

The Skyland Post

ASHE COUNTY

is the air-conditioned section of North Carolina whose altitude ranges from 3,000 to 5,500 feet above sea level. Twenty-five miles of the PARKWAY run through the county.

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\$1.50 a Year Out of County

WEST JEFFERSON, N. C. THURSDAY, NOV. 16, 1939

\$1.00 a Year in Ashe County

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Worst Forest Fire In History Of Ashe County Is Still Raging

Preliminary Application For Cold Storage Plant Receives Approval By R. E. A. Officials

Proposed Local Co-Op Told "To Go Ahead" and Submit Formal Application.

PLANT IS ASSURED

It was announced last night that plans for a mass meeting of all members of the Blue Ridge Cold Storage Co-operative and all others interested in the movement are now being worked out and that a definite date will be announced next Thursday. Arrangements will be made to have representatives from State College and the State Department of Agriculture present for the meeting and to assist in making a survey. In the meantime, every farmer is invited to join the proposed co-operative.

The preliminary application of the proposed Blue Ridge Cold Storage Co-operative to the Rural Electrification Administration to borrow money at a low interest rate over a long period of time, to construct a cold storage plant in Ashe county in or near West Jefferson, has been approved by REA officials, Gwyn Price, a director of the Caldwell Mutual Corporation and one of the local leaders in the movement for a cold storage co-op, announced late yesterday afternoon.

Mr. Price stated that G. F. Messick, superintendent of the Caldwell Mutual, yesterday received a favorable report on the preliminary application from Oscar Mires, assistant director of the utilization division, in Washington, who made a tentative survey here less than two weeks ago.

Plans are now being worked out to submit a formal application in the near future for North Carolina's first REA cold storage plant which will serve Ashe, Alleghany and Watauga counties.

In announcing approval of the preliminary application, Mr. Mires outlined a suggested procedure to be followed in submitting formal application.

It was suggested that first of all a mass meeting be held for all members of the proposed co-operative.

No indication was given as to how large an allotment may be available for the plant, but it is believed that it will be adequate to construct a plant of sufficient size to take care of normal growth and expansion.

Over 200 members have signed and those in charge are anxious to get around 300 members before formal application is made.

A local delegation, composed of Gwyn Price, H. D. Quessenberry, Supt. J. B. Hash, Edmitt McNeill and Ed M. Anderson, went to Raleigh last Friday afternoon and discussed the proposed cold storage plan with Hon. Kerr Scott, commissioner of agriculture, and several officials at State College and in the Extension Service.

The delegation received enthusiastic pledges of co-operation (Continued on Page Eight)

State Has Put Out \$766,354 For Parkway

RALEIGH, Nov. 14. — North Carolina has spent \$766,354.44 for rights-of-way and surveys on the Blue Ridge Parkway, Charles Ross, general counsel of the State Highway and Public Works Commission, reported today.

The federal government is building the parkway but the state must make preliminary surveys and investigations and furnish right-of-way.

Through October 1, Ross said, the state had acquired 13,617 acres, of which 12,243 had been acquired for a total of \$452,460.79. It is estimated 22,000 acres will be required for the parkway in North Carolina.

Average price for the land already paid for has been \$29.64 an acre.

The total does not include the \$25,000 which will be paid to the Little Switzerland Company for right-of-way.

MARRIED 50 YEARS



Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Davis, of Grassy Creek who observed their Golden Wedding, Oct. 22. Mr. Davis is 73 and Mrs. Davis, 66. They have nine children and 15 grand children.

Water Shortage Affecting Power

Every One Asked To Be Careful Regarding Fires At This Time.

Ashe county as well as other sections of Northwestern North Carolina is experiencing one of the longest dry spells remembered here for several years. New River is lower than it has been in many years and in addition to the Jeffersons being inconvenienced from lack of water, the Northwestern Carolina Utilities company which serves this section has had to depend on a diesel engine for the generation of power, for 16 to 20 hours each day for several weeks, officials of the company stated.

The lowness of water has prevented the operation of the power dam on New River. A shortage in electricity was caused this week when repairs had to be made on the Diesel engine.

The water shortage in the Jeffersons has greatly increased the fire hazards. Fire Chief Bernard Graybeal pointed out yesterday and urged everyone to be very careful about burning trash as well as building big fires particularly where chimneys may be in need of slight repairs.

