CIRCULATION
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Last Week
3,011

The Franklin Press
and
The Highlands Maconian

ON THE INSIDE —
WHO'S BEEN WHERE AND FOR WHAT?
Staff correspondents of THE PRESS keep the inside pages of this newsaper alive with news about your friends and neighbors. Read the inside pages from top to bottom and you'll know Macon County.

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MEANDERING :-: ALONG :-: MAIN STREET

WHAT THE town needs (in addition to the streets washed) is a battery of guns to be fired in special salute when a community service is rendered. And the first round should go to the Cubs and Explorers who pitched in and cleaned up the Indian Mound Saturday.

DON'T THE Christmas lights add something to the town? With the big snow Main Street looked like one of those storied winter wonderlands.

JUDGE FARTHING and his hunting party tramped all over Cowee last week and didn't sight the first feather.

DID YOU see Santa Claus driving through town in his Plymouth station wagon Sunday afternoon?

LOCAL PILOTS played "snowbirds" Sunday afternoon by flying off the airport in the snow. They report it was smooth as glass, but just a bit chilly around the edges.

THAT BELL ringing on Saturday means the Lions Club dime board is in operation. Don't ignore its message. Step up and donate a dime or a dollar to help the needy at Christmas.

NEW CALENDARS are beginning to make their appearance, each with the name of a local firm conspiciously printed thereupon. Before long citizens will be faced with the tough decision of which to keep and which to discard.

EVEN THE old automobiles in the junk yard looked pretty in the snow.

OUTSIDE BEFORE the Sunday afternoon Christmas party held by Franklin Hosiery Company, some of the plant executives couldn't resist the temptation of tossing a few snowballs.

LAST THURSDAY it apparently snowed everywhere but in Frankin. Highlands had about an inch and a half and nearby Otto was white with the fluffy stuff. But 'nary a drop fell on Franklin.

A REAL VOTE of thanks is due men at the local highway shed for the work they did Saturday and Sunday keeping the highways open. Most of them missed all of their shut-eye Saturday night.

MERCHANTS were aghast Friday when two Santas showed up in the business district. A lot of youngsters started asking questions. The real story is that one was Santa and the other was a helper of his who wanted to make sure all the good little boys and girls were visited.

WOULDN'T IT be a wonderful thing if Franklin had a municipal auditorium? This would mean things like concerts and ice shows and the like.

THE POWER company abandoned its Christmas lighting contest two years ago because of a lack of interest on the part of the organized rural communities. Hundreds who made a tour of the participating communities an annual thing wish the communities would show enough interest to revive it.

IF IT KEEPS on growing, "Loganville" is going to be the main business center of Franklin.

CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS are beginning to sprout all over town. Many of them are very clever and most reflect a good bit of work and thought.

OFFICERS of Franklin Garden Club want everyone to turn out and visit their "holiday houses" on the 21st. A considerable amount of work is going into the decorations at these homes and they'll be well worth visiting.

IF THE temperature doesn't start cooperating, the snow of the week end is going to last until Spring. Folks are still dodging piles along Main Street and are slipping and sliding in their cars in the back street parking areas.

THAT GO-CART being given by the Macon Search and Rescue Squad is creating a lot of attention along the main stem. Runs just like a car, too.

RALEIGH SAYS Macon County doesn't have a "county agent" or "home demonstration agent" anymore. They've got new titles for 'em—"county agricultural agent" and "county home economics agent".

Paper Printing Early Next Week For Christmas

Next week's issue of THE FRANKLIN PRESS will be printed on Tuesday, giving subscribers their "hometown newspaper" early enough to read and shop before Christmas.

News and advertising deadlines will be Monday afternoon.

The issue will go into the post office for delivery Wednesday.

'Old Touse' Warms Himself Behind The Wood Stove (Staff Photo)

JUST IN CASE YOU DIDN'T KNOW —

Luke Isn't Hacking Away At Rock Cliff; He And 'Old Touse' Become Celebrities

Luke Chastain isn't hacking away at that Georgia rock cliff anymore, and he and his favorite 'coon hound, "Old Touse", are in the celebrity class now.

