

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

Published Twice-a-Week In The County Seat Of Haywood County At The Entrance Of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park

49,500 People
Live within 20 miles of
Waynesville—their ideal
shopping center.

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SECOND YEAR
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WAYNESVILLE, N. C., TUESDAY, APRIL 29, 1947
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Coming Here July Fourth



CHARLES M. JOHNSON, state treasurer, who recently announced he was a candidate for governor in the Democratic primary next spring, will be the speaker here at the annual county-wide Fourth of July celebration on the high school grounds. The Fourth of July celebration is sponsored annually by the Hazelwood Boosters club. Tentative plans are for Mr. Johnson to speak on the morning program.

Over 1,000 Visit Campbell Tulip Garden Sunday

More than one thousand persons visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Campbell on the Soco Gap road to view the 10,000 tulips in bloom in their garden on Sunday, having accepted the invitation of the owners.

Among the visitors were a large number from out of the county, many persons coming from Asheville and as far west as Bryson City to view the riot of color of the full blown tulips.

The first visitors to arrive came around 9:30 and the last came as late as 6 in the afternoon.

Some persons not familiar with the growing of tulips expressed surprise at the small acreage that 10,000 tulips occupied in the garden but real dirt gardeners, who had had experience knew what to expect and were more than thrilled over the quality of the blooms.

The location of the gardens on the Campbell place has been pronounced an ideal spot on which to grow these popular bulbs, by J. B. Ivey, tulip and dahlia enthusiast. Mr. Ivey's opinion was that the loamy soil of the Campbell place has the same qualities as that on which the famous Holland tulips thrive.

Family Night Will Be Held Friday At Methodist Church

Members and friends of the First Methodist church will hold a Family Night program Friday evening, at 7 o'clock, announces Rev. Paul Townsend, pastor.

There will be an interesting program of music by the young people, and community singing by all. Every family is asked to bring a covered dish, and invite any of their friends who may not be members of the church.

Those who have joined the church this year will be special guests.

Miss Helen Smith, assistant county home agent spent the week end in Forest City with her parents.

Several Firms Start Price Reduction Plan

Several Waynesville firms have joined the national campaign to reduce prices, as urged by President Truman.

Last week Sims Tire and Battery Company set their recapping prices back to the 1941 price, a reduction from \$7 to \$4.90 for a popular size tire.

About the same time, Belk-Hudson Company announced a reduction of \$1 per pair on all shoes retailing for \$5.95 and above.

Yesterday Garrett Furniture Store announced a reduction of ten per cent on their entire stock.

All the managers in making their announcements, stated they were doing their bit to help curb the rise of prices, and bring selling prices back nearer the pre-war level.

Full Program Is Arranged For 4th Of July Event

The general committee working on the details for the annual county-wide Fourth of July celebration, announced a full week of activity will be held. The program is being sponsored by the Boosters Club of Hazelwood.

Tentative plans include a vesper service on Sunday evening before the Fourth, with the Haywood ministerial association in charge.

Contracts have been signed for six or seven modern rides to begin operation on Monday, and continue through the week.

On Wednesday or Thursday night, tentative plans are to have a singing contest, with choirs, quartettes and others participating.

On Friday, the Fourth, the morning program will feature an address by Charles M. Johnson, state treasurer, and candidate for governor. A hand concert will also be featured, and a baseball game in the afternoon and softball at night will be staged.

Plans are being made to take care of a record attendance, and the committee is encouraged over the prospects of a banner celebration.

A local organization will have the concessions on the grounds.

The general committee is composed of R. L. Prevost, Dr. Stuart Robeson, William Chambers, John Blalock, C. N. Allen, and W. Curtis Russ.

W. N. C. Press To Tour Mountain Area Next Month

Plans were made Saturday night at the monthly meeting of the Western North Carolina Press Association, for the group to have lunch here on Saturday, May 24, as they start a two-day tour by bus of Western Carolina.

The tour will start in Asheville and come here for lunch, and then proceed via Soco Gap to Cherokee, Newfound Gap, Clingman's Dome, and other places of interest in the Park, and back to Bryson City for the night, resuming the tour the next morning.

