

## HOPE TO PAVE PROJECT SOON, ENGINEER SAYS

### Shaping Up Should Start Next Week, Surfacing April 1

Conditioning of the road bed of the \$618,000 Franklin-Cowee Gap highway project (US 23) is expected to get under way some time next week and, weather permitting, surfacing should start early in April.

In an interview yesterday (Wednesday) Resident Engineer S. T. Wray said the contractor for the 7.34-mile project has informed him that crews will start shaping up the road bed as soon as possible. Stone for the surface treatment already has been stockpiled for the job, he said.

The contractor, J. C. Critcher, Inc., also plans to begin work immediately on the short stretch from the Franklin city limits to the Little Tennessee Bridge, the engineer added.

Meanwhile, grading on the Jackson County side of the project is moving along rapidly. An estimated third of the grading on the 9.42-mile link has been completed and structures are about 15 per cent finished, Mr. Wray said. This section of the project was let to contract late last summer. Macon Construction Company, a local concern, was awarded the contract.

The Franklin-Cowee project was started in the fall of 1952. Since that time, motorists have been detouring over NC 28.

## 50-Gallon Still Destroyed Sunday

A 50-gallon still and an estimated 1,000 gallons of mash were destroyed by A.T.U. agent Heaton and local officers early Sunday night.

The still, which Sheriff J. Harry Thomas said had been in operation only a short time, was found near Tin Cup Gap off the Rainbow Springs Road. Sheriff Thomas said the unit apparently had been moved in from Clay County. It was not in operation at the time of the raid and no arrest was made.

A small quantity of whiskey was found and destroyed, he said.

Other officers taking part in the raid were Chief Deputy Newell Pendergrass and Deputy A. V. Garrett.

## Federal Agent Assigned Here

G. L. Forrester, of Greensboro, federal internal revenue agent, has been assigned to this area and has an office on the second floor of the Franklin Post Office building. Another agent is expected to join him shortly. They will work Macon, Jackson, Swain, Clay, and Cherokee counties.

## Local O.E.S. Installation Set Tonight

A public installation of the new officers of the Nequassa Chapter, Order of Eastern Star, is set for tonight (Thursday) at the Slagle Memorial Building.

The colorful and impressive ceremony is planned for 8 o'clock and will be preceded by a meeting of the chapter at 7.

New elected officers include Mrs. Blanche H. Parrish, worthy matron; James L. Hauser, worthy patron; Mrs. Catherine F. Henry, associate matron, Edgar J. Whitaker, associate patron; Mrs. Nobia G. Murray, secretary; Mrs. Alice C. Ray, treasurer; Mrs. Katherine A. Crawford, conductress; and Mrs. Emma Jane S. Phillips, associate conductress.

Mrs. Margaret A. Cabe will be the installing officer. She will be assisted by Mrs. Margaret S. Bolton, marshal; Mrs. Genett M. Thomas, conductress; Mrs. Jo B. Long, associate conductress; Mrs. Irene H. Bryson, chaplain; Mrs. Lillian R. Cabe, organist; Mrs. Elizabeth S. Patton, warder; and Mrs. Esther C. Cunningham, sentinel. All are past matrons of Nequassa Chapter.

Appointive officers of the chapter and their associates are Mrs. Lucille H. Phillips, chaplain; Mrs. Jessie B. Horsley, associate; Miss Lassie Kelly, marshal; Mrs. Margaret C. Tysinger, associate; Mrs. Margaret A. Cabe, organist; Mrs. Dorothy W. Henry, associate; Mrs. Mary C. Fisher, Adah; Mrs. Nina B. Crisp, associate; Mrs. Ruby M. Harper, Ruth; Mrs. Hermie B. Bryant, associate; Mrs. Eula D. Carpenter, Esther; Mrs. Barbara D. Calloway, associate; Mrs. Evelyn S. West, Martha; Mrs. Ida B. Grant, associate; Mrs. Merle P. Dryman, Electa; Mrs. Thelma M. Harmon, associate; Mrs. Dess B. Pendergrass, Warder; Mrs. Frances N. Willhide, associate; Prelo Dryman, Sentinel; Mrs. Mae G. Shope, associate.

## OPERA TO BE GIVEN HERE

### La Boheme Slated For 2 Performances At School, March 26

Two performances of La Boheme, a four-act opera sung in English, are scheduled to be presented here March 26 by the Grass Roots Opera company.

The Macon unit of the North Carolina Education Association is sponsoring the appearance of the company, which is administered by the Extension Division of the University of North Carolina in cooperation with the North Carolina Federation of Music Clubs.

Both performances will be held at the East Franklin School auditorium; the first at 1 p. m., the other at 8 p. m.

