



Demolished Auto That Injured Men

## Centennial Caravan Leaves Today For Trip To Raleigh

A motorcade of "Brushy Brothers" and "Belles of the Bustles" pulled out of Franklin early this morning, heading for Raleigh and a 10 a. m. Friday appointment for Centennial talk with Gov. Luther B. Hodges.

Among those in the caravan— which plans to spread the centennial "gospel" in a number of cities down and back — are Mayor W. C. Burrell, Sheriff J. Harry Thomas, Register of Deeds Lake V. Shope, and School Supt. Holland McSwain, celebration co-chairman, who arranged the special appointment with the state's chief.

Invitations to make the trip to the capital city were passed verbally to "Brushy Brothers" and "Belles of the Bustle" over the week-end when the governor's confirmation of the appointment arrived too late for publication in last week's issue of The Press.

Let Stopper Out  
Meanwhile, officials of the mid-June (16-17-18) celebration marking the town's 100th incorporated birthday said this week "we're going to let the stopper out about the 15th."

In order to simplify sales of souvenirs by the committee, a booth will be set up in the downtown area near the "call-boose" within the next week. All badges and other fund-raising articles will be withdrawn from stores and will be sold only at the booth.

King And Queen  
The "King and Queen of Centennial" contest is about ready for unrolling, according to chairman Bruce Palmer. Nominations of men over 55 and women over 50 to run as a couple for the royal title in the penny-a-vote contest still are coming in from businesses and communities, he said. Voting will be at a central polling place near the booth. Mr. Palmer said his May 1 deadline for nominees has been extended to allow communities to meet and select couples. However, all must be in by the 15th, he added.

As of Tuesday night, the following: Mr. and Mrs. Graham Grindstaff, of the Bethel community; John Jones and Mrs. Nellie Katenbrink, V. F. W.; Mr. and Mrs. G. B. Woodward, Higdonville community; Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Higdon, Franklin Garden Club; Sam J. Murray and Mrs. Nellie Katenbrink, Reeves Hardware Company; Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Cabe, Burrell Motor Company; the Rev. and Mrs. W. N. Cook, Macon County Supply Company and Reece Motor Company; Bob Davis and Mrs. Nellie Katenbrink; Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Long, Baldwin's Market; and Alex Moore and Mrs. P. F. Callahan, Franklin Jayces.

Polio Chapter Meet Called By Stockton

J. H. Stockton, county chairman, has called a meeting of the Macon chapter of the National Foundation of Infantile Paralysis committee for next Wednesday, May 11, at the courthouse.

Set for 8 o'clock, the meeting is for all interested in the March of Dimes and the Salk vaccination program.

## 'Dowser' Is Answer?

An almost high and dry Town of Highlands has turned its water troubles over to a professional "water dowser", a modern-day Merlin who locates the precious fluid with a dry stick.

But, the town officials feel this un-geological approach to their biggest governmental headache is going to pay dividends for they obtained the services of one of the country's top and very famous "water dowzers", Jerry Smith, of Barstow, Calif.

This gifted water stick wielder, whose art has been featured in national magazines and on TV, flew in from the coast to Anderson, S. C., at the request of the Highlands town fathers and spent Tuesday and Wednesday "dowsing" out spots for wells. He also spotted some locations for private parties while here.

An abortive attempt to bring more water by drilling its latest well deeper preceded the decision to hire Mr. Smith and his amazing stick. At 802 feet, only 25 gallons a minute came in.

But Mr. Smith — his stick vibrating — paced off some 75 feet from this unproductive well and informed the group of officials and spectators a well sunk about 590 feet at that point would bring in 190 gallons a minute. He explained that in sinking the well, the shaft had missed the water table and seepage from a crack in the table accounted for the small amount it was producing. He further suggested a charge of dynamite in the shaft might open up the table.

Whether the more than \$500 the town paid Mr. Smith for his trip and services pays dividends will be up to the new town commissioners.

It will be their decision to dig any new wells.

## AT SECOND MEETING — Center Framework Erected

A second meeting of interested persons within a week has spawned the frame work of a supervised youth center for Franklin's young people.