Practically all the free world knows that 'Old Touse" was trapped in that rock cliff for 18 days and that Luke spent all his waking hours pecking away with a hammer and chisel trying to free him from his prison.

Luke's efforts to free the hound made every major news wire service in the United States last week and almost overnight he and "Old Touse" became famous.

Men called THE PRESS from other states to volunteer labor, or suggestions, to free the dog.

New York City requested pictures of "Old Touse".

Seems the whole wide world knew about Macon County's celebrated 'coon hound and how he was freed from the rock crevice that almost became his coffin after he and another hound chased a 'coon inside.

But, for the few who still don't know how "Old Touse" got free, here's what took place.

When we last left "Old Touse" Wednesday of last week, Luke was frantically working outside with a hammer and chisel. Inside the crevice, "Old Touse" waited patiently. Sunday they'd managed to get some food to him.

Then Luke decided he'd never get the hound out by chiseling. He made his decision: they'd dynamite and hope for the best.

"Red" Talley, of Stecoah, Ga., a 16-year-old schoolboy, volunteered to crawl inside and set the charge.

The blast shook the mountain and as the echo died Luke and his friends waited breathlessly.

Then, through the sifting dust in the crevice, streaked "Old Touse".

"Yippee, he's a free man," yelled "Red".

And Luke smiled and patted the hound.

Later at the Chastain home, "Old Touse" dolefully appraised the situation by retreating behind the wood stove and casting furtive looks in the direction of a photographer.

Luke wasn't around. He's missed a lot of work trying to free the hound and he was out cutting timber.

So that morning "Old Touse" just loiled around the house, sitting up and warming himself behind the wood stove with a sad I'd-rather-be-hunting look.

"If he could just talk I recon' he could tell a body a lot of things," decided Grandmother Chastain.

And "Old Touse" just rolled over and warmed the other side.

CASES LISTED —

Out-Of-Staters Carry Load Of December Court Term

Out-of-staters carried the heavy load during the December term of Superior Court in Macon County.

A total of 75 cash bonds, called out at the August term, were forfetited by them at the term for non-appearance. Most of the bonds covered traffic violations and most of the defendants were from outside North Carolina.

The term closed officially Saturday. However, the court had conducted no business since Tuesday of last week when Judge J. C. Farthing finished the dockets and recessed the term.

Cases disposed of by the judge included:

Amos Jones, aiding and abetting drunk driving, 6 months suspended, $100 and costs; Virgil Lee Allen, reckless driving, $25 and costs; Frank Jamison, speeding, costs; Arthur B. Monroe, aiding and abetting drunk driving, $100 and costs Tommy Andrew Guest, speeding, cost; James Dewey Hampton, no driver's license, $25 and costs; Lee Carver, no driver's license, $25 and costs; Lee Carver, no driver's license, $25 and costs; Albert Lloyd Stewart, drunk driving, 6 months suspended, $100 and costs; Howard David Cruse, drunk driving, 6 months suspended, $100 and costs; Gordon Talley, failing to report an accident, 30 days suspended, $25 and costs; William Ray Bennett, speeding, costs; Edwin Roy Robinson, speeding, $5 and costs; Henry Reno Tilson, drunk driving, $100 and costs; Richard D. West, drunk driving, $100 and costs; Bryant Hodgins, breaking and entering, larceny, nol pros with leave; Lloyd C. Stiwinter, no driver's license, $25 and costs.

William Curtiss Beasley, reckless driving, speeding, 6 months suspended, $100 and costs; James Curtis Buchanan, drunk driving (2nd offense), 6 months suspended, $200 and costs; Robert Henry Brendle, drunk driving, speeding, $10 and costs for speeding, 6 months suspended and $100 and costs for drunk driving; Frank Mozelle Rogers, drunk driving, 4 months suspended, $100 and costs; James P. Valentine, no driver's license, $25 and costs; Floyd Maxwell Finley, drunk driving, reck-

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What's Happened To The Rush?

The Christmas mailing rush, for some reason, hasn't struck the Franklin Post Office.

