

The Smoky Mountain Times

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Around Town

We would like to remind all food handlers of the April 15th food handling school to be held here at the Swain High School cafeteria.

If you have a pooch or cat that has not been inoculated in the last three years, you have two chances to get this done during the month of April. For the Bryson City area residents, April 19th is the date. For those of you in Cherokee, Saturday the 26th the animal doc will be in your area. Additional information can be found in today's TIMES.

All you basketball fans that thought basketball season was over will be surprised to find out you have got one more chance to see the sport the way it should be played. The seniors are putting on a special show Friday night at the Swain High gym. Donations of 50 and 75 cents will be accepted at the gate. Proceeds will go towards the annual Washington trip for the Swain High Seniors.

The State Highway Patrol reports five accidents in the county this week. While making 10 contacts, one was charged with drunk driving and two with speeding. There were also five other hazardous moving violations and two non-hazardous violations. No pedestrian violations were reported. The Department patrolled 3,630 miles in Swain County from March 31 through April 6.

Nurses Hold Meeting

District 23 of the North Carolina State Nurses Association was presented with a program on "Nursing Education at Western Carolina University" by the director, Mrs. Mary K. Knedler at a dinner meeting at Coyle's Restaurant in Franklin, N. C. April 7.

The establishment of this program will offer a Baccalaureate degree in Nursing and will also provide courses for Registered Nurses to obtain a Baccalaureate degree. It is planned that Freshman will be admitted to the program for 1969-70.



Sheriff's Department Presents Check

The Swain County Sheriff's Department presented a check for \$60 to the Swain High Athletic Association to help buy basketball uniforms for next year's high school team.

Sheriff Vincent Gassaway, third from the left, is shown presenting the check to Swain High Principal Clifford Frizzel. Present at the time were, left to right, Deputies Otis Sitton, and Sam Bowers, Gassaway, Frizzel, and Coaches Milt Barden and Dickie Ensley.

Thomas Smith's Claim To Fame Is Questionable

By EMILY KINGSBERY

Feature Editor, Community Newspapers Inc. Name-dropper Tom (Thomas C./J.) Smith's claims to fame in Hollywood and elsewhere have proved to be as unfounded as his alleged connections with Anheuser-Busch. The falsity of his "Busch Gardens" claims was revealed last week in our Community Newspaper supplement, THIS MONTH in Western N. C.

Since then, we have continued our research on other assertions Smith made during our lengthy telephone interview with him on March 27 - i.e., that he was a friend of the late Walt Disney and supplied animals for his pictures; that he supplied animals for the Daktari TV series; that "we" (presumably Smith and his "partner" Litkenhaus) "own the

Thousand Oaks Movieland Animals, and will move it to the Indian Hill location," where he would build a motion picture studio... with the result that all Hollywood studios would come to The Animal Kingdom of America to film their animal pictures.

We wish that we could report that these statements were true, because a tourist attraction such as Smith describes would, as his supporters say, "out of this world". Literally, that is the only place it could be. Our sympathy goes to those wishful thinkers who placed their faith in this promoter, and we only hope that all they invested in him was their dream of wealth and glory.

None of these claims proved valid. For some reason best known to Thomas Smith we were given the middle initial "C." in reference to his

supposed connections with Anheuser-Busch, and the middle initial "J." in reference to his alleged California activities. On all counts we checked him out under both initials - and found him wanting.

Here is our Hollywood report:

SMITH'S CLAIM - That he was "a good friend of Walt Disney and furnished animals for Disney pictures."

THE FACTS - Not only from personal knowledge but also after a check throughout the studio, a top executive of Disney Studios who has been closely associated with Walt Disney for the past 25 years stated that Thomas C./J. "has never been heard of" in connection with Disney, either personally or professionally. The studio

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School Board members are shown above taking the oath of office. Clerk of Superior Court, Harold Sandlin, is administering the oath to (Left to right),

Paul Marr, appointed, two year term, Marshall Smith, James Coggins, and Sam Colville, all elected to four year terms.

Four School Board Members Sworn In

Four members, three elected and one appointed by the Swain County Democratic Executive Committee, have been sworn in to fill vacancies in the Swain County School Board.

The four men, Marshall Smith, James Coggins, Sam Colville, and Paul Marr, were sworn in by Swain County Clerk of Superior Court, Harold Sandlin, Monday morning at 10:00.

Smith, Coggins and Colville were elected to four year terms in the November general election. The remaining two of the five vacancies were, according to legislative action, to be filled by appointments. According to local

interpretation of the statutes pertaining to the local school board, the Swain County Democratic Executive Committee would be responsible for making one appointment while the Republican Executive Committee would be responsible for the other appointee.

