

THE MOUNTAINEER

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 31, 1947

A Destructive Fire

The destructive blaze which struck on Main street Tuesday afternoon brought real sorrow to all of us.

We know we speak the sentiment of the community when we say the sympathies of all of us go to those who lost so heavily.

Since the terrible conflagration in Atlanta last December, we feel that people are more fire-conscious, and when the alarm sounded Tuesday afternoon it was easy to see on the faces of the onlookers the deep concern they had for the owners of the buildings and those involved.

As bad as the fire was, there is still much that all of us are thankful, and that is no life was lost, and only minor injuries sustained among scores who helped combat the stubborn blaze.

Preventable

Information contained in a recent survey, even incomplete, by the State Hospital Care Association shows that during the recent holiday season at Christmas there were 751 people in North Carolina who received treatment for injuries caused by fireworks. There were no doubt many more who received home aid and did not consult physicians.

The survey broken up was as follows: 421 classified as serious; nine had lost an eye; six losing the vision of an eye; and 37 receiving eye injuries.

These figures should give the people of North Carolina serious concern and they should get behind their representatives in the current assembly to see that legislation prohibiting the sale of fireworks in the state be passed.

We have always thought that this was one of the poorest ways in which to celebrate Christmas ever on record. When one considers the meaning of Christmas and the season why and how did such a custom ever get started is a natural question.

We understand from the press that there are a goodly number of lobbyists on the job down in Raleigh working for the interests of the makers and dispensers of fireworks and that pressure will be brought for the continued sale of this hazard to safety and health.

Schools

As we have stated before we know that membership on the Budget Commission must have been one big headache. Take what we want the Legislature to give us as our part of various funds from the state, here in Haywood county and multiply it by one hundred. You would get a nice neat sum of money and in addition think of the state agencies that are putting in requests for appropriations.

During the war our school buildings needed attention to repairs, in many cases it was impossible to give them. In the meantime enrollments are on the increase and facilities are not sufficient to take care of the situation.

Like so many other conditions our poor educational advantages were exposed during the war years and we were brought face to face with a situation that we have all realized must be changed, not only in buildings, but salaries of teachers. In our schools we are building for the future and we cannot afford to neglect this responsibility.

Observers at the General Assembly seem to be of the opinion that if there is a recession or evidence that one is just around the corner, the legislators will be very cautious as to how they approve appropriations.

Another Big Celebration

We are happy to see that another county-wide Fourth of July celebration will be held at the High school grounds again this year. Last year the Boosters Club staged their first such event, and the record made then justifies repetition of the event.

Everything was clean, open and above board, not a single objectionable phase to the entire program. Proof of this was the fact that even special officers on duty did not make a single arrest during the five-day celebration.

The sponsors did not allow a single gambling point, or any unit that wasn't a clean, safe ride to set up on the grounds.

The local athletic contests attracted wide interest, and the music by the high school band, and the quartetts were other big drawing cards.

The committee has already announced the same plans and rules will be followed again this year, with the possible addition of a community-wide union church service on Sunday night. This we think, would be most fitting, and in keeping with the remainder of the bush-type program the group has in mind.

This newspaper welcomes the opportunity to cooperate with such events, just as long as there is not any semblance of a carnival. This county does not have a place in its social or entertainment program for carnivals.

Waiting Lists

Without intending to sound a pessimistic note we refer you to the story on the front page of the last issue of The Mountaineer regarding the decline of job openings in this area and the subsequent number of persons seeking employment.

It does not take most of us very long to recall other years when this reached a serious condition. We sincerely trust that we never reach this stage again, but it will take planning to avoid it. Authorities on the subject are recommending that the communities take action and foresee what may happen, in seeking out industries and encouraging the development of resources at hand. In this way, when the tide of prosperity recedes, we will be ready to meet conditions.

On the other hand this turn in conditions should make all workers realize the advantage of being settled in employment and give their best efforts.

Youth's Chances

Attorney General Tom C. Clark has made a strong appeal to the people of this country in a message written recently for the Associated Press to bring the needs of Youth before the public during National Youth Week (Jan. 26-Feb. 1), which is full of good advice and is also a challenge.