There is no prospect for more water here until it rains. City Manager Bert Jones said and urged every one to not use water for unnecessary purposes or to waste it.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT ISSUES A REMINDER

The Ashe county health department this week issued another reminder that all children between the ages of 6 months and six years are required by law to have the diphtheria vaccine.

This fall the department has made splendid progress with its school examination and immunization program. Most of the one and two teacher schools in the county have been visited, it is reported.

Tubercular Clinic To Be Held At Jefferson, Friday, Dec. 1st

Announcement has been made by Dr. Robert King, of the health department, that a tubercular chest clinic would be held in Jefferson, Dec. 1. Dr. King pointed out that this clinic which is free, is for the purpose of examining those who are referred by their family doctor, those who have been in close contact with a case of tuberculosis, or those who have had the disease or have symptoms of it.

Those desiring to have an examination are asked to register with the health department whose offices are in the courthouse in Jefferson.

Rotarians Will Meet Tonight At M. E. Church

Larry Colvard to Discuss Red Cross Program. Judge Tucker Spoke Thurs.

Tonight the Rotarians are to enjoy a meal that will be prepared and served by members of the Woman's Missionary Society of the West Jefferson Methodist Church in the church basement.

L. P. Colvard, register of deeds and chairman of the Ashe county chapter of the American Red Cross, will be the guest speaker, Bruce Dent, program chairman, has announced. He is expected to make a timely talk on the Red Cross annual roll call that is now under way.

"The eyes of the country are now on Ashe county, the most beautiful and the finest place in the world to live," H. C. Tucker, one of West Jefferson's and the county's greatest boosters, told members of the club last Thursday night.

The scenery and climate in Ashe are unexcelled, he said and pointed out that the county is making rapid progress along all lines.

"Ashe is in the best shape I have ever known it. Our bonds have been refinanced so that we can pay them. We have beautiful homes and wonderful farm lands. REA lines run all over the county, carrying electric current into the farm homes. We have the radio, fairly good roads and good schools."

Judge explained that he started out without much education or money and that he has achieved some measure of success, and added, "there's a chance for every man if he will work hard and for the right things."

"Let's all pull together, be a booster and build a larger and better county and state," he urged in conclusion.

The speaker, who was one of the town fathers of West Jefferson was in charge of the railroad construction in the county, was presented to the club by Rotarian Sharpe Shoemaker. The Judge received a big ovation.

Gwyn Price made an announcement relative to the progress made on the proposed Blue Ridge Cold Storage Co-operative and told about his trip with Senator Austin to Washington.

Past president, Levern Johnson, conducted an installation service for Paul Miller, a new member. Dr. Long was unable to be present.

Ed Bowers Knifed In Back Last Week

Ed Bowers, 30-year-old man of the Buffalo section was painfully injured last Thursday night, when he was stabbed in the back several times by Alf Turnmire.

The two men were reported walking down the railroad tracks near Arthur Sturgill's home at Smethport, when the fight which followed an argument, occurred. Sturgill is reported to have separated the two men. He later brought Bowers to West Jefferson where he was taken by ambulance to the Wilkes hospital for treatment. He returned home Tuesday.

Officers reported that they were on the lookout for Turnmire who had not been found yesterday. Both Bowers and Turnmire were reported drinking at the time the altercation occurred.

Ashe Boy Gets Job In Office Of N. C. Attorney General

Carmon Stuart, who was born and reared in Ashe county in the Crumpler community, has been given a responsible position in the office of the attorney general of North Carolina, Harry McMullan, it was learned here this week.

Carmon graduated with honors at A. S. T. C. and studied law at Duke University where he was also an outstanding student. For the past year or more, he has been associated with a leading law firm in Raleigh.

Carmon is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Stuart.

MISSION WORKER



Miss T. Evelyn Howe, mission sister of the church army, has recently been officially accepted by the National Council to the Protestant Episcopal church as the United Thank offering worker in the diocese of Western North Carolina and is stationed at Glendale Springs. Sister Howe who came to America 13 years ago was born in Ireland. Before entering the missionary training field she was engaged in nursing. (Photo by Parkway Photo Shop).

Rabbit Season To Open Friday, 24th

Quail and Grouse Season Opens Nov. 30. Cautions About Forest Fires.

The rabbit season opens next Friday, November 24 and will remain open until January 2. H. T. Goodman, county game warden, reminds local hunters.

