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Twelve Pages



—Staff Photo by J. P. Brady
PRINCIPAL FIGURES in the newly organized Macon County Fair Association are (l. to r.) Holland McSwain, secretary, Mrs. R. G. Lichtenstein, representing the Franklin Garden Club, Wayne Proffitt, president of the Agricultural Workers Council, and Wiley Brown, co-director of the fair association. They are studying a rough draft of a fair catalog, which was presented for consideration at a meeting last Thursday night.

FAIR GROUP IS ORGANIZED

Brown And Sutton Named Co-Directors Of Association

The pieces for a county fair in 1955 began dropping smoothly into place last Thursday with the election of officers for the newly organized Macon County Fair Association.

Meeting at the Agricultural Building, businessmen, farmers, civic and community leaders elected Charlie Sutton and Wiley Brown as co-directors of the proposed three-day fair. Mr. Sutton is a well-known farmer and Mr. Brown a Franklin businessman and member of the board of county commissioners.

Named to serve with the co-directors were Holland McSwain, secretary, and W. W. (Bill) Sloan, treasurer. A steering committee for handling arrangements for individual features of the fair is to be appointed by the co-directors at an early date.

As a means of beginning early promotion of the fair, it was decided at the meeting to offer the services of fair boosters during February at P. T. A., civic club, and community meetings to explain the inner workings of the proposal and enlist the aid of all in putting it over. Organizations interested in this phase may obtain speakers through the county or home agent's office.

Tentatively, the fair has been scheduled for August 11-12-13 on the grounds at Franklin High School.

At Thursday's meeting — one of several held in recent months to set up the framework of the fair — extension agents Mrs. Margaret D. Smith, Robert McNeil, and John J. Wrinn presented for consideration a rough draft of a fair catalog. This catalog, which will help finance the undertaking through the sale of advertisements, lists the various features of the fair, including stock shows and premium lists for entries. Fair association officers are now digesting its contents. It will be offered for more consideration at later meetings.

It is hoped to finance the entire undertaking with the catalog and sale of booth and display space to merchants and businessmen.

As entertainment features, the association plans to bring in several types of rides for children and the annual Macon County Folk Festival will run nightly under the sponsorship of the Franklin Jaycees. Meetings to map additional plans will be announced regularly.

HIGHLANDS ON TV

Movies of Highlands will be shown today (Thursday) between 4:15 and 4:30 p. m. over WFBC-TV in Greenville, S. C., under the sponsorship of the Highlands Chamber of Commerce, according to the chamber president, Louis Edwards.

TELEPHONE COMPANY —

Raleigh Paper Probes Issue

State Board Cuts County Valuation By Nearly \$40,000

The State Board of Assessment has reduced the 1953 tax valuation of properties of the Western Carolina Telephone Company in Macon County by nearly \$40,000. The company's ad valorem taxes are based on the evaluation set by the board.

The 1953 figures were set by the board more than a year ago. They have now been corrected.

The county total for that year has been reduced from \$124,129 to \$95,623, a reduction of \$38,506. The cut represents a slash of about 29 per cent.

The 1953 reduction in Franklin was from \$74,109 to \$52,834. In Highlands, the 1953 evaluation has been cut from \$32,819 to \$29,987.

The corrections in the 1953 figures followed corrections of the total for 1954. After local authorities had protested that the figures set for 1954 were too low, the state board changed the evaluations for that year as follows:

The county evaluation, first set at \$88,588, was corrected to \$102,766. The Highlands figure was corrected from \$32,819 to \$35,664.

The Franklin total has been twice corrected. First set at \$34,849, it was changed to \$44,129, and more recently was corrected to \$55,626.

The new 1953 figure for the county was revealed in a story in the News and Observer published last week explaining how the Board of Assessment arrived at the figures it has set for the telephone company.

Board's Explanation On Tax Figures Here Features News Story

The State Board of Assessment's explanation of how it arrived at the tax evaluation figures it has placed on properties of the Western Carolina Telephone Company in Macon County and its two towns appeared in a front page story in the Raleigh News and Observer last Thursday.

