



—Crisp's Studio Photo  
**BIG STRIKE** — Lawrence Penland, mine superintendent, poses in the Rose Creek mine at the big vein of block mica uncovered last week. The strike is one of the biggest in the history of mica mining here.

## Big Mica Strike Is Made At Rose Creek Mine Here

One of the biggest mica strikes in Macon's mining history is well on its way to being the biggest at the old Rose Creek mines in the Cowee Township.

Mica Industries Inc., of which G. L. Houk, of Franklin, is president, hit a huge vein of mica Monday of last week (November 8) and in six working days removed 33,000 pounds of block mica.

"They're stacking it up like cord wood," is the comment sweeping mining circles.

Sheeting operations are now under way in Franklin. Gill Fleming, processing superintendent, said Tuesday he has 10 sheeters working full-time and that 20 should be working soon if the strike holds out.

"Right now it'll take 20 people working 30 days to clean up what we have here," he declared.

Tuesday alone, in four hours, miners brought out 4,000 pounds of pure block mica under the supervision of Lawrence Penland, mine superintendent. Six men are working at the mine.

Mr. Houk said the corporation, a subsidiary of Minerals Processing Corp., a Delaware corporation with its principal plant in La Grange, Ga., sunk the new shaft at the old mines about the first of September in the middle of five exposed veins of mica. The shaft was sunk 100 feet, then cross-cut, before "they hit the strike", he explained.

The president said he would be able to gauge just how big a strike has been made as soon as some of the mica is sold.

Mica currently is selling for \$30 to \$70 per pound, depending on the grade.

### Late News and Briefs

**TICKETS FOR SALE**  
Tickets to the annual Optimist Bowl game in Asheville Thanksgiving Day may be purchased at Franklin High School.

Principal Harry Corbin said a 50-cent savings can be made by advance purchase. The tickets are \$1.50 for adults and 50 cents for students.

Richard Renshaw, fleet Panther back, will represent Franklin in the bowl game.

**HEAR, HEAR OL' DEER**  
Deer hunters by the hundreds trooped into Macon bright and early Monday morning for 12 days of deer hunting.

Reports of kills are spotty, but hunters apparently are not jumping the bucks like in years past.

J. G. Wright, of Franklin, bagged one on Wayah Monday morning and yesterday (Wednesday) Wayah turned out another for Elbert Hedden, of Franklin.

Several out-of-county kills also have been reported from various sections of the county on and off government land.

Wayne Stewart, of Franklin, is reported to have bagged one of three bucks killed on Burningtown on the opening day.

The season closes November 27.

SEE NO. 6, PAGE 8

## Absentee Voting 'Abuse' Explained

**Greensboro Paper Hits Macon's Use Of Absentee Ballot**

One of several newspapers in the state singling Macon County out as being involved in "absentee ballot scandals" in Western North Carolina is the Greensboro Daily News.

In an editorial Saturday, this daily newspaper noted:

"The absentee ballot scandals in Western North Carolina are a statewide disgrace. 'Why have they been soft-pedaled so long? Consider this evidence of

### PRO AND CON

The county's Democrat party chairman is satisfied with the use of absentee ballots, while the Republican chairman would like to see them abolished.

Says Frank I. Murray, Sr., Democratic chairman: "I have had no complaints over the use of absentees in the election."

Says George Reece, G.O.P. chairman: "... worse thing we ever had is the absentee voter. I'm in favor of doing away with them (absentees) entirely."

Mr. Reece charged he did not think the absentee ballots were used properly in the election just past and he declared some were allowed to vote who were not legal voters.

Pressed for an elaboration of his charge, Mr. Reece said, "I'll not commit myself at this time."

fraud and corruption now drifting down out of the mountain counties:

"Of the 6,723 votes cast in tiny Macon County in the 1952 general election, about 1,200 of them — or 20 per cent — were 'absentee ballots'. Can't either Democratic or Republican party officers explain why one-fifth of the electorate was absent from the county or unable to get to the polls for legitimate reasons on election day? A dispatch quoted by the Raleigh News and Observer from Macon County prior to the November 2 election says that the Republican county chairman says that the county elections board had 'run out of absentee ballots after issuing more than 900.'

"Who is charged with checking on the validity of these ballots? And if they are valid, will the parties responsible vouch for their validity?"

"But this strange business is not confined to Macon County alone. The Asheville Citizen reports that 1,000 absentee ballots were distributed in Macon, Cherokee and Madison Counties. SEE NO. 5, PAGE 8

**Barnard Declares County Has Been Misrepresented**

Macon County, in recent weeks, has been fingered statewide as the "awful example" in the highly-publicized absentee ballot "scandals" in Western North Carolina.

