

## GROUPS PLAN EXTENSION OF TOURIST YEAR

### Highlanders Head And Commerce Board Discuss Promotion

Extending the tourist season and convincing tourists that "they are missing the best and most colorful part of the year" by leaving for home too early is being tackled by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce and the Macon County Highlanders.

In session last Thursday night, the board of directors of the commerce organization discussed this proposal with L. D. Clontz, president of the Highlanders, and agreed the season

### SECRETARY RESIGNS

Mrs. Lasca E. Horsley has resigned as secretary of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, President W. W. Reeves announced Monday. Her successor has not been picked, he said.

should be lengthened into autumn, when foliage is at the peak of its beauty.

Most tourists visiting here pack up and head for home early in September, Commerce President W. W. Reeves contends, and therefore are missing nature's biggest show of the year.

While no concrete plans were made, both organizations plan to join forces in extending the season and selling tourists on the idea of "staying a while longer."

"Because of the highway situation (new construction)," Mr. Reeves declared, "we've really got a terrific selling job on our hands for the next couple of years."

Proper promotion will hinge on the success of the C of C membership drive, which is now under way, the president said.

Looking to this year's season, the directors voted to bring the local tourist accommodation folder up to date and to relocate the large sign at the junction of NC 28 and US 19 in Swain County. The sign, erected several years ago, directs travelers to Franklin.

Frank B. Duncan was reappointed head of the Macon County Industrial Committee.

## DRIVE REPORT PLEA ISSUED

### Red Cross Workers Urged To Turn In Collections Now

A plea to all volunteer Red Cross drive workers to "please turn in progress reports" was voiced this week by Mrs. Elizabeth McCollum, chapter secretary.

At the present time, the annual fund raising campaign is far from its goal of \$3,000. Through Tuesday noon, \$1,485.60 had been turned in, the secretary said.

Final reports have been received from only three communities: Cowee (\$21.95); Bethel (\$41); and Holly Springs (\$27.50).

Mrs. McCollum said she had hopes of closing the campaign today (Thursday), but added that it will be extended until all collections are reported.

## Paper Of Merit Goes To Service For Coweeta Film

The U. S. Forest Service has received a certificate of merit from the British ambassador for its movie, "Waters of Coweeta", filmed at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory here.

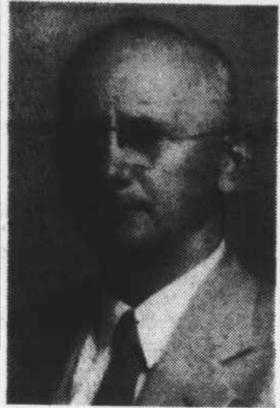
E. A. Johnson, forester in charge at Coweeta, said Tuesday the certificate was presented in a special ceremony March 19 at the U. S. Department of Interior.

The movie, which deals with water-land projects under way at the laboratory, was entered in the Edinburgh Film Festival last summer and received high praise. Two-hundred eighty movies from 40 countries were entered in the festival.

## W. N. Sloan Elected Head Of Rotarians

W. N. Sloan is the new president of the Franklin Rotary Club, succeeding the Rev. C. E. Murray.

At its annual election of officers Wednesday night of last week, the club re-elected Dr. T. C. Nelson secretary, Norman Blaine, W. W. (Bill) Sloan, John



W. N. Sloan

Ray, and R. E. McKelvey were named directors of the organization.

As the outgoing president, Mr. Murray automatically became an ex-officio member of the board of directors. The president and secretary also are members of the board.

The new officers will be installed the first Wednesday in July.

## EDUCATORS MEET MONDAY

### New Health Program Guide Introduced To School Officials

An estimated 50 superintendents, supervisors, principals, and nurses from six counties met Monday afternoon at Franklin High School to discuss promotion of the school health program.

Introduced to the school officials at the session was the new publication, "Health Education in the North Carolina Public Schools", a guide for promoting health in the schools.

Representatives attended from Macon, Clay, Cherokee, Graham, Jackson, and Swain, according to School Supt. Holland McSwain, who described the meeting as "highly successful and enlightening."

The new guide was prepared with the help of school, health department, and college personnel throughout the state, he explained.

## State Paves 26 Miles In '53

Some 26 miles of paving was put down on Macon roads during 1953, according to a report received from Harry E. Buchanan, 14th Division highway commissioner.

Twenty-five miles of roads traveled by school buses also were stabilized during the year. During February, highway crews worked on a number of roads in the county, all 12 feet wide. The following roads, and their lengths, were graded, drained, and surfaced with traffic-bound macadam: Cheeks and Sparkman, 0.5 mile, and Saldeer Mountain Road, 0.3.

Little Ellijay Road, 0.5; Hicks Road, 0.8; and Buck Creek Road, 0.9, were strengthened and surfaced with traffic-bound macadam. Commissioner Buchanan's report said 1.8 miles of roads county-wide were spot patched during the month.

## Charlotte Pastor Will Open Revival At Mount Hope

The Rev. Roy Liner, pastor of the Grace Baptist Church, Charlotte, will open a revival series Sunday night at the Mount Home Baptist Church.

