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Trying To Make Mother Nature Talk

We have been interested in the past few days of the attempt by scientists to get mother nature to reveal several of her best secrets.

Down in Winston-Salem, where an acute shortage of water prompted city fathers to get "man-made" rain to fall over the parched area, planes were sent aloft with a cargo of dry ice to be dumped into the clouds in an effort to produce rain. The clouds were not the rain-producing kind, and the project was not carried to completion.

Down in the West Indies aviators and scientists flew into the head of the raging hurricane in an effort to find out what was going on at the center of the howling storm. The four-motored plane made the trip, but those aboard were frightened almost to death at the close escape they had with the elements.

A description of what went on aboard the plane reads like the imagination penned by some fanatic. Winds blowing at 140 miles an hour; huge waves sending spray hundreds of feet, and cross currents of air tossed the giant aircraft about like a cork on a stormy sea.

About all they are definite they learned about the storm is that they do not want to make a return trip into the heart of a hurricane.

Man will eventually find the answer to many of mother nature's now unrevealed secrets, but there are some things she is rather slow in telling and the rain and storms are two of them.



Rambling 'Round

—Bits Of Human Interest News Picked Up By Members—
 —Of The Mountaineer Staff—

They met on the street and stopped right smack dab in the middle of the sidewalk for their conversation. After all the preliminaries as to "how are you?", "et cetera, one asked the other, "Where do you live?" The lady questioned went into great details as to where the house was located, opposite what other place, on what street, and all the details necessary to acquaint her interrogator with a full reply. The first lady, seemingly a little bored, remarked, "Oh, do you still live there?"

Read 'em and weep, sisters! The Atlanta Journal has an article in their Sunday edition that will cause your blood pressure to go AWOL, sure as shooting. Here are a few items as mentioned in the September 14, 1939 (note the date) issue of the Journal:

Butter . . . 27 cents per pound and eggs going at 25 cents per dozen. See, it's right there in print! Pink salmon was 11 1/2 cents a can and your coffee was gladly passed over the counter at 19 cents a pound. Choice tenderloin steak at 15 1/2 cents a pound (I declare it's so!) and cubed steak was a luxury at a quarter.

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Mrs. Henry Davis: "I think it would be a good idea. I don't think living inside the city limits will cost any more and there will be advantages to be gained."

Roy Parkman: "I think it would be an advantage to the town to have a larger population and an advantage to the people who would be included, especially in East Waynesville where they would have city water rates and fire protection which they do not have now."

Joe Jack Atkins: "I think it's a swell idea. In fact I'd like to see the incorporated limits of Waynesville and Hazelwood both extended and consolidated into one town."

Francis Massie: "I'm for it 100 per cent. I think the business section is large enough to extend the residential section. I would be glad if the city limits would take in my home if I could have the city conveniences."

Emmett Baletine: "There are some residential sections that probably should be taken in but I do not believe in taking in all the farm lands. I would like to see Waynesville and Hazelwood incorporated into one town."

Washington Letter

HOW THE WAR SPURRED SCHOOLS TO MAKE FOUR MAJOR CHANGES
 BY JANE EADS

WASHINGTON — The war brought at least four changes to our public schools that proved themselves good and in many communities are here to stay.

Miss Bess Goodkoontz, Director of Elementary Education, U. S. Office of Education, lists them as:

1. The further extension of school opportunities to young people.
2. The opening of summer-time, after-school, and Saturday school programs.
3. The emphasis on social studies, with particular stress on "getting acquainted" with our neighbors at home and abroad.
4. The recognition of the need for more practical understanding of science and its uses in our everyday world.

The first two changes were hastened by the war because many mothers were working outside the home. They proved so popular, says Miss Goodkoontz, that many mothers, though they are now back in their homes, think they should be continued.

She cites such cities as New York, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

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MEMBER OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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The Public Locked Out

Unless Sam P. Weems, superintendent of the Blue Ridge Parkway changes his mind, there is little likelihood that the public will get to ride over the 5-mile section from Wagon Road Gap to Bridges Camp Gap any time soon.

The Mountaineer questioned Mr. Weems about opening the 5-mile link to motorists during the six weeks that the foliage is so colorful in that area. Since that particular section of the Parkway affords such a panorama of the Pink Beds, Pisgah, Cold Mountain, Looking Glass Knob and other scenic spots, we felt the Park Service would be justified in opening the Parkway for about six weeks.

Mr. Weems' arguments for not opening the road may sound plausible as coming from a Parkway official, but his reasons appear doubtful, considering that this is the only section of the Parkway west of Asheville, it seems such a pity to deprive the public of its use for even six weeks during the year—and we often suggested that the gate be open between nine and five daily.

