



TAKEN FOR GRANTED — School Bus Fleet Has Really Grown

By MISS MARGARET DAVIS (Staff Writer)

buses in running order. The county garage is located near the Franklin High gymnasium.

THAT MILD weather over the holidays was misleading. Winter is just beginning so don't put your long handles in moth balls yet.

WHAT'S worse than a rainy Monday? Answer: A rainy Monday after Christmas, that's what!

A MACONIAN, Joseph Moses, who is in Los Angeles, Calif., for the winter, writes that he got to attend the recent Shriner benefit, considered to be the Number 1 talent event of the year anywhere.

DID YOU know that travel is N. C.'s third largest industry—and probably Macon County's Number 1? A 20-page pamphlet has just been issued by the Travel Council of North Carolina, which reveals, among other things, that the dollar value of travel in the state in 1958 was \$360,000,000 an increase of 135 per cent in 10 years, and that the total revenue of the travel-serving industry (including non-transient business) was \$723,000,000 in '58. Whew!

THE CHILDREN'S Home Society, which gets a boost here through the Junior Woman's Club via the United Fund, has placed 64 children in Macon County since it was started in 1917.

THAT'S A mighty pretty display the garden club erected on Rankin Square this year. They had plans for a huge lighted Christmas tree on the top of the Indian Mound but some of the members felt vandals would find it too much of a temptation.

SATURDAY, January 2, marks the day on which total gasoline tax collections in North Carolina, just since the beginning of the new year, will reach the sum of \$808,000—meaning that Tar Heel motorists now pay as much gasoline tax within two days as they originally paid in a whole year, according to N. W. O'Haver, chairman of the N. C. Petroleum Committee.

WEIMAR JONES, OF THE PRESS, in a publication called GRASSROOTS EDITOR, takes the "No" side of the question, "Is the Weekly Press Too Conservative?"

WHERE IS it? The garden club has misplaced its nativity scene, the manger scene they used to put up each year in the field near Angel Hospital. Anyone knowing its whereabouts is asked to telephone the club president, Mrs. S. R. Simpson.

ADDISON HEWLETT, of Wilmington, all-but-announced candidate for governor, was here one day during court week shaking hands and meeting voters. Showing him over the western area were former solicitor Thad D. Bryson, Jr., and Rep. Marcellus Buchanan, of Jackson County. Mr. Hewlett was speaker of the House in the '59 General Assembly.

so says "MR. MACONIAN"

Hi-ya Neighbors:

Gotta few New Year's resolutions I intend to keep.

I resolve:

To holler and holler and holler some more until something is done about that dad-blamed old courthouse... to call a spade a spade regardless of who holds the hand... to urge the formation of a live-wire tourist group to promote Macon County attractions, including our tourist "salvation", the Cowee Ruby Mines... to boost this area as a wonderful place to settle down and raise kids, away from the temptations and pressures of the big towns... to help the garden club turn the Indian Mound from an eyesore into a top-flight attraction worthy of the largest remaining mound in the State of North Carolina... to fuss and fume about water, holes in the pavement, dirty streets, and other nagging annoyances until something is done.

But, all these resolutions won't be worth a hill of beans if the rest of you Maconians don't pitch in and back me up on some of those you believe in—or let me know when you think I'm off of center.

Happy New Year!

And I thank you, Mr. Maconian.

Buy Tags Early And Avoid Rush

"Get in the swing of the New Year by buying your license tags early," is the advice of Verlon Swafford, manager of the local branch office of Carolina Motor Club, which will put 1960 tags on sale starting Saturday, January 2.

Motorists will have until February 15 to purchase new tags. However, if they will obtain them well in advance of the deadline they will avoid the inevitable delay and confusion at the last minute, the manager said this week.

The '60 plate is yellow with black numerals and letters.

January Is Listing Month

January is tax listing month in Macon County.

An advertisement giving township lists and their listing schedules during the month may be found elsewhere in this issue.

Tom Henson, county tax supervisor, warns all who own property that failure to list is a misdemeanor, subject to a fine or imprisonment upon conviction.

Phone Employees Vote Down Union

By a vote of 56 to 43, employees of Western Carolina Telephone Company have turned down representation as a bargaining agent by the United Mine Workers of America, it has been learned here.

Balloting was held December 17 in Sylva and Marion under the supervision of Louis Perloff, field representative of the National Labor Relations Board. A common ballot box was used so the votes cast in the two towns cannot be given individually.

It is understood employees were transported by the company to the polls under a company-union agreement.

Winners Announced

The B. L. McGlamerys won first place in the Christmas lighting contest sponsored the night of the 23rd by the Franklin Garden Club.

Second place went to the Goodlow Bowmans and third place to the Hall Callahans.

No prizes were awarded this year by the club.

DRAWING FROM SON'S WORK RECORD — She's The Oldest Dependent Parent Getting Social Security

A Macon County native, Mrs. Texie Ramsey, 93, is the oldest dependent parent in Western North Carolina receiving benefits under Social Security.

Mother of the late Charles O. Ramsey, who was town clerk of Franklin, she is receiving these benefits on the work record of



Death convertible is hauled from Nantahala River, fender smashed and top crushed. (State Highway Patrol Photo)

An Apology, A Promise

The year-end holidays always play hob with newspaper deadlines.

So this is an anticipated "We're Sorry" from THE PRESS to its more than 3,000 readers.

For the past two weeks, the newspaper has observed early deadlines, setting up its publication date by more than 24 hours in order to serve readers in advance of the holidays.

