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CIRCULATION
Last Week
2883

The Franklin Press

and
The Highlands Maconian

The editor who hollers for more population without regard to the kind of population is a fool who doesn't know his own business.
—William Allen White

72nd Year — No. 17

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Bill Would Stop Fee System Here

Houk Legislation Would Put County Officials On Salary

A bill to take courthouse officials off fees and put them on salaries, and to separate the functions of sheriff and tax collector, establishing a new office for tax collections, was introduced in the general assembly Monday night by Macon's Rep. G. L. Houk.

Representative Houk's bill provides minimum and maximum salaries for all nine jobs covered by the legislation. The exact amount between the top and bottom figure would be set for each job by the board of county commissioners.

The changes are to take effect Oct. 7 of this year.

The sheriff's duties would be confined solely to law enforcement. He would be paid between \$5,000 and \$6,000 a year. He would get an \$1,800 travel allowance, unless the county furnished him transportation.

Two Deputies

He would be entitled to appoint a full-time deputy at a salary from \$2,400 to \$2,700. He would be allowed a second deputy at \$1,800, who would act as jailor and receive the jailor's fee.

The salaries for the register of deeds and the clerk of superior court, and one assistant clerk each, are the same. The range for register and clerk

would be \$3,800 to \$4,500. The assistants would get from \$1,800 to \$2,400, each.

Separate Job

The job of tax collector, now held by the sheriff, would be a separate function. To be appointed by the commissioners, its holder would have the titles of county accountant, tax supervisor, and tax collector. Salary is provided at from \$3,600 to \$4,800. A deputy tax collector would be allowed \$2,400 to \$3,600.

In addition to being register of deeds, Lake V. Shope presently has the duties of county accountant and tax supervisor. According to Representative Houk, the bill was drawn after comparative study with other North Carolina counties. He said he had found 27 counties comparable to Macon in population, taxable property, and such, and that he based his salaries in this bill on those being paid in the counties he studied.

He said the bill had been prepared in consultation with the attorney general's office (Franklin's George B. Patton).

Under the fee system used now, the sheriff-tax collector gets a percentage on taxes collected and on all checks written. It is two per cent on the taxes, totaling about \$200,000. On the county's disbursements, totaling \$483,761, he receives two per cent in some cases, one per cent in most.

(Both figures are for a year. The lag between the amount the county takes in through taxes and the amount it spends is made up through state and federal money.)

Pays Expenses

From the sheriff-tax collector's gross, the incumbent, J. Harry Thomas, now must pay the expenses of his office, including his own salary, that of an assistant tax collector, a full-time deputy, several part-time deputies, and motor vehicle maintenance and operation.

The register of deeds and clerk of court also receive their pay through fees. The county pays for a full-time clerical assistant to the register and for part-time help to the clerk of court.

For his duties as tax supervisor, a duty the bill will relieve him of, Mr. Shope now receives a salary of \$1,500 a year. For his duties as county accountant, a job that also will be merged with that of the tax collector, he is now paid \$600 a year. Mrs. Kate M. Wrinn, the clerk of court, now receives no compensation for that office except fees. For a second duty, that of judge of juvenile court, she is paid a salary of \$900. Under Mr. Houk's bill, she would perform both jobs for the one salary set out in the bill.

If the bill passes, all fees collected after October 1 will go into the county treasury, and the officials' salaries will be paid from the county general fund.

Mr. Corbin has been serving

Easter Worshippers At Sunrise Services



HUNDREDS of Maconians observed Easter at sunrise services, large and small. The services atop Wayah Bald, Whiteside Mountain, Raven's Rock, and the Wiley Clark hill in Bethel community were all described as the most impressive in recent years, thanks to a near cloudless sky and warm temperatures. The above picture was made on Wayah just as the sun came up over the distant ranges.

May Designated As Month For Chamber Fund Campaign

May has been designated as "membership month" by the Franklin Chamber of Commerce to raise \$4,500 for its 1957 promotional program.

Meanwhile, work already has started on a face lifting at the chamber's Main Street information booth in preparation for its opening May 1.

Meeting briefly last week at the Nantahala Power and Light Company building, President Verlon Swafford and his directors planned for the fund raising campaign and okayed the painting, inside and out, of the information booth. A new sign also has been authorized for the booth so visitors can locate it easier. This probably will be a banner spanning the width of the street.

Dr. Winstead's Case Is Thrown Out Of Court

The charge against Dr. G. Ashby Winstead for driving under the influence of a narcotic was thrown out of Superior Court last week on the grounds of insufficient evidence. It had been continued from the December term.

