

County Schools Are To Close On Fri. For Holidays

Glade Valley Closed Today And Will Not Reopen Until Jan. 7

Alleghany county schools will close Friday for a ten days holiday period, it was announced this week by Miss Clyde Field, county school superintendent. No activities have been planned by any of the schools during the holidays but most schools will have Christmas programs before closing Friday.

The Glade Valley high school is the only school in the county that will not follow this schedule. That school closed Thursday and will not resume classes until January 7. The long holiday was attributed to the fact that so many of the students live out of the county and the state and that the school does not have to close down during the winter because of transportation difficulties.

Correspondents Added To Staff

Twelve Communities In County Now Have Items Of Interest In Paper

Some new correspondents have been added to the News staff within the past few weeks and their contributions are adding to the general news value of the paper. All residents of their respective communities are asked to cooperate in giving them the news.

The News is always happy to have items of local interest from all sections of the county and the only means of securing these items is through the correspondents of each section.

Lack of space in the News does not always permit the printing of everything that comes into the News office but it is the policy of the paper to cover the entire county to the greatest possible advantage.

Readers should contact the correspondent in their community when they have news of any kind.

Following is a list of the correspondents and the sections they represent:

Mrs. F. G. Weaver, Peden; Myrtle Evans, Pine Swamp; Mrs. S. E. Smith, Mt. Zion; Attaree Green, Little Pine; Mrs. Thelma Mabe, Stratford; Mrs. E. E. Caudill, Whitehead; Carl Irwin, Twin Oaks; E. B. Eldridge, Glade Valley. (Continued on Page 4)

Churches To Have Xmas Programs

Baptist and Methodist churches in Sparta are planning special Christmas programs for Sunday, according to information received from officials of those churches. No information was available about plans for the Presbyterian church.

On Sunday morning at the Baptist church, the pastor, the Rev. F. G. Walker will bring a special Christmas message on the subject "What if Christ Had Not Come?" Special music will be a feature of the service.

Sunday evening a pageant, "The Light of Men" will be presented. Approximately 28 characters, in addition to the choir will appear in the play.

On Sunday evening at the Presbyterian church, Sparta Methodists will have the annual Christmas tree and treat. Classes have drawn names and gifts will be exchanged. In addition there will be a Christmas program under the direction of Mrs. Hazel Tompkins and Miss Edna Edwards.

The public is cordially invited to all of the services of the day. No services have been planned for Christmas Day.

DRIVER'S EXAMINER HERE EACH TUESDAY

David G. Hatcher, of Mt. Airy, connected with the state patrol, will be in Sparta each Tuesday to examine drivers and issue licenses. It was announced this week. He will not be here next Tuesday, Christmas eve, but will be here each Tuesday after that, beginning on December 31.

Mr. Hatcher will be at the courthouse all day.

Pupils Now Attend "School Of The Air"



A teacher's voice called this class to order via remote control. With schools closed in Denver, due to fuel shortage, these students are shown as they gathered around a portable radio to hear their lessons over the air waves.

Eye Clinic In Alleghany Is Termed Great Success; 31 Are Examined On First Day

Dr. Wilsey, Others Were Here To Assist Dr. Robert King At Clinic

Judged by the first day's activities at the eye clinic for Alleghany county, sponsored by the county health department, the clinic was a great success. Thirty-one people reported for eye examinations and fifteen were turned away because of lack of time. They were to return on Thursday.

Dr. J. D. Wilsey, ophthalmologist, of Winston-Salem, was here to assist Dr. Robert R. King, Jr., with the clinic. Others here were Mr. Shouse and Mr. King, from Southeastern Optical, Miss Trexler and Miss Sneed, public health nurses, all from Winston-Salem.

Prior to the clinic, some 80 appointments were made for eye examinations. Reports on Wednesday indicated that even more than that would appear. From the first day's examinations, glasses were prescribed for 20 people and surgery for two. The others were either all right or in such a serious state that further treatment would not help.

The examinations were free as doctors were paid by the State Commission for the Blind and glasses will be furnished for sim- (Continued On Page 4)

Holidays For P.O. Helpers, Carriers

Christmas Day and New Year's Day will be observed as an official holiday at the Sparta post office, by both post office workers and carriers. Postmaster Silas Nichols announced that there would be no window service on either of those days, nor any delivery to rural routes.

Mail will be dispatched and those who have boxes at the post office will receive first class mail in those boxes.

Mr. Nichols said that the Christmas mail was heavier this year than it had been since before the war. Christmas cards have been sent and received in great numbers and the Christmas package business is just now beginning. He urged citizens to mail their cards and packages as soon as possible to assure delivery by Christmas.