The two-column News and Observer story, written by Jim Chaney, veteran reporter for that newspaper, was captioned, "Wires 'Crossed' On Tax Figuring".

The story follows, in full: Up in Macon County, The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian tried without success to reconcile two conflicting facts:

1. All North Carolina telephone companies, Western Carolina Company included, were reporting increased investments.

2. In Macon County and the Town of Franklin, a reduction in Western Carolina Telephone's taxable valuation was to cut its ad valorem tax payments to county and town about \$1,000.

The Press knew the taxable value of utility corporation properties is set by the State Board of Assessment. It didn't know how the State board, knowing the company was expanding, could justify the lower valuation.

The answer the company gave was more puzzling than illuminating.

The answer, as dug out here yesterday from State board records.

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BURLINGTON JOB TRAINING IS ANNOUNCED

Program To Begin In V. F. W. Building On January 31

A training program for the new Burlington Mills hosiery plant will get under way here January 31 on a "very moderate" scale, according to an announcement received here from the division manager, T. B. Sain.

He announced that Burlington Mills has temporarily leased the Veterans of Foreign Wars building on West Palmer Street and will operate its training program there.

This program is for training loopers only, Mr. Sain said, and will be on a very moderate scale, employing a few women each week.

Employment will be handled through the state employment service office. A service representative is in Franklin at the courthouse every Tuesday and Friday from 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. Present needs are for females between the ages of 18 and 25 with high school diplomas, according to S. P. Davis, of the Bryson City office.

Various jobs for both men and women will be available later when the new plant is ready to start operations, Mr. Sain said.

Gets Escapee And Hot-Rod

A "routine check" of a "souped-up" Ford about midnight Monday by Highway Patrolman A. A. Lewis produced a stolen automobile and an escapee from the Virginia State Penitentiary.

The patrolman reported a male passenger in the hot-rod ran when he stopped it on US 23-441 (south). He still has not been found.

But, 24-year-old Arthur Glenn Schachman, said by the patrolman to be one of six long-term prisoners who escaped from the Virginia prison Saturday, is temporarily making the Macon County Jail his place of residence until authorities arrive to return him to prison to finish his 16-year sentence for armed robbery.

Meanwhile, officers are hoping to locate the man who fled from the 1940 model Ford driven by Schachman and reportedly stolen in Raleigh.

Early Tuesday morning, a 1954 Ford pick-up was stolen from Franklin Frozen Foods, Inc., and Patrolman Lewis said it is highly probable the elusive man is responsible.

In jail, Schachman offered his opinion of the stolen hot-rod: "It's not so hot... it missed on the hills!"

Who Said Rain?

Weather forecasters slipped up when predicting rain for W. N. C. late Tuesday afternoon and night.

Yesterday (Wednesday) morning, Maconians began shoveling out of several inches of snow, ranging from two inches in Franklin, to four in Highlands and six to eight in the higher elevations. Highway department snowplows rolled most of the night clearing the highways.

Baptist Deacons Set Conference

The Macon Baptist Deacons' Conference is scheduled next Thursday evening, January 27, at the First Baptist Church, according to an announcement by Harry C. Corbin, president.

Featured speaker for the program, which will open at 7 o'clock, will be the Rev. Elmer Green, associational missionary from Haywood County.

Dinner will be served by the women of the church, the president said.

SHOPE RECOVERING

Register of Deeds Lake V. Shope, who has been confined to his home for some time, is recovering and expects to be back at work next week.

Nantahala Creamery Tops State

Nantahala Creamery, of Franklin, is the pace-setter for the rest of the state in sanitation and maybe for the entire country.

The local concern has been given a sanitation rating of 98.93 by the U. S. Public Health Service — the highest on record in the state and probably one of the highest in the nation.

Owned and operated by A. B. Siagle, the creamery for several years has received ratings of 98 or better. A rating of 90 or above is required to meet health standards, according to Sanitarian H. T. Collins.

