

## REVEALED BY OLD LETTER

# 28th U. S. President Once Visited Here

Traveled 15 Hours By Stage

In the summer of 1879, Macon County was visited by a young man who was later to become President of the United States.

July of that year found the youthful future President "perched high on the Blue Ridge"—in Horse Cove. He described it as "apparently North Carolina's jumping-off place".

Only 22 at the time, he had studied at Davidson College, and just the month before had been graduated from Princeton University. In October, he planned to enter the "University of Virginia," at Charlottesville. There he would study law, which he considered "on the main road to Congress". (He was never to serve in Congress, however, but vaulted from a governorship to the Presidency.)

On this, his first—and, as far as is known, only—trip to Southwestern North Carolina, he was accompanied by his mother, a younger brother, a younger sister, and the latter's three children.

It had been a long, hard trip from Wilmington, where the youth's father was pastor of a Presbyterian church. To reach Horse Cove, the party had traveled "about twelve hours on the cars and fifteen in a stage over rough, ill-kept mountain roads".

"Alone, I could have enjoyed it in a measure at least," he wrote a friend; "but for delicate ladies and children it was trying in the extreme."

"We have certainly found a cool resort, however," the letter continued, "and are very comfortably housed here in Horse Cove."

The letter was to his good friend of Princeton undergraduate days, Robert Bridges. And though it was 77 years ago that Woodrow Wilson spent that summer vacation in Horse Cove, probably nobody in Macon County—and perhaps not a

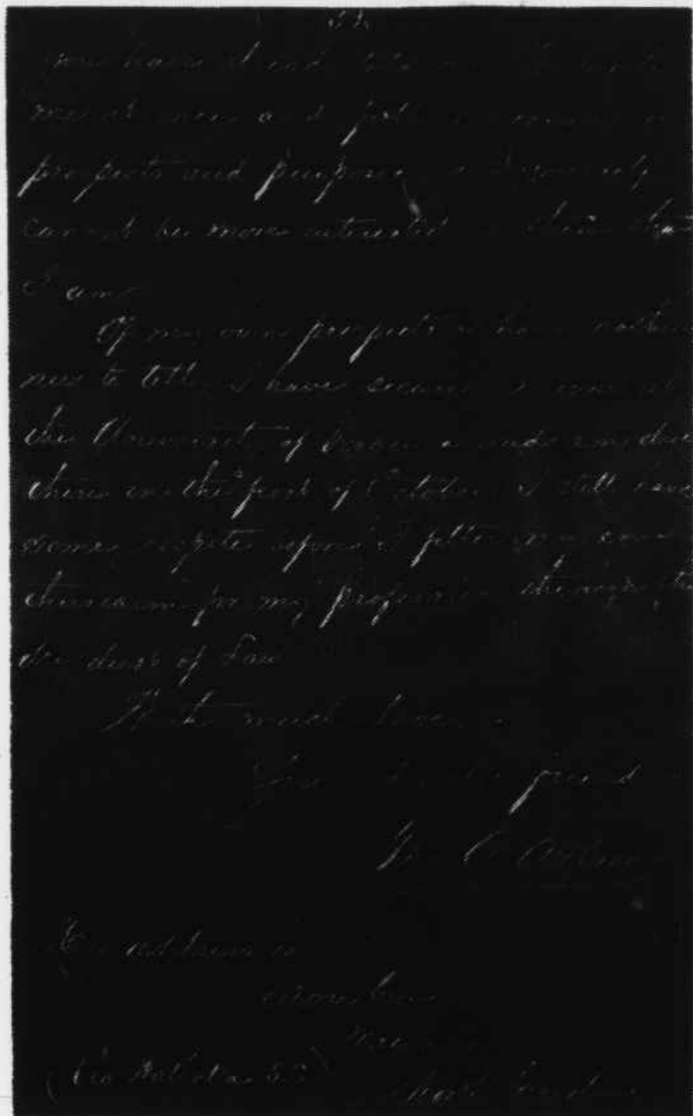
score of persons in the entire country—knew about it until that hand-written letter turned up recently. It gave his address as "Horse Cove, Macon Co., North Carolina" and was dated "July 30th, '79".

