

The Alleghany News

AND STAR-TIMES—(CONSOLIDATED ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1941)—ALLEGHANY COUNTY'S ONLY NEWSPAPER.

Alleghany County Is . . .
Outstanding Livestock, Agriculture and Tourist Center,
With A Population of 3,341.

VOLUME 58, NO 29

\$2.00 a Year in Alleghany County

SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA THURSDAY, APRIL 17, 1947

\$2.50 a Year Out of County

Start Sale Of Tickets For Horse Show

Sparta Joins Va. League; Spring Practice Begins

Baseball Players Urged To Be On Local Diamond Saturday At 3:00 P. M.

The Sparta Baseball club met with eleven Virginia teams Monday night at Elk Creek when plans were made for the Virginia League, which begins its season May 10.

M. C. Huff was named as president of the league and Grant Smith was named as treasurer. Teams composing the league are first group, Grant, Flat Ridge, Bridle Creek, Independence, Elk Creek and Sparta; second group, Cole Creek, West Galax, Mountain View, Stevens Creek, Pine Mountain and Speedwell. At the end of the season, leading teams in each group will play each other in the finals.

During the meeting, it was decided that each team would pay an entrance fee of \$10.00 and that the limit for a roster was 18 men. All money and list of players should be in the hands of the treasurer, Grant Smith, of Elk Creek, by May 1, it was stated. Games will begin on May 10.

In the play-off games, it was decided that the winning team would take 60 per cent, the losing 40 per cent.

There will be an important meeting of the managers of all of the teams at Elk Creek at the agriculture building on Thursday night, May 1.

Plans have been made to begin spring practice here on the Sparta diamond by the local club (Continued on Page 4)

Board Of Directors, Committees Named At C. Of C. Meeting

VFW COMMANDER



Cecil J. Murray, who was named commander of the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, at the meeting, Thursday.

Murray Is Named As Commander Of Local VFW Post

Succeeds Amon Edwards; Installation Of Officers To Be Held April 24

Cecil J. Murray, of Twin Oaks, was named commander of the local post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, at the meeting, Thursday.

Shin Touches Off Catastrophe; Chemical Plant Is Completely Wiped Out

Texas City, Texas.—A chain of blasts, set off by the explosion of a nitrate-laden ship, smote this gulf port Wednesday, killing an estimated 1,200 persons and injuring more than 1,000.

It was the worst American disaster in the past 10 years. Much of the boom industrial city of 15,000 population was destroyed or damaged. Property loss will run into millions of dollars.

Fires followed the blasts. Poisonous gas from exploding chemicals was reported to be filtering through the area.

The first blast rocked the surrounding region for 150 miles, inflicting heavy damage in Galveston. All aboard the ship, the French freighter Grandcamp, were killed.

Midwestern headquarters of the Red Cross at St. Louis reported that 500 bodies had been brought out of the explosion area late yesterday and that more bodies were being found constantly.

The estimate of dead was reported by G. B. Finley, State Highway Commission maintenance engineer, on information from the disaster area.

"Rescue parties bringing out casualties from the blast area estimated that about one out of every three persons had been killed," Finley said, "which would indicate around 1,200 dead."

He referred to the dock area where principal damage occurred and where there were some (Continued on page 8)

Two Men File For Office Of Mayor

Only two candidates, R. J. Randolph and G. Glenn Nichols, had filed for the position of mayor of Sparta, it was learned yesterday.

Among those to file for the town council are Duke C. Bledsoe, C. A. Miles, C. C. Casteven, Dr. N. D. Fox, Chas. R. Roe, Beal Pool and Ben Reeves.

The public is reminded that those who desire to be candidates must file not later than April 18. Registration books will be open through tomorrow.

Wildlife Club To Meet April 25

The Alleghany Wildlife club will meet at the county courthouse Friday, April 25, at 7:30 o'clock, it was announced this week by the president, G. Glenn Nichols.

A moving picture on Wildlife and Soil Conservation will be shown the group by H. E. Singletary and Ralph Cheek. All members are urged to be present.

Local Officers Continue To Raid Stills; 9 Men Arrested

Some of the stills of Alleghany county come to a standstill before they get started as Chief of Police C. Brant Taylor, and Deputy-Sheriff Wade Hoppers made a raid on the Bull Head section and destroyed the foundation of what the operators had planned for their still.

The sheriff's deputies were right on the job while he was away, as Wade Hoppers and Chief Taylor made a raid near Ennice in the Glade Creek township Friday afternoon. Dewey Evans, of Ennice, was released on \$300 bond when three and one-half gallons of whiskey were found in his possession. A hearing will be held for Evans, April 24, before B. F. Wagoner.