The press group is staging this tour in order to get better acquainted with the entire section.

Those attending the meeting from Haywood Saturday night were W. Curtis Russ and Marion T. Bridges, of The Mountaineer.

Minstrel Will Be Given Wednesday At Bethel School

Cotton Blossom Minstrels will be given at the Bethel high school auditorium Wednesday night, April 30, at 8 p. m., the date having been changed from Thursday. It is reported by Francis Massie, producer of the Lions Club show.

Dinner will be served to the minstrel group by the Bethel ladies at 6:30 p. m. Members will leave from the courthouse at 6 o'clock.

The regular prayer-meetings at Bethel have been postponed this week to Thursday. Mr. Massie also announces that the minstrel will serve as the regular meeting of the Lions.

WTHS Wins Excellent Ratings In Music Tests

Band and Choruses Return From Contests at Greensboro Friday Night

Waynesville township high school musicians returned home at midnight Friday after four days of participation in the 20th annual state contests at Greensboro, bringing back ratings of excellent for their band work, instrumental and vocal solos, and girls' glee club; and the highest grade of superior for the songs of the mixed chorus.

"I am very proud of the way they did and feel sure they have gained some valuable experience," says Charles Isley, music director at the school.

The best high school bands and other musical groups from all over North Carolina took part in the contests.

Waynesville high's mixed chorus earned a one minus rating in Friday's competition and the girls' glee club were rated two, Wednesday, in vocal solo recitals, Aaron Hyatt was graded two among the tenors. During the first two days, the band received the rating of two (excellent), as did the instrumental soloists: Theresa Alley, Joe Morrow, Ray Rogers and Aaron Hyatt.

Clarence Morrow of St. John's Academy and Bob Matthews of Canton high school were graded superior for work with the bass horn and trombone, respectively.

Mr. Isley reports that the band and chorus will present a concert here prior to the end of the school term. The band also will continue practice this summer and serve during various community functions.

M. R. Williamson Is New President Of Rotary Club

Rev. M. R. Williamson was elected president of the Waynesville Rotary Club here Friday, at the annual election of officers at Patrick's Cafeteria. Mr. Williamson succeeds Howard Clapp, who will serve as vice president during the coming year, which begins July first.

James Kilpatrick was named secretary, a post he has held for the past month, and Robert Sutton was elected treasurer, and David Hyatt, assistant treasurer. Kim Barber is the new sergeant at arms.

The new board of directors to take office on July first is: M. H. Bowles, Dave Felmet, James Kilpatrick, Ralph Prevost, Hallett Ward, M. D. Watkins, Howard Clapp and M. R. Williamson.

Five from here are scheduled to attend the district Rotary meeting in Charlotte on May 5-6. These include Mr. Williamson, James Kilpatrick, Howard Clapp, Robert Sutton and N. W. Garrett.

Haywood Man Takes His Life In Asheville

Francis William McElroy, 34, native of Haywood county, was instantly killed around 12:10 Sunday noon, at his home, 49 Cumberland avenue, Asheville, by a self-inflicted bullet, according to Dr. P. R. Terry, Buncombe county coroner.

The body was brought here yesterday by the Garrett funeral home in charge of the arrangements, which were incomplete at the time The Mountaineer went to press.

Dr. Terry said Mr. McElroy had placed the muzzle of a .22 caliber rifle inside his mouth, against the roof and pulled the trigger. This had resulted in a contact wound, he said and the roof and sides of the mouth were powder-burned. The coroner said the bullet ranged upward and backward through the brain causing instant death.

Mr. McElroy, who was an invalid, had not left the house in two years, Dr. Terry said he was informed. Very despondent, Mr. McElroy had threatened a number of times to take his own life, and had so threatened yesterday morning, according to information the coroner said he had gathered. A sister, Miss Stella McElroy, was in an adjoining room and heard the shot, Dr. Terry reported.