The Democratic Committee selected and nominated Mr. Paul Marr of the Brush Creek Community as their appointee. The Republican appointee to fill the one remaining vacancy is still to be made.

We discussed this matter with Superintendent of Swain County Schools, Mr. Tom

Woodard, and Mr. Woodard states that, "the Democratic Executive Committee has recommended Mr. Paul Marr's name for appointment. As of this time we have not heard from the Republican Committee."

We questioned Mr. Woodard about the legality of a four man school board. He explained that "the four men, or as far as that goes the three elected members, make up a quorum and any action they take or recommendations they make would be perfectly legal."

According to our information, the reason for electing three and appointing two is that the three elected

members would serve four year terms and the two appointees would serve only two year terms after their first appointment. They would be elected in general elections after their two year appointment in concluded.

Therefore, school board members would be elected every two years, three during one election and 2 during the next election two years later, thus staggering the terms of each member.

The apparent reason for this would be in case an all new school board is elected there would be experienced members to guide newly elected members.

Neighboring Rescue Units Called For Assistance In Drowning Incident

The Swain County Rescue Squad and Sheriff's Department called for assistance from all neighboring rescue units Wednesday morning after an all-day search Tuesday failed in an attempt to locate the bodies of 22 year old Doug Watkins and 14 year old Reba Dupette.

The two young Bryson City residents have been missing since early Monday evening when they, along with four friends, went for a boat ride in the Tuckesegee River.

According to eye-witness reports, these two young people, along with Ann Stanberry, age 24, Peggy Jones, age 23, Shirley Fisher, age 16, and Mike Davis, age 19, left the Tuckesegee Boat Dock around 8 p.m. Monday evening. They used a 12 foot boat belonging to one of the youths father and rented a 4 or 5 hp motor and a lantern attendant, Marshall Jenkins.

The Sheriff's department reported that the body of Doug Watkins was recovered about noon today. According to rescuers the body was recovered in about 30 foot of water some 25 feet from the

bank near point 17. According to our reports point 17 is about a quarter mile from the Tuckesegee Boat Dock, and about 200 yards below the point where the boat capsized Monday night.

According to reports, the six pulled away from the dock about 8:00 p.m. and travelled some mile and a half to two miles down the lake. They discovered approximately two to three inches of water in the boat and decided to turn around and start back.

Watkins was in the front of the boat holding the lantern while Mike Davis was operating the motor. A witness said, "Doug told Mike to turn the boat. When Mike turned, the front of the boat just filled with water and capsized." The witness went on to say, "We all fought to get hold of the boat. We asked if everybody was there and everybody answered. The boat kept trying to sink. So, after about 20 to 30 minutes of trying to paddle towards the bank, we decided somebody had better start to swim for shore."

Reba said she could swim

good and she would try to make it to the bank" continued the witness. "We were only about 50 to 75 feet from shore, but a few minutes after Reba left she hollered back and said she couldn't make it. Doug (Doug Watkins) left the boat to try and assist her on to shore. That is the last we saw of either one of them."

Marshall Jenkins, the dock attendant, stated that the group told him they would only be gone 30 minutes to an hour. After 2 hours had passed (10:00 p.m.) Mr. Jenkins stated that he became concerned and decided to go out and see if anything was

wrong. He found the four remaining members of the party clinging to the capsized boat. He picked them up and took them back to the dock.

Then he and Mike Davis went back down the river to see if they could locate Watkins and Dupette.

When they failed to find any sign of them, they returned to the dock and Jenkins went to summons help. The Swain County Sheriff's Department and Rescue Squad received the alarm at approximately 11:15.

An immediate search was made of both the lake area and surrounding banks for any sign of the missing couple. When no

signs could be found, the Swain County squad organized a search and began dragging the lake.

The Jackson County Rescue Squad was summoned for assistance about 8:00 a.m. Tuesday morning. They arrived at the lake site at approximately 9:10 and the two rescue units and local volunteers manned five separate dragging boats.

But, as darkness approached with no sign of the victims, additional rescue units from neighboring counties were called renewed their dragging operations at dawn Wednesday morning.



Swain and Jackson County Rescue Squads worked from dawn until after dark Tuesday in search of the missing bodies of 22 year old Doug Watkins and 14 year old Reba Dupette. Additional units were summoned Wednesday. The couple apparently drowned Monday night while boating in the Tuckesegee River.