The creamery buys whole milk from 25 dairies in Macon, Jackson, and Swain and five in Rabun County, Ga.

DIRECTORS ARE NAMED

Chamber Mail Vote Held; New Officers To Come From Group

Five new directors of the Franklin Chamber of Commerce have been named in the chamber's annual mail election.

They are Frank B. Duncan, Sam Gibson, Allen Siler, Gus Baldwin, and Charles Conley, Sr. Rounding out the seven-man board are W. W. Reeves and Norman Blaine, "carry-overs" having another year to serve.

From this slate of directors will be picked the 1955 chamber officers. A meeting to name leaders and map plans for the new year will be called at an early date, according to Mr. Reeves, the out-going president.

Of the new directors, Mr. Duncan and Mr. Gibson, who polled high in the election, serve two years on the board, while the others serve only one year.

Results of the election were tallied Tuesday by the chamber's executive secretary, Mrs. Lasca E. Horsley. Other nominees for the board were L. B. Clontz, George R. McSwain, J. E. Perry, Jr., C. Jack Ragan, Elmon Teague, Mrs. Grace O'Mohundro, and Woodrow Dowdle.

Members of the nominating committee included Vic Perry, T. H. Callahan, B. L. McGlamery, and Roy Moore.

The new directors will take office with the organizational meeting.

Safety Man To Speak At Otto P. T. A. Meet

C. W. Angel, of Sylva, safety representative with the Department of Motor Vehicles, will speak at tonight's (Thursday) meeting of the Otto P. T. A., it has been announced.

The meeting is set for 7:30 at the school.

Move To Censure McSwain Is Failure

Shatley Motion Dies For Lack Of Second; Statement Denied

A move to reprimand County School Supt. Holland McSwain for "insubordination in office" failed Saturday morning as the board of education held a special meeting to further discuss the status of Principal Harry C. Corbin in the Franklin Schools set-up.

The motion to censure the superintendent was pressed for passage three different times during the hour-long meeting by board member Morgan Shatley, but it died for want of a second.

Mr. Shatley also offered another motion — this one attempting to refute a statement in last week's issue of The Press concerning the feelings of other principals in the system over Mr. Corbin's status. This one carried, with two members voting and two abstaining.

Explains Purpose

"To iron out some mistakes and some little troubles" in regard to Mr. Corbin's status was the reason given by Chairman J. C. Sorrells for the called meeting. He declared that some "misunderstandings" came out of the board's stand on the issue at its regular January meeting on the 8th and he said, "we want to straighten out this situation."

He added: "We want it understood that we are not after any principal... we are well satisfied with Mr. Corbin's work."

At the meeting on the 8th, Mr. Shatley questioned if Mr. Corbin was carrying out the assignment made by the school board in July — to serve as elementary principal — and he charged the superintendent with failing to carry out the board's wishes. In defense, Supt. McSwain said the principal had been serving as elementary District Principal Ralph L. Smith with high school affairs.

He argued that Mr. Corbin had been certified by the state board of education as a full-time principal and not a teaching principal, as are other elementary principals in the system, and as such received a higher salary.

With this in the background, the board moved into the special session Saturday morning.

Again Questioned

With the opening of the called meeting, Supt. McSwain again explained his position in the matter and reiterated the approach taken by the state board in allotting principals. He also read the minutes of the July meeting assigning Mr. Corbin to the Franklin Schools "primarily" as elementary principal and to assist at the high school. The state board certified Mr. Corbin as district principal No. 2.

Chairman Sorrells contended the school board was under the

impression since July that Mr. Corbin was elementary principal and he charged that Supt. McSwain was at fault for not informing the board otherwise.

He added that the board was willing to admit a mistake had been made and rather than disrupt the schools would "take our licking and say no more about it for the rest of the school year."

Both Chairman Sorrells and Mr. Shatley pressed the superintendent to admit he had "made a mistake, too."

Supt. McSwain declared the only thing he was guilty of, if at all, was "a misinterpretation of the board's wishes."