Survivors include the father, W. H. McElroy, of Hazelwood; three sisters, Mrs. Cora Waters, Miss Bertha McElroy, with whom he resided; and Miss Stella McElroy, all of Asheville; three brothers, Hardy McElroy of Brasstown; Jessie McElroy of Gastonia, and Elbert McElroy of Asheville; five nieces, and two nephews.

Apple Blossoms To Be In Full Bloom Tomorrow

Predictions yesterday were that the late apple trees in Haywood would be in full bloom by Wednesday. Some of the earlier apples have already bloomed.

Many people visited the various orchards throughout the county Sunday, and large numbers are expected to see the orchards today and tomorrow.

Fire Destroys House Near Town Friday Night

Fire caused a total loss to the two-story frame residence of Willie Watson, colored employee of the Waynesville water and lights department, Friday night, and seriously burned his wife, Charlene, while attempting to save a trunk from the burning house.

It is believed that the fire started from the kitchen flue, around 11 p. m. Another woman living at the house first noticed the blaze after it had started, and awakened the Watsons. By that time the upper part of the house was burning fiercely, and the couple found it impossible to salvage any of their clothing or household furnishings.

A call was sent to the Waynesville fire department at 11:30 p. m. It was not possible to extinguish the blaze, however, since it had gained too much headway before the truck arrived.

The residence, known as the old Charlie Patton place, is on Oakland road, a quarter-mile from the town limits.

The Watsons owned the house (Continued on Page Eight)

U.S.D.A. Council Has Important Meet Tonight

All members of the U. S. D. A. Council in Haywood county are urged to attend a very important meeting tonight at 8 p. m. in the county agent's office.

It is desired to work out a long range planning program in agriculture for the county, announces R. C. Francis, council secretary.

Floating Mine Starts Medford's Adventures In War-Torn Greece

Two ships hit by mines since the war ended is enough, avers Charles "Woosey" Medford, chief officer with the Merchant Marine who now is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Medford of Waynesville, Rt. 2.

His first peacetime voyage to be interrupted by contact between the ship and a floating mine was last October when 20 miles out from Naples, Italy.

Then on February 17th it happened again.

"We were delivering the U. S.

Two Men Confess Murder of Sylva Taxi Driver and Wife



This photograph was made after Earl O'Dear and Robert Messer, confessed the hammer slaying of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hall, in the Hall's car on a lonely road near Sylva a week ago. Shown here, left to right, are: Set T. A. Sandlin, Earl O'Dear former employee of a Waynesville firm; Robert Messer, of Dillsboro, and Sheriff Griffin Middleton. Robbery was said to have been the motive of the slaying. Other pictures on pages 5 and 8. This photograph through courtesy of The Sylva Herald.

Large Vote Predicted In All Town Elections On May 6

The heaviest registration of voters ever for local elections are reported for both Waynesville and Hazelwood after the books closed Saturday, with record votes forecast in next Tuesday's election.

J. Hayes Alley states that there are approximately 1,800 names on the Waynesville registration book and predicts that nearly 1,000 persons will cast their ballots May 6.

Officials at Hazelwood report a registration of more than 800, and expect from 500 to 600 votes on election day, with 12 candidates in the race for alderman, two for mayor, and a \$50,000 bond issue to be decided.

Ray Moody joined the group seeking positions on the town board prior to filing deadline. Another withdrawal, by Howard Passmore, was announced by Rudolph Carswell, town clerk for Hazelwood.

The contest in Waynesville will center around choosing three men for aldermen, since Mayor J. H. Way, Jr., is unopposed. Candidates for board membership are Mack Pace, T. L. Bramlett, L. M. Killian, Dr. Thomas Stringfield, Asbury Howell, T. Guy Massie, T. Henry Gaddy, David Felmet and David Cate.

In Hazelwood, Mayor Clyde Fisher will be opposed by Furman "Mutt" Tate. Those on the ballot for alderman are Grady R. Smith, R. L. Prevost, Nathan "Frog" Hill, Ed Green, John Wyatt, Leonard "Deacon" Woodard, Carl Swanger, George A. Bischoff, B. H. Holland, Tom Garrett, Clarence A. Scruggs, and Ray Moody.

