

Water Survey Airs Different Methods

Engineers Favor Surface Supply Over Gravity Type

Gravity flow from a watershed versus a surface supply is the central theme of a preliminary water survey now being pondered by Franklin Mayor W. C. Burrell and his aldermen.

On the basis of the survey, a surface supply from a nearby stream is considered preferable by the firm of municipal engineers that conducted the study on orders of the town.

Its recommendations:

Development of a surface water supply on Cartoogechaye Creek; construction of a filtering plant and clear water reservoir with a daily capacity of one million gallons; installation of a force main from the plant to Harrison Avenue at the storage tanks; and a trained operator to operate the plant.

Estimated cost: \$335,580.

Financing: An expenditure of this size would require a bond election. The engineering firm suggests floating bonds in the amount of \$350,000 in the event the project should cost more than the preliminary estimates.

Watershed Impractical

The firm, Harwood Beebe Company, of Spantburg, S. C., considers a gravity flow watershed for the town impractical on the grounds that "a good quality of water could be secured from any of these watersheds (four possible sites are covered in the report), but they are not sufficiently free of pollution to meet the requirements of the State Board of Health for an unfiltered water supply. Those requirements are that a watershed shall be owned by the municipalities, fenced and patrolled to prevent trespassing, unless the water is to be filtered. Chlorination is required in any case.

"Besides this, the limited available water supply cannot justify the large expenditure required."

3 Sources Found

In recommending the utilization of a surface water system to ease the town's water problem, the municipal engineers reported they found three possible sources of supply — the Little Tennessee River, Cullasaja River, and Cartoogechaye Creek.

Although it has a drainage area of 150 square miles and an abundant flow of water during all seasons, the report eliminates the Little Tennessee on two counts; wastes from some small industries and several communities empty into it, and there is always a possibility that other industries will settle within its drainage area.

Might Object

Likewise, the Cullasaja River is dropped from consideration because the Town of Highlands is situated in its watershed and maintains a sewage disposal plant on a tributary. While the amount of sewage effluent is small and the stream is aerated in its course of 16 miles down the mountain to Franklin, the engineers feel there still might be some local objections to using the water.

That leaves the third source, Cartoogechaye Creek, as the most desirable.

Located on the south side of Franklin, the creek has a drainage area of 55 square miles, most of it within the Nantahala National Forest, making it an "exceptionally clean watershed that is not open to industrial development."

Although there are no runoff records available for the stream, the engineering firm notes "it is logical to assume that it is approximately the same per square mile as that of the Cullasaja River. Taking the minimum of 0.2 cubic feet per second, this gives a discharge of 7.2 million gallons per day as minimum flow to be expected."

This amount, the report declares, "is adequate for any foreseeable needs of Franklin."

3 Intake Locations

Three locations for an intake on the creek were considered, with the final decision going to SEE NO. 1, PAGE 12

Tax Listers Are Selected For County

Tax list takers, appraisers, and farm census officials have been appointed by Board of County Commissioners for Macon County's 11 townships.

Lake V. Shope, tax supervisor, has called a meeting of these officials for Monday at 10 a. m. at the courthouse.

The group will meet with the Board of County Commissioners and be told what percentage of actual value to use in the revaluation of property.

Following is a list of officials for each township. The list taker is the first named, the next two are appraisers, and the last is the farm census taker.

Franklin Township: Frank I. Murray; Lake R. Ledford and Gay Sutton; J. R. Morrison.

Millshoal Township: Harold Cabe; Woodrow Franklin and J. M. Raby; Mrs. Jack Cabe.

Ellijay Township: Mrs. Leslie Young; J. M. McCoy and George Stanfield; John Bryson.

Sugarfork Township: Raymond Wood; A. B. Potts and Brisco Dills; Mr. Wood.

Highlands Township: Neville Bryson; Harry Holt and W. P. Pierson; A. B. Potts (not the same Mr. Potts as in Sugarfork).

Flats Township: Earl Dryman; Raymond Penland and Tolliver Vinson; Mrs. Earl Dryman.

Smithbridge Township: C. S. Sams; Tom McDowell and Lester Norton; Bob Stewart.

Cartoogechaye Township: Mrs. Bryan Setser; Oscar Lewis and Bob Southard; one of Mr. Lewis's daughters.

Nantahala Township: Newell Baldwin; B. A. Baldwin and Wymer Cochran; Sam Waters.

Burnington Township: Bob Parrish; Floyd Ramsey and Dennis Ghormley; Fred Ledford.

Cowee Township: W. R. Gibson; Carl Sorrells and Frank Browning; Mrs. Carol Gibson.

Local Girls Win Another

The Franklin High School girls' basketball team came from behind last Thursday night to beat Fines Creek, 41-35, and lengthen their win record to seven. They are undefeated this season.

