

The Franklin Press and The Highlands Maconian

Holly Springs Winner Of Area Contest

15-Year Term Given Woman In Slaying

Boy Is Committed To School For Boys; Mrs. Shelton Freed

A continuing family squabble that triggered the pistol slaying of a 55-year-old T. V. A. Hneman on October 22 near Franklin was resolved shortly after noon Friday in Superior Court here.

Branding the shooting as "unnecessary", Judge Dan K. Moore sentenced Mrs. Hazel Stoffel, confessed slayer of her step-father, Kenneth Tom Shelton, to 15 to 20 years in prison.

Mrs. Stoffel's 14-year-old son, Gene, whom the judge described as "overindulged" by his grandfather, was committed to the State Industrial School for Boys for an indeterminate term.

The state settled a nol pros with leave (case dismissed with provisions for reopening at any time) on the third figure in the trial, the slain man's wife, Mrs. Gertrude Shelton.

Sentencing of the mother and her son ended nearly three days of testimony relating to the shooting at the Shelton home.

Neither registered any emotion when the judge pronounced sentence, but as the tension in the packed courtroom subsided during a recess, Mrs. Stoffel dabbed at her eyes with a crumpled handkerchief. Her 12-year-old daughter sobbed at her side.

"Bad Situation" In a brief resume of testimony prior to passing sentence on the two, Judge Moore concluded that a "bad situation" apparently existed in the Shelton household for the past few years — "an explosive situation that was bound to blow up ... it did on October 22."

Despite this, however, the judge said he believed the "killing was unnecessary."

Jury Trial Waived A jury trial in the case was waived Tuesday afternoon of last week when Solicitor Thad D. Bryson accepted a plea of voluntary manslaughter for Mrs. Stoffel, one of involuntary manslaughter for the boy, and a nol pros with leave for Mrs. Shelton.

All three had been charged with murder and the grand jury indictments so stipulated.

While the solicitor's acceptance of the lesser pleas came as a surprise in some quarters, Judge Moore noted that evidence brought out during the trial indicated the decision was well founded.

Packs Courtroom As the most highly-publicized case in recent years here, the trial of Mrs. Stoffel and her son packed the courtroom. Between 50 and 75 spectators stood along the back wall during the proceedings.

Wednesday morning saw the trial go into full swing as the state produced several witnesses, who described circumstances surrounding Shelton's death from a .32 calibre pistol wound in the back.

Dr. Edgar Angel testified as SEE NO. 1, PAGE 4

Judge Moore Recesses Term; Cases Listed

Judge Dan K. Moore recessed the December term of Superior Court late Tuesday afternoon and unless some pressing matters arise it will not reconvene.

The recess came at the end of the trial of civil matters, which had occupied the court's time since Monday morning. With the exception of some late cases, the criminal docket was cleared Friday afternoon.

Under the law, the term does not end officially until midnight Saturday.

Hospitals Get \$21,400 From Ford Allocation

A total of \$21,400 has been received by two hospitals in this county, a gift from the Ford Foundation.

Angel Hospital, Inc., gets \$11,400 and Highlands Community Hospital, \$10,000.

The grants are part of a \$200-million appropriation given by the foundation to privately supported hospitals in the country.

It is understood the hospitals will be able to spend the sums as needed.

Contest Draws 11

Eleven communities are entered in the Nantahala Power and Light Company's annual outdoor Christmas lighting contest, according to W. W. (Bill) Sloan, director of rural service, who is in charge.

Displays will be up in the communities from the 17th through the 26th.

Five cash awards, totaling \$100, will be made this year for the best entries. First place will get \$30; 2nd, \$25; 3rd, \$20; 4th, \$15; and 5th, \$10.

As in the past, the names of the judges will not be announced, Mr. Sloan said.

Following are the communities entered and the locations of their exhibits:

Bethel — Bethel Methodist Church.

Carson — Carson Chapel Methodist Church.

Clark's Chapel — Clark's Chapel Methodist Church.

Cowee — near Cowee picnic area.

Cullasaja — near Womack's Cottages (US 64).

Higdonville — at Higdonville entrance sign on US 64.

Holly Springs — at community building.

Totla — at home of Jay Houston on NC 28.

Patton — at community building.

Upper Cartoogechaye — near Cartoogechaye Baptist Church (US 64).

Otto — Coweeta Church.



