students At Franklin High

Ben Edwards, 17-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. John Edwards, of Franklin, is this county's nominee for a \$5,000 Morehead scholarship at the University of North Carolina.

Young Edwards, an outstanding Eagle Scout and holder of a hiking record for the Appalachian Trail, was selected for the honor Friday from among five applicants by the Macon scholarship committee composed of W. W. (Bill) Sloan, Mrs. Frank H. Potts, and Victor Perry.

The other four students recommended were Holland McSwain, Jr., Bill Zickgraf, Bill Dinnes, and Raymond Ledford. The five were selected by a committee at Franklin High School headed by Principal Ralph L. Smith.

Mr. Sloan said yesterday the names of the four have been submitted to the university for consideration for other scholarships.

As county winner, young Edwards will go before a district committee for an interview soon after the first of the year. Should he emerge district winner, he will then advance to the state competition where scholarship recipients will be picked.

The five young men in the county feature were individually interviewed by the committee and were judged on the basis of scholastic standing, moral character, and leadership.

Young Edwards, who last year received the "God and Country" church award, is junior assistant scoutmaster of Franklin Troop 1. As an Eagle Scout he has earned the Bronze, Gold, and Silver palms.

His love of the outdoors recently paid dividends when he broke a record by hiking a 72-mile stretch of the Appalachian Trail in 24 hours and 28 minutes.

Dr. Hill Opens Optometry Office

Dr. J. L. Hill, a native of Bat Cave, today (Wednesday) opened an office in the Nantahala Building for the practice of optometry.

He attended Appalachian State Teachers College and was graduated from the Northern Illinois College of Optometry in February, 1951. The doctor then entered the army and was stationed at the Madigan Army Hospital in Tacoma, Wash., until being discharged in September of this year.

Dr. Hill and his wife are living in the Bryant Apartments on Harrison Avenue.

OTTO SQUARE DANCE

A square dance will be sponsored at Otto School Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock by the P.T.A., it has been announced.

Local Firemen Are Smiling, And For A Good Reason, Too

Check those smiles on the faces of Franklin's volunteer firemen!

There's a reason: The new \$10,000 American-LaFrance fire truck arrived yesterday (Tuesday). But then again, their smiles are somewhat delayed because it's just about time to celebrate the 1st anniversary of the new fire truck—give about three months. The badly needed addition to the one-truck department was ordered by the board of aldermen last March—but the American LaFrance Foamite Corporation was unable to give fast delivery as promised because of top priority civilian defense contracts, according to Fire Chief A. C. Tysinger.

So, since early in the summer, firemen have been keeping their fingers crossed. With the present truck, which is badly in need of repair, a big fire could have been disastrous.

But the new truck has come to the rescue. Chief Tysinger said yesterday the old truck will be given a long overdue overhaul and will then be put back into action.

Citizens also greeted the arrival of the new truck, which can pump 500 gallons of water a minute, with sighs of relief, confident that the town will be protected when the department answers a call outside the city limits.

In fact, everybody's smiling!

0-Friday (b-r-r-r-r) Is Competitor With Monday For First Winter Day

If Friday was a sampling of what Old Man Winter has up his sleeve a lot of Macon folk are rooting for an early spring. Although Winter didn't officially bow in until Monday, Friday made a good stab at trying to change the arrival date: the mercury thumped to a shivering 0 and the high for the day was a chilly—but welcome—34 degrees, according to Mansson Stiles, T.V.A. weather observer.

Local garages were busy into the day helping start ailing automobiles, a few frozen radiators were reported, and large numbers of overcoats (and we suspect an equal number of "long handles", too) were pulled out the mothballs by chilly citizens.

Saturday didn't show too much in the way of warmth with a low of 5 degrees and a high of 50. But, after a low of 14 Sunday, the weather started acting pre-winter again and Winter made its debut Monday with a balmy low of 38.