In the boys' game, Franklin whipped Fines Creek, 59 to 46.

Mavis Gibson was high scorer for the girls with 20 points. Willard Smith led the boys with 20. Halftime score in the girls' game was 17-11, in favor of Fines Creek. The Franklin boys led at the half, 27-17.

Friday, Jan. 4, there will be a game with Hayesville here and on the eighth, Franklin will go to Clayton.

Prices Being Cut To Test Attendance

As an experiment, admission prices to the Jan. 4, basketball game here between Franklin and Hayesville will be cut in half.

Instead of the regular \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students, the game prices will be 50 and 25 cents, according to Principal Harry C. Corbin.

If increased attendance justifies it, he said the lower prices will be used for the remainder of the season.

Company Wants More Stock For Phone Expansion

Western Carolina Telephone Company, which provides telephone service to Macon County, has applied to the State Utilities Commission for authority to issue more stock in order to get money to carry forward the company's expansion program.

The company wants to issue 44,615 shares of its \$5 par value stock. It proposes to offer the stock to its stockholders at a price of \$6 a share and at a rate of one new share for each five held.



Six-Year-Old Alma Smith . . . 'I'll Give Him My Heart'

Tags Going On Sale Wednesday

North Carolina's orange-and-black auto license tags go on sale locally next Wednesday (Jan. 2). They'll be available at the branch office of Carolina Motor Club, situated in the rear of the Western Auto Associate Store in Franklin.

With the exception of a noon closing each Wednesday, the sale hours will be 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. daily.

License renewal cards already are arriving in the mail, according to Verlon Swafford, C. M. C. manager, and he urges motorists to buy their tags early and avoid the last-minute rush at the Feb. 15 deadline.

The '57 color scheme is black background and orange letters and numerals.

RITE AT BETHEL

Bethel church will be host to the "watch night" service on the Franklin Methodist Circuit. It will begin at 8 p. m. and an invitation is extended to everyone by the pastor, the Rev. R. L. Poindexter.

A Christmas Story

By J. P. BRADY
A bright-eyed six-year-old girl, who had every reason to be crying, laughed from a wide dimpled smile and recited:

"What shall I give Him, as small as I am?"

"If I were a shepherd, I'd bring Him a lamb.
If I were a wise man, I'd do my part,
I'll give Him my heart."

Heart, you see, has a lot to do with this true Christmas story.

The recitation was offered on Christmas Eve by little Alma Smith. She spoke from a small crib sitting in a corner of a bedroom — a corner brightened by the presence of her broad smile, a small Christmas tree, and a big pile of packages suspiciously resembling gifts.

The small crib in which she lay has been the center of her world for nearly a year.

Last December, the young daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. C. ("Radiator") Smith, of the Iotla

section, contracted scarlet fever. She spent Christmas in bed.

After recovering from this disease, the child fought two cases of measles, streptococcus throat, tonsillitis, pneumonia, and intestinal influenza.

This Christmas found the youngster again in bed because of rheumatic fever.

Breathlessly, little Alma talked of Christmas and the things she would like to have.

A newspaper reporter and one of Santa's helpers, Paul Swafford (who told of Alma's condition in a letter to The Press last week) listened—and profited, too, from the courage shown by the child.

"I'm sure he'll come," she said.

And come he did.

With the assistance of some anonymous helpers, Santa Claus heaped toys, books, candy, and clothing on six-year-old Alma Smith — a smiling child who pledged her heart from a small crib.



Higdonville's Winning Christmas Scene

Clay County Man Held In Slaying

Shotgun Blast Kills Storekeeper Christmas Eve

A 35-year-old Clay County man has been charged with murder in the 6 p. m. Christmas Eve shotgun slaying of a Macon County country storekeeper, C. L. (Cecil) Ledford.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas read the murder warrant to James Maney, of Shooting Creek, in a local hospital several hours after Maney and Ledford engaged in a gun fight at Ledford's store in the Cartoogechaye community.

While officers searched for him and a companion in Clay County, Maney turned up at Angel Clinic in Franklin for

treatment of a gunshot wound in the abdomen, allegedly inflicted by Ledford.

Is Under Guard

Maney, who is kept under special guard at night at the hospital, admitted to Highway Patrolman E. H. Hooper that he blasted Ledford with a 12-gauge shotgun after the storekeeper shot him with a pistol.

R. C. Ledford, also of Shooting Creek, Maney's companion, backed up the wounded man's story and also filled in some of the links in the chain of events leading to the gunfight between the two men, according to the sheriff. Ledford, who is no kin to the slain man, has been charged by Sheriff Thomas with aiding and abetting the murder of the storekeeper. He was arrested about 45 minutes after he and Maney's brother drove the wounded man to the hospital.