Meeting Tuesday night to make final plans as a follow-up of an organizational session a week earlier, the group of adults and students decided to:

- (1) Accept Dr. G. R. McSweeney's offer of the use of a large garage at the rear of his clinic for a temporary center.
- (2) Appointed B. B. Scott, W. K. (Ken) Hooker, and Prelo Dryman to make arrangements for facilities in the garage, and
- (3) Appointed B. L. McGlamery, C. B. Hussey, and Ralph

## 2 Men Injured In Auto Mishap Early Monday

Two Macon County men were seriously injured shortly after midnight Sunday when the 1949 Ford in which they were riding failed to make the Lowery curve on US 23-441 (south) and overturned several times.

They are the driver, Henry Odell Stiwinter, 23, of Cullasaja, and Paul Jenkins, 40, of Gneiss. Stiwinter received a broken neck and cuts about the head and face and Jenkins a fractured pelvis and scalp lacerations, according to officials at Angel Hospital.

The patrolman said both men had been drinking heavily. He has charged Stiwinter with drunk driving, reckless driving, and speeding.

A passing taxi driver is reported to have spotted the overturned vehicle's headlights soon after it missed the curve and rolled three and a half times into a yard at the south end of the Blossomtown stretch. The vehicle, which the patrolman said was traveling at a "very high rate of speed", covered 291 feet in rolling. Both men were thrown clear of the wreckage. Patrolman Ferguson listed the Ford as "demolished" on his report.

## Proposal Protested

Opposition to a proposed additional license levy on motor vehicles flared quickly here Monday and a protest petition reportedly containing the signatures of some 250 persons is now in the hands of Macon Rep. G. L. Houk in Raleigh.

The proposal — now being considered as an alternative to a tobacco tax increase — calls for a stamp license tax on all motor vehicles. This would be approximately half the present cost of motor vehicle license tax, up to maximum of \$10, it is understood.

W. C. Burrell, of Burrell Motor Company, Inc., circulated the petition here.

The brief paper declared: "We the undersigned protest actively the proposed stamp privilege tax on vehicles or any similar tax to be placed on vehicles in addition to the present tax."

## Field Day Is Friday

The annual Rotary-sponsored Elementary School Field Day is expected to bring some 200 school children to Franklin High School tomorrow (Friday).

Featuring the day-long agenda are academic tests and athletic contests. Eighth graders, who will move up to high school in the fall, also will tour the high school register for courses.

Another meeting is scheduled this coming Tuesday night at 7:30 at Slagle Memorial Building.

## X-RAY UNIT OFFERS FREE SERVICE

In Franklin For Six Days; Highlands Stop Scheduled Today

A mobile X-Ray unit rolled into Macon County this week under the sponsorship of the Macon Tuberculosis Association, offering free chest X-rays to all over 15 years.

The unit's first stop was in Nantahala Tuesday and yesterday (Wednesday) it pulled into Franklin for a six-day visit. It will be in operation here today, Friday, Saturday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Another unit is in Highlands today.

While the unit is in Franklin, members of the Junior Woman's Club and the V. F. W. Auxiliary are serving as clerical help and hostesses.

Fred Dowdle is chairman of the local TB association.

## City Hall Is Started

Construction of Franklin's new municipal building moved ahead this week with the break in the weather and the masonry work already is under way.

Contractor Wiley Clark said Tuesday afternoon his schedule calls for having the walls and roof up by July 1, if material shipments are not delayed as they have been in recent weeks. Steel for the modernistic building should arrive within a week, he said.

The \$51,000 structure is being built by the town on a continuing contract basis in order to avoid cut-backs in construction.

## Who're Town's Oldest Folks?

Who is the oldest person in Franklin? What persons in Franklin are 90 years of age or older? The Press wants to run pictures, in its centennial edition, of every Franklin person who has attained the age of 90.

It doesn't want to miss any of them, and so is asking those who know Franklin persons 90 or older to telephone the paper.

