

# THE SYLVA HERALD

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## A RECORD OF WHICH TO BE PROUD

The management and employees of the Sylva Division of The Mead Corporation are to be congratulated upon the splendid record they have achieved in preventing accidents at the plant here during the period ending December 31. To have run for 229 days without a lost-time accident in an industry of this type is a record of which the Mead people can be justly proud. However, this record did not just happen, which is all the more credit to the management and employees. The company has waged an intensive safety program which has had the full cooperation of the employees. It is through these safety measures promoted and carried out that prevented accidents. In recognition of this fine record the Sylva Division has won the enviable George H. Mead Safety Trophy, which is an annual award to plants making the best record in safety work.

The Herald extends its most hearty congratulations to these people and looks forward to seeing the company make as good or better record in 1947.

## OPPORTUNITY FOR 1947

By this time, most of our New Year's resolutions have been broken and forgotten in the traditional manner. But there is one resolution that should be constantly reaffirmed, and that is to do something positive about our monstrous fire loss, which reached record totals in destruction of life and property last year.

There can be no evading of the fact that most fires are the result of human carelessness alone—the statistics prove that. In order, the four primary causes of fire are matches and smoking materials, defective electric wiring and appliances, defective heating and cooking stoves, and carelessness with open lights and inflammable liquids. Every one of those causes comes straight back to the careless, ignorant and inattentive individual.

In the larger field of community fire prevention, it is clear that we have lagged woefully behind the march of progress, in framing and revising building codes. The recent hotel fires offer ghastly proof of that. Many communities permit the term "fireproof" to be applied to public buildings which are definitely fire traps. And, apparently, few communities insist that areaways and elevator shafts, along which fire can travel with the fury of a typhoon, be closed by approved types of fire doors. That failure alone caused many deaths in 1946.

Sylva has been fortunate in that we suffered no serious fires in 1946. Whether our citizens are less careless in this matter, or we were just lucky, we don't know. The coming year will tell the story. Will it be another chronicle of widespread death and destruction, as in 1946, or will it be a tale of achievement in fighting one of mankind's most persistent enemies? Will Sylva have as good a fire record in 1947 as she had in 1946? We hope so. If every citizen in town will become fire conscious maybe we can have this good a record again.

## YOU'RE TELLING ME!

Artists' models in New York are organizing their own labor union. Their business life, it seems, isn't really as rosy as it is painted.

Good ski jumpers must be fairly level-headed folks, though they're up in the air most of the time.

New York Zoological Society is bequeathed \$2,500,000. Wonder how much is the lion's share.

## Inside Washington

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State George C. Marshall has given no hint, so far, of his plans for the state department. But there are many employees, especially of the department's newer services, who are quaking in their boots.

They are troubled largely by the Republican control of Congress, coupled with the demands of Senator Arthur H. Vandenberg (R) of Michigan that the department be gotten out of the ruts of the past, be dusted off and modernized.

Moreover, they know that former Secretary James Byrnes had planned a wide reorganization to modernize the foreign service. In fact, the budget bureau made a thorough study of the department, which would revise it greatly. Byrnes, busy at distant conferences, never acted.

Observers expect speedy overhauling by Marshall. His impatience with delay is too deeply ingrained to permit of any laggard operations in his department.

"There is one thing, however, that might defeat him. Marshall is due to leave soon for Moscow, where he will be busy for many months. Some observers think that he must have his reorganization plan pretty well thought out and order it put into effect immediately. Otherwise, some of the old hands who are accustomed to their leisurely existence may sabotage his aims.

Harold Ickes won't like this—but Republicans are thinking of restoring the name of Hoover to Boulder dam.

Rep. Jack Anderson (R) of California introduced a bill to honor former President Herbert Hoover by putting his name back on the world's highest dam.

Rumblings against it are heard in the interior department, where Democrats still hold sway. But Congress could override the department, of course. President Truman, an innocent bystander, may have to decide the issue.

There is an overwhelming demand in Congress for labor legislation. But Congress is finding out that the urge for action is about the only thing that members have in common on the question.

There are almost as many proposed ways of doing the job as there are members of Congress.

What this adds up to is a lot of delay and argument before any kind of labor legislation is passed. And beyond that is the threat of veto by President Truman, which would bring the necessity that both Houses muster two-thirds majorities if any legislation is to go on the books.

The Senate labor committee decided to open hearings Jan. 23 and close them Mar. 1. That means that a labor bill probably will not be prepared before the middle of April. Assuming that the floor battles will last a month, it will be mid-May before a labor bill could go to the White House.

If it then is acceptable to the president, the nation's labor policies would be altered or clarified. But if it is vetoed, it would kill probability of labor legislation this year.

It will be pretty hard to pass anything over the president's veto—and Congress is planning to adjourn early in July.

The government cafeteria strike brought to light a little known custom. If workers went outside the building for lunch and spent more than 30 minutes, the extra time had to be deducted from their vacation time.

The practice was revealed when government agencies announced waiver of the rule during the strike.

Loyal workers insist that the seemingly-involved bookkeeping problem never has created difficulties. Other workers are critical; they say the tax-paying public would rather overlook a five-minute overstay for lunch than pay what they think might be a larger bookkeeping cost to account for it.

