

The Smoky Mountain Times

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SCOTT VISITS AREA TO SHAKE HANDS & LISTEN TO PROBLEMS

Around Town

The North Carolina State Highway Patrol reports four accidents in Swain County last week. While making fifteen contacts, there was one charged with drunk driving, five with speeding, one pedestrian violation, six other hazardous moving violations, and two non-hazardous violations. Officers patrolled a distance of some 2,679 miles with the week beginning October 13 and extending through October 19.

The Qualla PTA will hold its annual Halloween Carnival Saturday night, October 25. A number of interesting games are planned, both children and adult bingo will be part of the program. It all starts at 6:00 p.m. at the Qualla Elementary School in Whittier. The public is cordially invited.

Oneal Muse, midget-mite co-ordinator for the Bryson City Jaycees informed us this week that the Midget-Mite season has been completed and that uniforms are now being taken up. Any member of either the Mite or Midget team who has not turned in his uniform is asked to please do so immediately. You may turn them in either at the Smoky Mountain Times office or at Bennett's Drug Store.

Don't know whether you have noticed or not, but the steel for the new bridge on Everett St. has arrived, and you should notice a lot of progress in the next couple of weeks, weather permitting.

Well, we have been getting a lot of comments about our over confidence in the Bryson City football team this week after our humiliating defeat (6-0) to Franklin last week. But as the old saying goes "every dog shall have his day," and don't be surprised when we win the Smoky Mountain Conference Championship this year, and even if we don't our boys are still No. and Swain High is still the best. So there!

AAUW Women To Meet

The Bryson City Branch of the American Association of University Women will meet Monday evening, October 27, at 7:30 at the Cherokee School Library. The program is "Art and You" and is given by Mrs. Mary Chiltonkey. Hostesses for the program will be Violet Anderson, Mary Chiltonkey and Ernestine Walkingstick. All members are urged to be present.

Judge McLean Holds Two Day Session Of Superior Court

A relatively light Superior Court criminal calendar was disposed of during the first two days of Superior Court held in the Swain County Court House this week. The honorable W. K. McLean, presided over the fall term with the honorable Marcellus Buchanan, solicitor for the state.

Individual cases on the docket were:
William Dennis Laney charged with aiding and abetting in drunk driving and no operators license. Continued until March 1970 session.
Samuel Jesse Walkingstick, Jr. charged with driving while license revoked and driving drunk. Continued until March session.
Robert Lee Shuler charged with breaking, entering and larceny. Continued until March session.
Charles Stephenson, Jr. charged with breaking and



Oneal Muse and Tootsie Wright, chairman and vice-chairman of the Swain County Democrat Committee are pictured above chatting with Gov. Bob Scott.

Roads Major Topic During Luncheon

Gov. Scott showed much concern and interest in the problems of Swain County and spoke very favorably about taking some action toward highway improvement in this area. He pointed out that his reason for being in western North Carolina was to, "shake some hands and listen to your needs, too often people in this far west area feel that they do not see enough of their elected officials, I not only want to see the people in western North Carolina and visit with them but I want to hear their problems and see if some action can't be taken to solve these problems."

Gov. Scott spoke of being saddened by the tragic death of this district's State Highway Commissioner, J. Boyd Crisp. He said, "the warmth this man knew from the people of this area was very much in evidence at his funeral Tuesday afternoon."

Gov. Bob Scott spoke to about 125 guests at a luncheon meeting held in his honor at the Fryemont Inn here in Bryson City Wednesday

morning. Gov. Scott attended the luncheon as part of a speaking tour he is now conducting throughout western North Carolina.

Ted Krenzke, superintendent of the Cherokee Indian Agency, gave the introduction address and acted as chairman for the meeting.

Bryson City Mayor Ellen Hines, recognized the guests in attendance and introduced Gov. Scott.

Due to the tight schedule, he was expected in Cullowhee at 2:30 for another speaking engagement, Gov. Scott discarded his planned speech and devoted the entire program to the problems confronting Swain County. "I feel that I would be wiser to devote the time to you and your problems than I would to deliver my planned speech," he said.

Freel Owle, chairman of the Cherokee Planning Board, speaking in behalf of the Cherokee Reservation, presented Gov. Scott with a documentary outline of the road conditions and problems confronting the town of Cherokee during the busy tourist season. Mr. Owle pointed out, "On Friday, October 17th, over 12,000 automobiles traveled over a 2 lane highway in the vicinity of the Oconaluftee Ranger Station on U.S. 441. We have noted traffic tie-ups that have backed traffic for as much as five miles during the tourist season. We need the help of the North Carolina Highway Dept. in easing some of these problems."

