

KIDS TO TAKE OVER DUTIES OF OFFICIALS

School Elections Slated For Jaycee Americanism Work

New governments will take over the affairs of Macon County and its two towns, Franklin and Highlands, on February 26. No, it won't be a coup or a revolution.

City and county officials will step down for the day and turn administration affairs over to elementary and high school students elected by their fellow students.

This new approach in practical Americanism is being sponsored by the Franklin Jaycees to acquaint students with the inner workings of government and to stimulate their interest in the complexities of politics and government.

G. A. Jones, Jr., Jaycee Americanism chairman, explained this week that the students will live government from the beginning to the end in the day-long experiment. They will conduct elections in the schools prior to taking over the offices of the various officials, with party politics playing major roles.

Under the election set-up, two parties—Maconians and Carolinians—will attempt to put their candidates into office.

With the help of school faculties, students are now in the process of electing student election chairmen and three-member boards of election. Party organization also is under way.

Franklin High School will elect officers for Franklin and a similar program will be conducted by Highlands High. Three county offices of sheriff, clerk of court, and register of deeds will be filled by Nantahala High. Franklin and Highlands will elect school and welfare superintendents, although actually the two posts are not elective offices.

Student county commissioners will be elected by each of the elementary schools.

Hero Of Mine Cave-In Who Saved Reid Says He's Had His Last Day Digging



Hero Of Cave-In Has Had Enough

"I've had my last day in a mine!"

This curt and emphatic declaration by Robert Williams, the 28-year-old miner whose quick thinking in the face of death is credited with the saving of the life of a fellow miner in Monday's tragic cave-in at the Mill Knob Mine, sums up how the hero feels about grubbing for mica.

In a crude mining shack some 150 yards from where workers were attempting to free A. W. Reid and recover the body of Donald Holland, Mr. Williams reviewed the terrifying moments of the cave-in. He was visibly shaken by the ordeal. His voice quivered as he rubbed his cut and bleeding hands in a half daze.

"I'm just plain lucky, that's all . . . we heard someone on the surface yell that she was cracking and we headed out . . . I was a couple of feet ahead of Andy and Donald when she fell and the dirt poured all around me and something knocked the breath out of me . . . I dug out and saw Andy's hat swirling around in the dust and I knew he was there somewhere, so I started clawing through . . . I got his head uncovered and when his eyes fluttered I saw he was alive and I lit out of there."

"I can tell you one thing right now . . . I've had my last day in a mine."

V. F. W. Supper Celebrates Week: '53 Projects Listed

Members of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post celebrated National V.F.W. Week (January 24-30) with a special membership supper last Wednesday night, basking in the limelight of being the only post in the 17th district to reach its assigned quota of 165 men.

The supper was an informal affair, highlighted by a report on the post's progress in community service during 1953 by Commander Jack Ragan.

And it was strictly a "stag" dinner. V.F.W. wives prepared the meal and then bowed out with all of that noise from the machinery."

The live-wire Franklin post, chartered in 1946, outraced posts in Asheville, Hendersonville, Brevard, Canton, and Hayesville in reaching membership quotas. The post also has more members percentage-wise than

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Slide Eyewitness Says 'I Yelled'

"I saw it cracking and I yelled as loud as I could, but they couldn't have heard thunder with all of that noise from the machinery."

That's Jess Corbin speaking. He's the only eyewitness to the tragic cave-in.

Mr. Corbin was operating a mine hoist on the lip of the strip mine. Near him an air compressor added to the din. Some 50 feet below him in the bowels of the mine, three men

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Miner Dies, Another Injured In Mine Cave-In Here Monday

A 38-year-old father of five was killed late Monday afternoon in a tragic mica mine cave-in near Franklin, which saw another narrowly cheat death through the heroic efforts of a fellow miner.

Killed when tons of dirt and rock toppled into the 50-foot open pit at the Mill Knob Mine about 3:30 o'clock was Donald Holland, a native of Cullasaja.

A crew of grim-faced rescuers cautiously dug through the cave-in for more than an hour freeing A. W. (Andy) Reid, 61-year-old veteran miner, who owes his life to an employe, Robert Williams.

Mr. Williams, although stunned and groggy, pulled himself loose from the avalanche and clawed the dirt from around Mr. Reid's face so he could breathe.

Injured and cold, Mr. Reid was pinned in the debris for more than an hour before the crew succeeded in freeing him. He was rushed to Angel Hospital by ambulance where his injuries were listed as a fractured right shoulder blade, a head laceration, and injuries to his left leg. The hospital reported yesterday (Wednesday) he is in a "satisfactory condition."

Board Favors TV Antenna Atop Pisgah

The Franklin Board of Aldermen favors the controversial proposal to construct a TV antenna atop Mt. Pisgah near Asheville.

At a brief session Monday night, the board voted to wire its approval of the proposal to Don J. Morris, supervisor of the North Carolina National Forest.

The proposal is meeting stiff opposition from persons contending the antenna would be an eyesore on the mountain peak.

Construction of a city hall was discussed by the board, but no action was taken. At the present time, aldermen are investigating the possibility of putting the building on the town lot at the intersection of Iola Street and Church Street extension, where the fire house is located.

A special bond election probably will be forthcoming if the board decides to build.