Several arrests were made by local officers on charges of public drunkenness. Fred McMullan, (Col.) of Sparta, charged with public drunkenness, was confined to the county jail Saturday night and released on \$50 bond Monday, pending hearing

Town Improvements Are Discussed; R. E. Black Is Named Secretary

At the meeting of the Sparta Chamber of Commerce, last Friday night, the board of directors and committees for the coming year were named and several town improvements were discussed.

Named on a special committee to work with the Northwestern Bank and David Lavietes, in encouraging the growth of the Sparta Pipes, Inc., were R. F. Crouse, Dr. C. A. Thompson and R. J. Randolph. Plans are being made at the local plant for the manufacture of cigarette holders as well as the finished pipe product, it was learned.

Construction of a sidewalk from Whitehead street, south to the prison camp road was also discussed and Alton Thompson, David Higgins and W. F. Osborne were named on a committee to work with town officials toward this project.

Also during the meeting R. E. Black was named as secretary of the chamber of commerce to replace Albert Richardson, who had resigned. Ways and means of increased membership were also discussed at the meeting.

Named on the board of directors were Dr. C. A. Thompson, chairman; Lon Mack Reeves, C. G. Richardson, Glenn Richardson, Ted Wyatt, R. H. Walker, Vance Choate, Claude Miles, R. J. Randolph, Dr. B. F. Wagoner, Dr. B. F. Wagoner, J. B. Reed, Clifford Evans. Those named included:

Membership committee—Amon Wagoner, Alton Thompson, and Gene Irwin.

Advertising committee—R. L. Allison, Dr. T. R. Burgess and David Higgins.

Finance committee—Floyd (Continued on Page 4)

Lions Club Has Meeting Tues.

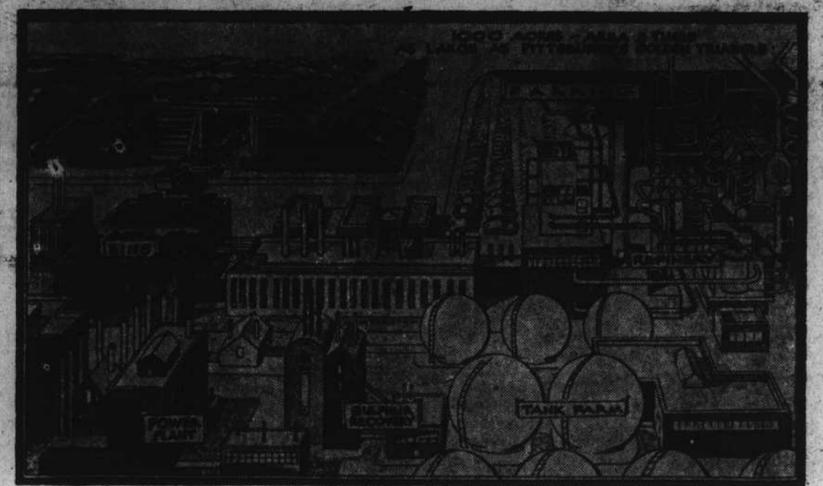
At the regular meeting of the Lions club, held at the Shell Cafe, Tuesday night, books of tickets for the horse show were issued the members.

Following a discussion of horse show plans, the board of directors met and named Dr. B. O. Choate as the club's first honorary member. Dr. Choate has given generously of both time and money to the club and was especially interested in the horse show last year, it was reported.

Members of the agricultural committee also held a brief meeting.

Roy Ellison, president, was in charge of the meeting.

Plans Underway To Convert Raw Coal Into High-Test Gas



A project which is expected to start within two years where in a mammoth plant will convert 6,000,000 tons of raw coal annually into huge quantities of high-heat household and industrial gas and high test gasoline will be erected at Pittsburgh at a cost of \$120,000,000. Photo is an artist's conception of the proposed plant.

Special Program At Piney Creek Saturday Night

To Express Appreciation To Donors Of New Chairs New In Auditorium

John H. Halsey, chairman of the Piney Creek school committee, announced this week that there will be a special musical program, showing appreciation of the donors of the new chairs now installed in the auditorium, on Saturday night at 7:30 o'clock, given by Dale Weaver and his "Alleghany Play Boys." There will be no admission charge and everyone is cordially invited to attend. Refreshments will be sold, it is pointed out.

Mr. Halsey said he was gratified that the 342 opera-type seats had been installed and appreciated the fine spirit of cooperation shown by alumni and friends in making this possible, through donations.