Gov. Scott listened very attentively as Mr. Owle spoke and agreed with him that some action must be taken. He told the audience that he would turn his matter over to the State Highway Dept. and that a study would be made to see how his office and the Highway Dept. could relieve some of these traffic tie-ups.

Mr. Henry J. Truett, speaking in behalf of the Swain County Planning Board confronted the Gov. with a

letter welcoming him to our area and extending a cordial invitation to him to return as often as possible. The letter also asked Gov. Scott for his assistance in speeding up work on the planned 4 lane highway from Asheville through Western North Carolina. "We, the Planning Board of Swain County, feel that completion of this road would entice tourist to return to the area year after year rather than pass us after they have once been tied up in traffic jams for several hours. Tourist are often heard saying when they are caught in a traffic jam, if I ever get out of this D. . . place, I will never come back."

The letter also asked the Gov.'s assistance in dealing with the Federal Government in connection with the Trans-mountain Road Contract of 1943. Mr. Truett pointed out to the Gov. that approximately 75% of Swain County is now federally owned. We need this road or an alternate proposed by the National Park Service that would link Bryson City with Townsend, Tennessee.

Gov. Scott promised to give these problems his immediate attention and told the group, "Your voice has been heard and I plan to take these problems up with the State Highway Commission and see if we can't get some action started up here. I fully believe that highways and the public school system are the keys to the future of North Carolina. I fully intend to help not only Swain County, but all of Western North Carolina to the best of my ability."



Freel Owle is pictured above welcoming Gov. Bob Scott prior to a luncheon meeting yesterday.



Gov. Bob Scott is pictured at the head of the serving line at a luncheon given in his honor yesterday at the Fryemont Inn.

Transmountain Road Major Topic At Annual Chamber Of Commerce Dinner

The Swain County Chamber of Commerce held its annual dinner meeting last Thursday night in the Bryson City High School Cafeteria. Col. H. H. Clark, formerly of Florida, and now of Bryson City, acting secretary for the chamber, presided over the meeting as master of ceremonies.

Mrs. R. E. Nordline, president of the Woman's Club, called the meeting to order. Explaining her part in connection with the Woman's Club and the Swain County Chamber of Commerce, Mrs. Nordline said "that after the general public had given up the Chamber of Commerce as a lost cause the Woman's Club decided that as one of their civic projects of the 1969 term they would take the reins and try to get the chamber back into operation."

After the initial welcome by Mrs. Nordline, the colors were presented and posted by Steve Youngdeer Post No. 143 of the American Legion from Cherokee. Rev. Joe Morris rendered the invocation and dinner was served by Mrs. Buff and her Future Homemakers of America members.

After dinner Mrs. Ila Ferguson addressed the meeting and explained, "as part of the decision to operate the Chamber of Commerce the

Woman's Club appointed a committee to operate the chamber and appointed Mrs. Ila Ferguson as its chairman. Working together, this committee, solicited membership from businesses and merchants in the Bryson City and surrounding areas."

Mrs. Vernon McHan was appointed by the committee as treasurer of the chamber. During the meeting Thursday night Mrs. McHan reported that the chamber had 76 paying members with 44 of this 76 paying an extra \$10 fee for advertisement in a very interesting brochure put out by the chamber depicting places to stay while in the Swain County area in the Great Smokies.

Mrs. McHan explained that approximately 10,000 of these brochures were handed or mailed out during the tourist season. Other expenditures confronting the chamber were stationery and letterheads, a new typewriter, \$100 for postage and salary for the operators of the information booth on the square. She reports that as of the meeting Thursday night the chamber

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Mrs. R.E. Nordling is pictured above giving the introductory speech during the annual Chamber of Commerce Dinner Thursday night. Col. H.H.H. Clark is seated to her right.

Funeral Services Held For Commissioner Crisp

Funeral services for J. Boyd Crisp, State Highway Commissioner for Swain, Graham, Cherokee, and Clay counties, were held Tuesday after at 2 p.m. in the Robbinsville Baptist Church where he was a member.

Crisp was killed when his Cessna single engine airplane crashed last week en route to Raleigh from the Andrews-Murphy Airport.

Crisp and Mrs. Tony Ayers of Tapoca were reported missing Wednesday night after leaving the Andrews airport around 9:30 Wednesday morning.

Mrs. Ayers was employed by the Graham County School System and made the trip with Crisp for the purpose of attending a State Extension Homemakers Club meeting in Greensboro. The four seat plane went down in the Green River Cove area in Henderson County.

The crash scene was discovered about 1:30 p.m. Saturday by Polk County residents, Moses Bradley and his son, Willard. They notified the Henderson County Sheriff's Department which

dispatched searchers to the area.