In Florida, where the Franklin physician has a 10-year narcotics sentence pending, Gov. Leroy Collins last week signed

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Murder Trial Flops When Men Plead Guilty

What was expected to be a dramatic murder trial on Wednesday of last week was finished in a routine way in but a few hours after the two defendants and the state agreed to a lesser charge.

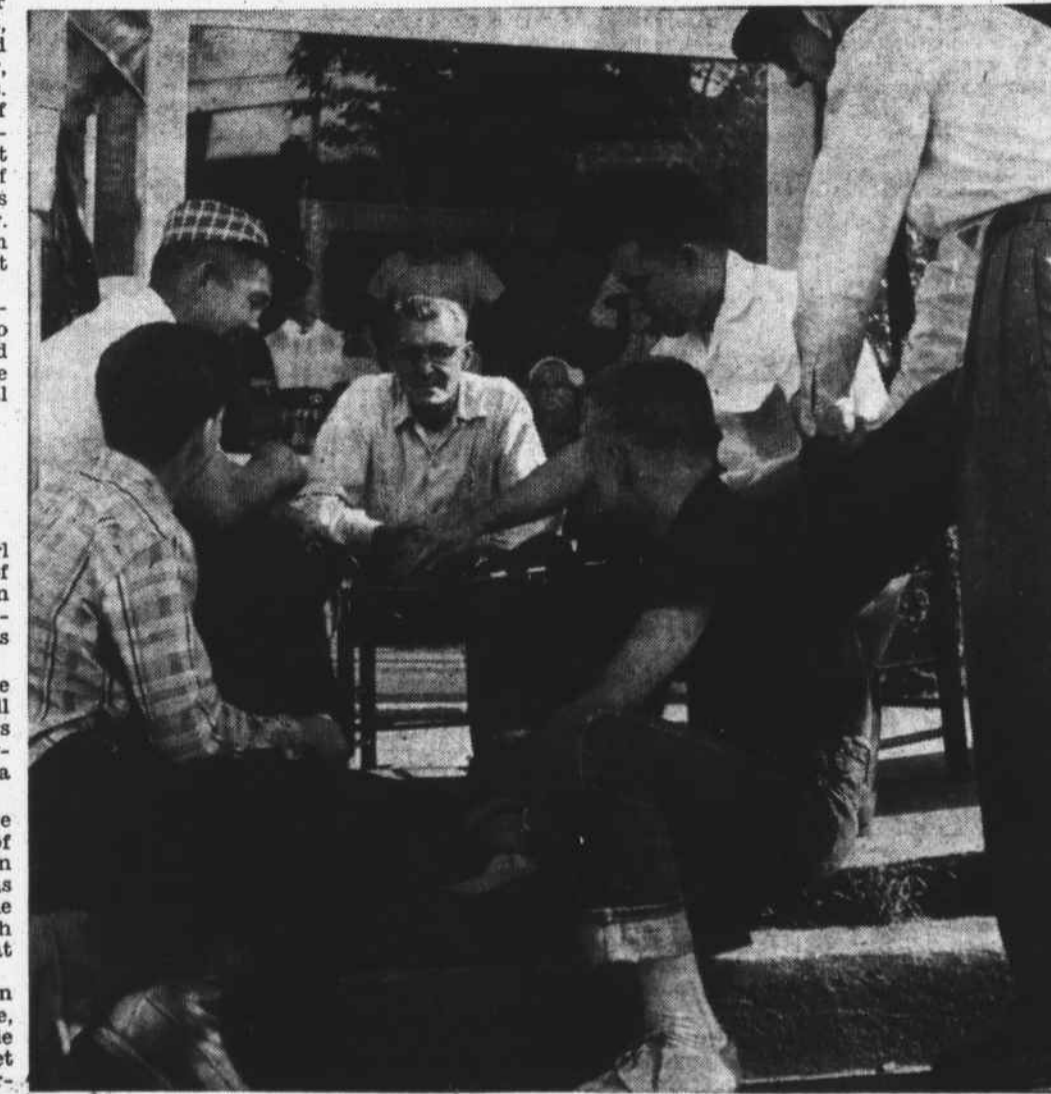
All seats were taken in the courtroom and many were standing as Solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., read a first degree murder charge against James Howard Maney. Those looking

for a drawn out trial soon received other news. Through his three attorneys, Maney agreed to plead guilty of murder in the second degree if the state would reduce the charge to that. Solicitor Bryson agreed.

