

The Mountaineer

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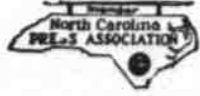
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THURSDAY, APRIL 24, 1941

Flood Control

Last August the mountain section was visited in quick succession by two disastrous floods. The destruction was enormous, not only to private property, but in damage to roads and bridges amounted to hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Obviously nothing can be done to prevent floods in the mountains. Our swift mountain streams will get out of control and no human agency can prevent this. A great deal however could be done to minimize the disastrous effects of these floods if done in time.

While the TVA is doing valuable work along this line it seems to us that the state highway commission in cooperation with the land owners along the streams could do some much needed work by lowering, widening, and straightening the streams and removing the wreckage left from last year's floods.

The sight of this wreckage and debris left by the floods of last year is very depressing to the thousands of tourists passing through, as well as forming a base for drift that may change the complete course of the stream. There are a number of such places in Haywood county now as the result of last summer's flood. Also a number left in such condition that the damage would be greater in case of another flood.

A few dollars spent now in stream clearance might mean the saving of thousands of dollars later in damage to farms and highways.

More Fishermen

People that have never before bought a fishing license are now out on the creek and river banks trying to lure the members of the finny tribe to their hooks, according to Cody Plott, county game warden.

They are doing more than trying—they are pulling in the big ones, and not letting them get away, he reported after checking up on some of the Izaak Walton's.

At the pace the world is living today, and with the daily disturbances in the international situation, and the uncertainty of things, we suspect that many a person who heretofore did not feel that they had time to fish are going out by the waters edge to get away from it all.

Any way we have found that those who come back with a catch seem refreshed. Those who had rotten luck, well, it is hard to figure their disposition out.

Good Old Warm Weather

Old-timers agree that the seasons now are not what they were back at the turn of the century. This makes it difficult to predict the weather.

The modern woman dresses according to fashion, and not the weather, so mere man cannot be assured of what to expect by clothes.

Flowers bloom in off seasons, and sometimes get caught in a freeze at the height of their blooming season, so flowers are not always an accurate guide.

So what is there left by which a man can gauge the weather? Oh, yes. We almost forgot. The thud of the horsehide against the ash bat in the baseball park—that's the definite sign of warm weather.

And from the way things clicked at the athletic field here Saturday at the opening of the season, we can rest assured that warm weather is here to stay.

Highway Commission

On Friday, Governor Broughton relieved the suspense that has kept the whole state guessing for the past three months by naming the new Highway Commission.

L. B. Price, of Hendersonville, was named chairman and Percy Ferebee, of Andrews, commissioner for the Tenth District. Four old members, Messrs. Watson, McCrary, and were retained, while six new members were appointed in addition to the chairman.

State-wide opinion seems to be that the Governor has appointed a very able body to handle the state's largest and most important business, that of the management of the State Highway system and the prison department and other public works.

In Mr. Price of Henderson County, the commission will have an able leader, a man of sound judgment, wide business experience and a lawyer of ability.

Mr. Ferebee is a prominent business man of Andrews and Murphy. He is keenly interested in the development of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and Western North Carolina and will without doubt make a valuable member of the Commission.

This paper extends to each of these new members our heartiest congratulations and our best wishes for a successful administration.

Mountain Roads

The story of the old woman who said she believed that if one had enough faith they could remove mountains, but lacked that faith herself after praying that the mountain in front of her home be removed, should go to Soco Gap and see those giant machines eat away the mountain sides.

Some of the heaviest machinery ever brought into this section, has attracted hundreds of citizens to the scene of activity. Some of the machines resemble giant historic monsters biting out huge mouthfuls of dirt and then crawling along to the edge of the fill and spitting it out.

Road building has come a long way from the old pick and shovel days, and the manner in which the mountains are circled with roads that permit comfortable travel at high speed, brings us closer to that reality, what is there left for man to conquer?

More Traffic Lights

Two new traffic lights have just been placed in Haywood—one at Hazelwood and another at Clyde.

These lights were not put there by the city fathers just to give their respective town an atmosphere of "big city" stuff, but for the protection of the public.