The assignment of a ranger-patrolman to this section of the Parkway for the 6-week period requested would largely remedy all the objections raised by Mr. Weems.

While Mr. Weems states that an objectionable dust condition would develop, we call attention to the fact that the roadbed of the Parkway is much superior to the approach from Candler by the Pisgah motor road, and much superior also to N. C. 284 which citizens and visitors alike travel daily in Haywood.

We have no quarrel with Mr. Weems or with any other Park Service official, but it looks very much to those of us west of Asheville that we are on a merry-go-round with respect to the Parkway and that we are getting no where.

This newspaper further feels that our suggestion that the 5-mile section be opened during daylight hours for six weeks is a reasonable one. We further feel that adequate patrolling could easily be done during such a short period, and that it would be a gesture on the part of the Park Service indicating that they had not entirely forgotten this end of the state.

Construction on the Wagon Road Gap section of the Parkway was started in 1940, upon the specific request of President Roosevelt, after a conference with Hon. Josephus Daniels, who had just visited this area. Harold L. Ickes, then secretary of the Interior, gave the order, and work continued until halted by the war. Then the locked gates were placed across the road, barring public use. The Parkway in the area represents an expenditure of about \$750,000.

We call this situation and this section of the Parkway to the attention of the new State Park Commission. We think that Chairman Charles Ray and his fellow-commissioners should go to work immediately to have the Wagon Road Gap section open for fall, and even spring periods, until construction is completed. We further feel that construction between Wagon Road Gap and Beech Gap should be completed at the earliest possible date.

There's a practical side of this question, and we trust Mr. Weems sees that side soon, and acts accordingly by opening the road this fall.

Big-Time Bootlegging

Hickory is not the only place where big-time bootleggers make the most of so-called federal "licenses" to safeguard themselves from government agents in the conduct of their illicit whiskey business.

The Winston-Salem Journal and Sentinel, in its edition recently, exposed a thriving bootleg business there in which weekly sales top 1,800 gallons of whiskey—a large part of it tax-paid.

According to the Twin-City newspapers, which are editorially dry, the top men in the illicit liquor racket there are called the "Big Boys" and they supply 100 or more bottle dealers. The expose further explains the system followed:

"The Big Boys buy federal licenses to deal in liquor. The license costs \$27.50 per year and is bought in Greensboro," through the office of the Collector of Internal Revenue. Unorganized dealers who operate on shoe strings and a box of Mason jars in the back seat of a car with a high-speed rear end, are doing a business which is difficult to estimate—but most observers in the know say it runs at least 700 gallons a week."

As is the case in Hickory, the whiskey can be ordered by telephone and delivered to any address within a few minutes time.

The Journal and Sentinel expose further charges that three leading Twin-City bootleggers are selling an average of 1,140 gallons of tax-paid liquor per week—which reduced to fifths is 5,700. These fifths retail at an average of about six dollars per bottle which would indicate an annual volume of \$1,778,400 for three of the Big Boys. That is almost as much whiskey as the Wilson county ABC stores sold last year.

A retail malt liquor dealer is not required to take out a government license which would guarantee immunity from federal enforcement officers in case he is caught selling tax-paid whiskey. By obtaining what the Collector of Internal Revenue lists as a Retail Liquor Dealer stamp which costs \$27.50 annually, a person who is selling tax-paid whiskey is thereby protected from federal interference, although he is operating in prohibition territory.—Hickory Record.

Army Strength Ebbs

The United States Army is currently about 100,000 men below its authorized strength of 1,070,000, and its strength continues to ebb as month by month it falls below its quota of enlistments.

Part of the decline in personnel is attributed to higher standards for enlistment. Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall said recently that the Army is accepting only slightly more than half of the applicants for enlistment, with higher intelligence requirements accounting for a substantial percentage of the rejections.

But whatever the reason, the United States needs to be seriously concerned about the sapping of its military strength. The authorized strength is on a conservative peacetime basis, and anything less than that means the nation is woefully weak in an unsettled world.

Congressmen should consider these facts when the matter of universal military training comes up in the next session of the legislative body.—(Concord Tribune).

Looking Back Over The Years

5 YEARS AGO

Haywood's million-pound tobacco crop is the best in history of the county, according to Howard Clapp, county agent.

This community has about completed the standard formulation of a civilian defense organization, according to Bill Prevost, coordinator of the county.

Mrs. T. N. Massie was the honor guest of a luncheon on Wednesday on the occasion of her birthday anniversary. Hostesses of the party were her daughters.

Miss Jane Dudley Francis left this week for Raleigh to resume her studies at Peace college.

The foreman of the Unagusta corporation honored the officials

and office personnel of the corporation, their wives and husbands with a barbecue.

Miss Virginia Kellett has returned to Lenoir Rhyne college after spending the summer vacation at home.

