

The Mountaineer
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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1935

AN OPEN LETTER TO SANTA CLAUS

Waynesville, N. C.
December 22, 1935

Dear Santa Claus:—
Since it has been 362 days since you were in our community, we are taking this opportunity of giving in brief some of the events of the county, in order that you may know what to expect when you make your annual visit Tuesday night.

First of all, the people of this county are in much better spirits than they were last year—in fact we are feeling better over economic conditions than since 1929. And that, Santa, is a lot.

So many things have happened that we are afraid you won't have time to read all of it before you start out on your annual trip-of-cheer, but as this is a letter of information, rather than one asking for gifts, you might find relaxation in reading it.

First of all, right after you left last year, our state legislature went into session, and from that came the order that our county board of commissioners be increased from three to seven. Well, we got four mighty good men, and the board has been running as smooth as could be. A lot of people didn't like the idea at first, but little is said about it now, except a few, who think it will be repealed at the next session of the legislature. But that's in January, 1937, and this is still 1935.

There has been a lot of building here since you were in the county last. The Champion Fibre Company is spending another half million on a filtering plant. J. E. Massie is opening his new \$45,000 Park theatre. His brothers opened their \$20,000 funeral home this year; the Baptist folks here are opening their new Sunday School building next week, and two school buildings have been completed and work is underway on the new Junior High school building.

And, Santa, you might not know the place when you get here Tuesday. Last spring the folks started painting up and haven't quit yet. Why, there is more painting going on now than there is, sometimes in the heart of the summer.

Among the big paint jobs were the Hotel Gordon, England-Walton Co., and painters are now at work on the Unagusta Manufacturing Company—changing the red into aluminum.

And among the latest things to happen in the county in a big way was the organizing of the Haywood County Bank out of the Bank of Clyde. This new bank will have the main office at Canton, and maintain a branch at Clyde.

The WPA is spending some money in the county, giving a lot of folks work that otherwise would be out, although, to be frank about it Santa, it seems that this county is being held back on by someone. Course, things like that get up our dander sometimes, but we understand that will be ironed out within a "short time."

Several new roads are being built in the county. The Cove Creek road is splendid, and when you make your trip down Jonathan Creek Tuesday you will find that you can make much better time than you were able to make last year.

The road at Bethel towards Springdale is about half completed, and by next year this will make traveling in that section easier for you. Frank Miller and a few of his associates are working night and day on road matters, and this Parkway situation from Soco Gap to Cherokee seems to be giving a little trouble right now, but that will be worked out.

And before we forget it, the Haywood farmers are much better pleased with prices this year than last. The potato prices and tobacco crop are making them feel lots better,

and some are able to pay their taxes for the first time in a number of years. And speaking of taxes, the county is away ahead of the game, and her bonds are above par.

We are glad to report that crime in Haywood is much less than it was several years ago. The record of a dozen murders a year is a thing of the past. More people are being killed by automobiles than anything else. Of course there is still some drinking and maybe a little gambling and the such, but for those old nasty straight-out murders, they are very rare.

And when you get to Clyde Tuesday night you will find the streets there have been widened and improved. That town of Clyde is going to make all of the county take notice pretty soon. And you know, the cattle sales held there this past year have been the means of hundreds of farmers disposing of their cattle. The sales closed last week, and paid some mighty good prices.

Out at Hazelwood, the factories are running "in high" with as many men employed as were employed back in the "good old days."

And before we forget it, plans are underway to open the old Waynesville Furniture plant. Don't know much to say about this now, but by next year, we hope that when you get to Hazelwood, that "smoke will get in your eyes" from the stack of the Waynesville Furniture Plant.

Of course, the tourist season went hay-wire this past summer, when some of the folks "down east" got out the information about the paralysis scare. But anyway, everything worked out very well, with most everyone at least breaking even, except Lake Junaluska, and they broke a record for crowds. Those Methodists, you know, just seem to flock to the lake regardless of whether they believe in much water, or not. Now it is expected of Baptist to gather at lakes and oceans, but at Junaluska the Methodists have gotten the habit, and not going alone, either, but in droves. By the way, just a tip, James Atkins is the manager at the Lake now, if you want to put an extra cigar in his sock.

Gracious, gracious, here this letter is getting to be rather lengthy, but you must know about the Creamery. Those folks are buying milk and cream to beat the band, and paying out some mighty good looking money for it, and does it help? As we said in the beginning, everything is much better this year than last.

There is a lot more to tell—and all good, too, but will close with this, the Chamber of Commerce, under Charles E. Ray has gone places. You know how Charles is, believes in organization, and then making things hum, and he certainly has led the organization to the satisfaction of all.

Of course, this might be out of your line, but the Rotary Club has bought a \$50 pure-bred bull and given to the farmers to start pure-bred herds.

Yes sir, Santa. Old Haywood has gone places since you were here last Christmas, and if things continue, as much progress will be made in 1936 as was made in 1935.

And keeping our promise, we are still not asking for a thing, but trust you will linger longer in Haywood this year, since you have a little of the 1935 history.

Your faithful admirers,
Haywood County Citizens.
P. S.—If you're not too busy next June, you might come down. We are going to have a good time in the June primary.

CONGRATULATIONS

J. E. Massie is to be congratulated on the modern theatre he has provided for this community. It is beyond all expectations, and would be a credit to a town many times larger than Waynesville.

The fact that he has provided every known convenience and improvement in the theatre world proves that he had the comfort and interest of his patrons at heart.

We believe that the increased business he is bound to receive at the new theatre will make for him a profit on the large investment which such a modern theatre costs.

He has done a "swell job."