Testimony was given, but

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Here's A Sure Sign That Spring's Arrived



The familiar harbinger of Spring, The Checkerboard, is out on Franklin's Main Street once again, proving that the season, which has been making overtures falsely for several weeks, finally has arrived. In most places, things like birds and early flowers are signs of Spring, but hereabouts nothing is more certain than the checkerboard. At the board are Delis Coggins (left) and Charles Whittington. Quietly studying the players' moves are Jim McSween (background), J. B. Pendergrass (standing, right), and a couple of unidentified youthful devotees.

They're Off And Running In Towns

Deadline Flushes Candidates For Balloting May 7

As expected, Saturday's filing deadline in Franklin and Highlands flushed out sizable slates for the biennial elections May 7. Fifteen men filed in Franklin and 12 in Highlands. At press time Wednesday of last week, only one man—a Highlands incumbent—had filed.

Franklin Mayor W. C. Burrell is being opposed by W. W. Reeves, hardware merchant and a former alderman.

Registration books will be open in both towns through Saturday, which also is challenge day.

Town officials pointed out that some voters are under the impression if they are registered for state and national elections, they are for town elections. That is not true. The towns have separate registration books.

Four of the six incumbent aldermen in Franklin are seeking reelection. They are A. G. Cagle, J. Frank Martin, J. C. Jacobs, and Prelo Dryman. Sam Gibson and J. L. West, Jr., did not seek reelection.

Also filing in the race for the six aldermen seats were Frank L. Henry, Jr., Sam Higdon, H. H. Gnuse, Jr., Dr. J. W. Kahn, Dr. G. R. McSween, Victor H. Perry, Roy Lee Moore, William P. Bryant, and Ezra C. Shook.

Highlands Mayor V. W. Mc-

Call is unopposed for reelection. He is now ending his first two-year term.

Incumbent commissioners bidding for their seats on the five-man board of commissioners are H. S. Talley, Carter Talley, L. W. Rice, and Tudor N. Hall. The fifth commissioner, J. S. Potts, is not a candidate for reelection.

Also in the race are Maurice Cleveland, Gene Houston, Curt A. Wilson, L. C. Billingsley, A. C. Patterson, Frank Crane, and Edward Potts.

Tallulah Falls Lost \$43,001 In N. C. In '56

While making \$7,578 on its Georgia operations last year, the Tallulah Falls Railway Company says it lost \$43,001 in North Carolina.

If the road is to continue to serve Franklin, virtually its only North Carolina customer, revenues here must perk up considerably, according to H. L. Brewer, receiver for the T. F.

"I feel quite sure," he continued, "the railway could make a much better showing in North Carolina if it could secure a larger proportion of the business now being handled by other means of transportation."

One of the things that run up costs, according to Mr. Brewer, is that on the 15 miles of track from Dillard to Franklin there are 14 wooden trestles. "The railway has very little revenue at either Prentiss or Otto. You can readily see that the cost of operation in North Carolina far exceeds revenue realized."

Here are the 1956 figures provided by Mr. Brewer:

	Ga.	N. C.
Op. Rev.	\$244,421	\$26,761
Op. Exp.	213,249	63,181
Result	+\$31,172	-\$36,420
Prop. Taxes	\$5,213	\$454
Fgt. Car Hire	18,381	6,127
Net Result	+\$7,578	-\$43,001

Hopeful Voice Street Opinions

Where do Franklin's hopeful candidates stand on the one-way streets issue?

Four in interviews this week flatly stated their opposition to the system as it is now set up. Three of the four say they will let the coming referendum in the town election settle the issue, regardless of the outcome. The fourth feels a substantial majority of the voters in town must speak, for or against, before he will change his mind.

Five more men were either uncommitted or undecided on the streets issue. They'll let the voters decide.

The 10th non-incumbent seeking an alderman seat, Frank L. Henry, Jr., was out of town this week and therefore was not available for comment.

Members of the present board of aldermen, in setting up the machinery for the referendum, voiced their willingness to let the voters decide whether the one-way streets will remain in effect or not.

Following are the feelings on the issue of nine of the 10 non-incumbents:

Mr. Reeves: Opposed the one-way streets, but says he plans, if elected, to go along with the majority, for or against. Personally believes there is a more practical solution to the traffic situation than a one-way system.

Mr. Perry: Opposed to one-way streets. Declares a "substantial majority" of the voters must favor the one-way system before he will change his stand. Says he is inclined to put more stock in the opinions of businessmen, who are directly affected by the one-way system, than in a voter outside the business section.

Mr. Higdon: Uncommitted on

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Postal Receipts Up At Franklin Office

Franklin Post Office receipts showed an increase of six per cent the first quarter of this year compared with 1956.