V. F. W. To Meet Thursday Night

Amon Edwards, commander of the Sparta Post of Veterans of Foreign Wars, announced this week that an important meeting of that group would be held on Thursday night, December 26, at the community building.

He urged that all members pay their dues before December 31, and extended a cordial invitation to all eligible veterans to join the organization.

A dance is being planned for Saturday night, December 28, to be sponsored by the group. Further details will be announced later.

Baseball Club Names Officers, Edwards Is Mgr.

Plans Being Made For Next Year's Team; New Uniforms To Be Bought

New officers for the Sparta Baseball club were elected at a meeting of the group last Tuesday night at the Alleghany county courthouse. A number of players and supporters of the team were present.

Elgin Edwards was named as the new manager to succeed G. Glenn Nichols, who served in that capacity last year. Jack Thompson was elected captain and R. L. Joines, treasurer.

Plans are now being made to purchase uniforms for the club, to be ready for the opening of the season. It is expected that Sparta will field another championship team in 1947, as they did in 1946, and the management will leave no stones unturned in securing the best material for the team. Several new players have been contacted and have indicated their availability for contract.

Any player wishing to play next season should contact either of the above named officers in order that arrangements for uniforms may be completed as soon as possible.

NAMED SENATOR



William B. Umstead

Umstead Named Senator To Fill Term Of Bailey

Durham Man Is Choice Of Governor; Active In Affairs Of State

Raleigh—Governor Cherry late Tuesday announced the appointment of William B. Umstead, Durham attorney, to the United States Senate, succeeding the late Senator Josiah W. Bailey, who died Sunday.

In announcing the appointment, the Governor said:

"I am confident that Mr. Umstead will make a worthy successor to Senator Bailey and will represent the State of North Carolina in keeping with the prestige and reputation of former Senators from this State."

Umstead is a former Congressman, having represented the State's Sixth District for three terms, from 1933 until 1939 when he voluntarily left Congress to return to his Durham law practice.

Senator Bailey had represented North Carolina in the Senate for (Continued on Page 4)

National 4-H Club Winners Announced



Four winners selected at the opening of the 25th National Congress of 4-H clubs, held in Chicago. Left to right the winners are: Estelle Ruth Stewart, 20, Mill Grove, Mo., national girl leader; Laverne E. Hall, 20, Westby, Wis., national boy winner of 4-H achievement contest; Lewis Topliff, 20, Formosa, Kan., national boy leader; Maurine V. Steyer, 17, Exeter, Nebr., national girl winner of 4-H achievement contest.

Chamber Of Commerce Hears Dr. King; Plans Dinner For Sparta High Football Team

USO Drive To Be Postponed Until Early Next Year

Charles R. Roe Is To Serve As Chairman; Miss Edwards To Assist

It was announced this week that Charles R. Roe, popular local merchant and former principal of Sparta high school would serve as chairman of the USO drive in the county, and that the drive would not be activated until after January 1. Miss Minnie Lou Edwards is to assist Mr. Roe in the work.

Plans now are to have several entertainments at the community house, in addition to the soliciting of funds from business houses, individuals and through the schools.

It has been called to the attention of Alleghany citizens, that there are still several men from this county still in service, others in training and still others in attendance.

More Interest In Attendance

Interest in attendance in Alleghany county schools is showing gains, according to Swanson Edwards, county attendance officer. Mr. Edwards expressed gratification at the splendid reports that have been turned in by county teachers and principals. The reports have been 100% correct, Mr. Edwards said.

At the same time he pointed out that all schools had not been sending in their reports and urged that they do so. Reports are to be sent in after teachers and principals have made proper investigation of absences.

Fumes From Still Cause Death Of Alleghany Man

Man Dies After Rigging Up Still; Killed By Fumes From Oil Burner

Fumes from an oil burner, used as a heater for a whiskey still brought death to an Alleghany citizen on Monday night. Herman Williams, 34, came to his death by asphyxiation, caused from fumes from an oil burner, according to the coroner's verdict.

Mr. Williams left his home to go to the granary, located about fifty yards from the house in which he lived. In the basement of the granary, completely closed in with no windows and only one door, Mr. Williams had set up a still, to be operated by an oil burner.

Early Tuesday morning his wife found him in the basement, dead. Coroner Lee Woodruff said the man had been dead about four or five hours and advanced the theory that he had gone to sleep after lighting the burner and had been overcome by the fumes.

Funeral services were held at the Prather's Creek Union Baptist church on Wednesday afternoon at 2 o'clock with the Rev. John Toliver officiating. Interment was in the Prather's Creek cemetery.

Mr. Williams is survived by his wife, one infant son, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Williams, and three brothers.