## A. C. S. Halts C. A. P. Unit

A Civil Air Patrol unit in Franklin has been pigeon-holed temporarily.

Officials of the Asheville C. A. P. unit were scheduled to meet here Sunday with local citizens to organize a unit.

But they begged off, according to Frank Plyler, temporary chairman. The reason: Present identification pictures would be worthless A. C. S. (After Centennial Shaving).

## Burley Vote Carries Here

Macon burley tobacco growers joined those in the rest of the belt last Thursday in approving marketing quotas and price supports for 1955.

In the referendum, local growers left no question of how they stood by polling 135 "yeas" and no "neats."

Only those who grew burley last year were eligible to cast a vote in the congress-sponsored referendum.

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## Fires Break Out As Dry Spell Sticks

Federal and state foresters and volunteers have been battling a rash of small fires over the county this week. All were either out or under control Tuesday night.

Ranger W. L. Nothstein, of the Wayah district of the Nantahala, predicts the situation is due to get "progressively worse" if dry weather continues.

He urged the cooperation of all citizens, particularly hikers and fishermen, in stopping fires before they start. The ranger noted that "things that wouldn't have caught fire a week ago will do so now."

During the week, he said, the fuel moisture figure in the woods has been as low as two per cent.

"And that's almost oven dry", the ranger declared.

Fires mopped up by crews this week included:

Saturday — six acres of government land in the Flat Woods section, near the Maiden's Chapel church.

Saturday night — Onion Mountain, four acres of private land on the Ammons and Stewart properties.

Monday morning — Ashe Flats section, prompt action by federal and state crews held damage to about one acre; but, "it could have developed into a large and bad fire", Ranger Nothstein said.

Monday — about 40 acres of private lands owned by Brown and Miller in the Salt Rock Gap vicinity.

Monday night — approximately 40 acres of private land on Anderson Branch near Byrd Gap. Government land threatened.

The ranger estimated that about 150 man hours were spent fighting each fire.

## GYM ABOUT COMPLETED

Whitmire Says Job Will Be Finished Inside Of 30 Days

E. J. Whitmire, general manager of Macon Construction Company, Tuesday said his company will finish construction of Franklin High's roughed-in gymnasium within 30 days.

Masonry work on the gymnasium is finished, he said, and crews will begin erecting steel for the roof today (Thursday). All materials to finish the job are on hand.

With the end of "part one" of the gymnasium's construction, roughly \$60,000 more will be needed to complete it, according to School Supt. Holland McSwain. This figure does not include furniture and other equipment, he added.

Exactly when funds will be available for "part two" of the program is not known, the superintendent declared.

## SING SUNDAY

The second Sunday sing of the southern division of the Macon County Singing Convention will be held at the Bethel Methodist Church beginning at 1:30 p. m. Tom Henson, secretary, has announced. All singers and the public are invited.



WHAT MORE proof does one need that warm weather has arrived with this catcher's heel view of the great American sport. Franklin's Panthers dropped their opening game of the season Friday to the Cherokee Braves (See picture and story, front page Second Section), played Murphy here yesterday (Wednesday), and today at 1 p. m. meet Robbinsville on the local diamond. Tuesday they play Robbinsville away.

## Incumbents Back In Office In Towns

Franklin and Highlands voters Tuesday returned all incumbents to office, but polled some close races for vacant seats on the governing boards.

Here are the unofficial outcomes:

**Franklin**  
Aldermen J. C. Jacobs polled high man with 242 votes to lead his three incumbent running mates back in office for third terms. The three are A. G. Cagle, 229 votes, Oscar Ledford, 221, and J. Frank Martin, 212.

Receiving the second highest number of votes was a newcomer to the board, J. L. West, Jr. He got 229.

The sixth and final member is Sam Gibson, who squeezed into office by one vote over Prelo J. Dryman. W. K. (Ken) Hooker received 181.

The Gibson-Dryman-Hooker race for the last seat was a nip and tuck affair right up to the end of the count-out. At times, the three were deadlocked.

Mayor W. C. Burrell, unopposed for reelection, received 275 of the total vote of 307.