In spite of the Presidential proclamation, moving Thanksgiving up to Thursday, Nov. 23, the quail and grouse season in North Carolina will not open until Thursday, Nov. 30, which will be Thanksgiving day in this state, according to Gov. Clyde Hoey.

The quail season will extend for three months' period, while it will be unlawful to kill grouse after January 15.

It is reported that there is a good supply of quail this year. Rabbits are also plentiful.

"During this exceptionally dry time, every one should be very careful and not let a fire break out of control," Mr. Goodman cautioned. "Fires are great enemies of game and it is mighty easy to start a forest fire at this time."

Applications For AAA Payments Being Filled Out

Applications for soil conservation payments for the 3,200 farmers in Ashe county who co-operated with the AAA program this year are now being made out, C. J. Rich, county agent, stated this week.

As soon as the applications are filled out and checked, notices are sent to the individual farmers to come to the office and sign or to meet at different places in various townships, he stated.

Checking the field supervisors' reports and filling out applications for over 3,000 farmers is a big job and requires right much time to complete, Mr. Rich pointed out.

"However, we are pushing this important work as rapidly as possible and hope to get it finished in the near future," he said.

Peace Proposal Is Rejected By Hitler; 3 Ships Are Sunk

Adolf Hitler this week let the world know that he considers the possibility of peace non-existent at present since Britain and France failed to accept the November 7 mediation offer from the sovereigns of Belgium and the Netherlands.

Hitler's views were made known through his foreign minister, Joachim von Ribbentrop, who told the envoys of the two rulers that the reply would be a polite "no."

Von Ribbentrop gave this notification to Viscount Jacques Davignon, Belgian ambassador, and H. M. Van Hearsme With, Netherlands minister, in advance of formal delivery of the reply in Brussels and the Hague.

Burley Growers To Vote On Production Control Tuesday

Eight Polling Places Selected In This County. Around 1,000 Can Vote

The burley tobacco 1940 acreage allotment and marketing quota referendum will be held next Tuesday in Ashe and surrounding counties as well as throughout the entire burley-producing belt, covering sixteen states.

"If you are an owner, operator, bona fide tenant or share-cropper receiving a share from the 1939 burley tobacco crop, you are eligible to vote in the referendum," E. Y. Floyd, AAA executive officer in North Carolina, pointed out this week.

It is estimated that there about 1,000 eligible voters in Ashe who will produce approximately one half of a million pounds this year.

The county committee met this week and designated eight voting places in the county. The polls will be open from 9 until 5 o'clock in the afternoon.

A committee of three burley growers and one alternate was appointed to be in charge of the voting at each polling place.

The polling places, the territory covered by these places and those in charge are as follows:

J. S. Stephens store—North Fork and Creston townships—Max Barlow, chairman, C. C. Sutherland, J. S. Stephens and Oscar Wilson, alternate.

New River school—Clifton, Laurel and Pond Mountain townships—Paul Sutherland, chairman, W. O. Ashley and John Knox, T. A. Sutherland, alternate.

Sturgill school—Helton township—Bryan Pennington, chairman, Bryan Kirby and Edd Roe, I. G. Spencer, alternate.

Lansing school—Horse Creek, Piney Creek and Hurricane townships—Ed Eller, chairman, Lester Sturgill and M. L. Johnson, C. D. Baldwin, alternate.

J. R. Phipps' store—Walnut Hill township—W. E. Denny, chairman, T. A. Jones and Furd Shattley, Roscoe Oliver, alternate.

A. H. McMillan's store—Chestnut Hill township—A. H. McMillan, chairman, E. F. Gambill, J. B. Pierce, P. L. McMillan, alternate.

Jefferson, courthouse—Jefferson, West Jefferson, Pine Swamp, Old Fields, Elk, Peek Creek and Obids townships—Walter Pennington chairman, J. W. Little and J. E. Witherspoon, R. L. Dixon, alternate.

A. Hart Pasley's store—Grassy Creek—S. V. Alexander, chairman, A. J. Blevins and B. H. Shephard, Ed C. Phipps, alternate.

C. J. Rich, county agent, stated that sentiment in the county seems to be overwhelmingly in favor of controlling production of the 1940 crop in order that prices this year as well as next may be higher than the present outlook indicates.

If two-thirds of the voters approve the referendum, acreage allotments will be set up for the next year's crop and a grower will be permitted to sell all of the tobacco produced on the acreage allotment area without penalty.