Sparta Business Houses To Close

Merchants Plan Three Holidays

With the largest Christmas trade in years, Sparta merchants are awaiting that last minute rush that always brings disappointment to scores who neglected to do their Christmas shopping early. Last Saturday was a record-breaking day in Sparta stores and this Saturday is expected to bring even more shoppers to town.

Merchants have made their plans to remain open on Christmas eve and be closed all day Christmas, December 25, the day after Christmas, December 26 and New Year's Day, January 1. The following concerns will follow that schedule:

Farmers Hardware and Impl. Co., Inc., Firestone Store, Cash and Carry Store, Edwards Furniture Co., Jay Hardin's Store, Belk's Dept. Store, Smithey's (Continued on Page 4)

City Ordinance To Be Enforced

Mayor Amos Wagoner called attention this week to the city ordinance that prohibits the shooting of firecrackers within the city limits. As the Christmas season approached, Mayor Wagoner warned that children may become careless with fireworks and that tragedy might result.

The ordinance further prohibits the use of any kind of firearms within the city limits or unnecessary noise of any kind.

Law enforcement officers have been instructed to enforce this ordinance to the fullest extent and violators are warned that they will be prosecuted.

Will Publish News Tuesday

Due to the fact that Christmas comes on Wednesday, The Alleghany News will be published on Tuesday week instead of Thursday, in order to give employees a holiday.

Advertisers, correspondents and others are asked to cooperate by getting all of their material in not later than Saturday.

In addition to the regular features and news the paper will contain a large number of greetings and other Christmas features.

The office of the News will be closed from Wednesday through Saturday of next week.

Money Or Seals Asked By Miss Minnie Edwards

Christmas Seal Drive Nears Completion; \$100 Collected To Date

Approximately \$100 has been collected in the Christmas seal drive, according to Miss Minnie Lou Edwards, chairman of the drive. Some 160 sets of seals were sent out and that would indicate that sixty people have neither returned the seals nor sent the money for them.

Miss Edwards urgently requests that those who do not intend to send in a dollar for the seals return them immediately so that they can be sold to other people. The drive is supposed to be completed by Christmas and Miss Edwards is anxious to have the final figures in by that time.

Bangle day was held in the schools this week and already \$20 has been reported from that drive. Most of that was from the Sparta school as other schools have not had time to send in their reports.

First Baby Is To Receive Prize

The Alleghany News will again this year sponsor the annual "Baby Derby" with prizes for the first newcomer of the year. Rules have been completed for this year's contest and merchants are expected to cooperate.

Following are the rules of the contest:

1. Parents of the first baby must live in Alleghany county.
2. Date, hour and the minute of the baby's birth must be sent in together with the name of the attending physician.
3. All entries must be in the News office by Saturday, January (Continued on Page 4)

Whitehead Boy Is Skipper Of Special Services Yacht



Special Services yacht, the "Q-97," maneuvering into dock in Florida. T/Sgt. Kemp Candill, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Candill, of Whitehead, is skipper of the yacht.

Jack Osborne Designated As Most Valuable Player; To Receive Award

Members of the Sparta Chamber of Commerce heard an interesting discussion by Dr. Robert R. King, Jr., district health officer, on the North Carolina Good Health program Friday night at its December meeting at the community building.

Dr. King outlined the main points of the program as applicable to the state and then made some observations concerning Alleghany county. He pointed out that Alleghany is one of the 34 counties in the state with no hospital facilities whatsoever, but added that bills had been introduced into Congress whereby appropriations might be made to give those counties hospital facilities.

He discussed briefly the Hill-Burton bill, now before Congress. Under provisions of the bill, federal funds will be available to states for the building or expansion of needed hospital facilities. A bill has been prepared for presentation to the next state legislature that would expand the state's hospital facilities so that (Continued on Page 4)

R. L. Gambill Dies At Piney Creek

R. L. Gambill, pioneer citizen of Alleghany county, died at his home in the Piney Creek section on Wednesday evening following a heart attack. Mr. Gambill had been slightly ill for some time but his condition had not been considered serious. He suffered a heart-attack about 5 o'clock Wednesday afternoon and died almost immediately.

Mr. Gambill was one of Alleghany's old and honored citizens. He was born and raised in this county, was a member of the Primitive Baptist church, which he served from his youth. His membership was at the Cranberry church. He was 76 years of age.

He was married many years ago to Miss Minnie McMillan, who survives him. To this union (Continued on Page 4)

Furniture Truck Destroyed By Fire

A truckload of furniture, owned by Robert Delp was completely destroyed by fire Tuesday night on the Roaring Gap road. According to Mr. Delp, who was driving the truck, the fire was started when a group of boys threw a lighted firecracker into the rear end of the truck.

Mr. Delp was bringing a load of furniture from Salisbury to Piney Creek, valued at \$8,000. According to estimates only about \$700 or \$800 worth was saved.