

The Alleghany News

AND STAR-TIMES

The NEWS established February 16, 1940—
The TIMES, 1925 and The STAR, 1889.

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
At Sparta, N. C.

THURSDAY, JULY 4, 1946

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR
In County, \$1.50 — Outside County, \$2.00

The News is glad to publish letters, not too long, on matters of general interest. But such communications must be accompanied by the real name of the writer, even when they are to be published under a nom de plume.

Entered as second-class matter at the post office at Sparta, North Carolina, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government, I would choose a free press."—Thomas Jefferson.

1776 July 4 1946

As this nation celebrates its 170th birthday there are many things to reflect on. Individually speaking 170 is beyond expectations, but for our nation it is a very young age, comparatively. Yet within this age much has been learned and more and more knowledge is being acquired.

In the days and years that lie ahead of us and as a nation we are confronted with what seem to be impossible tasks, it will be well to remember those men and women of America that have come before us. While circumstances are scarcely ever the same, neither man's habits or wants have changed very greatly, relatively speaking. Yet the men and women who came before us did accomplish what they set out to do so surely it should not be so hard for us who follow them. We have their example, they had only their courage and their faith in mankind. On this our birthday it will be well to remember Columbus, George Washington, Edison, the Wright brothers and many other Americans who have played a vital part in the development of our country.

In speaking of birthdays we heard a common-sense lecture delivered by a father to his son the other day, when he pointed out that the birthday was important only in that the son made it so, by accomplishing something. Few of us can expect a national holiday on our birthday, but as individuals we can mean something to our country, state and nation, by becoming better citizens and by discouraging those who would destroy the principles on which this nation was founded.

Let us remember that this our nation is "of the people, for the people and by the people." This should make it clear that all hand-outs, so to speak must be paid for by all the people. And as patriotic citizens we must get over the idea of expecting something for nothing. Each individual is an integral part of this nation and must feel a definite responsibility. Let's rededicate ourselves on this July 4 to the principles of real Americanism, not substitutes or compromises.

Tourist Business Thriving

Ashe County, although it is one of the finest scenic areas of the State, is somewhat off the beaten tourist trail, so it makes more than routine news when that county is literally swamped with tourists.

According to The Skyland Post, however, this is what is happening in Ashe. Inns, hotels and private homes catering to tourists are filled to overflowing and hundreds have been turned away. Tourists are coming into Ashe from as far south as Florida, and many visitors are coming from Eastern North Carolina, Virginia and adjacent states.

One trend noted in Ashe as elsewhere in the mountain region is the increasing inclination of North Carolina vacationists to patronize the resorts and scenic areas of their own State. Here, they find a treat in store for them in mountain scenery and cool Summer atmosphere which cannot be excelled and in beach attractions equal to the best along the Atlantic coast.

Another encouraging feature of the tourist scene is the fact that many of the less publicized areas like that of the superb Northwest North Carolina section are beginning to come into their own. The Asheville area is, of course, world famous and

always draws a large tourist trade in normal years, but there are many sections in Western North Carolina which have remarkable scenic and Summer living and recreational advantages which until recent years seldom drew many tourists. These areas have much to offer tourists and vacationists and should be given more publicity. Enterprising businessmen in those sections should in the meantime provide more hotels, inns, and recreational facilities for increased tourist business.

Resumption of work on the Blue Ridge Parkway at a comparatively early date means that within a few years all the mountain section of the State from the Virginia line south and westward into the Great Smoky Mountains National Park will be thrown open to thousands of tourists from the North and East as well as those from this and other Southern states. A great future is thus assured this paradise for vacationists and wisdom dictates that the mountain counties get ready for it by providing the facilities needed by the visitors.—(The Winston-Salem Journal).

Rally For Youth

In this period when attention of organizations is being centered around the youth, we are happy to see the churches taking a lead in this movement. Ashe county churches, like others realizing the vital need of working with youth, should achieve notable results. The county-wide youth rally is a fine example of one of the many parts the church can play in spreading its influence toward the youth. We congratulate the churches on this movement and express the hope that it may be the beginning of many more such planned events to serve the youth of the county.

The church has limitless power in influencing the lives of its people. By using this influence to the best advantage, youthful members today, may become tomorrow's leaders.

Parents are urged to encourage their children to attend the county-wide rally to be held at Jefferson, July 6-7. The greater the attendance, the more pronounced the success of this youth rally may be.—(The Skyland Post).

Holding The Price Line

Following the termination of OPA, in this period of uncertainty relative to prices, we feel sure that local merchants will continue to keep prices in line and the buying public may have no fear that they will be taken advantage of, because of lack of price control.