The last page of the letter (a photostatic copy of which appears herewith) was among original papers, letters, etc., in a recent Library of Congress exhibit, arranged to mark the centennial of President Wilson's birth. D. Hiden Ramsey, of Asheville, saw a reference to it in the Quarterly Journal of the Library of Congress, and wrote The Press. A letter from this newspaper asking the Library for a photostatic copy brought the reply that the letter might not be reproduced without the permission of the World War 1 President's widow. That permission was granted, and The Press finally obtained for publication the full text of the only letter ever written from this county by a future President.

Before the Bridges letter came to light, however, there was a suggestion—plain for all who could read—of Wilson's visit to this county. How it escaped attention until now nobody knows. It is in Ray Stannard Baker's "Woodrow Wilson—Life and Letters". On page 111, Volume 1, of that work is this quotation from a letter to another Princeton friend, Charles Talcott:

"I leave in about a week", Wilson wrote from Wilmington, "with my mother and small brother for the Blue Ridge. Address me (and please write soon) at Highlands, Macon County, North Carolina (via Walhalla, S. C.). I'll tell you about the region we are to visit when I know more about it. It is as yet new ground for me."

That letter was dated July 7, 1879. If young Wilson did leave, as he planned, within a week, Continued on Page Three—



Above is a photostatic copy of the last page of a letter Woodrow Wilson, at 22, wrote from Macon County's Horse Cove, where he was spending a vacation. The "Thomas W." in the signature at first is confusing, but persons familiar with President Wilson's life will remember that it was years later that he dropped the "Thomas" from his name, and thereafter signed himself simply "Woodrow Wilson".

## How Important?

(EDITORIAL)

How much should you and I permit ourselves to be influenced, as we prepare to go to the polls Saturday, by the past ten days' incidents on the segregation-integration scene?

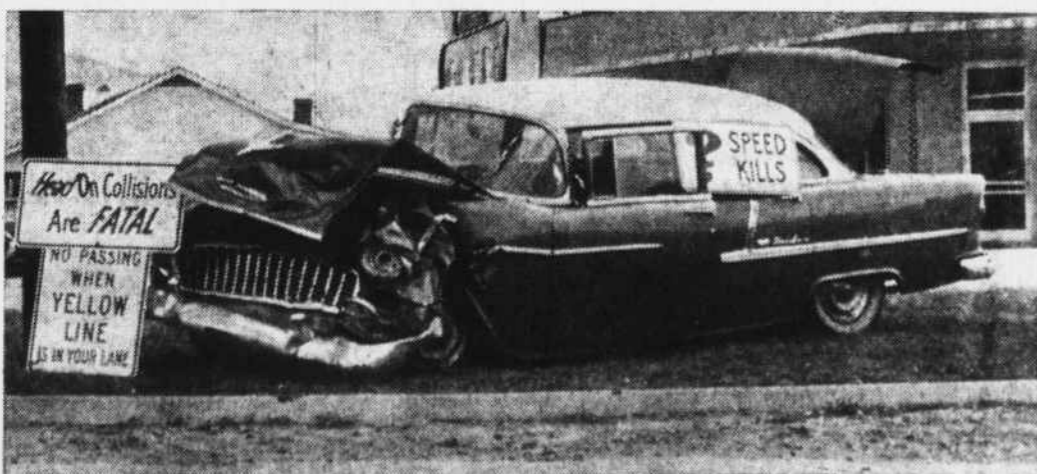
We suggest that Macon County voters, in making up their minds to vote for or against the Pearsall Plan constitutional amendment, should discount the importance of these incidents. It seems to us there are two good reasons for that:

First, there is a strong possibility that the incidents themselves, as well as their significance, may have been exaggerated by the daily press, the radio, and television.

Second, those incidents are incidents only—they are NOT arguments. And the arguments, both those for and those against the Pearsall Plan, that were valid before these incidents took place probably are just as valid today.

In short, let's use our minds in deciding this thing. This newspaper has taken a position on the Pearsall Plan; but it is not half as interested in which WAY the voters cast their ballots as in WHY. For the only way we can decide this or any other public question, right, is by hard, honest, calm thinking—by all of us.