This week's "New Year's edition" is just eight pages—the smallest to come out of 21 East Palmer Street in several years. It was produced in a day and a half so employees could observe the long Christmas week end. Many other papers over the state just skip this edition because of the trouble involved. However, Publisher Bob S. Sloan felt the newspaper owed it to subscribers to publish the events of the week end.

Unfortunately, because of the early deadlines, the news reports from the newspaper's many community correspondents are missing. However, they will appear next week when THE PRESS gets back into publication stride, with regular deadlines and news- and picture-filled editions.

M'COLLUM GRADUATED

James G. McCollum, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. McCollum, of Franklin, was graduated from recruit training December 11 at the U.S. Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Ill., it has been announced.

Grady Siler Succumbs; Services Slated Here

Grady Siler, a road supervisor with the U. S. Forest Service here for many years and a nephew of Ernest Rankin, died Monday night about 8 o'clock in Royston, Ga., it has been learned here.

Funeral services will be held today (Wednesday) at 3 p. m. at the Franklin Presbyterian Church.

Rites For Childers Infant Are Conducted

Funeral services for Clifford Lee Childers, Jr., infant son of Clifford and Mrs. Dollie Taylor Childers, of Franklin, were conducted by the Rev. C. C. Welch at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Neal B. Childers, paternal grandparents, December 24.

DRYMAN'S ENTERTAIN

Mr. and Mrs. Prelo Dryman entertained with a Christmas party at their home Tuesday night of last week honoring their son, Richard, and his guest, Miss Marilyn Mixon, of Hampton, Va. Twenty-three guests attended the party.

FIRST SINCE AUGUST OF '58 — Holiday Visitors Killed Sunday When Auto Goes In River

OVER THE HOLIDAYS — Property Damage Wrecks Reported, No Injuries

Two highway accidents involving considerable property damage, but no injuries, occurred over the holiday week end, according to Highway Patrol Pfc. H. T. Ferguson.

Saturday, about 5:45 p.m., on US 23-441 near Cartoonechaye Creek bridge, Mrs. Pauline B. Parker, 35, of Lakeland, Fla., lost control of her car and struck one being driven by Sanford Mann, of Route 2. Mrs. Parker told the patrolman she lost control when a two-wheel trailer she was towing began "snaking". She is charged with reckless driving. Mr. Mann's '57 Oldsmobile was damaged about \$600 and damage to Mrs. Parker's '59 Chevrolet station wagon was estimated at \$500.

Percy Webb, of Route 1, has been charged with improper passing as the result of an accident on US 64 near Cartoonechaye School about 1:15 p.m. Sunday.

Patrolman Ferguson said Mr. Webb, driving a '51 Chevrolet, was passing Ernest M. Schultz, of Route 3, Hixson, Tex., in a straight when an approaching car caused him to cut back too quickly and strike the Schultz car. Damage to the Schultz car was about \$150, to Mr. Webb's, about \$100.

The other is a small job involving the stabilization of embankments for 0.5 mile south of the Jackson-Macon county line. This is near Cowee Gap in the section where some landslides have occurred since the new highway was completed several years ago.

In approving the projects, the State Highway Commission said it is hoped they can be let to contract during 1960.

Child Safe

Members of the Macon Search SEE NO. 1, PAGE 8

The Weather

Table with columns for COWETA and HIGHLANDS, showing High, Low, and Rain for various days from Tuesday to Monday.

A couple visiting relatives for the holidays became Macon County's first highway fatalities in nearly a year and a half when their convertible plunged into icy Nantahala River early Sunday morning.

The victims were identified by the highway patrol as Jimmy Clarence Painter, 27, and his expectant wife, Mrs. Glestia Eugenia Holloway Painter, 21, daughter of Champ Clark Holloway, of Aquone.

Pfc. H. T. Ferguson, one of the investigating officers, said the accident apparently happened about 2 a. m. as the Painters, who lived in Niagara Falls, N. Y., drove toward Nantahala from Andrews, apparently to visit Mrs. Painter's father. The '59 Ford Convertible ran on the left shoulder of the road for about 48 feet before striking the bridge railing. It knocked out about 12 feet of railing before plunging about 12 feet into about six to eight feet of water, the officer said. The convertible landed upside down, pinning both occupants inside.

The wreck was not discovered until about four hours later. After 6 o'clock Mrs. Dorothy Waters spotted the vehicle in the water and reported the accident.

Patrolman Ferguson said Maurice Lee Pearson saw the Painter convertible pass through Topton between 1:30 and 2, helping the officers pin down the time of the accident. Mr. Pearson also disclosed that he noticed the broken bridge rail when he drove to Nantahala shortly after 2, but did not stop to investigate.

The bridge was the second one below Nantahala School.

Child Safe Members of the Macon Search SEE NO. 1, PAGE 8

CULLASAJA MEETING

A meeting of the Cullasaja Rural Community Development Organization will be held Tuesday night, January 5, at the school. It has been announced. Plans will be made for the spelling bee with Cowee on the 7th.



George Leinwall talks with Mrs. Ramsey about Social Security.

Cagle's Robbed Over Holidays; Probe Under Way

An investigation is under way into a break-in at Cagle's Restaurant on US 23-441 sometime late Christmas night or early the next morning.

Sheriff J. Harry Thomas said about \$70 in small change was taken from the cash register, a cigarette machine, and a cigar box in the kitchen.

Entrance was gained to the restaurant by breaking a lock on the front door.