

3 JAILED FOR 32 FOREST FIRES

RAY BARTON HELD FOR U. S. COURT IN DICKEY FIGHT

Charged With Violence In Attempting To Obstruct Draft

Ray Barton, TVA worker and crack baseball player was held for the Federal Court Monday as a result of his fist fight with W. S. ("Slim") Dickey over the drafting of Ray's brother, Harley.

The hearing was held before Fred Bates, U. S. Commissioner, after a warrant had been sworn out by Burgin Butler, FBI agent from Asheville. Barton was arrested by O. C. Turner, U. S. Marshal from Bryson City, and was released under \$500 bond. His case will be heard by Judge Webb in Bryson City, on May 25.

The warrant charges that Barton "on or about the 16th day of March, 1942, by the use of violence, to-wit: assault upon W. S. Dickey, Chairman of the Selective Service Board of Cherokee County, did by said assault attempt to knowingly and hindered and interfered with administration of the Selective Service Act, and by said force and violence knowingly try to prevent the said W. S. Dickey, Chairman of the Local Board of Cherokee County from placing the brother of the defendant in the army, in violation of Section 311 of the Selective Service Training Act of 1941."

The law prescribes a possible penalty of five years in the penitentiary, or a fine of \$10,000, or both. No one here believes, however, that any such severe sentence will be imposed, even if Barton is convicted. There are no witnesses who can testify at at first hand knowledge, as to why the fight started. Press Gentry separated the belligerents, but says he neither heard nor saw anything to show what they were fighting about.

W. S. Dickey testifying against Barton, said the latter approached him and criticized him for putting Harley in the draft "when he was needed by his mother." Dickey said he tried to explain matters, but that Barton refused to be satisfied, and that words finally led to blows. Barton did not take the stand.

"Ready For Japs Soon" Says Soldier's Letter; Wants Girl To Write

Here's a letter from Dee Coleman, son of County Jailer Patton Coleman, now with the 33rd Armored Engineer Battalion at Camp Polk, Louisiana. We believe his letter will interest you—especially if you are a certain girl—as it did us. He writes:

"Dear Mr. Olmsted:—I read your paper every week, even though my eyes are full of sand. It's nice to get the home news, and I sure get it that way.

"I have learned lots in our good army, and one day before long I'll be in shape to face those dirty Japs. I want to be with them just like that drunk duck was with Frank Crawford—fighting mad.

DEE COLEMAN,
33rd. Arm'd. Eng. Bn.,
Camp Polk, La.

"P. S.—I could travel much faster if my girl would write to me. Maybe she has her another man. Maybe not. If so, he can't keep her—because if he is young, he'll soon be with me, and if he is old he can't live long.

"So, maybe I don't have so much to worry about after all."

"Secret Police" Force 70 Strong, Appointed To Serve In Murphy

Take it easy, Mister, that fellow standing next to you may be one of Murphy's new "secret police."

Which is to say that seventy dependable citizens are being commissioned as special policemen to serve under Chief Johnson when and if needed. Their appointment is part of the civilian defense set-up. It is not anticipated that the services of these men will be needed, but they are being appointed "just in case."

The names of the men are being kept secret. Each is given a special card, signed by the Mayor, giving the bearer full police authority to act whenever and wherever needed. Such an officer can arrest you for disorderly conduct, or for any other breach of the peace.

The cards they carry will be their only emblems of authority. They will wear no uniform, no badges, and will have no regular hours of duty. All will serve without pay.

PLACES CHOSEN FOR REGISTERING MEN OF 45-65

Selections Made So As To Call For As Little Travel As Possible

About sixteen hundred residents of Cherokee County between the ages of 45 and 65 are effected to register for possible war service next Monday, April 27.

Although every registrant will be given a serial number, there will be no draft lottery. Neither is it at all probable that any of the men ever be called into the army. It is more than likely, however, that some will be called to various duties in connection with the war.

The number will depend on their qualifications. It is to learn who can fill what job that the registration is being made.