## Some Psychological Warfare Works



GRIM REMINDER—The psychology behind seeing this wrecked automobile at the intersection of US 23-441 and US 64 in Franklin apparently worked on motorists traveling through over the Labor Day holidays. The highway patrol, which erected the display, reported only some minor mishaps. There was little indication here that a holiday was in progress—most restaurants and motels reported "normal" business and traffic was about average for a week-end.

## Light Vote Is Anticipated In Amendments Election

All outward signs point to a light vote in Saturday's general election here, according to J. Lee Barnard, chairman of the elections board.

He said "very few" new registrations were reported by the registrars of the county's 11 precincts when the books for the election closed on the 25th. Saturday is the first of two general elections slated in the state this fall. Voters will decide the fate of four proposed constitutional amendments. Public officials will be elected at the general election in November.

A new registration was not required and voters who have cast ballots in past elections may vote in this one.

The four proposed amendments are contained on one ballot.

First is the special session school amendment (Pearsall amendment), which would authorize education expense grants for private education and would authorize "local option" vote in suspending operation of public schools.

The other three are regular session amendments. One would allow limited compensation of members of the General Assembly; the second would change the date for convening the General Assembly from January to February; and the third would authorize a married woman to exercise powers of attorney conferred upon her by her husband.

Polls will be open from 6:30 a. m. to 6:30 p. m.

## Scholarships Awarded Dills And McClure

Kenneth Dills and Monroe McClure, both of Franklin, Route 5, have been awarded \$150 Sears-Roebuck scholarships to N. C. State College.

They plan to leave for Raleigh this Saturday. Both are Franklin High School graduates and will major in veterinary medicine at State.

Kenneth is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Briscoe Dills and Monroe is the son of Elmer McClure.

## G. O. C. Post At Prison On 24-Hour Alert

The Ground Observer Corps post at the Macon Prison Camp is now on 24-hour alert.

Three eight-hour shifts of skywatching and reporting aircraft movements are being handled by two honor grade prisoners and the camp staff, according to Supt. John E. Cutshall.

Prior to this, the observation post has operated only on a limited basis during the day.

### HICKORY KNOLL PICNIC

The annual Hickory Knoll picnic is set for the fourth Sunday in September (23rd) at the A. P. Cunningham spring. A singing will follow at the church. In the event of bad weather, lunch will be spread in the basement of the church.

## Schools Open Smoothly On Tuesday

Tuesday's opening of the county schools clicked off smoothly and without incident, according to Supt. Holland McSwain.

First day membership was estimated at 3,754, with 2,886 in the elementary grades and 868 in the four high schools.

Mr. McSwain said present trends indicate membership is going to be below first estimates of about 4,000 in all grades.

He estimated that probably 100 more will enroll as the school year gets under way. This would bring membership up to an estimated 3,850.

First day figures were available from all schools but Nantahala.

They were Franklin High, 868; Franklin Elementary, 404; East Franklin, 375; Cullasaja, 320; Union, 249; Otto, 233; Cowee, 239; Cartoogechaye, 284; Iotla, 222; Highlands High, 84; Highlands Elementary, 294; Chapel High, 7; Chapel Elementary, 52.

## Fair Catalogues Coming Out First Of Next Week

Copies of the '56 Macon County Fair catalogue will be ready for distribution the first of the week.

Meanwhile, details of the two-day fair September 28-29 are dropping into place under the supervision of the fair steering committee and extension service personnel.

Set for the Franklin High gymnasium, the fair and its many areas of competition is open to every man, woman, and child in the county. Here is some general information released this week.

Booths will be upstairs in the gymnasium.

Booth space will be the same as last year—six feet deep and eight feet wide.

Each booth will be divided by 2 by 4's and the responsibility for the built-ins of each will be up to the community or group sponsoring it.

Booths may be set up Wednesday and Thursday (26th) SEE NO. 1, PAGE 12

## One-Way Streets Being Considered

### FIRST GAME IS FRIDAY

### Panthers To Meet Clyde Erwin High On Home Ground

That special brand of cheering reserved only for football will boom from the Franklin High Stadium tomorrow (Friday) night when the Panthers open the 1956-57 season here.

At 8 o'clock, Coach Richard (Dick) Stott will field his Panther pack against Clyde Erwin High in a non-conference game that is expected to pack the stadium.