BUYERS RUSH FOR '54 TAGS

610 Buy Saturday; 4,428 Total Above Period Last Year

Just as expected, motorists flooded the office of the Carolina Motor Club here Saturday to buy 1954 license tags.

Saturday was the official deadline, but it was later extended to midnight Tuesday. However, this failed to stop Saturday's rush.

The day was anything but normal, according to Verlon Swafford, manager. A long line formed about 9 o'clock and by closing time at 6, last-minute buyers had snapped up 610 tags. Three hundred seventy-nine were for automobiles, 218 for trucks, 12 for trailers, and one motorcycle.

Compared with 1953, sales at the local office were considerably higher. Through Tuesday, new tag sales totaled 4,428, as against 2,845 in 1953 for the same period.

22nd H. D. Club Formed Monday At Higdonville

The 22nd home demonstration club in the county came into being Monday night with the organization of Higdonville.

Mrs. Eva Corbin was elected president; Mrs. W. W. Berry, vice-president; Mrs. Fred Corbin, secretary; and Mrs. Marie Stamey, treasurer.

The new club has 13 charter members. The organizational meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Lily Young at Cullasaja, with Mrs. Florence S. Sherrill, county home agent, assisting. Meetings will be held the first Monday afternoon of each month. The next is scheduled March 1 at 1:30 o'clock at the home of Mrs. Lily Crawford.

AT BAND CLINIC

Misses Norma Jean Welch and Nancy Angel represented the Franklin Band at the W. N. C. High School Band Clinic at Western Carolina College, Cullowhee, Saturday. Band Director S. F. Beck said eight other band members were selected, but did not attend.

The heroic miner, who is 28, told a reporter he saw Mr. Reid's hat in the swirling dust and "just started digging." "They couldn't hear" A shouted warning to the three men working in the mine was drowned out by the noise of mining machinery. Jess Corbin, who was operating a hoist on the surface, said he saw the huge slide crack loose and he shouted "as loud as I could". But, because of the noise of the hoist motor and a nearby compressor, Mr. Corbin said they "couldn't have heard thunder". "I rushed into the hole as soon as the slide stopped", Mr. Corbin said, "and I found Bob (Williams) digging Andy's face out . . ."

Work Under Threat In near-freezing temperatures, a small rescue crew raced time and the ominous threat of more of the weakened mine wall falling on them to free Mr. Reid, who owns and operates the mine. During the hour they gingerly dug around the injured man small chunks of earth dropped menacingly into the deep shaft and several cracks in the wall widened.

The veteran miner chatted with his rescuers as they worked and, although he was still covered from the waist down, helped them locate the body of Mr. Holland.

"That's the second one", Mr. Reid snapped at a photographer, "why don't you take that thing (camera) away."

Other miners on the scene reported Mr. Reid was buried almost up to his neck in a cave-in at the mine last summer.

Doctor Goes In Soon after reports of the cave-in reached Franklin, vehicles choked the rough road leading to the mine. Among the first on the scene was Dr. J. W. Kahn, who went into the hole to check on the injured man's condition.

While the doctor was examining the imprisoned miner, the crew uncovered the arm of Mr. Holland, whose body was lying to one side of Mr. Reid. The doctor reported he could feel no pulse and the men immediately concentrated on freeing the injured man.

"I'm Just Lucky" As the crew worked, the quick thinking miner who uncovered Mr. Reid's face, paced back and forth along the lip of the mine, stopping to answer questions asked by the rapidly growing crowd of spectators.

Visibly shaken by his narrow scrape with death, Mr. Williams said "I'm just plain lucky and I know it."

And he's through with mining. . . I've had my last day

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The Weather

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

| FRANKLIN | | | |
|--------------|------|-----|------|
| Temperatures | | | |
| | High | Low | Rain |
| Wednesday | 67 | 50 | .13 |
| Thursday | 52 | 29 | .12 |
| Friday | 52 | 28 | .... |
| Saturday | 56 | 25 | .... |
| Sunday | 52 | 20 | .... |
| Monday | 58 | 14 | .... |
| Tuesday | 61 | 33 | .... |

| COWEETA | | | |
|--------------|------|-----|------|
| Temperatures | | | |
| | High | Low | Rain |
| Wednesday | 66 | 50 | .18 |
| Thursday | 50 | 30 | .08 |
| Friday | 48 | 27 | .... |
| Saturday | 56 | 24 | .... |
| Sunday | 52 | 18 | .... |
| Monday | 58 | 15 | .... |
| Tuesday | 60 | 32 | .... |



The above pictures—rushed by car to Gainesville, Ga., for engraving in order to appear in this issue—are scenes of Monday afternoon's grim cave-in at the Mill Knob Mine. At upper left, A. W. Reid, whose face was uncovered following the cave-in by a fellow miner, looks upward as men dig to free him from his near grave. Below left, a crew brings out the body of Donald Holland, 38, who died in the tragic avalanche. At right, Dr. J. W.

Kahn (white shirt) is shown going down into the mine to check on the condition of Mr. Reid, who is trapped in the area at the bottom of the picture. The buckets were used to haul dirt out of the hole. The center inset, taken from the lip of the strip mine, shows men working around Mr. Reid (arrow) trying to locate the body of Mr. Holland. Mr. Reid is now in Angel Hospital recovering from injuries.

Photo by J. P. Brad