Mr. Clark points out that attempting to lead youth into rich and purposeful living after they are already in trouble is not an easy task. It is not only difficult but more costly and often too late. In some respects it is like providing safeguards at a railroad crossing after lives have been lost through tragic accident.

Since delinquency is the symptom rather than the problem itself, it is of primary importance that every community in America endeavor to safeguard all youth and provide better environment and opportunity for normal growth and development, according to Mr. Clark.

It is up to the communities. If every community strengthened the traditional institutions of American community life—the home, the church, the school and related activities—that are essential to happy, wholesome growth of all children, and erected safeguards against local influence that endanger health and welfare—then a long step would have been taken in the prevention and control of delinquency, points out Mr. Clark.

We cannot get away from the fact that normal home and family life are the foundation of effective American citizenship. This brings the responsibility right to our own front doors of our homes and our communities. During the past few years Americans have been busy on other things—things that have taken us away from home.

Mr. Clark advises that each community survey its problems and take stock of its resources in youth and chart a course of action that will not only deal with its particular delinquency but meet the needs of all the boys and girls.

They Are Needed And More

We see where the North Carolina Board of Medical Examiners has granted licenses to 61 young people to practice medicine, with a number of girls included in the group.

We are told that North Carolina needs from 1,200 to 1,500 more doctors, so at the rate of 61 a year it will take a long time to fill our great need.

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

How Long Will Winter Be? ...
Groundhog Ready For Prophecy

Each year when I step from my hideout

Suppose, when we gather together,
To view what is new in the land,
I wouldn't respond as I do
Not knowing the whether
My uttermost secrets are pried out
And why of the weather
By men who are waiting at hand.

PUNXSUTAWNEY glorifies the groundhog with home talent art and verse by Bill Pratt in the Punxsutawney Spirit.

By ELAINE KAHN
AP Newsfeatures

PITTSBURGH Three hundred and sixty-four days a year a groundhog (Arctomys Monax) or Marmota Monax if you woodchuck admirers want to be technical is only a groundhog. But come Feb. 2 and the groundhog is an oracle no less.

To at least three bitterly rival Pennsylvania societies, Mr. Groundhog becomes a weatherman of weathermen—the "Greatest of Sages," and even the "King of all Prophets."

From Punxsutawney's Gobbler's Knob in the western part of the state to Skunk Hollow in Quarryville and the Pennsylvania Dutch Grunzow Lodge in Allentown there is unity in only one respect.

"They Eat 'Em, Too" Last year the Quarryville outfit offered its forecasting system to the United Nations if U.N. would agree to use it for "peaceful purposes." Gobbler's Knob predicted the war would end in 1945.

The groundhogs fostered by the various lodges do not limit their predictions to the weather but branch into fields of politics and world affairs.

Last year the Quarryville outfit opened its forecasting system to the United Nations if U.N. would agree to use it for "peaceful purposes."

Grunzow Lodge Number four in Lehigh (the Pennsylvania Dutch members will argue with you how to spell it) translates the groundhog's predictions and the annual banquet menu into Pennsylvania German.

Its members undergo the most rigorous preparations. Ritual demands that lodge members rise and without speaking face the sun to observe to what degree it casts a shadow. The direction and velocity of the wind, ceiling of clouds, visibility and depth of frost on the ground are all pertinent factors for the grand ceremony of the observation of the groundhog emerging from his hole.

All of the lodges have made big plans for groundhog festivities this year so the world is assured of at least three versions of how the groundhog feels about his shadow and the next six weeks.

HERE and THERE

By

HILDA WAY GWYN

There is something about Washington City that gets the American citizen — the central point of our government has not only historical significance, but a current touch of pageantry mingled with its background of pioneer tradition that gets under the skin of the American.

Perhaps that is why America has become so great. The visitor may be a sight seeing tourist for only a day or so, or he may be a professional statesman (or politician) or a governmental official or employee, but they all succumb to the charm of the capital, Take Clifford Brown, a recent Haywood resident, and now secretary to Congressman Monroe Redden. We had a long talk with Clifford last week. Washington has him—just as it has gotten thousands of others. He feels the charm of the excitement and the lift that we get out of our national capital and the life centered there. Naturally being a politician Clifford gets a big kick out of seeing how the game is played by the big boys after they are elected to office.