20 Cases Heard In District Court Here

Swain County District Court held a one-day session last week in an attempt to relieve some of the load for the crowded April 29 and 30 District Court docket. Judge Robert Leatherwood presided over the one-day session and made rulings in the following cases:

F. L. Day, charged with fraud. Prayer for judgment was heard. Case continued on payment of cost.

Vernon Rylas, charged with assault. The State took a nol pros.

Frederick Maxwell Hicks, charged with drunk driving. Appealed to Superior Court.

Fred L. Day, charged with embezzlement. Waived preliminary examination to Superior Court.

Dee Wayne Cochran, charged with reckless driving. Found not guilty.

Buford Carroll Messer, charged with reckless driving, personal injury and property damage and improper passing. Case continued.

Ray H. Morris, charged with speeding 75 mph in 55 mph zone. The State took a nol pros with leave. Forfeiture of bond.

Paul Walkingstick, charged with public drunkenness, 2nd offense. Case continued until April 29 term.

Virginia Davis, charged with public drunkenness, second offense. Case continued until April 29 term.

Dave Lee Bridges, charged with breaking and entering. Probable cause found. Bound over to Superior Court. Bond set at \$500.00.

James D. Lackey, charged with breaking and entering. Probable cause found. Bound over to Superior Court. Bond set at \$500.00.

John Baxter Woodard, charged with breaking and entering. Probable cause found. Bound over to Superior Court. Bond set at \$500.

Charles Stephenson, Jr., charged with non-support. Case continued until April 19 term.

Food Handlers

Course Schedule

The Food Handlers Course, jointly sponsored by Southwestern Technical Institute and the District Health Department of Jackson, Macon, and Swain Counties, required of all food handlers, will be held from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the following places on the indicated dates:

Swain High School Cafeteria - April 15, May 20

Cherokee Elementary School - April 29 (2:00 - 5:00 p.m.)

John Henry Herron, charged with drunk driving. Guilty. Fined \$100.00 and cost. Forfeiture of drivers license.

John E. Hince, charged with assault. The State took a nol pros on payment of cost.

Joe Hobert McCracken, charged with drunk driving. Continued until April 29 term.

Troy Shook, charged with public drunkenness, 4th offense. Prayer for judgment heard. Case continued until April 29 term on payment of \$25.00 fine and cost.

John Steve Cochran, charged with improper registration and no liability insurance. Fined \$25.00 and cost.

Stephen Moon, charged with improper registration. Fined cost.

Robert M. Crisp, charged with speeding 70 mph in a 55 mph zone. Fined \$15.00 and cost.

Rabies Clinic Schedule For Bryson City, Cherokee

Three year rabies vaccine will be administered to dogs and cats at clinics scheduled at four locations in Swain County on Saturday April 19, 1969 and four locations on Saturday April 26, 1969.

The rabies clinics are sponsored by the District Health Department. The three year vaccine will be

administered by a licensed veterinarian from Waynesville.

Rabies is a preventable disease. It can attack man, dog, fox, raccoon, skunk, bat or other warm blooded animals. It is caused by a virus present in the saliva of the rabid animal. Always fatal to man and animals, rabies virus reaches the brain by way of the nerves.

However, if started soon enough, antirabies treatment in humans will prevent the disease from developing in most cases.

Rabid animals show different symptoms. In the dog, one of the first symptoms is a changed disposition. If your animal is sick, seek the advice of your veterinarian and

follow his recommendations.

In every case of animal bite or scratch, see your physician at once, and follow his advice regarding treatment. As a first aid precaution, wash all animal bites immediately and thoroughly for 15 to 20 minutes with a warm soap solution.

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Several Hospitalized As Result Of Accidents

A Maryland man was admitted to the Swain County Hospital with undetermined injuries this week as a result of one of five automobile accidents investigated by the State Highway Patrol in Swain County this week.

Officer Z. V. Hawes, assisted by several highway patrol officers, investigated the car-truck accident at the Fontana intersection of US 19 and 28.

Lawrence Allan Morris, age 22, of Maryland was admitted to the Swain County Hospital when the 1964 Ford he was driving was hit on the left side by a tractor and trailer truck driven by O. V. Sawyer, age 40, of Robbinsville. The '64 Ford was estimated to be a total loss.

According to investigating officers, the Morris vehicle was travelling south on N. C. 28 and failed to stop for a stop sign when the tractor and trailer truck, travelling west on US 19, struck the vehicle on he

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The crumpled-up remains of a 1964 Ford are shown above after it collided with a 'low-boy' tractor and trailer truck. The driver of the Ford, Lawrence Allan Morris, was admitted to Swain County Hospital with undetermined injuries. The accident occurred some 10 miles west of Bryson City at the Fontana intersection of 19 and 28 about 4 p.m. Thursday.