He said he had no evidence of "any conflict brought on by the action of the board" and it was his understanding that Mr. Corbin was not to be restricted to the elementary school alone.

Mr. Shatley declared: "The board was under the impression he was hired as elementary principal... rather he has been acting principal of the high school."

Supt. McSwain countered that under the state allotment the principal was not certified as either principal of the elementary or high school but as district principal No. 2 with no restrictions.

Mr. Shatley contended the question was not if the board did the right thing, but that Supt. McSwain had not carried out its orders.

Smith Makes Motion

As a means of clarifying the issue, board member John Smith offered a motion that Mr. Corbin be officially termed district principal No. 2, instead of elementary principal, with the provision that it be retroactive to July in order not to affect his salary. The motion carried unanimously.

With its passage, both Mr. Shatley and Mr. Sorrells again emphasized that Mr. Corbin's work was not the issue and that he has been "doing an excellent job."

Denies Statement

Mr. Shatley then offered the following motion:

"I make a motion that this board refute the statement made in The Franklin Press last week, relative to what was said regarding the principals in other schools complaining about the status of Harry Corbin and to state further that at no time collectively or individually has this board or any member of this board said or implied that they had received any complaints from the elementary school principals regarding the status of Mr. Corbin."

In last week's issue of The Press, Mr. Shatley was quoted as saying he had received complaints from other elementary principals regarding the principal's status.

He and Claude W. Cabe voted SEE NO. 3, PAGE 12

The Weather

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

FRANKLIN		
Temperatures		
	High	Low
Wed., Jan. 12	47	25
Thursday	44	26
Friday	49	11
Saturday	47	34
Sunday	54	29
Monday	56	17
Tuesday	48	18

2 in. snow Wed. morning, Jan. 19

HIGHLANDS		
Temperatures		
	High	Low
Wed., Jan. 12	40	28
Thursday	34	20
Friday	44	12
Saturday	40	34
Sunday	48	28
Monday	50	18
Tuesday	40	21

Wed. morning, Jan. 19

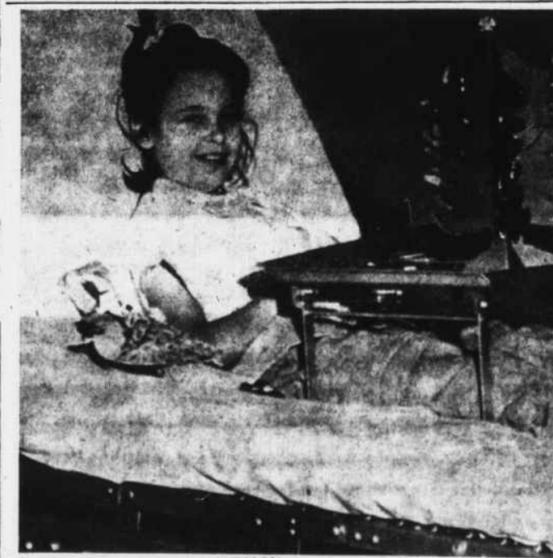
4 in. snow and still snowing.

COWEETA		
Temperatures		
	High	Low
Wed., Jan. 12	46	23
Thursday	34	28

of snow

Friday	45	12
Saturday	46	43
Sunday	50	28
Monday	53	18
Tuesday	46	20
Wed. morning, Jan. 19	1 1/2	in.

snow and still snowing.



ALTHOUGH HIT BY POLIO, nine-year-old Brenda Joyce Kirkland hasn't forgotten how to smile. Brenda Joyce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. N. Kirkland, of the Patton section, is undergoing treatment at the Asheville Orthopedic Hospital, thanks to the "March of Dimes". She was stricken October 23, 1954, and was one of three polio cases in Macon for the year. The 1955 dimes drive is now under way here.



A \$50,000 LOOK is being taken by Franklin Mayor W. C. Burrell and Town Clerk C. O. Ramsey. It's the check from the state treasurer from the sale of bonds to construct the town's municipal building on West Main Street. Bids for the building will be opened February 8 and construction is expected to begin immediately thereafter.