"I was a little apprehensive about how the higher ups would treat folks, but I have found that the bigger the man, the more simple he is and they are certainly the most hospitable people and the most cordial I have ever met," he said in speaking of the men who compose our House of representatives and the Senate.

"But a cousin of mine, Clarence McGee, from South Carolina, who works in the Library of Congress rather took the wind

out of my sails, for he reminded me that I must remember that they are all politicians—and that cordiality and good manners are part of their job," he added with a touch of chagrin that his cousin should even hint at such.

"I think that no one could visit Washington without a feeling of pride in their country. I wish that I could afford to get some of our high school seniors to Washington to inspire them and teach them what it means to be an American. During the weekends the capital is over run with students who live in that section," he said.

"I am trying to learn to find my way about. I have been lost four times, but I know that I will be able to travel with confidence in time. My worse predicament was trying to get out of the Pentagon Building, which is five stories high and covers acres. They gave me an attendant at last who showed me how to get out."

"One of the old timers gave me some pretty good advice. He says, 'Don't get nervous, don't get in a hurry, don't be afraid to ask questions, and don't be afraid that you'll ask a foolish question, for I could match some of yours against many more much more foolish than you would ask.'

"I heard President Truman deliver his State of the Nation speech. I was much more impressed with him than the times I had heard him over the radio. He is much more forceful and he delivered his message in a calm

VOICE
OF THE
PEOPLE

Would you approve making a separate department of the Game and Inland Fisheries from the state Department of Conservation and Development?

Jack Messer—"I would approve of separate departments, for I think it would be best for both."

Felix Stoval—"Yes, I would approve of such a change, for I think it would contribute to better hunting and fishing."

C. J. Reeve—"I certainly would approve of such and there are more than 100 good reasons, but the main one is that there would be more interest in and better hunting and fishing."

F. G. Rippetoe—"I definitely would approve."

Dan Watkins—"I am not satisfied with the present set up and the separation might help some."

J. W. Killian—"Yes, I would approve of such a plan."

confident manner, and you guessed that he had in mind, though he did not say it of course, now that the Republicans are in the majority, I have given for the facts, now what are you going to do with them?"

It is compiled under the direction of the joint committee on printing. During the war it ran into 35,000 copies twice a year, but probably will drop a little this year. Many wartime copies went to the Army and Navy.

Although it is distributed to those whose names are in it, it may be purchased \$1.25 from the Superintendent of

Capital Letters
BY THOMPSON GREENWOOD

name of that great town. Get Charlie Justice to tell us a North Carolina story on January 1st. Harry, pronounce it right.

RECONSTITUTED
watered milk batch. Whether you know or not PER CENT OF MILK IN NORTH CAROLINA

YEAR WAS WATERED

So far, it has stayed papers, but these are here and here is how it happened.

On Sunday night, December the 29th, and before the Sugar Bowl game, the following telegram was sent to Harry Wismer by one of his friends:

"Dear Harry: Please don't ruin your excellent standing with the people of North Carolina by your atrocious pronunciation of the

(Continued on Page 2)

Washington Letter

By JANE EADS

CONGRESSMEN GET
OUT THEIR BOOK
OF BIOGRAPHIES

WASHINGTON — The Congressional Directory of the 80th Congress is due to come out in February.

The directory also lists of members of both the House and Senate press galleries, House News Photographers, radio correspondents, and periodicals.

Although it is distributed to those whose names are in it, it may be purchased \$1.25 from the Superintendent of

congressional committees, all de-

(Continued on Page 2)

SETTINGS BY JO
ARE PART OF HIT
ON STEM, BY JO!

Trevor and Philip Dor

as a continental come

Felix Bressart, but the

lights of the evening were

by Mr. M's set. The

he saw the premiere of the

"Street Scene" and aga

Mielziner motif which w

ground mood for the h

ceedings; Jo also designed

straight-drama Stee

Not satisfied with the

triumph, Mielziner again

with the fanciful design

brilliant new musical

"Rainbow," thereby taking

of the optical time of the

first nighters, a feature

of the play, and we

or films,