DOING GOOD WORK

Next Saturday the Baptists of the community will formally open their Sunday School Annex. The building is a credit to the church and fills a long felt need for better and larger Sunday School quarters.

The Pastor, Rev. H. W. Baucom and Mrs. Baucom, are celebrating their silver wedding anniversary on the day of the opening, and have requested that the "silver be given towards the building debt.

Such a request on their part did not come as a surprise. It just shows their every-day attitude towards their church, town and friends. They are doing a splendid piece of work here.

THE OLD HOME TOWN by STANLEY



Random SIDE GLANCES
By W. CURTIS RUSS

If I had my way, it would be against the law to picture Santa Claus with prominent false teeth.

If I had my way, everyone would be compelled to read on Christmas Day, the scripture of the first Christmas. (Published elsewhere in this paper.)

If I had my way, I would place a heavy fine on any person giving the secrets of Santa Claus away to a child under nine.

If I had my way, all Christmas decorations would be down and out of sight on December 26th.

If I had my way, trees on lawns would be decorated with colored lights for the benefit of all, just as James Atkins and a few others have done.

If I had my way, I would stop this idea of making children believe Santa comes down the chimney.

If I had my way, I would revive the old-fashioned idea of hanging stockings.

If I had my way, I would give the children a substitute for firecrackers to make a noise with.

If I had my way, I would put children's clothes on every adult caught shooting firecrackers and parade them up and down Main street a whole day.

If I had my way, I would have a reserved section at all toy counters for adults, in order that the children could peep at the playthings meant for them.

If I had my way, I would employ a crew of trained men and women to canvas the community and make sure no child was forgotten.

If I had my way, business would be suspended for two days—on De-

ember 24th and Christmas -25. The holiday on the 24th in order that everyone might rest up for a merrier Christmas.

If I had my way, I would have groups of real singers go over town just at dusk singing old Christmas songs, and ban the radio bunk during that hour.

If I had my way, there would be nothing but noiseless fireworks, and every community would have a free night display of the most beautiful that could be made.

If I had my way, every adult would have to attend a public Christmas tree, where children were given gifts, in order that those who have grown too old to get the spirit might have a revival.

If I had my way, it would be a custom to take at least five minutes on Christmas to visit among the sick.

If I had my way, chimes would be played off and on all day.

If I had my way, every person would get a greeting card at least a week before Christmas, as no cards would be mailed after December 20th. (Note to postal officials, if that idea goes across, I'll be looking for a pension.)

If I had my way, reference to Santa Claus would be Santa Claus, and not St. Nick, or St. Nicholas or anything else.

If I had my way, all Christmas cigars would have to be smoked in the open.

If I have my wish, everyone of you will have the best Christmas ever.

24 Years Ago
in
HAYWOOD

(From the files of December 1, 1911.)

Miss Margaret Stringfield spent Thanksgiving in Asheville.

Miss Hattie Wharton, of Cruso, was the house guest on Thursday and Friday of Miss Annie Shoobred.

Don't put off your Christmas shopping any longer. And don't forget to buy at home as far as possible.

Miss Anna Lee, who is a student at Elizabeth College in Charlotte, spent Thanksgiving here with her parents.

Little Miss Harriet Boone and Master Roger Boone are visiting their aunts, the Misses Kerr, in Asheville.

Mr. Robert Osborne spent Thursday in Asheville, where he went to see "The Girl of the Golden West" at the Auditorium.

Mrs. Jennie MacFyden and small son, of Canton, spent the past week in town with Mrs. H. L. MacFyden.

Waynesville is the place to do your shopping. Don't go anywhere else when you can get the same thing at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Clinton Burt, of Asheville, spent the past week as the guests of the latter's parents.

Mr. Earl Tate, of Canton, spent Monday and Tuesday in town with friends.

Dr. and Mrs. J. H. Way left Friday for Havana, Cuba, where Dr. Way, president of the North Carolina State Board of Health, goes to attend the American Public Health Association. The pupils of the Waynesville Graduate school made a Thanksgiving offering for the orphanage of the state, in keeping with a most commendable custom now in vogue in many schools.

The Haywood County Singing Convention is to meet here in Waynesville on Saturday. The contest here last July was one of the greatest successes in the history of the organization, and it is confidentially expected that the attendance and number of contestants will be greater on this occasion.

The movement heretofore known as the "Booster's Organization" completed the incorporation of the "Greater Western North Carolina Association—Land of the Sky" at a meeting held in Hendersonville Thursday and at an executive committee meeting held in Asheville on last Monday, a fund to advertise Western North Carolina, of \$15,000 is to be raised at once.

"Dad, what part of speech is woman?"
"Woman ain't part of a speech, son. She's all of it."

Head Clerk: "I am very sorry to hear of your partner's death. Would you like me to take his place?"

Women's Coats Reduced

Fur Trimmed	50%
Sport Types	25%
Children's (8 to 14)	25%

BARGAINS FOR YOU

C.E. Ray's Sons

ALEXANDER'S DRUG STORE
WAYNESVILLE, N. C.

In business, perhaps, sentiment has little part.

But at Christmas it's different. At this time of year, we like to think back of the friendships we have made. Of the pleasant contacts established. Of those whose confidence has meant so much to us.

At this time, then, it is only natural that we should be thinking of you. We want you to know at this time that we appreciate a great deal our pleasant relations of the past year—the continuation of which we will do everything in our power to merit during future years.

It is the sincere wish of myself and every member of our staff that your Christmas may be a merry one and that all good things may be yours for the New Year.

Sincerely,
ALEXANDER'S DRUG STORE
O. J. Alexander