A sure bet to accompany the Buncombe County team here is the Clyde Erwin principal, Ralph L. Smith, a one-time Franklin principal. He rarely turns down an opportunity to visit here.

Meanwhile, as the opening game approaches, Coach Stott reports his squad, although handicapped by inexperience, is "shaping up good" and will be ready to let Clyde Erwin "know they've been in a ball game".

Three co-captains have been elected by the team. They are Willard Smith, Robert Alexander, and David Pollock.

Coach Stott gives his probable starting lineup for the game as:

Mitchell Houston, left end; Bobby Cabe, left tackle; James Murray, left guard; Edward Shatley, center; Robert Alexander, right guard; Larry Potts, right tackle; David Pollock, right end; Willard Smith, quarterback; Bruce Houston, left halfback; Gilmer Henry, right halfback; and Darwin Hussey, fullback.

The team will run out of the split-T.

Others who probably will see action in the game are Gary Clark, Jim Henry, Frank McSwain, Lamar Mason, and Richard Setser, the coach reports.

The game will be the first one for eight of the boys listed as probable starters.

### Would Give Relief To Traffic Problem; Water Is Discussed

A one-way street system to relieve traffic congestion is now in the planning stages in Franklin.

The street committee was handed the problem Tuesday night by Mayor W. C. Burrell with orders to "work something out." A discussion of the worsening municipal headache by the board of aldermen preceded the mayor's action.

While details of the system have not been set, traffic probably would flow one-way west on Main Street from the intersection of Main and Palmer at the foot of Town Hill to Harrison and Main on the West end of town. Palmer Street would be one-way east from the intersection of Palmer and US 23-441 on the west end to Palmer and Main.

Aldermen A. G. Cagle, Prelo Dryman, and Sam Gibson make up the street committee.

**Adequate Water**  
An adequate water supply—still another pressing headache for the town—came in for considerable talk at the meeting. Possible solutions centered around a new well or a pumping station on Cartoogechaye Creek, with the latter receiving more favorable support.

The board plans to have an engineering firm come here and run an estimate of cost for a pumping station on the creek and a filter plant nearby to process the water for consumption.

**Approve Railing**  
Also approved for immediate erection was about 180 feet of railing along a section of sidewalk on Iotla Street with a sharp drop-off.

The board also cleared up the case of the missing U-turn sign SEE NO. 3, PAGE 12

## Late News and Briefs

### GIRL RECOVERING

Miss Judy Blaine is reported recovering satisfactorily from a second heart operation at Emory University Hospital in Atlanta, Ga.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Doyle Blaine, she underwent the delicate operation Wednesday of last week on the main artery of the heart.

### GETS DOCTORATE

Thomas F. Corbin, Jr., of Cullasaja, received his doctor of philosophy degree from Ohio State University at exercises Friday.

### GETS BIG BASS

Roy Pendergrass, of Franklin, hauled a big smallmouth bass out of Nantahala Lake on August 26 after a 15-minute fight. The bass was 22 inches long and weighed five pounds and two ounces. Mr. Pendergrass was using a 4-pound test line and a black plug.

## The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall, as recorded in Franklin by Manson Stiles, U. S. weather observer; in Highlands by Tudor N. Hall and W. C. Newton, TVA observer; and at the Coweta Hydrologic Laboratory.

FRANKLIN				
Temperatures				
	High	Low	Rain	
Wed., Aug. 29	86	60	—	
Thursday	85	60	—	
Friday	90	62	—	
Saturday	88	61	.06	
Sunday	89	61	—	
Monday	87	56	—	
Tuesday	86	61	trace	
HIGHLANDS				
Wed., Aug. 29	—	—	.12	
Thursday	—	—	—	
Friday	—	—	—	
Saturday	—	—	.26	
Sunday	—	—	—	
Monday	—	—	—	
Tuesday	—	—	trace	
Wednesday	—	—	.07	
(NOTE: Temperatures at Highlands not available.)				
COWEETA				
Wed., Aug. 29	85	59	.02	
Thursday	85	57	trace	
Friday	88	57	.02	
Saturday	85	58	—	
Sunday	85	56	—	
Monday	82	54	—	
Tuesday	84	59	—	



Mr. and Mrs. Ammons