**Highlands**  
Highlands has a new mayor in V. W. (Bill) McCall, former town clerk and now cashier with the Jackson County Bank. He swept into office with 186 votes over Carlton Cleveland's 77. W. H. Cobb, mayor for five straight terms, did not seek reelection.

Four incumbents were reelected to the five-man board of commissioners. They are Carter Talley, 204 votes, for his second term; L. W. Rice, Sr., 174, for his 14th non-consecutive term; Tudor N. Hall, 180, third term; and Steve Potts, 170, second term.

A three-way race developed for the fifth seat, with H. S. Talley, a former board member, who collected 161 votes. Also after the seat were J. Phil Tate, 130, and Frank Crane, 159.

Highlands total vote was 266.

## Craft Center Opening Set

The Nonah Community Center Craft House on Cartoogechay is scheduled to open Monday under the supervision of Miss Sally Kesler.

Miss Kesler plans to keep the center open the first three days of each week for those interested in learning handicrafts. Mondays, she plans to offer instruction in silk screening. Weaving will be taught on Tuesdays, and other crafts on Wednesdays.

Hours will be 10 a. m. to 4 p. m. A charge of \$1 per day will be made.

## Cutback In Funds Kills Water Gauge Station In County

A cutback in funds is giving the axe to the T. V. A. water gauge station on the Cullasaja River at Cullasaja.

The station is one of 16 operated in Western North Carolina by U. S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, being discontinued.

A reduction in funds for operating the stations is the reason given for the move.

## NEW PLANT TO OPERATE ON MAY 30

Bundy Gives Date For Production; Work Continues

Stephen A. Bundy, superintendent of Burlington Industries' new plant here, arrived Monday night and Tuesday announced that operations at the \$3,000,000 hosiery mill will get under way May 30.

Meanwhile, construction of the plant just outside the city limits on US 23-441 is 90 per cent complete, according to J. P. Whitt, Jr., superintendent of construction for Daniels Construction Company. Mr. Whitt said his men will be through with the building between the 15th and 20th and then will concentrate on outside jobs.

Airconditioning, heating, and electrical work also is under way in the building.

In announcing the opening production date for the plant, Mr. Bundy said approximately 60 persons will be working at first. A gradual expansion program is expected to swell this number to more than 300 in a year and a half.

A native of Jamestown, Mr. Bundy has been superintendent of the company's Hillcrest Plant in High Point for nearly a year and a half.

He is living in the new house built by Dr. Edgar Angel just off Maple Street and expects to bring his wife and two children here in early June.

## BRIEFS

**VOTE TO BUILD**  
Members of the Masonic Lodge voted Tuesday night to raze the old lodge on Church Street and begin construction of a new building at an early date.

**BOARD HAS MEETING**  
The Macon County Board of Education met last (Wednesday) night to review district committee recommendations of principals and teachers for the school year 1955-56. Actions taken by the board were not available at presstime.

There'll be a touch of a typical day in May in the Franklin High cafeteria Saturday night when the annual Junior-Senior banquet and dance materializes.

A May Day theme will be carried out, even to the point of decorating the cafeteria like a flower-covered garden.

Eli Brason Henson, 82, a native of Macon County, died Sunday at 11 a. m. at the home of his son, Jess Henson, in Waynesville.

A farmer, Mr. Henson had been ill only a short time.

## The Weather

FRANKLIN

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Apr. 27	78	36	....
Thursday	75	34	....
Friday	73	34	....
Saturday	73	36	....
Sunday	83	34	....
Monday	83	35	....
Tuesday	72	54	....

HIGHLANDS

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Apr. 27	70	38	....
Thursday	69	36	....
Friday	72	36	....
Saturday	.....	.....	.....
Sunday	.....	.....	.....
Monday	71	37	....
Tuesday	74	37	....

COWETA

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., Apr. 27	75	37	....
Thursday	74	36	....
Friday	76	36	....
Saturday	77	39	....
Sunday	80	36	....
Monday	79	37	....
Tuesday	83	38	....