Crisp, a native of Graham County, was appointed commissioner July 30 by Governor Bob Scott. Governor Scott was in attendance for the funeral services.

Governor Scott said Saturday night after the crash and bodies had been discovered that, "Mr. Crisp has rendered distinguished services since his appointment. He has been a friend of mine for many

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PTA Endorses Sales Tax

The Bryson City Schools Parent-Teacher Association adopted the following resolution at a meeting held Oct. 14, 1969 in the Bryson City School Cafeteria:

"Be it resolved by the Bryson City Schools PTA that public support be given to the one cent sales tax issue in view of the Swain County Board of Commissioners stated resolution that 80% of derived funds be used for a school building fund and capital outlays."

College Day Successful

College and Career Day was considered a success at Swain County High School Monday with some 55 colleges and about 300 students participating. Seniors from Stecoah, Cherokee, and Robbinsville were invited as guests of Swain High in order to take advantage of the program.

The program was arranged by Swain High's guidance department. Colleges were present at invitation only. The question was asked: "Why wasn't such and such college here?" One student even asked why UCLA wasn't here. The main answer is space shortage and long distances. Also, several schools which were invited couldn't come. The program was arranged after a great deal of thought and work by the school, and, from the standpoint of providing general information about schools and careers, served its purpose well, the high school said.

Local Rock Hound Makes Big Find

Cowan Wikle, a life-long resident of Swain County and a teacher at the Almond Elementary School, has been a rock collector all of his life but this past week-end will long be remembered by Mr. Wikle and his rock hound companions.

Mr. Wikle had the good fortune about a year ago to discover one of the largest rubies ever to be found in western North Carolina. The ruby weighed 206 1/4 carats and was accompanied by two 80 carat rubies and one 75 carat ruby. Mr. Wikle was quoted at this time saying, "I still can't believe it happened to me."

However, Mr. Wikle felt last year could only be a sample of his feelings today. After returning from a week-end trip that netted a find of an 830 carat ruby as well as a 200 carat sapphire.

The six-sided jewel measures 1 1/2 inches along the barrel and 1 1/2 inches across the top.

Mr. Wikle would not divulge his finding place, (and we can't blame him), but did say that it was within a 50 mile radius of Bryson City.

In chatting with him, he

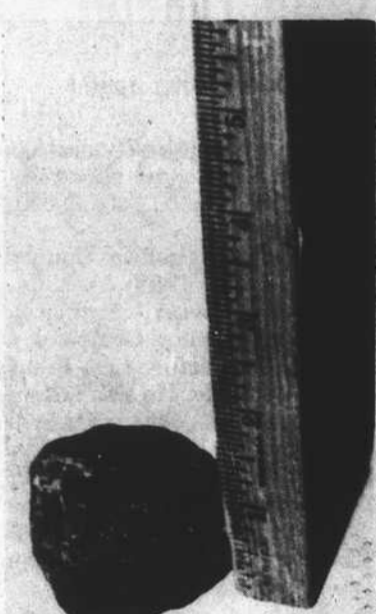
Fall Festival Set Saturday

The Annual Fall Festival will be held at the Almond School October 25, 1969, beginning at 6:30 p.m. and continuing until 12:00 p.m. There will be several booths including the fish pond, bingo, darts, shoot the teacher, etc. Hamburgers, hot dogs, cakes, pies, coffee and soft drinks will be sold in the school cafeteria, following the crowning of the king, queen, prince, princess, and page. There will be cake walks and other contests in the auditorium. The PTA sponsors the festival each year and the proceeds will be used for library books, equipment, and extra expendable material for the primary grades. Help your child and the school by attending and participating in the festival.

relayed to us that he knew of at least 12 places in Clay County, 8 in Macon, and 6 in Jackson where rubies could be found and were quite plentiful. He also said that even though he had never found a ruby in Swain County there were at least 2 places where sapphires could be found.

Asking for confirmation of the weight, Mr. Wikle informs us that he carried THE ROCK to Ruby City in Franklin where Mr. Earrie Clatt weighed it for him.

Our next question was, what's it worth? To this, Mr. Wikle had to think a minute and then answered, "due to the lack of impurities it is not as valuable as it would be if it had an impurity known as silk. If it contained this impurity, it would be valued between \$8,000 and \$10,000. Now, who knows, it makes no difference, it's not for sale anyway."



This is a close-up shot of the big ruby find made by Cowan Wikle last week. This little jewel is 830 carats and is valued in the thousand dollar bracket.



Mr. Cowan Wikle is pictured above holding a ruler beside the ruby he found while rock hunting during the weekend. The stone measures 1 1/2 inches along the barrel.