Unconfirmed reports — and several daily papers have editorialized on the issue — have it that Macon has been voting about 20 per cent absentee in general elections.

"Of the 6,723 votes cast in tiny Macon County in the 1952 general election, about 1,200 of them — about 20 per cent — were 'absentee ballots,'" the Greensboro Daily News has informed its readers in an editorial.

"It's time we stopped this foolish misrepresentation of the facts," Lee Barnard, Macon Election Board chairman told a Press reporter this week, in a heated denunciation of misconduct leveled at elections here.

The chairman said the mix-up probably stemmed from an Asheville reporter's failure to draw a line between "issued" and "voted" and he explained that this reporter was told about 1,200 absentees were "issued here" for the general election.

Mr. Barnard noted:

In the past November 2) general election, 1,127 applications for absentees were issued in this county — and of this number only 523 ballots were returned, with just 423 of this number being "cast" in the election.

Percentage-wise, the 6,088 votes cast in the general election, and the 423 absentees, come to about seven per cent of the vote ... "and that's a long way from the 20 per cent SEE NO. 3, PAGE 8

## Auction Sale Set Saturday For Band Aid

Items at auction — ranging from apples to zippers — string music, and other entertainment features will be on tap Saturday night at East Franklin School when the P. T. A.-sponsored "harvest sale" is staged.

Presented jointly by the Franklin and East Franklin associations, the special sale is to raise money to help pay for \$3,500 worth of instruments recently received by the revitalized Franklin Band.

Set for 7 o'clock, the sale will see a "warehouse full" of items donated by businesses and other interested persons auctioned off to the highest bidders by George Mallonee, B. L. McGlamery, Principal Ralph L. Smith, and Andrew Jones, who have offered their services for the evening.

String music, as an added feature, is being arranged by Bobby Teague and Paul Smith, and several other entertainment features are planned, according to Mrs. Frank Killian, sale chairman.

Although the sale is primarily a Franklin-East Franklin project, other schools in the district are cooperating by donating items for auction.

## Press Coming Out Day Early For Holiday

Following its usual Thanksgiving custom, The Press next week will be issued one day early.

Dated Wednesday instead of Thursday, it will be placed in the Franklin Post Office Tuesday night, for delivery Wednesday morning.

Because there never is rural route delivery on Thanksgiving Thursday, this change in schedule is made each year.

Due to the earlier schedule, advertisers and persons having news items are requested to get their copy in Monday — preferably before noon.

The Press office will be closed all day Thanksgiving.



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady  
**FRANKLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE** President W. W. Reeves (left) is shown presenting cash awards to the presidents of the three top communities in the Macon County Rural Community Development Contest—Harry Kinsland, Holly Springs, first place; Earl Cabe, Carson, second; and Erwin Patton, Patton, third. The awards were made at Saturday night's awards dinner at Franklin High.

## RUSSELL DIES IN HIGHLANDS

**Well-Known Civic Leader Succumbs Of Heart Ailment**

Stacey Clifton Russell, 68, well-known Highlands civic leader and one-time head of the postal service in the Panama Canal Zone, died Sunday at the Highlands Community Hospital.

A native of Anderson, S. C., and Highlands resident for 13 years, Mr. Russell had been in the hospital for a month with a heart condition.

Funeral services are scheduled today (Thursday) at 11 a. m. at the Highlands Baptist Church. The Rev. John Buell, pastor, will officiate and burial will be in the Highlands Cemetery.

After retirement from the postal service, Mr. Russell and his wife, the former Miss Helen Fant, of Walhalla, S. C., moved to Highlands, where he became quite active in civic affairs.

He was the first president of Highlands Rotary Club and at the time of his death was serving as secretary of the club. It



S. C. Russell

is said that the idea of a Highlands community hospital was Mr. Russell's, which resulted in the construction of the hospital. Since it was built, he had served SEE NO. 7, PAGE 8

## Pace-Setting Holly Springs Tops In Rural Contest Here

Holly Springs—Macon's pace-setter in the rural community development program—took top honors in the 1954 Macon County Rural Community Development Contest.

Carson and Patton placed second and third, respectively. Ten other communities received \$50 prizes and three \$25 awards.

Awards to the winning communities were made by W. W. Reeves, president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce, at a special dinner Saturday night at Franklin High School. The dinner was a "thank you" from the participating communities to the business and professional men who supported the contest and raised \$1,175 in prize money.