It is estimated that this acreage allotment for 1940 will be reduced approximately 10 percent to get production more in line with consumption if the referendum is carried.

METHODIST MINISTER



Rev. Hoyt H. Wood, new pastor of the West Jefferson Methodist church, who with Mrs. Wood came here from Gibsonville, following his appointment at the annual conference.

Red Cross Roll Call In Progress

Every One Is Urged to Join. Goal For County Set at 300 Members.

Much interest is being shown throughout the county in the Red Cross roll call which opened here Nov. 11 and will continue through Thanksgiving, Nov. 30. Everyone who has not joined is asked to do so before the drive ends.

The goal has been set at 300 for this year, and due to the increased demands, this increase in membership is necessary to carry on the work of the organization.

County Chairman, Larry P. Colvard and roll call Chairman Bruce Dent said that the response had been very good so far. Mr. Colvard discussed the drive briefly at the Legion and auxiliary meeting, on Saturday. He will also talk on the work of the Red Cross at the Rotary meeting tonight.

The schools are conducting membership drives and will be given first aid kits and supplies provided they secure their quotas.

Solicitors are making canvasses of the homes and business sections. Those who have not been contacted and wish to join, may secure membership from Mrs. Paul Miller, Mrs. Glenn Neal or Larry Colvard at Jefferson; Bruce Dent, Mrs. Carl Francis, Mrs. Ed. M. Anderson, Gayle McMillan, West Jefferson.

SINGING CONVENTION WILL BE AT FRIENDSHIP

The Ashe County Singing Association will hold its November convention at the Friendship Baptist church the fourth Sunday in this month, starting at 1 o'clock in the afternoon, Coleman Payne, chairman, has announced.

A large crowd is expected to attend. During winter months, the conventions will be held in the Jeffersons.

JOIN STORAGE CO-OP

All farmers are urged to join the Blue Ridge Cold Storage Marketing Co-operative. Complete information is available at the farm agent's office, Join at once!

Large Crew Of Workers Fight Sweeping Flames

Large Area Including Peak and Three Top Mts. Already Burned Over.

HOPE IS FOR RAIN

On most all fronts, the raging fires were checked last night and if a high wind does not rise today, it is believed that the flames will be brought under complete control. A heavy rain would solve the critical problem, too.

Last night over 200 men fought grimly to check the worst forest fire in the history of Ashe county.

It was estimated that approximately 20,000 acres of rugged and uninhabited mountain woodland had already been burned over and that a large number of farm homes, located at the bottom of the Peak and Three Top mountains, had been threatened.

Unless the sweeping flames can be brought under control, this fast-moving fire may spread across another range and threaten the entire town of West Jefferson, those in charge of the fighting stated.

B. B. Graybeal, West Jefferson fire chief, Levern Johnson and other members of the local fire department, L. P. Colvard, Sheriff Ed Miller, as well as a number of other men in the Jeffersons and along the fire-line area, organized a large crew of volunteer workers yesterday afternoon and started fighting the raging flames.

Late yesterday afternoon Senator W. B. Austin obtained permission for a group of CCC boys from the Laurel Springs camp to aid in the battle.

Yesterday afternoon Captain George Doggett, county highway supervisor, had a number of grade A prisoners on the job, cleaning out paths on all sides of the mountains and "fighting fire with fire."

A number of farmers in the section adjacent to the fire area have been busy this week cleaning out around their homes and barns to check the flames.

The extreme dryness and the fact that there is a big quantity of dead chestnut wood all over the mountains cause the fire to burn vigorously and rapidly and a gentle breeze makes it spread at an alarmingly fast pace.

What is feared most is that a high wind will rise and then the chances of getting the flames under control will be more or less hopeless unless a heavy rain falls, and that seems rather unlikely.

The fire is said to have started several weeks ago from an unknown origin in the Long Hope and Peak mountain section near the Tennessee line. Apparently no one paid much attention to it for some time.

When the snow fell, it was thought that the flames would be extinguished, but evidently they were not.

During the past few days the fire has spread fast and has covered the Ben Bowlin section and the Three Top mountains on either side, extending for a distance of nearly 15 miles and varying in width from one to perhaps four or five miles, according to hurriedly conceived surveys.

It is believed by many who (Continued on Page Eight)



ASK A TRULY LEARNED MAN WHO, IN HIS OPINION, KNOWS TH' LEAST AN' HE'LL TELL YA ITS HISSELF.