# Early Tuesday Fire Destroys Old Franklin High School Building; Damage Estimated At \$125,000



Flames, fanned by high wind, shoot from the windows of the old Franklin high school building as it burned early Tuesday morning. Damage was estimated at \$125,000. Defective wiring is believed to have caused the fire.

## Defective Wiring Believed Responsible For Starting Blaze

An early morning fire Tuesday gutted the tinder-dry old Franklin high school building, causing damage estimated at \$125,000.

County School Supt. Holland McSwain said the loss was partially covered by insurance. It was a spectacular finale for the 34-year-old building, which in recent years had weathered a constant barrage of criticism, including condemnation as a fire hazard by Fire Chief A. C. Tysinger.

In sub-freezing temperatures and high wind, volunteer firemen pumped tons of water into the old structure for more than three and a half hours to keep the fire from spreading to the nearby elementary school and new high school.

The blaze broke out in the southeast corner of the building and in less than an hour had consumed most of the building. The first alarm was sounded at 2:30. By 2:45 the wind had fanned the blaze through the building and sparks showered the area. Shortly after 3 o'clock the roof of the gymnasium collapsed.

Early arrivals on the scene managed to remove several instruments from the band room in the north end of the building before the fire advanced.

But, an estimated \$12,000 worth of instruments and music were destroyed, according to Principal Ralph L. Smith. Three pianos also were in the building, he said.

Coach R. A. Byrd set the loss of athletic equipment and the electric scoreboard in the gymnasium, at \$1,200.

The old building, which had 16 rooms, had a paring shot for its critics. The walls of the gutted structure, although SEE NO. 2, PAGE 7

## Last Minute Items

Local officers are seeking the whereabouts of Eugene Poe, 37, of Commerce, Ga., whose car has been found abandoned near the overlook of Blue Valley on NC 106 near Highlands.

The missing man was last seen Sunday afternoon in his car at the overlook.

Members of his family said he is on leave from a government hospital and may be a victim of amnesia. He has been in the hospital for treatment of injuries received in World War II.

He left his home about 9 o'clock Saturday morning, telling his mother he was going fishing and would return in the afternoon.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas said he was reported seen in a Franklin restaurant Tuesday.

Mr. Poe is about 5'11", black headed, blue eyes, and has a dark complexion. When last seen he was wearing khaki trousers, a green jacket with fur collar, and a cap with a bill.

Persons knowing the whereabouts of Mr. Poe are asked to contact the sheriff's office immediately.

## Highlands O.E.S. Heads Are Elected

An installation ceremony for the new officers of the Highlands Chapter No. 284, Order of Eastern Star, is scheduled March 26.

Miss Ethel L. Calloway is the new worthy matron and Thomas C. Harbison, worthy patron. Other elective officers include Mrs. Elizabeth R. Harbison, associate matron; J. Lawrence Hicks, associate patron; Mrs. Agnes R. Calloway, conductress; Mrs. Anne B. Holt, associate conductress; William N. Slattery, secretary; and Mrs. Vernon N. Slattery, treasurer.

Appointive officers of the chapter are Mrs. Eloise G. Potts, chaplain; Mrs. Mayme H. Hicks, organist; Mrs. Annie N. Crunkleton, marshal; Mrs. Pearl R. Crowe, Adah; Mrs. Octia H. Phillips, Ruth; Mrs. Mary McConnell Burnett, Esther; Mrs. Canty P. Edwards, Martha; Miss Dorothea Harbison, Electa; Mrs. Catherine S. Potts, warder; and Leon P. Calloway, sentinel.

The new officers were elected at the chapter's regular meeting Friday night at the Masonic Hall.

## 12 DRAFTED FROM COUNTY

### Contingent Goes For Induction Into Army On April 12

Twelve men were sent to Knoxville, Tenn., for induction into the Army Monday of last week by the local selective service board.

They were Richard D. Miller, of Sealy, who volunteered; Thomas Ray Potts, of Franklin; Glenn H. Talley, of Highlands; Clyde F. Bates, of Franklin; Morris W. Wilson, of Highlands; Charles E. Sanders, of Prentiss; James F. Stewart, of Franklin, Route 3; James R. Angel, of Cullasaja; Clifton E. Sanders, of Prentiss; Bob Neal, of Aquone; Andrew Moses, of Cullasaja; and Joseph L. Ledbetter, of Franklin, Route 1.

An induction call for 10 men on April 12 was received this week by the board, according to Mrs. Gilmer A. Jones, board secretary. The board also will send 12 men for pre-induction examinations on that date—the first time the board has had a pre-induction call since December.

## SING IS PLANNED

The Ellijay Missionary Baptist Church will hold a sing March 26 at 7:30 p. m., it has been announced. The public and all singers are invited.