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Survey Group Visits Here

A committee of four from the state division of school planning put Macon County's school needs down in black and white, following a complete survey of the school system here last Thursday and Friday.

While the committee's findings were not disclosed, County School Supt. Holland McSwain said the men commended the citizens of the county highly for their demonstrated interest in the welfare of the children in the county's recent million dollar school building program and for their overwhelming support in the October school bond election.

A detailed report from the committee probably will be received here at an early date, the superintendent said.

The committee, composed of W. L. Lathan, who is in charge

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COUNTY HAS 3RD HIGHWAY DEATH OF '53

Anderson, S. C. Man Dies Of Injuries Received In Macon

A 38-year-old Anderson, S. C., man became Macon County's 3rd highway fatality of 1953 when he died last Wednesday afternoon in an Anderson hospital of injuries received in an accident on NC 28 two days before (December 14).

The victim was identified as T. D. McCallister, one of four passengers in a 1949 Ford, which was demolished in a pre-dawn plunge down a 200 foot embankment about five miles south of Highlands.

The driver of the death car, Arthur O. Irby, 45, also of Anderson, is being held in the county jail here under \$2,000 bond on a charge of involuntary manslaughter. Irby, who was jailed for drunk driving and no driver's license following the wreck, told Highway Patrolman H. T. Ferguson the accident climaxed a drinking party by the four.

Although McCallister died in Anderson, officers said the fatality will be charged against the county because the wreck occurred here.

In addition to McCallister and Irby, the other passengers were Jeanette Guyton, 42 and Brinda Lee Carlton, 14, both of Anderson.

Midnight Mass Set

Midnight mass will be held at the St. Francis Catholic Chapel Christmas Eve by Father Newman, of St. John's in Waynesville.

It will be the first time midnight mass has ever been held here, according to John Wasilik, Catholic layman. The St. Francis chapel was dedicated earlier in the year. Prior to that time, Catholic services were held at the Wasilik home.

In Macon County She's Known As The 'Book Lady'

To the school children of Macon County she's known as the "Book Lady".

And she's probably the most wonderful and generous friend they have, this woman in Pasadena, Calif., whose one visit here many years ago prompted her to invest thousands of dollars in the libraries (and her gifts started several) of the county schools.

She is Mrs. Angie W. Cox and over the past 15 years she has sent the schools here thousands of books of all kinds, from primary readers to professional sets.

This generous woman was first introduced to Macon some 15 years ago by Mrs. Virginia Ramsey, a Cartoogechaye teacher, who was then teaching in Kentucky. At the invitation of Mrs. Ramsey, Mrs. Cox visited the county. Those were the days of the one-teacher schools, and naturally libraries in the minds of most school children were things of the big city. But Mrs. Cox decided to change this idea.

Since then, some school in the county has received a shipment of books each month.

Taking her project a step farther, the "Book Lady" recently sent more than 300 professional books and a mimeograph machine for the Teacher Center at Franklin Elementary School, a record player for Nantahala School, and a primer typewriter for use by primary teachers.

School children keep the postman in Pasadena busy, too. After each shipment of books the "Book Lady" receives letters of thanks—from children who no longer associate libraries with big cities.

Macon To Kitty Hawk



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady

The several hundred miles separating Iotla School and the famed memorial to the Wright brothers at Kitty Hawk on the northern coast of the state means nothing to the three sixth graders pictured above. They were right in on last Thursday's celebration of the 50th anniversary of man's first flight with a scale model of the Wright brother's history making plane. The three boys—(L to R) Guy Duvall, Ervin Burrell, (holding model) and Douglas Crisp—constructed the wood model from pictures clipped from newspapers and magazines, according to Wilford Corbin, their teacher. Mr. Corbin's class has been making a study of aviation progress as a class project. In the background of the picture is an aviation display prepared by the class.

Rural Christmas Displays Are Receiving Attention

Press Delayed By Breakdown

Last week's issue of The Press was a little late coming off the press.