In fact, cancellations are well below those for the same period in 1957. Monday the office cancelled only 14,000 cards and letters. This compares with 22,000 for the same day a year ago.

"The way it looks now," Postmaster Zeb Meadows declared Tuesday, "we may not even have a rush."

City Mail Will Begin January 10

McKay, Cunningham Are New Carriers For Franklin

January 10 is the new date for city mail delivery to begin in Franklin, according to Postmaster Zeb Meadows.

House-to-house delivery was scheduled to start in October but was held up because of equipment delays.

Mr. Meadows said the 10th begins a new quarter for the post office department, making it an ideal time to begin the new delivery.

Two new routes have been set up, one to be served by a walking carrier and the other by a carrier in a truck. Tom McKay will be the walking carrier and John Cunningham will deliver by truck.

'Yule Gift' For Schools

A "Christmas gift" of several thousand dollars is going to the Macon County School System.

The "Santa Claus" behind the gift is the December term of Superior Court.

A talley this week by the clerk of court, Mrs. Kate M. Wrinn, shows that $9,295 goes to the schools from fines, forfeitures, solicitor fees, jury tax, and highway patrol fees.

Volume-wise the court term, which closed Saturday after two weeks, was the largest ever held in Macon County and the amount going to the schools also is the largest.

A breakdown of the total shows $3,891.80 came from fines; $4,300 from forfeitures; $640 from solicitor fees; $324 from jury tax; and $139.20 from highway patrol fees.

Plyler Promoted To Headquarters Of Forest Station

Frank Plyler, office manager at Coweeta Hydrologic Laboratory, is being promoted to the Southeastern Forest Experiment Station headquarters in Asheville.

He assumed his new duties Monday as administrative assistant in charge of procurement and contracts.

Mr. Plyler's family will remain here until the end of the school year. Mrs. Plyler teaches school.

A native of Iredell County, he has been with the U.S. Forest Service here for 10 years. For a short period after the closing of the Nantahala National Forest Headquarters in Franklin in the early '50s, he was in private business before joining the staff at Coweeta.

A. C. Tysinger has been named to succeed Mr. Plyler as commander of the Macon Search and Rescue Squad.

FOOD SALE

Members of the Woman's Society of Christian Service of Mt. Zion Methodist Church will hold a food sale Friday, December 19, at the Nantahala Power and Light Company building, beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Harrison Avenue, A Beautiful Winter Wonderland (Staff Photo)
(Other snow photos inside this issue)

Business Is Warming To Season

Business is beginning to feel the warmth of Christmas.

After a slow start (probable cause: unseasonably warm weather), Christmas shoppers started moving at a rapid clip last week and have been converging on local stores in ever increasing numbers since.

". . . and it's about time, too," declared one merchant.

Afternoon visits Friday and Saturday by Santa Claus served to spark downtown activity, at least among the smallfry. Merchants made the arrangements to bring Santa here and they also supplied him with a large quantity of candy to hand out.

Counting today (Thursday), shoppers just have six more days of open stores before Christmas. To accommodate customers, several stores are remaining open Friday night.

Church Choirs Plan Christmas Musicale Sunday

The combined choirs of the Franklin Methodist church will present a Christmas vesper musicale at the church at 4:45 p.m. Sunday.

The program is under the direction of Mrs. Roy F. Cunningham and Mrs. H. W. Cabe, with the children's, junior, and adult choirs taking part. Mrs. Cabe, as organist, and Mrs. J. L. Neill and Miss Nancy Siler, painists, will assist with the music. Solo parts will be sung by Miss Nancy McCollum, Mrs. Charles Gidney, Miss Margaret Swann, and Miss Joy McCollum. Mrs. R. S. Jones and Steve Brown will serve as readers on the program.

DAMAGE IS LIGHT —

Sunday Awakening Reveals Big Snow

Maconians awoke Sunday morning to find a blanket of snow that ranged in depths of 7-8 inches in Highlands to 4-5 inches in Franklin.

One of the largest snows in recent years, it was welcomed by most as a beautiful reminder of the Christmas season.

Only minor troubles were experienced by Nantahala Power and Light Company and Western Carolina Telephone Company.