The most satisfactory sport, it seems to us, must be the game called curling, which is played with brooms. Even the losing team is assured of a clean sweep.

One of the few nice things about January, according to Grandpappy Jenkins, is that you don't have to read any depressing news stories about potential crop failures.

## GROUNDHOG DAY



## The Everyday Counsellor

By REV. HERBERT SPAUGH, D. D.

When are we going to learn that the grass is not always greenest on the other side of the fence, and that we do not have to leave home to find those things which we think are best?

From Lenox, Massachusetts, comes the story of a man who went deer hunting, leaving his wife at home. He left early, and late in the evening came trudging home with nothing but his gun, tired and discouraged. His wife then led him to the garage and showed him a 95-pound buck hanging from the wall. She had felled the deer in her own garden, after sighting it from her kitchen window.

Of course this is an exceptional story, but don't we all have the habit of wanting to leave our own homes for the best public speaker, the best preacher, lawyer, doctor, the best scenery, the best merchandise?

This reminds me of one of those stories handed down in old Salem, N. C. In the early days of the settlement, one of the industries was a pottery, where among other things excellent clay pipes were manufactured. Cigars and cigarettes were not yet in vogue, and smokers kept sets of clay pipes, from which they offered visitors a choice who would smoke them. A fresh reed stem was put in the

pipe. One resident, dissatisfied with the home product, saw an advertisement from New York of an expensive set of clay pipes in plush-lined case. He ordered them. When they arrived he discovered to his surprise that they were "made in Salem."

We don't have to leave home to find the best things in life; they are with us all of the time. Where are better friends than the hometown friends? Who will do more for us in time of need than the members of our own families?

Men and women are roaming over the country, searching for happiness and peace. An increasing number of books are coming from the press telling us how to find it. A host of new pills are assailing us, which we are being told comes from inward tension, frustration and unhappiness.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus said that we do not need to leave home to find peace and happiness. He said that the place to look for them was within our own hearts. When a man learns that he lives in a God-centered world, that when he makes peace with Him, lives his life according to divine plan, peace and happiness come, because he sees God in all about him and within him.

## Sylva P.T.A. Observes Founders Day Monday

The Sylva Parent-Teacher Association joined Monday in the national observance of Founders Day week, which this year was marked by the Golden Jubilee of the organization.

The meeting, which was held at the elementary school, was presided over by Mrs. W. L. Jones, president. Following the devotional given by Miss Bertha Cunningham, a short business session was held. Mrs. Jones reported that telegrams had been sent to representatives and senators bearing endorsement of the P.T.A. for the state health bill and the proposed teachers salary raise. It was also reported that an additional ten dollars had been turned in for the Seal Sale fund.

Featured on the Founders Day program were Mrs. J. F. Freeze and Mrs. Dan Tompkins. Mrs. Freeze spoke on the meaning of the P.T.A. and the reasons for its existence. She told the group of the splendid record achieved by the organization since its beginning.

Mrs. Tompkins spoke on the co-founders of the Parent-Teacher Association, Mrs. Alice Berney and Mrs. Phoebe Hearst. Their vision in seeing the need for cooperation between parent and teachers, for the well being of the child made possible today an organization whose sole purpose is the benefit of the child.

Concluding the program was a lovely tea under the direction of the Hospitality committee, which is headed by Mrs. Ray Cogdill. A large birthday cake bearing golden candles centered the table, and members were served cake and tea.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Kirk and Mr. and Mrs. Homer Davis will leave Saturday for Atlantic City, N. J. where they will attend an automobile show.

## Miss Agnes Wilson Hostess To Bridge Club

Miss Agnes Wilson was hostess Thursday evening for the initial meeting of a newly organized bridge club. Two tables were made up for play.

At the conclusion of the games Mrs. Dan B. Hooper held high score while Mrs. Clyde Rector had made low score. Both were given prizes.

Cakes and ices, decorated to carry out the Valentine motif, were served by the hostess. The tallies and other decorations were also suggestive of the Valentine season.

The members and guests playing were Misses Rebecca Sue Cannon, Lou Elsie Parker, Lela Moore Hall, Lucile Wilson, Hicks Wilson, and Mrs. Clyde Rector, Mrs. Dan B. Hooper, and Miss Wilson, the hostess.

Mrs. Dan K. Moore and two children, Edith and Danny, were guests over the week-end of Mrs. Moore's aunt, Mrs. David Eldfedge, in Chattanooga, Tenn.

of the program, presented Mrs. C. C. Buchanan, librarian at WCTC, who addressed the group on "Our Racial Problem."

Sixteen-club members and their sponsor, Mrs. M. B. Madison, were present. The hostesses served a sweet course.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Ensley of Bryson City spent Sunday with Mrs. Ensley's mother, Mrs. Ute Hyatt at the home of her brother, Mr. Carey Allison, whom she has been visiting for several weeks.

The friends of Mr. W. C. Allison will be glad to know that he is improving at his home after being quite ill for the past several weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. S. W. Enloe and Miss Anne Enloe left Sunday for Atlanta where they were joined by Mrs. Frank Gudenrath for a visit in points in Mississippi, Louisiana, and Florida before returning.

Mrs. E. L. McKee spent the first of the week in Raleigh, returning to her home Tuesday.

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