Services will be held nightly at 7:30 o'clock, according to the pastor, the Rev. M. C. Wyatt.

## POST RENAMES JACK RAGAN COMMANDER

### V.F.W. Installation Scheduled April 14; Perry Gets Vice Post

C. Jack Ragan, of Franklin, has been reelected commander of the local Veterans of Foreign Wars post for another year.

At the post's annual election Wednesday night of last week, Winton Perry was reelected senior vice-commander; John G. (Speck) Murray, junior vice-commander; Robert Pearl, quartermaster; the Rev. R. D. Burnette, chaplain; Dr. G. R. McSweeney, reelected surgeon; C. Banks Finger, post advocate; and J. E. Jennings, three-year trustee.

Plans are now being made to hold a joint installation of new officers with the post auxiliary, which held its election recently. Mrs. Elizabeth McCollum is the new auxiliary president.

Commander Ragan said the installation ceremony is tentatively scheduled for April 14 at the post home on Palmer Street. Details of the program will be announced later.

The commander said he plans to name the appointive officers of the post this week.

## 18 Brownies Get Pins At Ceremony

Eighteen Brownie Scouts received Brownie pins at an investiture Sunday afternoon at the Franklin Presbyterian Church.

Mrs. C. N. Dowdle, Girl Scout county chairman, presided.

Brownies receiving pins were Rebecca Grant, Betty Ann Bulgin, Judy Byrd, Janice Stewart, Sandra Crowner, Marjorie Jones, Sandra Norton, Linda Sue Henderson, Cheryl Vaughn, Jane Edwards, Kit Gnuse, Jo Evelyn Barnard, Jane Holliman, Carolyn Shook, Carole Callo-way, Julia Ann Shields, Linda Sue Phillips, and Lyn West.

Mrs. Andrew Jones and Mrs. Fred Vaughn, Brownie leaders, made the presentations.

Mrs. Gilmer A. Jones, city chairman, welcomed the girls as Troop 5.

Color bearers were Jo Evelyn Barnard, Linda Sue Phillips, and Jane Holliman.

A social hour for parents and guests followed the ceremony.

## CARSON TROOP CHARTER NIGHT

### New Unit To Get Certificate Monday Night At Church

Franklin Troop 6, Boy Scouts of America, (Carson) will receive its charter Monday night at a special ceremony at the Carson Methodist Church.

The event is set for 7:30 o'clock. Organization of the new troop by the Carson Rural Community Development Organization puts Macon County well in front of other counties in the Smoky Mountain District, according to Scout officials.

Counting the new one, five troops, an Explorer Post, and a Cub Pack are now active in the county.

The Carson troop lists 16 charter Scouts. Jim Cunningham and J. D. Gibson are the leaders.

## Carson Plans Supper To Raise Money For Community Building

The Carson Rural Community Development Organization will give a supper and party at the Cartoogechaye School Saturday night at 6:30 o'clock to raise money for the community building.

The supper will be served in the school cafeteria. After the meal, games will be played. The public is invited.

### COMMUNITY SING

A community sing will be held at the Louisa Chapel Saturday night at 8 o'clock, it has been announced. All singers are urged to attend and the public is invited.



There'll be no music coming out of the instruments held by Franklin Band Director S. F. Beck (hand on twisted girder) and some members of his band. All that's left of those instruments is twisted metal, the unkind results of the recent high school fire, which destroyed most of the band's equipment. The band's loss was estimated at \$24,000.

## Band Boosters Open Drive; Want To Get County Helper

### Welfare Office Moves Monday To Nantahala Bldg.

The Macon County Department of Public Welfare is now in new quarters on the second floor of the Nantahala Building.

The department's move from the Ashear Building, where it has been since the mid-1930's, was made Monday.

W. E. (Gene) Baldwin, chairman of the board of county commissioners, said the change was made to give the department more space. The welfare staff has the use of five rooms at the new location, as compared with four in the Ashear Building.

At the present time, the department employs one case worker, a full-time clerical worker, and a part-time clerical worker.

Mrs. Eloise G. Potts is superintendent.

## New 4-H Club Is Organized

The 16th 4-H Club in the county was organized Monday night of last week in the Patton Community by assistant agents T. H. Fagg and Mrs. Jessie D. Cabe.

Birdie Lee Bingham was named president; Virginia Swanson, vice-president; Caroline Reece, secretary-treasurer; Helen Cochran, reporter; and Nancy Cochran and Mildred Bingham, song leaders.

The new club plans to meet the third Monday of each month.

## Otto Group Slates Square Dance Friday

A square dance will be sponsored at the Otto School tomorrow (Friday) night by the community development organization, it has been announced.

Hunter Young's band will play for the dance, which will get under way at 7:30 o'clock. Proceeds are earmarked for the community.

## Bids For Center Will Be Opened By Board Today

Bids for construction of the proposed Macon County Health Center will be opened today (Thursday) by the Board of County Commissioners.

Estimated cost of the center, to be financed jointly by the county and the Medical Care Commission, is \$30,000.

Should the low bid be approved by the commissioners, the one-story center will be constructed on Eberview Street on land donated by Dr. Edgar Angel.