Business amounted to \$8,120.25 for the period Jan. 11-April 5, according to Postmaster Zeb Meadows. For the same period in 1956, the figure was \$7,660.01.

Postmaster Meadows said the increase was not a significant one.

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., April 17	62	44	trace
Thursday	68	52	.00
Friday	79	50	.00
Saturday	80	53	.00
Sunday	82	48	.00
Monday	81	59	.54
Tuesday	77	59	.29
Wednesday	59	59	.38

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., April 17	55	46	trace
Thursday	58	50	.26
Friday	71	50	.19
Saturday	75	54	trace
Sunday	74	49	.00
Monday	71	54	trace
Tuesday	70	54	.48
Wednesday	50	50	.00

SLAGLE GOES HOME

A. B. Slagle, who has been hospitalized with a broken leg since November, was released from Angel Hospital and returned to his home Tuesday of last week.

A Backward Look

One of the best ways to gauge progress is to take a look backwards.

Where were we yesterday, last week, last year, last century?

In next week's Press, just such a backward look will be taken on Macon County progress in education.

Historical articles about the schools of this county, with interesting old photographs will appear in a section to be issued in connection with the local celebration this year of the 100th anniversary of the national and state educational associations.

There'll be articles, pictures, information you'll want not only to read, but to clip and save.

LEAGUE BASEBALL

Officials and managers of the Little League and Pony League will meet tomorrow night (Friday) at 8 o'clock at Nantahala Power and Light Company.

The Weather

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

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., April 17	62	44	trace
Thursday	68	52	.00
Friday	79	50	.00
Saturday	80	53	.00
Sunday	82	48	.00
Monday	81	59	.54
Tuesday	77	59	.29
Wednesday	59	59	.38

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., April 17	55	46	trace
Thursday	58	50	.26
Friday	71	50	.19
Saturday	75	54	trace
Sunday	74	49	.00
Monday	71	54	trace
Tuesday	70	54	.48
Wednesday	50	50	.00

	High	Low	Rain
Wed., April 17	61	46	.01
Thursday	55	52	.15
Friday	77	48	trace
Saturday	82	54	.00
Sunday	79	49	.01
Monday	72	55	.03
Tuesday	75	54	.23
Wednesday	—	55	.16

Corbin Gets District 1 School Job

Harry C. Corbin has been elected principal of District 1 (Franklin), according to Erwin Patton, chairman of the Macon County Board of Education.

The district principalship has been vacant since the resignation two years ago of Ralph L. Smith, who took a job in Buncombe County.

Mr. Corbin has been serving



in the dual-role of principal of Franklin High and Franklin Elementary. An appointment will be made soon to fill this vacancy, Mr. Patton said this week.

Are Re-elected

Committeemen of all three school districts in the county have been re-elected. They are:

District 1: Elmon Teague, H. L. Bryant, Sammie Bryson, Oscar Rickman, and Jess Shope.

District 2 (Nantahala): D. L. Owenby, John Wishon, and Howard Cross.

District 3 (Highlands): C. E. Mitchell, Tom Harbison, and Joe Reese.

All principals of District 1 have been re-elected for another school year, the chairman reported, but have not been assigned to schools. They are W. G. Crawford, Z. Weaver Shope, R. A. Byrd, Alex Arnold, E. G. Crawford, J. Norman West, B. Harry Moses, and Addison R. Shepard.

Bueck Visits

Macon's newly hired school superintendent, H. Bueck (pronounced Bleck) visited here unofficially Friday and talked with members of the board of education and committeemen from Districts 1 and 3. He met with District 2 committeemen Tuesday night to talk over needs in that area.

Mr. Bueck and the present superintendent, Holland McSwain, do not officially trade jobs until July 1.

Monroe Native Accepts Church

HIGHLANDS—The Rev. Carl R. McCain, assistant pastor of the Palma Ceja Presbyterian Church in Tampa, Fla., has accepted a call to the Highlands Presbyterian Church.

Since its regular pastor, the Rev. R. M. Hart, accepted a call to South Carolina two years ago, the church has been served by students from Columbia Theological Seminary.

The new pastor is a native of Monroe and a graduate of Davidson College and Union Theological Seminary. He has been associate pastor of the Royal Oaks Presbyterian Church in Marion, Va., and pastor at Brooksville, Fla.

Members of the congregation have been repairing the manse, including the installation of tile flooring, building more closet space, and painting and repairing the heating system and the electrical wiring.

Mr. McCain is to be received at the July 23 meeting of the Asheville Presbytery in Waynesville.

He will be installed here at a date still to be set.