And boy-oh-boy did the subscribers let the staff know about it! Under ordinary circumstances, the newspaper is printed Wednesday afternoon and is mailed Thursday morning. But an electric motor on the newspaper press burned

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Ten colorful and attractive Christmas displays located at various points in the county are receiving a lot of comment from night-riding sightseers.

The displays were erected last week by the 10 communities entered in the Christmas decorations contest being sponsored by the Nantahala Power and Light Company, which is offering \$100 for the three top winners—\$50, 1st, \$30, 2nd, and \$20, 3rd.

A steady stream of automobiles has been noted moving through the county since the displays were erected Saturday night.

W. W. (Bill) Sloan, director of rural service at N.P.L., said the communities will keep the displays lighted nightly until 10 o'clock through December 29. The displays will be judged some time during the week by a secret panel and winners will be announced in next week's issue of The Press.

Here are the locations of the displays in the communities:

Carson: On US 64 at the Carson Chapel Methodist Church.

Cartoogechaye: On US 64 at the Patton Methodist Church.

Mulberry: At the community picnic area on US 23 (south).

Smithbridge: Just south of Otto on US 23 (south).

Prentiss: Near the Prentiss Post Office.

Clark's Chapel: At the Clark's Chapel Methodist Church.

Holly Springs: At the Holly Springs Community Building.

Cowee: At Cowee School on NC 28 (Bryson City highway).

Oak Grove: At the Oak Grove Baptist Church just off NC 28 (Bryson City highway).

MACON READY TO OBSERVE CHRISTMAS

Celebration Lists Church Services And Special Programs

Friday will be a busy day in Macon County. Naturally everyone knows it's Christmas.

For the children the day will mean a visit from that fabulous old gent in the red suit, whose very name produces visions of presents, fruits and nuts, and a day of fun.

For adults it has deeper meaning. It marks the birthday of Christ, an anniversary that somehow in some places has lost its significance in the onrush of commercialism—but not in this county.

As is traditional here, citizens plan to celebrate the day as it was meant to be celebrated—with special church services and religious programs. A number of civic organizations and individuals are making sure the needy of the county realize Christmas is for all, regardless of financial and social standing.

All churches in the county have embarked on programs to "Keep Christ in Christmas".

A county-wide carol sing was held last (Tuesday) night on the Town Square under the sponsorship of the Macon County Ministerial Association.

Tonight (Wednesday) the Jaycees are sponsoring a special Christmas program at the Franklin Methodist Church at 8 o'clock. Admission will be a toy or gift for the needy. Highlights of the program will include Christmas selections by a special 33-voice choir from the churches of the county. The gifts will be distributed Christmas Eve by Jaycees.

Carol singing and the observance of Holy Communion is planned Christmas Eve at 11:30 p. m. at the St. Agnes Episcop-

CONCERNS CLOSING

Most Franklin merchants have indicated plans for closing their stores Friday in order to give employees time off for Christmas. The post office will close Christmas and New Year's Day and will offer only limited service the day following each of the holidays.

At 5:30 a. m. Christmas Day, Dr. A. Rufus Morgan, Episcopal rector, will conduct Holy Communion at the St. Cypryan church and at 11 a. m. at the Highlands Church of the Incarnation.

Midnight mass will be held at the St. Francis Catholic Chapel Christmas Eve (11:30 o'clock) by Father Newman, of Waynesville.

Special Christmas programs and plays were held in all county schools before they closed for the holidays Friday afternoon.

A "White Christmas" was held at the Franklin Baptist Church and similar programs have been held, or are scheduled this week, at churches throughout the county.

Merry Christmas, Folks, From The 10 Press Santas



Welman Jones

Bob Sloan

Mrs. A. A. Sher

Carl P. Cabe

J. P. Brady

Frank A. Starrotte

Betty Fouts

David Sutton

Charles Whittington

Mack Jones