10 YEARS AGO

The Waynesville Mountaineers opened their 1937 football campaign here last Friday by a 34-0 conquest of the Cherokee Indians.

The city board of aldermen has granted the Boy Scouts of this community the right to erect log cabins at the City Park on East street.

Mrs. Harry Marshall has recently completed the restoration of the

old home of her parents, the late Dr. and Mrs. Samuel Love.

Mrs. C. E. Frazier, of Atlanta, who has often visited in Waynesville, and has many friends here, has arrived to spend part of the autumn season at the LeFaine.

Mrs. Whitener Prevost entertained with a luncheon in compliment to her mother, Mrs. W. T. Crawford, on Friday at her home on Brown avenue. The affair marked the birthday anniversary of the honor guest.

Miss Kathryn Queen left during the week for Duke University where she will continue her course in law.

Miss Mary Barber left during the week for Burlington, where she is teaching in the city schools.

MIRROR OF YOUR MIND



Do wives have more respect for husbands who discipline them?

Answer: A number of women correspondents claim this, a few even going so far as to say the discipline may include spanking. But what such wives actually do is to carry over into adult life the attitudes of childhood, since children do have more respect for a parent who will make them "go the line" when necessary. To a child, the ability to punish is the final proof of power—the person who punishes you must be stronger than you are, and thus is someone you can depend on to protect you if you keep his favor.

Are all healthy children energetic?

Answer: Yes, at least by nature. Even complete lack of interest in lessons in a child who is sound physically is a sign of some sort of emotional disturbance. The child may have an exaggerated feeling of other people.

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VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

What do you think of the proposed plan to extend the city limits of Waynesville?

Mrs. Henry Davis: "I think it would be a good idea. I don't think living inside the city limits will cost any more and there will be advantages to be gained."

Roy Parkman: "I think it would be an advantage to the town to have a larger population and an advantage to the people who would be included, especially in East Waynesville where they would have city water rates and fire protection which they do not have now."

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Capital Letters

UMSTEAD FLAVOR — The state's Young Democrats are getting in the news right along now what with laying plans for their state convention in Raleigh Friday, Saturday and likely a little of Sunday. The organization seems to have a slight Umstead flavor—at the top anyway.

Solicitor Basil Whitener of Gastonia is one of the leaders of this group close to Cherry. Since the things that are equal to the same thing are equal to each other, this would put the top of YDC, at least, in the Umstead camp.

In August, total the legal sale of the liquor in North Carolina last year—show that it is almost as many as a dozen year lowest.

LEGAL DISTILLERS last year North Carolina went to Kentucky and it is being read (Continued on Page 2)

YOU'RE TELLING

STALAGMITES and stalactites are formations of rock growing up out of cave floors or down from their ceilings. However, so far science has failed to tell us which ones are upside down.

A new meteor, 50,000,000 miles further away from the sun than is the earth, has been discovered. What is it—a giant ice cube?

Noted British visitor says he looks forward to trying American food. Smart man, to arrive in the middle of the corn-on-the-cob season!

That New York bank which gives children lollipops when they make a savings account deposit may find its juvenile customers demanding interest in ice cream bubble gum.

That New Jersey has retained the bathtub for 38 years a chest of drawers that on the floor.

A teen-ager has been in Africa after begging lions and other creatures that should be thought by housewife.

An Illinois rain-making plane got some of the rain in a large city.

It is reported that a farmer tested the neighbor's plot and, if so, how?

Being Married in Church

By GARRY CLEVELAND MYERS, Ph.D.

THE other day Mrs. Myers and I attended a wedding in a little country church near our home. We had known the bride and her family for many years. So had the church-fellows of other neighbors and friends who witnessed that marriage.

Thirty-five years ago, Mrs. Myers and I were married in this same little rural church—I have told you we have nine grandchildren now—and then also the folks gathered to wish us well in our venture. A goodly number of the same persons attended both weddings.

First Wedding

Incidentally, I learned that our wedding was the first in that church, which is nearly a hundred years old. Since then there have been many. I hope we started something good.

In recent years there have been an average of three or four marriages in this church. Sometimes the church is just invited, sometimes it is a community occasion. Any way the church at these wedding ceremonies is as much crowded as at funerals.

From what I can gather, a wedding in a rural Protestant church is not a very frequent practice the nation over. I wish it were.

To date the couples married in this church have stuck together. While one hardly would claim that being married in a church is guaranteed permanence of marriage, something is to be said in favor of such practice. All church weddings I have observed seem to have a peculiar solemnity. There is a strong religious emphasis. The effect on all attending, especially on the young, is very largely superior.

They'll Do It Every Time



By Jimmy Hatlo

Thank to POLLY GRIFIN, 4461 OLIVE ST., ST. LOUIS, MO.