ACCEPTING HOLLY SPRINGS' \$500 check for winning the W. N. C. rural contest is Woodrow Franklin (left) at Saturday's awards luncheon in Asheville. Making the presentation is Maurice Puckett, president of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce. Looking on is Dr. Paul D. Sanders, editor of The Southern Planter, who who was guest speaker.

Christmas Is In The Air; Activities Are Scheduled

Christmas is everywhere — in the nippy, invigorating air, in churches, schools, homes, and businesses.

Here's proof of the spirit: Pageant Tonight

Tonight (Thursday), a Christmas pageant is to be presented at the Cowee School. Set to begin at 7:30, it is being sponsored by the P. T. A.

Yule Bazaar A Christmas bazaar tomorrow (Friday) at the Nantahala Power and Light Company show room will be held by the women of the Longview Baptist Church. Hours will be 9 a. m. to 4 p. m. Proceeds will be for the church building fund.

Carson Pageant Sunday night at 7, the Car-

son Sunday School pageant will be held at the church.

Baptist Program Members of the first Baptist Church plan their annual Christmas program Sunday. It will begin at 9:45 a. m. with "White Christmas", and will run continuously through the morning worship service, according to the pastor, the Rev. M. W. Chapman. Foods and gifts for charitable purposes will be contributed by the Sunday School and church for the "White Christmas" feature.

At 6:15 the Training Union of the church will meet as scheduled.

A Christmas play, "In the Shepherd's Field", is to be presented at 7:30. Mrs. Curtis Pearson and Mrs. M. W. Chapman are directing. Mrs. J. C. Jacobs and Mrs. E. W. Fisher have charge of costumes. Music by the church choir will be supervised by Mrs. Howard Barnwell. Organist will be Mrs. Bill Bryson.

Burlington Party A Christmas party for the children of employees of Burlington Industries here is set for 2 p. m. Sunday at the East Franklin School, according to Superintendent Stephen A. Bundy.

"Santa Claus" will be on hand and gift bags of toys, candy fruits and a variety of other things will be distributed to all children 10 years and under, Mr. Bundy said. A brief program of carols also is planned and the showing of a movie, "The Littlest Angel". The superintendent will speak briefly.

The party is expected to draw some 300 children and parents.

Annual Cantata The third annual Jaycees-sponsored Christmas cantata is set for December 23 at the First Methodist Church. The choir will be composed of voices from the Methodist, Baptist, and Presbyterian churches.

Admission to the cantata will be a gift for the needy, according to the Rev. J. Bryan Hatchett, who is in charge for the Jaycees.

Benefit Yule Sale Christmas foods will be featured at a benefit bake sale Saturday in the Nantahala Power show room from 9 a. m. to noon. It will be sponsored by the Franklin Junior Woman's Club.

Van Raalte Party Employees of the Van Raalte plant plan their annual Christmas party Saturday at 7:30 p. m. at the East Franklin School.

Plant Manager Norman Blaine reports the program will include carol singing and gift exchanges.

Play At Prentiss A play, "King of Bethlehem", will be presented the night of December 23 at the Prentiss Baptist Church. It is being di-

SEE NO. 2, PAGE 8

Yule Decorations Contest Planned By Garden Club

Five prizes are being awarded this year by the Franklin Garden Club to the winning entries in its annual Christmas lighting contest, according to Mrs. E. C. Kingsbery, contest chairman.

To be judged by a secret committee the night of December 22, the contest is open to all residents within a radius of one mile of the city limits. Judging will be from 7 to 10 o'clock.

Three divisions for judging have been set up. They are (1) best lighted and decorated public building, (2) best store window, and (3) best home decorations. The latter category is divided into three groups—best outdoor decorations, best door decorations, and best window display.

Other members of Mrs. Kingsbery's committee are Mrs. J. E. S. Thorpe and Miss Laura Jones.

Bundy Announces Christmas Schedule For Plant Here

A Christmas operating schedule for Burlington Industries here has been announced by Superintendent Stephen A. Bundy.

The holiday at the Franklin plant will be observed from the end of the second shift on Thursday, the 22nd, to the beginning of the third shift on Monday, the 26th.

Circuit Churches Plan Benefit Sunday Dinner

The churches of the Franklin Methodist Circuit will sponsor a "Sunday dinner", to be served December 18 from 12 until 2 o'clock, at the Carson Chapel community house.

The proceeds will go to furnish the parsonage.

The public is invited.

Given \$500 Check For '55 Activities

Holly Springs—the community that pioneered the rural community development program in this county in 1952—believes in the progress slogan, "There Is No Limit To What A Community Can Do—If It Wants To."