He explained that some, who had pledged to give seats had not yet paid their pledges and were waiting for the seats to be installed and added that he felt sure that they would do so now in order that the account could (Continued on page 8)

Fishing Season Opened Tuesday With Many On Job

The trout season, which officially opened on Tuesday proved an unfortunate one for the fish, but a lucky one for most fishermen as many reported catching the limit.

The spring weather proved too much of a temptation for a large number of the business people here, who left their posts of duty to go fishing. Amon Wagoner, of Farmers Hardware, accompanied by Mrs. Wagoner and Amos, Jr., had a lucky day, catching the limit with little trouble.

Roy Ellison and Joe B. Reed, members of the Sparta faculty, who fished in Glade Creek, reported that they caught several trout, and even admitted that some of the other fish they caught, were "not very big." Also fishing in Glade Creek were Frank Osborne and Amon Edwards.

"Doc"—Burgiss, accompanied by Tommy Burgess and J. M. Bennett, also did a bit of fishing. Most of these fishermen started measuring from the shoulder for length of fish caught, but finally wound up telling the truth about it. "They were nice size," Dr. Burgess said.

Dr. Luff Choate and Charles Dean fished in Garden Creek in Wilkes county and camped at Stone Mountain Camp. They had plenty of fish for supper and also brought home enough for another one.

Alleghany Farmers Receive \$104,533 In AAA Payments For 1946 Improved Practices

Clinics Being Held In County April 22-May 20

Children Who Plan To Enter School Next Fall Urged To Attend

Pre-school clinics will be held at the Alleghany schools for children who plan to enter school next fall. Clinics have already been held at Sparta and Piney Creek. The remainder of the schedule announced by Dr. Robert R. King, Jr., has been given as follows:

Laurel Springs school, April 22; Wolf Branch and Pine Swamp, April 29; Cherry Lane and Glade Valley, May 6; New Hope and Stratford, May 13; and Little Pine, May 20. (Continued on Page 8)

Grass Seed Now Offered By AAA

Grass seed available through the AAA office here has been announced by Herbert Osborne, chairman of the county AAA committee.

Seeds available include lespedeza, alsike clover, blue grass, orchard grass, white clover, ladino clover, red top, red clover and sweet clover.

Purchase orders are available at the AAA office, farmers are reminded, and those wishing to obtain them should come by as soon as possible.

Some Firms Cut Prices After President Truman's Request

New York.—A few new price reductions, led by one company's cut in anthracite quotations to dealers, broke through Tuesday's discussion of whether business could heed President Truman's plea for lower prices.

The Glen Alden Coal company at Wilkes-Barre, Pa., cut anthracite 20 to 45 cents a ton to retailers, who did not indicate immediately if they would pass the savings on to consumers. Anthracite trade sources said the company, first to take such action, was resuming a prewar seasonal custom of summer price cuts to keep coal moving from the colliery and production going in the slow months.

E. W. Edwards & Son cut prices in its department stores in Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse, New York, "convinced that the public has stopped buying and that, to avert a depression, business generally must make price cuts." A New York department store,

Figures Reveal Wide Variety Of Practices Carried Out By Farmers

Alleghany county farmers complying with 1946 AAA practices have received a total of \$104,533.11 in payments so far, according to a report released from the AAA office this week. The report further shows that a wide variety of practices for farm improvements were carried out.

In addition to lime and phosphate, which totaled \$30,389.93, other practices used included 16,691 tons of lime at \$55,080.30; 16,052 c.w.t. of phosphate at \$12,841.60; 104.64 c.w.t. of potash at \$219.66; 6185 lbs. crimson clover at \$927.75; 1023 lbs. vetch at \$194.76; 1462 pounds of rye grass at \$117.04; 650 acres of permanent pastures at \$2,811.84; 115 acres of pasture improvement at \$1,577.78; 137 acres of strip cropping at \$36.00; 2418 feet of 4 inch tile at \$120.90; 450 feet of 6 inch tile at \$36.00; 225 feet of 8 inch tile at \$33.75; two acres of forest tree planting at \$9.00.

Murphy Returned To Dobson Jail

Sheriff Glenn D. Richardson flew from Deadwood, South Dakota, to Mt. Airy Friday to return Fred Murphy to the Dobson jail. Murphy will be tried here April 28, when Superior court opens.

Sheriff Richardson, in his first plane trip, flew a distance of 2200 miles in 14 hours. The sheriff admitted that was pretty fast traveling.