Franklin Yule Winners Given

Winners were announced this week for the Franklin Garden Club's annual town Christmas decorations contest.

They are: public building, St. Francis Catholic Church; yard, Dr. and Mrs. Frank M. Killian, with honorable mention to Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Proffitt; prettiest window, Mr. and Mrs. A. J. Wilhide, with honorable mention to the sophomore home room of Miss Adelaide Brewer, of Franklin High School; and prettiest doorway, Franklin High School, prepared by the senior class.

The first place winners each will receive a Nandina plant from the garden club. A secret panel of three judges selected the winners.

Want To 'Adopt' A Refugee?

Thousands of them have fled to America, in quest of freedom, and a new chance in life.

The first thing they need is a job. Have you an opening?

If so, write Refugees, care The Press, stating what the job is, what it will pay, and if there is adequate housing available.

For details, inquire at The Press office.

Higdonville Wins Rural Yule Contest

Higdonville's scene of a Madonna and child won the 1956 rural community Christmas decoration contest last week, after a secret panel of judges broke a first-place tie between it and Iotla.

Iotla was second; Cartoogechaye, third; Clark's Chapel, fourth; and Cowee, fifth. Prize money is \$30, \$25, \$20, \$15, and \$10, donated by Nantahala Power and Light Company.

In breaking the first-place tie, the judges said they chose Higdonville because its scene showed greater originality and simplicity. On attractiveness, the third criterion in judging the community scenes, they scored Higdonville and Iotla equally.

The Higdonville scene is located on Highway 64, east, The Madonna and child are within a white frame and are contrasted against a background of aluminum foil. Several tall electrically-lighted candles are in front of the frame, on the ground.

The Iotla display is a scene of the angel appearing to the shepherds. In the background can be seen the city of Bethlehem. Christmas music is played over a speaker.

Cartoogechaye's third place winner is the Madonna and child figure in a stained glass window. The fourth and fifth place winners, Clark's Chapel and Cowee, respectively, both had manger scenes.

Three of the other four entries had manger displays also. These were Cullasaja, Otto, and Carson. The fourth, Patton, showed a family attending church.

Trouble Brewing

Sheriff Thomas said trouble began brewing between the three men at the store a couple of hours before the shooting.

The officer said it was his understanding the storekeeper said the two Clay County men had taken some goods from his store and this touched off the trouble.

Begs With Him

An eye-witness to the slaying, Mrs. Nell Shope, Ledford's sister, related that she saw Maney pounding at the door of the store and pointing a shotgun. She said she begged him not to shoot and that Maney replied: "He shot me and I'm going to shoot him."

Fired from the outside, the blast from Maney's shotgun went through the screen door and glass of the main door.

Ledford's body was found crumpled just inside the doorway of living quarters at the rear of the store, some 30 feet away from where Maney reportedly stood.

Pistol Under Body

A .32 calibre pistol from which SEE NO. 3, PAGE 12

Not White, Just Cold

It wasn't a white Christmas in Macon County, but it was a cold one.

After Florida-like temperatures for several weeks, the weather turned cold Christmas Eve and by morning the thermometer had dropped to 28 in Franklin and Coweeta and 21 in Highlands.

The cold snap lingered and Wednesday morning readings of 17 in Franklin, 18 at Coweeta, and 20 in Highlands were recorded.

Although Highlands is twice the altitude of Franklin, often this fall its low temperatures have been several degrees higher than the lows at Franklin and Coweeta. This is caused by air drainage. The heavy cold air at the higher altitudes presses down on the warm air in the lower elevations and the air masses swap places, causing a corresponding change in temperatures, according to weather officials.

The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall below are recorded in Franklin by Manson Stiles, U. S. weather observer; in Highlands by Taylor N. Hall and W. C. Newton, TVA observers; and at the Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory. Readings are for the 24-hour period ending at 8 a. m. of the day listed.

FRANKLIN			
Wed., Dec. 19	58	40	.00
Thursday	60	44	.02
Friday	69	50	.03
Saturday	65	51	.89
Sunday	63	53	.87
Monday	58	36	.87
Tuesday	42	28	.00
Wednesday	17	00	.00
COWEETA			
Wed.; Dec. 19	58	42	.00
Thursday	63	44	.08
Friday	69	53	1.00
Saturday	58	50	1.24
Sunday	63	52	.97
Monday	53	47	.00
Tuesday	41	28	.00
Wednesday	18	00	.00
HIGHLANDS			
Wed., Dec., 19	55	42	.00
Thursday	56	43	.00
Friday	62	51	.00
Saturday	56	50	.00
Sunday	52	46	.00
Monday	48	42	.00
Tuesday	36	21	.00
Wednesday	20	00	.00

*Rainfall data not available for the week.