



# The Franklin Press

and  
The Highlands Maconian

Net Paid  
CIRCULATION  
Last Week  
2533

PRICE  
10 Cents

VOL. LXIX—NO. 53

FRANKLIN, N. C., THURSDAY, DEC. 30, 1954

TWELVE PAGES



Iotla's Winning Christmas Display

## Iotla Wins Rural Lighting Contest By Power Company

Iotla community won first place and \$50 in the second annual Christmas outdoor lighting contest sponsored by Nantahala Power and Light Company among communities engaged in rural development work.

Second place and \$30 went to Cullasaja, while Longview placed third and won \$20. Sixteen communities participated this year. A secret panel of judges based their decisions on simplicity, originality, and attractiveness.

Iotla's winning entry was a scene of the three wise men following the star to Bethlehem. The life-size exhibit was framed like a picture and flanked by large candles on each side. In awarding it the top prize, the judges commented that a "refreshing touch has been added to an old theme, carrying out perfectly the three points considered in judging."

Cullasaja and Longview had nativity scenes. Cullasaja's was the manger scene and Longview's showed Mary talking with an angel. The judges noted the following about the other entries: Carson: "A beautiful scene . . . evidence of community work . . . fine location." Cartoogechaye: "A study in simplicity."

Patton: "An entirely new idea in decorations well executed . . . display could have been more effective if nearer road." Otto: "One of the most striking displays entered . . . location difficult to spot from highway, however."

Mulberry: "Evidence of community spirit and assistance . . . natural location lends to authenticity of scene." Hickory Knoll: "Miniature city of Bethlehem very unusual."

Prentiss: "One of the most attractive manger scenes entered . . . special recognition for 'wooly' lambs." Clark's Chapel: "Nativity scene of unusual scope . . . evidence of spirit and work on part of community."

Higdonville: "Scene shows imagination and simplicity." Bethel: "Idea of decorating church most original."

Holly Springs: "Real clothing on figures of nativity scene"

## Yule Contest Winners Are Given Prizes

Winners in the Franklin Garden Club's annual Christmas decorations contest have been announced as follows: Franklin High School, best public display; Van Raalte, best commercial; Mr. and Mrs. Rafe Teague, best outdoor figures; Mr. and Mrs. Horace Nolen, best doorway; and Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Higdon, best tree.

Flower containers were given as prizes this year by the club. Judging was done by a secret panel.

## MAIL RUSH HITS RECORD HIGH HERE

### Christmas Rush Braved By Office; No Extra Help

Employees of the Franklin Post Office are breathing normally once again after riding out the biggest flood of Christmas mail in the history of the office. From December 8 to Christmas day, cancellations on outgoing first class mail — letters and greeting cards — came to a record-breaking 131,200, according to Postmaster Zeb V. Meadows.

The office sold 97,000 two-cent stamps from the first of SEP. NO. 2 PAGE 12

## '54 Making Way For New Youngster

Maconians currently are watching closely the limping progress of a bedraggled old 1954 as he shuffles closer to the crib of infant 1955.

And it appears that ol' 1954 has little of consequence to offer before turning over the troubles of the world to the cocky and confident little '55 tomorrow (Friday) at midnight.

What's in store for this little bundle of energy is anyone's guess—but it should be noted that '54 started his reign in the same cocky and confident manner, and just look at him!

Most Macon merchants plan to close Saturday for the New Year, but will be open for business bright and early Monday.

As a preliminary to the New Year and a farewell to the departing one, the V. F. W. Auxiliary plans a New Year's eve party and dance at Slagle Memorial Building beginning at 8 o'clock. Admission will be 50 cents per person and the proceeds are earmarked for the community welfare fund, according to Mrs. Elizabeth McCollum, auxiliary president.

## Representative Lets Public Know Issues

Franklin attorney G. L. Houk yesterday (Wednesday) let Macon voters know where he stands on a number of local and state issues as he began clearing his desk in preparation for filling Seat 88 in the House of Representatives in Raleigh.

The representative and his wife plan to leave here Tuesday for the capital city. The General Assembly is scheduled to convene the following morning.