Two From Sparta Join Ball Club

Dan Thompson and Boyden Atwood, both of Sparta, left Monday to begin practice with the Statesville Owls. Thompson, Alleghany veteran, who only recently finished his studies at the University of Alabama, is beginning his career as a professional ball player. Atwood, 16-year old Sparta high school student, finished his studies here early in order that he could accept a position with the Statesville Owls.

Thompson plays the position of short stop and Atwood, second baseman.

Several of the teams which play in the league with Statesville are Lexington, Thomasville, Salisbury, Kannapolis and Landis.

Earl L. Joines and Jack Thompson, also went to Statesville to try out for the league. D. Thompson and Atwood were the only two accepted, however.

Mrs. Plummer To Be Buried Today

Funeral service will be held today in Hunnington, W. Va., for Mrs. Lula Plummer, 65, who died at her home there after a lingering illness, on Wednesday.

Mrs. Plummer, a sister of Mrs. Ida Pruitt of Sparta, was married to the late Hooker Plummer. She is survived by three sons and one daughter, Mrs. Blanche Quick of Hunnington, W. Va.; Roy Plummer, of McKees Rock, Pa.; Kemp and Gwyn Plummer, also of Hunnington.

Two sisters, Mrs. Effie Kenzinger, of Portsmouth, Ohio, and Mrs. Ada Pruitt, of Sparta, and three brothers, S. G. Richardson, of Columbus, Ohio; Ed and Frank Richardson, of Beckley, W. Va., also survive.

June 20-21 Dates For Annual Event, Name Committees

Requests For Entry Blanks Are Received From Several States

Tickets for Sparta's annual horse show to be held June 20-21 under the sponsorship of the Lions club, went on sale this week, when some special committees were named and others activated.

Tom Greene, manager of the show, announced that inquiries for entry blanks had already been received from Michigan, Massachusetts, Kentucky, Tennessee, and Virginia, as well as from many cities in North Carolina, including Elkton, Statesville, North Wilkesboro, Mount Airy, Hickory, and Winston-Salem.

"All advance indications are that the show will draw entries from a large area," Manager Greene said.

The following committees have already been named and some of them are already at work: Advertising, Kern Wagoner, chairman; Joe Bill Reed and Roy Ellison; entry and classes, Tom Greene, chairman, Dewey Sturdivant and Earl Calhoun; seating and entry lanes, Earl Calhoun; ribbons and trophies, R. L. Joines; entries at the time of show, R. L. Joines and Ralph Cheek; gate, Munsey Crouse; lighting, Eugene Higgins; policing, G. D. Richardson.

Entry blanks, together with the rules, listing of various classes and prizes are being mailed out this week, Mr. Greene said.

E. B. "Shine" Ogan will serve as judge and H. Glenn York as ring master. Dr. W. W. Wilson will be the veterinarian for the show.

Class entries will include the five-gaited division; walking horses, three-gaited division, roadster division, fine harness division, jumper division, hunter division, children's division and miscellaneous. Prizes will total around \$1850. Details of classes and prizes will be published later.

Thompson And Atwood Left Monday To Begin Practice With Statesville Owls

Dan Thompson and Boyden Atwood, both of Sparta, left Monday to begin practice with the Statesville Owls. Thompson, Alleghany veteran, who only recently finished his studies at the University of Alabama, is beginning his career as a professional ball player. Atwood, 16-year old Sparta high school student, finished his studies here early in order that he could accept a position with the Statesville Owls.

Thompson plays the position of short stop and Atwood, second baseman.

Several of the teams which play in the league with Statesville are Lexington, Thomasville, Salisbury, Kannapolis and Landis.

Earl L. Joines and Jack Thompson, also went to Statesville to try out for the league. D. Thompson and Atwood were the only two accepted, however.

Mrs. Plummer To Be Buried Today

Funeral service will be held today in Hunnington, W. Va., for Mrs. Lula Plummer, 65, who died at her home there after a lingering illness, on Wednesday.

Mrs. Plummer, a sister of Mrs. Ida Pruitt of Sparta, was married to the late Hooker Plummer. She is survived by three sons and one daughter, Mrs. Blanche Quick of Hunnington, W. Va.; Roy Plummer, of McKees Rock, Pa.; Kemp and Gwyn Plummer, also of Hunnington.

Two sisters, Mrs. Effie Kenzinger, of Portsmouth, Ohio, and Mrs. Ada Pruitt, of Sparta, and three brothers, S. G. Richardson, of Columbus, Ohio; Ed and Frank Richardson, of Beckley, W. Va., also survive.