The average motorists drives mechanically—that is, they go places without thinking, and the need for devices to think for them is becoming more of a necessity every day.

We don't especially enjoy traffic lights, yet we were glad to see the two recently erected go up. Both of them are at dangerous intersections, and we are informed that officers are keeping a sharp eye for those who appear to be "color blind."

Accommodations

The fact recently brought out in the Asheville papers that the city has had to turn down three large conventions on account of inadequate rooming facilities brings up the thought as to what Waynesville might be able to do in the event that a large organization wish to hold a meeting here.

It would be well to make a survey of the maximum capacity of the town and have a complete list at all times of every regular rooming place and also of those who would be willing to open their homes in a case of emergency.

Not only would such information be advisable for times of prosperity, but also in disaster, as last summer when people were marooned, lodging was at a premium, and such information would have been invaluable in getting people located.

Congress, it seems now after authorizing America's multi-billion dollar rearmament program is overcome with a sense of old fashioned economy and is claiming that now is the time to start saving. House fiscal leaders of both parties are suggesting that money can be saved both on non-defense costs and in defense projects.

It is no wonder that the economy bug has bitten them as they prepare to consider the administration's \$3,444,000,000 tax program. The tax bill started its way through law-making machinery on Monday. Officials will attend the closed sessions and suggest how to raise the money.



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

Life at its best is ever an uncertain quantity . . . one never knows when disillusionment waits around the corner . . . to shatter the dream of anticipation . . . take for instance the Waynesville High School Band . . . the group left here at noon on last Thursday for Greensboro . . . their destination, the State Music Festival contest . . . they left with great pride that they had won the privilege of entering the state-wide contest . . . it had been a goal to which they had worked since organization . . . the town had pride in their trip . . . and keen interest ran high in the community over the outcome of the contest . . . for it might have led to Richmond and the regional contest of Southern States . . . the trip down in five cars and a Queen City bus of the party of 70 strong . . . counting L. T. New, band director, and six mothers . . . was a huge success . . . everybody was jubilant . . . and they enjoyed the stops en route when they were all together . . . the trip had been well organized . . . the party arrived all excited . . . a visit to the city of Greensboro meant more to some than others . . . but to each the significance of the band's rating that made it possible, meant much . . . little did they know what awaited them . . .

night . . . in the next part of the contest the public was not allowed . . . that of sight-reading . . . but the mothers went with them to the next building and waited outside . . . when it was over (and incidentally they made A-2 rating) the director called a conference and said, "Now you have played, if you want to go back home after what happened last night and miss the marching feature, you may do so" . . . but in the meantime he had read the messages sent by groups back home . . . and they voted a loud "No" . . . their spirits seem to rise . . . and we were glad of their decision and much more so later . . . for they gained confidence during the day . . . and five minutes before they marched on the stadium for the last test . . . that of "marching" . . . the director told them that the Waynesville boys had been cleared in court . . . they marched with steady step and heads high and won A-1 rating on their ability . . . we gloried in their comeback . . . and they really drew a hand from the hundreds gathered in the college stadium . . .

In an editorial of one of the Greensboro papers about the matter the expression of "boys will be boys" was used . . . but courtesy to the "stranger within your gates" it is a law about as old as life itself . . . and we hope never goes out of fashion . . . put yourself in the place of the band students . . . how would you like to visit a town and have a rank stranger come up and knock your hat off . . . pitch it in the street under a car? . . . Would you not resent it? . . . the students have been taught to take care of their uniforms and equipment . . . they are not theirs . . . but belong to the band . . . far be it from us to condone or uphold in any manner rowdiness in our boys . . . but from all we can learn about the affair our students only did . . . in coming to the rescue of their director . . . what any red-blooded American boy should do . . . under such circumstances . . . and the band returns with no loss of prestige . . . but still maintains the high esteem in which it left . . . and also with apologies from the college and the city of Greensboro . . . and sympathy from other bands in the state who have had their troubles on other occasions . . .