## Warmer Weather Brings Scouts Out For Trip

Warmer weather is putting local Scouts on the hiking trails again.

About 20 Scouts of Franklin Troop 1 plan to leave tomorrow (Friday) for a three-day camping trip at Big Laurel, the site of the 1954 Smoky Mountain District Camporee, which is scheduled May 28-29-30.

## Easter Dawn Rite Program Being Made

Plans for the annual Easter sunrise service atop mile-high Wayah Bald are now being made, according to the Rev. F. Doyle Freeman, chairman of the program committee.

The service, which each year draws large crowds—many from outside the county—will again be held at "High Haven", the camp of Mr. and Mrs. Gilmer A. Jones, just below the Bald.

Arrangements are being made to have the service broadcast by loud speaker outside the Jones' camp for the benefit of worshippers who wish to remain in their automobiles.

The Rev. Bryan Hatchett, pastor of the Franklin Presbyterian Church, has been selected by the program committee to deliver the Easter message.

Others serving with Mr. Freeman on the committee are the Rev. C. E. Murray and the Rev. C. T. Taylor.

Full details of the sunrise program will be announced later, Mr. Freeman said.

## LOOTERS ARE SENTENCED

### Four To Stand Trial Here In April For Highlands Break-Ins

Three of the five Transylvania County men arrested in February for looting summer homes in seven counties of North and South Carolina received stiff sentences in Brevard Tuesday.

But their troubles are just beginning. Each now faces 12 cases of breaking and entering and larceny for their sweep through homes in the Highlands area. They will stand trial at the April term of Superior Court, which opens here the 12th.

Herbert Hoover Volrath, 25, and Jimmy Volrath, 21, both were handed five to seven years in prison on three counts of breaking and entering, according to Sheriff J. Harry Thomas, who was a member of the raiding party when the theft ring was smashed and appeared as a witness at their trials. Ray

SEE NO. 4, PAGE 12

SEE NO. 3, PAGE 12

## GOV. UMSTEAD WRITES ABOUT COURT ISSUE

### Tells Reeves Set-Up 'Serious' And Bad Advertising For N. C.

Gov. William B. Umstead considers the inability of some counties in the state, Macon included, to handle minor traffic cases other than through costly high courts "a serious question" that is bad advertising for the state.

In answer to a letter from W. W. Reeves, president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, pointing to the inequality of the situation from the standpoint of the traveler, the governor said:

"The subject matter of your letter has been the basis of many complaints to this office, and I consider it a serious question. I hope that the next General Assembly will consider this matter and will arrive at some reasonable solution of the situation. It is, in my opinion, causing a great deal of difficulty for tourists, which results in bad advertising for the state and particularly for the area in which these incidents occur."

Governor Umstead told Mr. SEE NO. 2 PAGE 12

## Bulletins

**FILE FOR PRIMARY**  
The calm brooding over the political front was broken yesterday (Wednesday) just before press time when two men filed with elections Chairman Lee Barnard for nomination to posts in the May 29 Democratic primary.

C. Banks Finger, Franklin attorney and native of Catawba County, filed for representative to the state legislature, and C. Jack Ragan for county coroner. No others had filed by noon, but rumor says several more will be in the races by next week.

J. M. (Jim) Raby, sergeant-at-arms at the 1953 legislature, early in February indicated to The Press he would run for representative in the primary.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas and Register of Deeds Lake V. Shope both plan to run for re-nomination, but have not filed as yet.

Close friends of Miss Kate McGee say she has changed her plans and will seek re-nomination as Clerk of Superior Court. The clerk recently indicated she would not run again.

Other posts to be filled in the "off-year" election are County Commissioners (3), County Board of Education (5), and Surveyor, on the county level. Outside races are 20th District Solicitor, U. S. Senator and Representative, and 33rd District State Senator.

**NEW GYMNASIUM**  
County School Supt. Holland McSwain plans to confer today (Thursday) with Lindsay Gudger, Asheville architect, concerning plans for a new gymnasium at Franklin High.

The superintendent described his planned talk as "just a preliminary" and said no definite action has been taken to replace the old gymnasium that burned several weeks ago.

He did say, however, that papers have been received from the state division of insurance establishing proof of loss. These were filled out and returned to Raleigh immediately, he said.

Maximum insurance on the building was \$105,000.

## The Weather

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

FRANKLIN		
Temperatures		
	High	Low
Wednesday	56	47
Thursday	80	48
Friday	70	45
Saturday	61	44
Sunday	65	44
Monday	68	38
Tuesday	79	59

COWEETA		
Temperatures		
	High	Low
Wednesday	54	47
Thursday	80	49
Friday	70	39
Saturday	50	42
Sunday	61	37
Monday	67	33
Tuesday	78	57

## Sure Sign Of Spring



When you see a youngster hunched over like Eddie Tippett (above) you can just about bet your bottom dollar that spring finally has arrived. Those are marbles Eddie is sighting over his cooled shooting finger. His opponent in the game must remain anonymous—he hit the brush when the photographer approached, yelling "you're not going to take my picture". Ten-year-old Eddie is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Tippett.