In a lengthy interview, Mr. Houk aired his feelings on several topics of note, ranging from the elimination of the fee system in Macon to the controversial segregation problem and higher state taxes.

At the outset, the representative made it clear he has no plans for "going down there with any pet legislation" and as for having any local legislation in mind he said he has "nothing of any consequence, as yet."

He did declare, however, that he strongly favors permissive rather than mandatory legislation on the local level in the belief that local decisions should be left to local governing bodies.

Up To Locals Repeating his stand for permissive legislation, Mr. Houk approached the elimination of the fee system in the county with, "I do not propose to go down there and tell them to pay X dollars to the sheriff, or other county officials." He said this kind of decision should be made by the board of county commissioners and not by the legislature.

The abolition of the system and putting county officials on salary has been a top conversational piece for a number of years, although it has never been seriously considered openly.

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## The Weather

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

FRANKLIN			
	Temperatures	High	Low
Wed., Dec. 22	48	23	....
Thursday	61	15	....
Friday	56	25	....
Saturday	52	12	....
Sunday	52	13	....
Monday	59	40	....
Tuesday	61	51	.012

HIGHLANDS			
	Temperatures	High	Low
Wed., Dec. 22	38	22	....
Thursday	54	20	....
Friday	49	30	....
Saturday	44	18	....
Sunday	46	20	....
Monday	44	20	....
Tuesday	44	42	.29

COWEETA			
	Temperatures	High	Low
Wed., Dec. 22	48	24	....
Thursday	59	19	....
Friday	54	30	....
Saturday	50	16	....
Sunday	53	20	trace
Monday	56	40	.50
Tuesday	57	51	3.07

## What Happened In Macon County

# 1954 Chronology

THIS YEAR

Are you guilty of remarking, "Nothing ever happens here?" If you are — and most of us have said it at one time or another — then the following chronology has been prepared just for you. Although it is far from a complete work, it lists some of the more outstanding happenings in Macon County during 1954, as reflected by headlines in The Franklin Press. And, it of course debunks the remark, "Nothing ever happens here."

**JANUARY:** Oak Grove's striking "live" nativity scene won the county-wide Christmas lighting contest . . . the Franklin Board of Aldermen began probing the idea of constructing a new municipal building . . . the Macon Board of Education requested \$80,000 from the county to satisfy pressing equipment needs in the county's 11 schools . . . the Rev. and Mrs. R. H. Hull, American Sunday School rural workers in this area for 15 years, announced plans for leaving for Missouri, where Mr. Hull had been offered an A. S. S. superintendent's post . . . the Rev. J. Bryan Hatchett was named president of the Macon County Ministerial Association . . . Forrest (Speck) Towns, former Olympic high hurdles champion and University of Georgia coach, was guest speaker at the Rotary-sponsored football banquet honoring the Franklin High Panthers . . . Russell Paxton was named chief of police in Highlands, succeeding Bert Wilkie, resigned . . . the Rev. W. L. Sorrells resigned as pastor of the Iotla Baptist Church to accept the pastorate of the Flemmings Chapel, near Lenoir.

**MARCH:** State Treasurer Edwin M. Gill was the principal speaker at the annual dinner meeting of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce . . . the county was put under a 30-day rabies quarantine . . . the girls team of Franklin High won the eastern division Smoky Mountain Conference crown by being undefeated in 13 conference scraps and went on to win the annual conference tournament . . . the Rev. E. G. Altland, a native of Pennsylvania, took over his duties as pastor of the Iotla Baptist Church . . . Mrs. Blanche H. Parrish, of Otto, and James L. Hauser, of Franklin, were elected grand matron and grand patron of the Nequassa Chapter, Order of Eastern Star . . . L. D. Clontz was reelected president of the Macon County Highlanders . . . Mrs. R. G. Lichtenstein was reelected head of the Franklin Garden Club . . . an early morning fire destroyed the 34-year-old high school building at Franklin High to the tune of \$135,000 damage. Of the loss, \$105,000 was recovered in insurance from the state . . . Miss Ethel L. Calloway and Thomas C. Harbison were elected worthy matron and patron of the Highlands Chapter, No. 284, Order of Eastern Star . . . "Progressive Macon County", an eight-page booklet prepared by the Macon County Industrial Committee, was published and distributed to prospective industries . . . Sandtown became the 23rd home demonstration club in the county . . . W. N. Sloan was elected president of the Franklin Rotary Club . . . C. Jack Ragan, of Franklin, was reelected commander of the V. F. W. post; the Macon Band