There is no possible excuse to offer for the Greensboro high school boys for their behavior . . . which is a blot on the city . . . and youth of today in general . . . and the fact that such a thing could happen on the grounds of one of

It was not the welcome the band had expected . . . it did something to those band students . . . that hurt the older people to see . . . it was a hard unjust lesson in the process of "growing up" . . . of course there was the tension that goes with excitement and exhilaration . . . but it was not the type that brings out the best in human nature . . .

When the group gathered . . . the next morning at 7:30 o'clock . . . in the Music hall of the Woman's College . . . where they were to play in the contest at 8 o'clock . . . the air was charged with emotions . . . hard to describe . . . at least among our students . . . their ambition was gone . . . their spirit broken . . . they had lost their high rating before they played . . . how could they do their best under such a handicap? . . . some even afraid to be seen in their uniforms . . . some of the best players had not had a wink of sleep . . . and the director had not had a chance to go to bed . . . but they were game . . . they played . . . but not as they have on other occasions . . . and we six anxious mothers in that audience . . . nearly blistered our hands trying to swell the applause . . . for we were proud of their courage in attempting to play after such a

Industry May Even Welcome Federal Control

By CHARLES P. STEWART, Central Press Columnist

Voice OF THE People

Do you think our chances for keeping out of the war are getting better or worse?

M. G. Stamey—"Worse. It appears that the other nations in conflict with the Axis are gradually crumbling, except England, and because of the strong alliance of Japan with the Axis Powers, and the uncertainty of Russia makes our position a grave and precarious one.

J. R. Boyd, Jr.—"I don't know that we are any nearer actual fighting, but the war situation is worse, but after all one does not know what 24 hours might bring to pass."

T. J. Cathey—"It is getting worse. War conditions keep spreading. Every move that is made gets nearer our shores. Of course our greatest immediate danger depends on Japan."

Grover C. Davis—"I don't think the United States government has done anything to make conditions more likely for us to be drawn into the fight. I think our National Defense program will tend to keep us out."

Mrs. N. M. Medford—"I think our preparations for war will serve as a protection to us."

Dr. J. R. McCracken—"Worse I think each day our government is adding 'more fat to the fire.'"

Dr. H. O. Champion—"Our army we are building up is bound to be a protection to us, but if England goes down, I had rather for us to fight it out."

Lewis Brewer—"Worse. We are going to be in actual fighting in six months."

Mrs. Ben Colkitt—"From reading and hearsay it looks to me that we are fast drifting into war."

B. G. O'Brien—"I think our chances are better. I believe our National Defense program is delaying our getting into the conflict. I feel that President Roosevelt's main purpose in the program was to keep us out of the war."

WPA (We Pay—and Pay And Pay and Pay & Pay)

JACKSONVILLE—What puzzled County policemen was just how the Negro who stole a car at Monticello, Fla., had managed to buy gasoline for all the riding he did.

They didn't know, until he told them, that the rides were on Uncle Sam.

The Negro related he found a WPA courtesy card in the automobile and used it for gasoline purchases.

the state's leading educational institutions is not only depressing, but alarming . . . it is time that youth of today took stock of themselves . . . their freedom has evidently gone to their heads . . . when they abuse it as they did in Greensboro . . . and it is likewise a warning to those in charge of our institutions who are responsible for their education . . . and also to the parents . . . that a sterner hand of discipline is needed . . . and that self expression had better be curbed when it takes a criminal outlet . . . it is too bad for lessons to be taught by way of the police courts that should be learned in the homes and schools . . . with often the innocent having to suffer along with the offenders . . .

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK By R. J. SCOTT



I've no intention of an industrialists' case for no authority on the subject economics. For whatever I hear from 'em, as a torial listener at their ke . . . Anyhow, Uncle Sam seems to frighten 'em much ing about commandeered plants—at a reasonable r

Judge Okays Drunk Stuff Once Month

HELENA, Mont.—W. Hinton, a Canadian, was Federal district court in charges of drunkenness. James H. Baldwin declared "Ever since 1862 (when became a territory) it became man's privilege to get drunk 30 days." Hinton was released.

The British Red Cross grown to \$16,000,000 in twice as fast as in World