Every effort has been made by the County Draft Board to enable the men to register with as little difficulty as possible. Registration places will be established all over the County, so that no one need travel far. Full information about any troublesome details will be supplied at the registration places.

As a further convenience, the Draft Board has arranged to take registration from Thursday on, at both Draft Board headquarters, in the Adams Building, Murphy, and in the Court house.

Those who are ill, who have work
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Sugar Registration Dates, Places, Set: Rationing Follows

General orders for registration of merchants and householders for the rationing of sugar have been issued from Washington, applying to all sections.

Wholesalers and retailers must register at the nearest elementary schoolhouse May 4, 5, 6 and 7. The latest maximum being considered is one pound per person per week. This however, is not FINAL.

Failure to register means you will not get a rationing card—which, in turn, means that you will not be able to buy any sugar.

Elaborate precautions are being set up to prevent theft and subsequent "bootlegging."

CORONER'S POST IS GOING BEGGING: PAY TOO SMALL

Crane Neglects To File For Clerk Of Court: Candidates Listed

Candidates in both parties have filed for the primaries as regards most of the County offices, but there are some cases where, apparently nobody wants the posts.

Also, the Democrats will not contest for the Commissionship for the lower end of the County, and no Republicans will seek election to the County Board of Education.

Only two candidates have filed for the post of Constable, these two being Jerry Jenkins, a Democrat of Beavertown, and Ed Dotson, also a Democrat, of Notka.

Only one candidate in the entire county filed for Justice of the Peace. He is U. S. G. Phillips, Republican, of Beavertown. W. L. Garren filed for Justice of the Peace from Hot House, but withdrew.

Every township in the County is entitled to a Justice of the Peace and a Constable. If necessary the vacant constable jobs can be filled by appointment by the County Commissioners.

Nobody at all filed for the office of County Coroner. Dr. Harry Miller, present incumbent, says he does not want the post, and other physicians have said the same thing. It was pointed out that the Coroner is allowed a maximum fee of only \$10, regardless of how far he has to travel, or how long it takes. Even if he holds an inquest which takes up an entire extra day, he cannot get more than \$10. It might easily happen, it was pointed out, that deputy sheriffs, summoning witnesses for a inquest, would get more than the Coroner.

It is probable that this post too, will have to be filled by appointment by the County Commissioners. The Coroner need not be a physician—but if a doctor has to be called on a case, there probably will be a charge for professional services, in addition to the Coroner's fee.

The maximum fee used to be \$25, but was cut down by the present Board.

As predicted in these columns last week, Charlie Crane, of Andrews, who was nominated at the Republican convention for Clerk of the Court, decided not to run, and failed
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Rehearing Is Planned In Barton Draft Case

While Ray Barton, widely known athlete from Marble was being held for Federal Court because of an alleged fight with W. S. Dickey over the drafting of his brother, Harley, papers in the case of the latter were returned to the local Draft Board from Raleigh with the recommendation that a new hearing be held.

Harley seeks deferment on the grounds that his mother is dependent on him for support. Placed in Class I-A he was ordered to camp several weeks ago. He lost an appeal, and then took the matter up with Raleigh, and all the papers in the case were ordered sent there for study.

The Draft Board is planning to have a hearing in the near future, when Harley will be allowed to testify and to present witnesses. Meanwhile, he is working for the TVA.

WANT ADS PAY

One Confesses After Loss of Over \$14,000 Not Counting Timber

Joe Ray Will Head "Mixed Ticket" In Murphy Elections

Leaders of both the political parties got together in Murphy Thursday and agreed upon a mixed ticket, in the coming town elections, headed by Joe Ray, for Mayor.

Half formulated plans to enter two tickets, drawn on strict party lines, are believed to have been blocked. The mixed ticket is said to have just one platform—A Better Murphy.

Leaders pointed out that a knock-down and drag-out political battle which would be certain to follow if two tickets were entered, would be costly, would engender much bad feeling, and finally would bring about a result that was not based on merit but only on who had the most money to spend. Such a condition would be bad for the whole town.

It is believed that the ticket, as now planned, will meet with the approval of a large majority of the voters. It is not expected that any other candidates will file.