**FEBRUARY:** A 38-year-old miner, Donald Holland, of Cullasaja, was killed in a mine cave-in at the Mill Knob Mine. The mine owner, A. W. Reid, buried under the avalanche, was saved by Robert Williams, 28, who clawed the dirt from around his face so he could breathe . . . Higdonville became the 22nd home demonstration club to be organized in Macon . . . Holland McSwain, Jr., and Miss Ruth Edwards were named valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively, of the 1954 graduating class of Franklin High . . . Lee Barnard, of Franklin, was nominated chairman of the county elections board, succeeding Siler Slagle, resigned . . . an extensive repair project on US 64 from Gneiss to Bridal Veil Falls was started by the State Highway Department . . . Edwin T. Williams, Franklin High teacher, was elected president of the county unit of the N. C. Education Association . . . the small Cullasaja and Ellijay post offices bowed to government economy and rural routes and were closed . . . law enforcement officers smashed a theft ring accused of looting 60 homes in North and South Carolina, including 13 in the High-

lands area. The ring operated out of Transylvania County . . . students of all schools in the county, with the exception of Highlands, took over the governments of the county and Franklin for a day in a project sponsored by the Franklin Jaycees . . . W. W. Reeves, hardware merchant, was elected president of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce . . . Mrs. Judy Ann Buckner, 13-year-old wife of Kenneth Buckner, of Buck Creek, near Highlands, became the mother of a five-pound baby girl . . . Herbert McKelvey, 16-year-old Franklin High junior, won the American Legion's oratorical contest here.

**'55 Tax Listers Picked By Board**

The Macon Board of County Commissioners has selected tax listers for 1955 in the county's 11 townships.

By townships, they are: Franklin, Frank I. Murray, Sr.; Millshoal, Harold Cabe; Ellijay, Mrs. Leslie Young; Sugarfork, Mrs. Raymond Wood; Highlands, Mrs. Neville Bryson; Flats, Mrs. Awa Smith; Smith-bridge, C. S. Sams; Cartoogechaye, Bob Southard; Nantahala, Newell Baldwin; Burningtown, Bob Parrish; and Cowee, Frank Gibson.

Elsewhere in this issue of The Press is a schedule of dates and locations for listing taxes.

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## 'Comic' Book Delinquency No Problem In This County

The current nation-wide controversy over certain types of comic books — sex, crime, and horror — as blueprints for juvenile delinquency has no roots in Macon County.

And the heartfelt thanks for this commendable, and apparently unusual, situation go to a small group of men in the county who have refused to put the "undesirable" books on their magazine racks for sale.

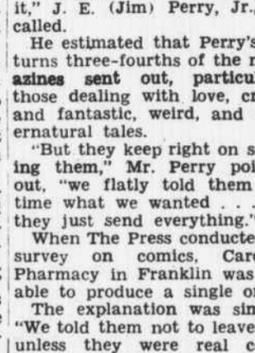
Magazine companies supplying the county have continued to send the controversial comics, but this doesn't mean Macon's children are reading them. "Sure they send them to us," T. W. Angel, Jr., of Angel's Drug Store, declared, "but we just put them under the counter and return them."

Mr. Angel said this form of censorship at his store applies to other kinds of literature supplied by the companies; ". . . you know, those girls' magazines and the like."

"I just don't think that is the kind of literature children should read," he declared, "and I've told them (magazine companies) time and again that I won't use them . . . but they keep sending them . . . and I keep putting them under the counter."

Mr. Angel estimates he rejects about 125 comics and magazines weekly.

## Mr. Houk



Mr. Houk



A GROUP OF COMIC BOOK fans get together in one of Franklin's drug stores to catch up on some of the latest reading. They are (L to R) Jim Tysinger, Ellen Calloway, Joan Thomas, Jean Sutton, and Alex (Buddy) Cabe, Jr.