State highway crews, however, considered the snow the biggest headache of winter. When it became apparent the snow was going to stick—after light flurries most of Saturday afternoon—state trucks loaded with sand and equipped with snow plows rumbled out on the highways. From about 1 to 4 a.m. Sunday, snow plows managed to barely "hold their own" as the fall increased. The Highlands area and Wallace Gap, on the western end, of the county gave them the most trouble.

Sunday morning traffic was light and church attendance suffered. A few accidents, all of them minor, were reported. Most of them involved only one vehicle, according to Highway Patrolman H. T. Ferguson, with snow and ice as the contributing factors.

Mac Whitaker, of Nantahala Power, reported the only major damage in the system in the county was a main line to Highlands. The break occurred near the Ellijay Road.

Scattered minor power failures were reported over the county, he added, but all service was restored by 8 o'clock that night.

Western Carolina Telephone Company had one pole snapped by the extra weight of ice and snow on the wires. This was near Iotla Bridge.

Get Out Your Ice Skates

Macon County's 'Sun Valley", Highlands, has issued the ice skating call.

Low temperatures the past week have frozen the area's many lakes and the blades are flashing on the feet of young and old.

A large migration of Georgians and South Carolinians is expected this week end if the temperature holds.

CHURCH PARTY

The W.M.U. of the First Baptist church will hold its annual Christmas party tonight (Thursday) in the church social hall at 7:30. Mrs. Dan Stewart, church social chairman, is in charge of arrangements.

MEETING AT SCHOOL —

Groups To Hear Mattox On State School Finances

Tonight (Thursday), H. A. Mattox, of Murphy, a member of the governor's commission for the study of state school finances, will address a joint meeting of th Macon County Citizens Committee for Better Education and the local unit of the N. C. Education Association.

The meeting is set for 7:30 in the high school cafeteria.

Mr. Mattox will discuss the report of the commission on school finances. A question-answer session on the subject also is planned.

He will be introduced by Supt. H. Bueck, who serves as secretary of the citizens committee.

Mr. Bueck commented this week that Mr. Mattox's subject is "of vital interest to all of us, because the General Assembly will be faced at its next session, for the first time since 1932, with the problem of finding new sources of revenue."

3,200 Chicks Burn In Fire Early Thursday

Three fire alarms were answered the past week by the Franklin Volunteer Fire Department, with one blaze destroying a chicken house, 3,200 chicks, and injuring the owner.

Thaniel N. Kirkland, 43, was burned on his face and hands when the chicken house he leases from Ralph Bradley in the Patton community caught fire and burned shortly after 4 o'clock last Thursday morning. Mr. Kirkland was sleeping in the chicken house so he could tend to the young chicks and he had to go through a portion of the blazing house to reach

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The Weather

The week's temperatures and rainfall below are recorded in Franklin by Manese 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
FRANKLIN			
Wed., 10th	50	20	.00
Thursday	44	30	.00
Friday	44	13	.00
Saturday	38	25	.00
Sunday	40	27	*
Monday	40	9	.00
Tuesday	53	5	.00
Wednesday	....	14	.00
COWETA			
Wed., 10th	54	22	.00
Thursday	46	23	**
Friday	39	13	.02
Saturday	43	22	.00
Sunday	37	26	***.31
Monday	37	8	.00
Tuesday	35	9	.00
Wednesday	46	15	.00
HIGHLANDS			
Wed., 10th	38	24	****
Thursday	33	26	****
Friday	34	14	****
Saturday	37	18	****
Sunday	37	28	****
Monday	37	12	****
Tuesday	47	20	****
Wednesday	....	17	****

* 4 inches snow
** trace snow
*** melted snow
**** no record

While the first flurries of snow fell on Franklin Saturday afternoon, Scouts of Explorer Post 202, a new organization, and Cubs of Pack 4 tackled the big job of cleaning up North Carolina's largest remaining Indian Mound. They used power mowers, swing blades, weed cutters, and large amounts of "elbow grease". The Explorers plan to take the Indian Mound maintenance as a permanent project. (Staff Photo)