Guest speaker at the dinner, which was attended by some 200 persons, including community representatives, was R. C. Francis, well-known Haywood County farmer and humorist.

In winning first place, Holly Springs received \$300. The community was the first in this county to enter the W. N. C. Rural Community Development Contest in 1952. During that contest year, approximately \$75,000 was expended in Holly Springs on community and home improvements, and when the winners were announced the community found itself in fifth place. With Holly Springs showing the way, a county contest followed in 1953.

A cash award of \$200 went to Carson for second place in this year's contest. In 1952, Carson followed close on the heels of Holly Springs in organizing for the area contest and these two communities represented Macon that year.

Patton, third place winner and recipient of \$100, was the top community in the local contest last year and placed fourth in the area contest.

Communities receiving \$50 awards at the dinner were Mulberry, Oak Grove, Cowee, West Union, Prentiss, Clark's Chapel, Cullasaja, Bethel, Higdonville, and Otto.

Awards of \$25 went to Upper Cartoogechaye, Hickory Knoll, and Cartoogechaye.

**Active In Program**  
Tellico, Iotla, Burningtown, Longview, and Pine Grove, the five remaining communities participating this year, were active in the program, but were not entered for judging in the

SEE NO. 4, PAGE 8

**The Weather**  
The week's temperature and rainfall, as recorded by Franklin, by Macon, by Asheville, by Asheville, by Asheville, and at the Coweta Hydrologic Laboratory:

FRANKLIN			
Temperatures			
High Low Rain			
Wed. (Nov. 10)	67	28	....
Thursday	70	20	....
Friday	73	21	....
Saturday	70	22	....
Sunday	70	24	....
Monday	61	23	trace
Tuesday	60	50	.66

HIGHLANDS			
Temperatures			
High Low Rain			
Wed. (Nov. 10)	58	30	....
Thursday	66	22	....
Friday	62	26	....
Saturday	63	28	....
Sunday	70	26	....
Monday	56	31	1.14
Tuesday	51	47	.98

COWEETA			
Temperatures			
High Low Rain			
Wed. (Nov. 10)	61	28	....
Thursday	66	22	....
Friday	70	23	....
Saturday	67	25	....
Sunday	69	25	....
Monday	69	31	....
Tuesday	58	50	.52



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady  
**VOCATIONAL teacher Wayne Proffitt** supervises the loading of 10 feeder calves by his F. F. A. boys. The calves will be groomed for next year's W. N. C. Fat Stock Show and Sale. Local entries won 18 blue ribbons in the 1954 show, held last week near Enka.

## Burlington Asks Bids For Plant

Burlington Mills Corporation this week issued invitations for bids on construction of its \$3,000,000 Franklin hosiery plant, according to information received by W. W. Reeves, president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce.

He said it probably will be two or three weeks before the bids are reviewed and the contracts awarded.

"We should know something about December 10", Mr. Reeves predicted.

He added it was his understanding the corporation plans to start construction immediately after the contractors are selected.

The site for the new plant on US 23-441 (south), just outside the city limits, is virtually ready for construction, according to E. J. Whitmire, of Macon Construction Company. Grading has been under way for several weeks.

In covering late developments concerning the proposed plant, Mr. Reeves disclosed that Burlington Mills plans some type of training program before the plant opens, but he emphasized that there is nothing definite on this as yet.

He said he and other members of the Macon Industrial Committee have been approached by numbers of persons seeking work at the plant, and he added:

"We want every one to know that just as soon as something is worked out about hiring, we will make a public announcement about it."

Until then, he concluded, there is no reason for inquiries about jobs.



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady  
**Chief Gordon and Patrolman Lewis** Look Over Hidden Arsenal

## Find Rifles, Pistols, Sword

A "routine check" of a 1949 Chevrolet convertible Tuesday of last week on NC 28, near Highlands, by Patrolman A. A. Lewis and Highlands Police Chief E. O. Gordon turned up:

1. two loaded .22 calibre pistols under the front seat.
2. three .22 rifles
3. a .410 gauge shotgun
4. a three-foot sword

Being held in the Macon jail are Ben Charles Sitton, 17, and

Gerald Donald Thompson, 18, both of Fayetteville, Ark. The patrolman said Sitton admitted he was A.W.O.L. from the Marine Corps.

F. B. I. Agent Stanley Settles, of Asheville, was here Thursday to check a breaking and entering story told by the two men. Patrolman Lewis said Sitton told him he and Thompson broke into a home in SEE NO. 2, PAGE 8