Three men who filed for places on the board, Mr. Passmore, James A. Cochran and Earl D. Conard, withdrew their candidacy.

The Waynesville election will be held in the District Health Department office at the courthouse. It is announced that J. P. Dicus will replace T. Henry Gaddy as election judge. The substitution having been made since Mr. Gaddy announced as candidate for alderman.

Hazelwood voters will cast their ballots in the Town Hall.

Phone Union Gets Offer In Northwest

Gov. Luther W. Youngdahl of Minnesota announced that Northwestern Bell Telephone company had made an offer to its striking workers of a \$2.50 weekly pay increase, with a formal answer from the union expected late yesterday.

This statement, coupled with union president Joseph A. Beirne's announcement that local unions have authority to make settlements on a local basis, was hailed as a definitely favorable turn of events by government conciliators.

Union leaders in the northwestern area asserted, however, that they would not accept the \$2.50 pay hike, which equals 64 cents per hour, but are holding out for \$6. According to the Southern Federation of Telephone Workers chief counsel, a \$6 weekly increase in Minnesota would end the strike throughout the nation.

Waynesville's telephone workers still are maintaining a full walk-out into the fourth week, with "no change" reported in the local situation.

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High School Graduation Programs To Begin Friday

Fines Creek and Bethel Finals This Week; Crabtree Ends Year Monday

Graduation exercises will be held Friday, May 2, at Fines Creek and Bethel high schools, the first to conclude the school year in Haywood county.

Crabtree-Iron Duff high school will present its graduation program Monday, May 5, at 8 p. m., with the Rev. D. O. McInnis, pastor of the Canton Presbyterian church, delivering the commencement address. The baccalaureate sermon will be given Sunday night by Mrs. C. O. Newell, pastor of the Crabtree Methodist church.

Waynesville township high school and Clyde high schools will hold graduation exercises in early June.

An all-student program will be given at Bethel, it is announced by the principal, W. P. Whitesides. The Bethel seniors heard Rev. R. A. Kelley, pastor of the First Baptist church, Canton, Sunday afternoon at the high school auditorium.

William Medford, state senator of Waynesville, will deliver the graduation address at Fines Creek, and Superintendent Jack Messer will present diplomas. The baccalaureate sermon was given Sunday by Rev. G. L. Lovett of Fairview.

Thirteen seniors will graduate at the Crabtree-Iron Duff finals, with Reba Kinsland as valedictorian and H. R. Caldwell, Jr., salutatorian. Others to receive diplomas are Bennett Best, Lowery Ferguson, Jr., Ernest Green, Erwin Lee Haney, Billy K. Medford, David Rogers, Susie Bryson, Hilda Crawford, Dane Franklin, Bobby Hogan and Thomasene Noland.

Local Men Work On Park Plans For Senate Hearing

Charles E. Ray left yesterday for Washington to confer with park officials on a hearing before the Senate appropriations committee relative to additional funds for the Park Service.

Several from Asheville made the trip.

C. N. Allen, of Hazelwood, will meet the party in Washington and accompany them, together with Representative Monroe M. Redden, to the Department of the Interior. Mr. Allen is in Baltimore on a buying trip.

Crabtree P-T. A. Elects Officers

Officers elected at the meeting last week of the Crabtree-Iron Duff P-T. A. were O. L. Yates, president; Glenn Noland, vice president; Mrs. Hugh Noland, secretary; and Fred Noland, treasurer. L. C. Bryson, principal, reviewed the school year.

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Drivers Asked To Slow Down At Intersections

Several arrests have been made of drivers violating the speed limit of 20 miles per hour at the intersection of highway 19-23 and the Junaluska-Dellwood cutoff, reports Cpl. E. W. Jones of the highway patrol. Drivers are requested to observe the directions to drive slowly, so the road will be kept in condition to receive the surface this week.

Highway Record For 1947 In Haywood

(To Date)
Killed - - 2
Injured - 12
(This Information Compiled From Records of State Highway Patrol)

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