Running with Joe Ray will be the following candidates for the Town Board:

Noah Lovingsood, E. C. Moore, E. L. Shields, Jim Franklin, Tom Axley and Dr. Bryan W. Whitfield.

Fifteen Gals. Of "Corn" Bring Federal Action Against Dewey Fain

When Dewey Fain, a gentleman of color, ran away from Police Chief Fred Johnson Tuesday night he made a big mistake. Instead of being tried here, Dewey will now have to go to Bryson City with his fate in the hands of the Federal Court.

Chief Johnson found a cache of 15 gallons of alleged corn liquor at Dewey's home. The chief says of course he doesn't know, because he lacks experience and everything; but he "believes" the liquor was made from sugar.

A U. S. Marshal happened to be in town and took out a Federal warrant.

Dewey sent word to the Chief that he would come in and surrender as soon as he could find somebody willing to go his bond.

State Will Celebrate Birthday Next Week

The State of North Carolina will celebrate its 150th birthday with five days of festivities in Raleigh, starting Sunday and ending Thursday, April 30.

Special church services on Sunday will be addressed by the Rev. Dr. George W. Truett, famed Baptist pastor. Monday will be home-coming day, marked by an art exhibit and a patriotic concert by the North Carolina Symphony orchestra. Tuesday there will be a huge parade.

On Wednesday Kay Kyser and his orchestra will give matinee and evening shows, and Thursday will be Education Day, with a double header baseball game between teams from Duke, Wake Forest, The University of North Carolina and North Carolina State in the afternoon.

2 Graham Boys Held One Escapes: U.S. Plans Trials For Sabotage

Three men are under arrest and a fourth is being sought for deliberately starting 32 fires in Graham, Swain and Cherokee Counties; all on the same day, April 6. Twenty-three fires were set in Graham, five in Swain and four in Cherokee. One of the men has confessed.

In addition, two Graham County boys were arrested April 7 after confessing to deliberately starting one fire each on private property in the Yellow Creek section.

The men involved are all from Hiwassee, Ga., and all were employed by the TVA at Fontana. They are: James H. Martin, aged 18; William A. Barnes, 19; Hugh Plott, 35 and Knox Hilton, 20.

The last named escaped. The other three will be tried in the Federal Court convening in Bryson City May 25 with possible penalties of two years in the penitentiary, or a fine of \$5,000, or both.

Meanwhile a detailed report on the case has been sent to the U. S. Attorney General, in Washington, seeking to try the men on charges of sabotage. Such charges carry possible sentences of 30 years each in the pen.

The two Graham County boys are Leonard Turpin, aged 15 and Coyt Anderson, 15. Each signed a confession. They were caught by Forester Charles Melchior shortly after the fires started, and were forced to help fight the blazes before being taken to Robbinsville.

The only explanation the boys made was that they "wanted to see 'em burn." Because of their youth they cannot be tried in Federal Court, and their case is now being studied to determine the proper action.

The flames ravaged 5,086 acres of U. S. Forest lands and more than 1,000 acres of private lands. Those in Graham County were between the Lone Oak Church and Cheoah Gorge. Those in Swain County were between the Nantahala River and Deal's Gap. Cherokee County fires were set between Murphy and Warne.

Asked why no fires were started between Murphy and Robbinsville, Martin is quoted as saying that "there was so much traffic that there were no good places to get one started."

Forester Melchior said the fires cost the Government a cash loss of at least \$5,000 in fighting them, not counting the loss of timber. They also cost the Nantahala Power Co., a cash loss of \$5,000. Other cash losses, Melchior said, would bring the total to more than \$14,000. It has not yet been figured how much timber was destroyed.

In addition to causing a huge loss to farmers who were forced to abandon their work to fight the flames, a pole of the Nantahala Company was burned down at Brooks Gap, which resulted in the burning out of a \$4,000 transformer. As a result, Robbinsville, Topton, Andrews and other communities on the line were without power for seven hours.

Fortunately the cut-off power came during the day. Nevertheless, all work on the Aquone project was
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