Four years of unlimited wanting materialized for the 63-family community in Asheville on Saturday when it was announced as the winner of the 1955 W. N. C. Rural Community Development Contest.

At an awards luncheon at the Battery Park Hotel, as the list of those competing shortened with each presentation, the Macon delegation ran the gamut of emotion—from surface nonchalance, to hopeful expectancy, and, finally, to an elated whoop of victory when the closely-guarded secret was out.

A smiling Woodrow Franklin, who was president during the year, stepped to the speaker's rostrum to receive the \$500 check from Maurice Puckett, president of the Asheville Chamber of Commerce.

The first prize was given by the Farmers Federation.

Balanced Program In an interview following the luncheon, Morris L. McGough, executive secretary of the Asheville Agricultural Development Council, said it was his understanding the judges of the contest were impressed by Holly Springs' balanced program of improved farm and home management and the emphasis placed on increasing farm income. The council sponsors the area contest.

Under its 1955 program, the pace-setting community increased hatching egg flocks from 6,859 birds to 20,805 and beef cattle from 376 head to 517. Its top projects covered a wide range in farm, home, and church life. A home was purchased and remodeled inside and out by the community for a paragon for the Holly Springs Baptist Church; seven directional signs were erected on side roads in the community, each listing the families living on the road; several new recreational features for young and old were pushed to completion at the community building; and a vigorous program of youth activities, including the sponsoring of a Boy Scout troop, was undertaken.

These projects carried Holly Springs to victory in the county rural contest and it automatically represented Macon in the area event.

Attend Luncheon Those attending the Asheville luncheon included Mr. and Mrs. Sam Winkleblack, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Kinsland, Mr. and Mrs. Woodrow Franklin and daughter Betty Jean, Mrs. Rita Ferguson, Jay Deal, Mrs. Effie Deal, Mrs. Earl Justice, Mrs. L. A. Berry, Dewey Corbin, Miss Mildred Corbin, Mr. and Mrs. Don Seagle, Mr. and Mrs. James P. Wurst, County Agent T. H. Fagg, and W. W. (Bill) Sloan.

Guest speaker at the luncheon was Dr. Paul D. Sanders, SEE NO. 3, PAGE 5

CLOSING FOR HOLIDAYS County school will close tomorrow (Friday) for the holidays. Classes will be resumed January 2

MEETING CHANGED The Franklin Junior Woman's Club December business meeting, previously scheduled for December 26, will be held December 19 at 8 o'clock at the Presbyterian church.

Highway Bids Not Cleared Bids for construction of the 12.46-mile link of US 23-411 from Franklin to the Georgia state line still have not cleared.

They have been approved by the State Highway Commission, subject to the approval of the Bureau of Public Roads, which is assisting in financing the link with the state. The latter agency has not approved the project, but it is expected at any time, according to highway officials.

More Jail Space Needed, Grand Jury Recommends Jurors inspecting the jail included Joe Reese, T. A. Bateman, and Wiley Stamey.

A group composed of John Campbell, Don Watson, and B. F. Waldroop found the prison camp in "excellent shape."

"Several window panes need putting, some replacing; all offices need painting; rest rooms need some repair," was the report of jurors visiting the county's jurymen courthouse. They were J. E. Hicks, Roby Roper, and Bert Zachary.

The grand jury submitted its report to Judge Dan K. Moore on Wednesday of last week. Fred Hannah was foreman of the body.

The Weather The week's temperatures and rainfall, as recorded by Franklin, N. C., at the Franklin State College, by Lulu N. Hill and W. C. Newton, TVA observers, and at the Coweeta Hydrologic FRANKLIN

Temperatures High Low Rain

Wed., Dec. 8 W 53 23

Thursday 52 24 20

Friday 42 25 25

Saturday 42 11

Sunday 45 15

Monday 45 10

Tuesday 48 8

COWEETA

Temperatures High Low Rain

Wed., Dec. 8 W 52 26 18

Thursday 50 26

Friday 35 32

Saturday 40 11

Sunday 43 14

Monday 41 11

Tuesday 45 10



THIS COURTROOM photograph shows Mrs. Hazel Stoffel and her mother, Mrs. Gertrude Shelton (both seated) being comforted by Mrs. Stoffel's 12-year-old daughter (standing, left) and another member of the family. Mrs. Stoffel was sentenced to 15-20 years for the slaying of her step-father.