In a statement this week, the secretary and president of the N. C. Merchant's Association, of which the local unit is a member, issued the following statement:

"The sudden termination of price control focuses the attention of the consuming public upon retail merchants.

"The President, in his veto message, implicitly challenges business to produce and distribute goods and merchandise in ample supply at reasonable prices. This challenge can and must be met.

"Retailers have a precedent for meeting this situation, for from 1939 to well into 1942 when the price control act was adopted, they voluntarily did everything within their power to hold prices down and protect consumer interests. They were so successful in this voluntary assignment that they won high praise both from legislators and price control officials. They can and will do it again."

We have complete confidence in the merchants of this county and know that their prices will continue to be most reasonable.

Improving Our Town

We congratulate the town officials on several initial steps taken toward the improvement of our town. One of the biggest improvements was cleaning up and keeping the streets marked off to facilitate parking. Further limitations on parking will also be a help.

Since Sparta is enjoying a natural period of growth, we believe it is time to enforce some zoning regulations, not only for business, but residential property. Properly worked out and enforced, such regulations not only mean real protection to property owners, but will greatly enhance the beauty and safety of our town. If a property owner builds a \$10,000 residence and next to this another is allowed to build a \$500.00 job, the effect is obvious. Let's work out and carry out some zoning regulations in our town.

PEOPLE PLACES INNACLES

By Mrs. Ed M. Anderson

Instead of the usual "Ashe Gas" this column is of a different nature and because of a change in geography comes a change in the title.

The writer, who until less than a month ago, had never been any farther west than Chicago, had an unusual opportunity to visit those great open spaces and land of contrast, and having just returned, is so imbued with that section of the country that some of it must come into print in a column. "People places and innacles" brings you some few of the highlights of the Rocky Mountains visited during the recent meeting of the National Editorial Association.

Literally and figuratively the high spot of the trip was Pike's Peak, rising 14,110 feet above the plains, so often called the "monument of the continent." To one used to summer, it was unusual to find much snow there on June 19. But this was only a part of the unusualness of the trip to the peak. Passing beyond the timberline and climbing higher above clouds along the "highest highway in the world," with its switchbacks, and then descending by the cog railway, one marveled at the feat of engineering accomplished that the world might travel and see. Awed by the matchless scenery, we felt like Theodore Roosevelt who once said, "It bankrupts the English Language."

Animals Here and There. Interesting to watch were the animals as we rode along in the park. Here and there one caught a glimpse of a bear, deer, moose, cat and buffalo as well as hundreds of playful chipmunks coming near enough to take peanuts from travellers stopping to view the mountains. We know of one who was playfully handed an aspirin. Whether or not it gave him a headache or cured it, the man never remained long enough to see.

In the Penrose Zoo, we visited the hall of monkeys and here were many more than we had ever before seen, large, small, fat and tall; but what startled us were monkeys in colors, purple, blue, pink, yellow, various shades of brown as well as the more common black and white. And as monkeys go some were almost beautiful!

Here too stood American eagles, none however on the silver dollar, the type most popular in this area.

What's in a Name? The difference in names and places always fascinates me. In Colorado we noticed a service station labeled, "Chevron" and far up in the mountains, where we were told the temperature often drops to 35 degrees below zero was another called "Prestone!" one antique shop had the name of "Old Attic" and another "Antiques and Unusuals."

At Grand Lake is a grand eating place called the "Corner Cupboard." Down near Idaho City, one of the earliest exploited mining regions, was a restaurant called "Placer" and another proudly bearing the name of "Lode."

In Estes Park one of the most popular spots of amusement was the "Dark Horse" where for various reasons one had the opportunity of sitting on black horses instead of the conventional chairs.

The famous Antlers hotel and the Brown Palace are the choice in Denver. Here one of the favorite shops for rancher's supplies is "The Corral," with the slogan "Everything but a horse."

Friendliness and Courtesy Supreme.

Not only do the mountain peaks of the west reach a high point, but here courtesy and friendliness are unexcelled. After spending a few days at one place one grows to like it and the people there-in so well, that moving on comes with regret. At Grand Lake we were privileged to stop at Rapids Hotel, owned and operated by Alfred Mark Bills and his wife, strange to say that bills were a small part of his existence. A graduate of Boston Tech and his wife of Welsley, both of them did a grand job to see that our stay at Grand Lake was all anyone could expect. The rapids of the stream, rushing by, from which speckled trout were caught and served to the guests, added to the attractiveness of the spot.

While at Colorado Springs we journeyed far up Cheyenne mountain where stands the Will Rogers memorial. Under the figure of the beloved American humorist, carved from native stone, by

