

THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT



SPORTS



Dwight Nichols, Sports Editor

FLASHERS HONOR BUS DRIVER FOR SAVING THEIR LIVES BY HEROIC DRIVING ON ROAD 18

Members of the North Wilkesboro Flashers baseball club have been a thankful group of young men since 1:30 a. m., Tuesday.

It was at that hour that Joe Caudill, Wilkes Transportation Company driver, who drives the bus which carries the club on the road to other cities in the league, brought the bus loaded with players down the Blue Ridge mountain grade on highway 18 without the aid of brakes or the motor to retard the speed.

Returning from Wytheville the brakes failed on the bus about halfway down the mountain above McGrady. The bus also jumped out of gear and the starter jammed, making it impossible for the driver to get the bus back into gear and slow it up.

With two and one-half miles of steep grade to go, the bus swerved around the first curve with a scream from tires and increased rapidly in speed. These sharp curves were taken and the less dangerous curves were not breathers as speed went up and the bus gained momentum.

But boys and some of the players wanted to jump from the speeding bus, which the driver and others said attained a speed of over 100 miles per hour before it slowed on comparatively level road below McGrady. But the driver and some of the players advised against jumping and actually held others in the bus. With the possible exception of the driver,

who skillfully handled the bus all the way, none believed that the bus could make it without crashing. Many got on the floor to lower weight center in the vehicle's body. Tires squalled and left dark marks on every curve.

The bus started its fast ride midway between McGrady and top of the Blue Ridge. In that five miles the highway climbs over 2,000 feet in elevation from McGrady to Mulberry Gap, which has elevation of about 3,500 feet above sea level.

The bus finally rolled to a stop about two miles below McGrady and driver and players got out to walk around and collect their shattered nerves. Tires were still smoking from heat caused by friction as the vehicle with skillful maneuvering held to the pavement in the wild ride.

Players who didn't get much sleep because of fresh memories of the ordeal gathered in groups Tuesday and discussed their narrow escape. They decided to show by some token their appreciation of Caudill's driving and bringing them out of a dangerous emergency.

The players purchased for Caudill a handsome wrist watch, which was presented to him in Memorial Park preceding the game with Wytheville Tuesday night. Presentation on behalf of the team was made at home plate by Bob Wright.

Baseball Schedule For Coming Week

Thursday, July 27
Mt. Airy at N. Wilkesboro.
Elkin at Radford.
Wytheville at Galax.

Friday, July 28
North Wilkesboro at Galax.
Mt. Airy at Radford.
Wytheville at Elkin.

Saturday, July 29
North Wilkesboro at Galax.
Wytheville at Elkin.
Radford at Mt. Airy.

Sunday, July 30
North Wilkesboro at Radford.
Elkin at Galax.
Mt. Airy at Wytheville.

Monday, July 31
Radford at North Wilkesboro.
Galax at Elkin.
Wytheville at Mt. Airy.

Tuesday, August 1
Wytheville at N. Wilkesboro.
Mt. Airy at Elkin.
Radford at Galax.

Wednesday, August 2
North Wilkesboro at Asheville.
Elkin at Mt. Airy.
Galax at Radford.

Thursday, August 3
North Wilkesboro at Mt. Airy.
Elkin at Radford.
Galax at Wytheville.

Asheville Blues, Lenoir Indians, To Play Saturday

The Asheville Blues and the Lenoir Indians, two of the best colored teams in the state, will play a baseball game in Memorial Park here Saturday night, eight o'clock.

A most exciting game is anticipated and a large attendance of baseball fans is expected for the game.

Pan American Animal Exhibit To Show here



Texas Dell, one of the world's largest horses, standing 20 1-2 hands high, weighs more than a ton. Texas Dell comes from the great Larson ranch in Texas and has been exhibited in 28 states. This great horse is one of many featured animals in the Pan American Animal exhibit to be shown Monday and Tuesday, July 31 and August 1, on the corner of Main and Fifth streets.

Marketing specialists of the North Carolina Experiment Station say poor handling of early Irish potatoes leads to heavy down-grading on the market and can cause the potatoes to spoil.

The number of farm units in the United States has decreased by nearly one million since 1935. At the same time, the size of the average farm unit has increased considerably.

FLASHERS BEAT WYTHEVILLE 6-4 HERE ON TUESDAY NIGHT

North Wilkesboro Flashers jumped into an early lead here Tuesday night and staved off Wytheville rallies in a rugged game to win 6 to 4.

Bill Hamlin pitched very effectively on the mound and struck out ten Statesmen. Too many errors had drawn the game out and he was forced to bear down and get out the side in several innings with men on bases. Both teams left 11 on base as fielding was ragged on both sides.

However, the close contest afforded plenty of thrills and fans thoroughly enjoyed the victory by the local team. On Monday night North Wilkesboro lost a close one to Wytheville 7 to 6 at Wytheville when the Statesmen scored in the bottom of the ninth.

Here Tuesday night Wytheville went ahead in the first with a run on two errors and North Wilkesboro came back with two runs on no hits. Two more were added in the second on a single, error, triple and infield out. A double steal in the fourth accounted for the fifth and winning run. Fogleman's double and Davis' single in the seventh added a run for insurance.

Wytheville earned a run in the fourth on Duffey's double and Ostnaski's single but Hamlin struck out McAllister to end the threat. Hamlin was relieved in the ninth with two out and Thompson retired the side after hitting one batter.

Hitting of Davis, Morant and Thornburg featured the North Wilkesboro attack. Ed Morton,

who returned after being out with injury, played sensationally at second base, but Ralph Littman, Brooklyn youth who recently joined the club, had a rough night on third with four errors. Cecil Fogleman, who returned to the team following an ankle injury, hit the ball hard and is calculated to add speed and strength to the team.

Elkin's Grandstand Is Partially Burned

Elkin, July 26 — An early afternoon fire of undetermined origin yesterday destroyed half of the grandstands, press box and concession stand at the City Memorial Park here.

Club officials estimated that around \$5,000 damage resulted from the fire which was finally extinguished by the Elkin fire department. This damage was covered by insurance.

Members of the fire department thought the fire might have originated from a popcorn machine in the concession stand.

The amplifier system and score board switches were also destroyed when the fire swept through the press box.

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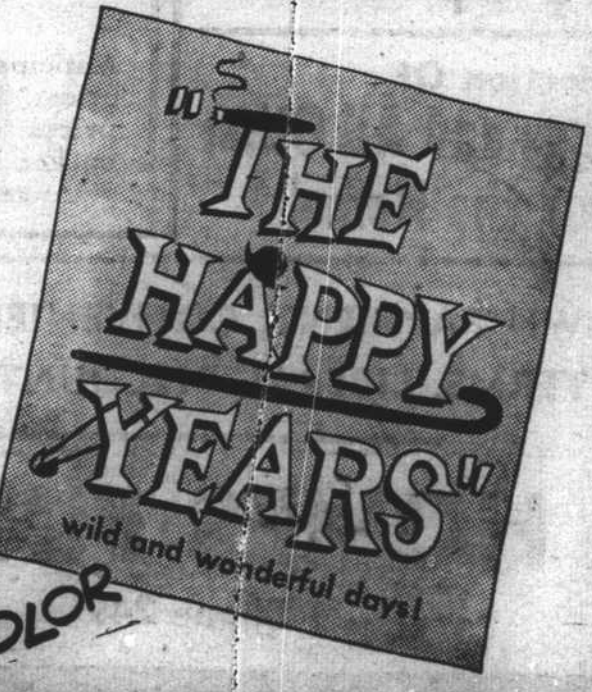
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