## Store Break-in Being Probed

A break-in at Franklin Hardware Company last Thursday night is being probed by officers.

Entrance was gained through a back window, according to Chief Deputy Newell Pendergrass.

A. R. Higdon, owner, reported several watches, valued at about \$50, were missing, and he said some ammunition and knives also may have been stolen. A typewriter desk was jimmied opened and its contents emptied on the floor, he said. Damage to the desk was about \$10.

Deputy Pendergrass said fingerprints "lifted" at the scene are now being studied.

S. B. I. Agent P. R. Kitchen, of Waynesville, and Chief of Police C. D. Baird are helping conduct the investigation.

## ANOTHER FIRE

An attic fire at the home of Andrew Ray, Greene Street, was extinguished by volunteer firemen Monday about 6:15 p. m.

Damage to the home was light. An overheated flue is believed to have started the blaze.

## Franklin Lassies Champs; Boys Lose To Swain Cagers

By TOMMY GNUSE  
Sports Editor  
Franklin High

In a game tighter than the doors of Inner Sanctum, the Franklin High lassies squeezed out a 52-51 victory over the Andrews girls on the Andrews court Friday night to bring home a Smoky Mountain Conference Tournament trophy for the second straight year.

It was a spinning layup shot by Audrey Gibson with six seconds remaining that iced the game for Franklin in as thrilling a photo-finish ever witnessed by conference loop fans.

Saturday night in Bryson City, the Franklin boys and Swain High, co-champions of the eastern division, dueling frantically into the fourth period before Swain moved well ahead and walked off with the tournament trophy by a score of 59-50.

Three Franklin girls — Jody Lenoir, Audrey Gibson, and Anna Setser — were named to the All-Conference team in the eastern division.

Dolpha Fouts, star Franklin center, was picked for All-Conference and Crawford Moore received honorable mention.

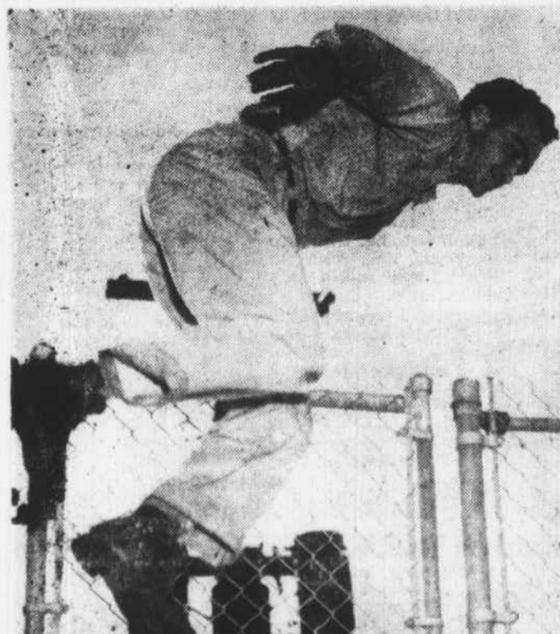
Girls Start Slow  
In the finals, the girls had trouble finding the basket in the opening period and at one

time trailed behind Andrews six points. At the half the girls lagged 28-25. In the third stanza the team seemed to catch fire and a long shot by Ruth Brown tied the score at 35-35. Andrews struck back, and going into the final frame the girls again trailed 39-38. Brown and Lenoir each hit the basket once to put their team ahead for the first time, 42-39, but Andrews again widened the gap. With a minute and a half left, Brown scored to pull Franklin back in the running. Excellent defensive play by Panther guards pushed Franklin to the victory. Lenoir missed a free throw with 16 seconds left, but two passes later Gibson faked her position and flipped a left hand shot that gave the Panthers the championship. Guard Setser stole the ball with four seconds left as Andrews attempted to shoot.

In the tournament, the girls defeated Webster, Nantahala, and Cullowhee to go into the finals.

Slow Boys' Game  
In Bryson City Saturday night, the boys and Swain High took it easy the first period with Franklin holding a 10-8 lead. At the half they led 25-22. A third period rally put Swain ahead, 36-29, but seven fast shots by Fouts cut the lead to

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What's Happening? See Page 14



The Franklin lassies did it again Friday night. They brought the conference tournament championship back home for the second straight year. That accounts for the smiles in the left picture. (L to R) Guard Anna Setser, Coach R. A. Byrd, Forward Audrey Gibson, and Captain Jody Lenoir. The three girls were named to berths on the All-Conference team. In the picture at right, Center Dolpha Fouts holds the Franklin boys' runner-up trophy for the tournament as Coach Byrd looks up at the 6' 5" team captain, who was named to the All-Conference team.