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J. B. ENSLEY SERVES PUBLIC AT AGE OF 85

Retired Merchant Is Teacher In Sylva Sunday School
 By LARRY W. MULL

John B. Ensley has been teaching a Sunday school class more than two decades, being one of the oldest teachers in the state in point of service.

Mr. Ensley, who celebrated his 85th birthday anniversary Nov. 22, has been teaching the Men's Bible class of the Sylva Baptist church for the past 22 years. A deacon emeritus of the church, he is also greatly interested in other religious and civic activities of his town. He is a member of the board of trustees of C. J. Harris Community hospital.

Born Nov. 22, 1862, in Scotts Creek township of Jackson county, son of the late John and Cynthia Parris Ensley, he was reared on a farm and helped with the work from the time he was six or seven years old.

Mr. Ensley, retired Sylva merchant, recalls the time when the town of Sylva was founded in the year of 1879 by the late E. R. Hampton, who named it for William D. Sylva. "The first building to be erected in Sylva," Mr. Ensley said, "was the home of Mr. Hampton, who had set up a sawmill to manufacture lumber."

During his boyhood Mr. Ensley went with his father on wagon trips to Walhalla, Seneca and Anderson, S. C., taking produce to the markets in those towns and hauling back goods to merchants at Webster—county seat of Jackson at that time. It took from eight days to two weeks to make these trips to market. He attended the public schools, a term of which lasted only about two or three months during the year. Being industrious, he spent a great part of his leisure time in reading, often burning "midnight oil" over his books.

Mr. Ensley has held many public offices. He has been road overseer, school committeeman, justice of the peace, member of the state house, and presidential elector at large. For a number of years he was chairman of the Republican Executive committee of his county, and was among the first presidents of the Jackson County Chamber of Commerce. He also served as deputy collector of revenue for the first district of North Carolina, comprising the counties of Buncombe, Haywood, Henderson, Transylvania, Polk, Jackson, Swain, Graham, Clay, Madison, Cherokee. This post he held for 15



"I learned how to make a drug store fruit sundae today."

years and three months.

In the year 1913 Mr. Ensley went into the feed and grocery business on Depot street in Sylva. He sold this business in 1937 and built a brick store building on Cullowhee road and sold feed and groceries there from 1938 until 1945, at which time he sold out and retired.

The erect carriage and almost unlined face of Mr. Ensley belie his 85 years. His hearing has been little impaired and his vision almost perfect.

Mr. Ensley's first wife was the

ST. JOHN'S CAMP FOR GIRLS ACQUIRES NEW CAMP SITE

Waynesville, N. C.—(Special)—St. John's Camp for Girls in the heart of the Great Smoky mountains has acquired a new camp site consisting of 35 acres on Hyatt creek, five miles south of Waynesville, one mile west of U. S. Highway 19A-23. The property was purchased from J. D. and Elzy Caldwell.

Miss Louise Burdick, physical education director of Cardinal Stritch college, Milwaukee, Wis., and assistant director of St. John's Camp for Girls, arrived here this week to supervise construction on the camp site. Buildings for a dining hall, kitchen, and craft shop will be made from war surplus materials purchased from Fort

former Miss Mollie Queen, who died many years ago. To this union were born nine children, six of whom are living.

His second marriage, in 1924, was to Miss Lucie Luck.

Loves Chapel To Present Christmas Play On Christmas Eve

"The City of David", a Christmas play in four scenes, will be presented by the Loves Chapel Methodist church on Wednesday night, December 24 at 7:30.

There will also be recitations given by the Primary and Junior classes. A number of Christmas

Jackson, S. C. A swimming pool is also being erected.

Five acres of camp will be cultivated. Fruit trees have been planted, and a playground, tennis court, archery field and bridge path are being planned. Miss Burdick stated. Thirty acres of the camp site consist of forest. Pure drinking water is supplied by six springs in the area, and all sanitary arrangements are approved by the county health department.

The camp will open its ninth season June 21, 1948, for girls 6 to 15 for two four-week sessions. Descriptive folders and other information on the camp can be obtained from the director, Rev. Sister Mary Gertrude, O. S. F., St. John's High school, Waynesville, N. C.

Farm horses and mules should be well fed and strong when hard work impends.

carols will be sung on the program.



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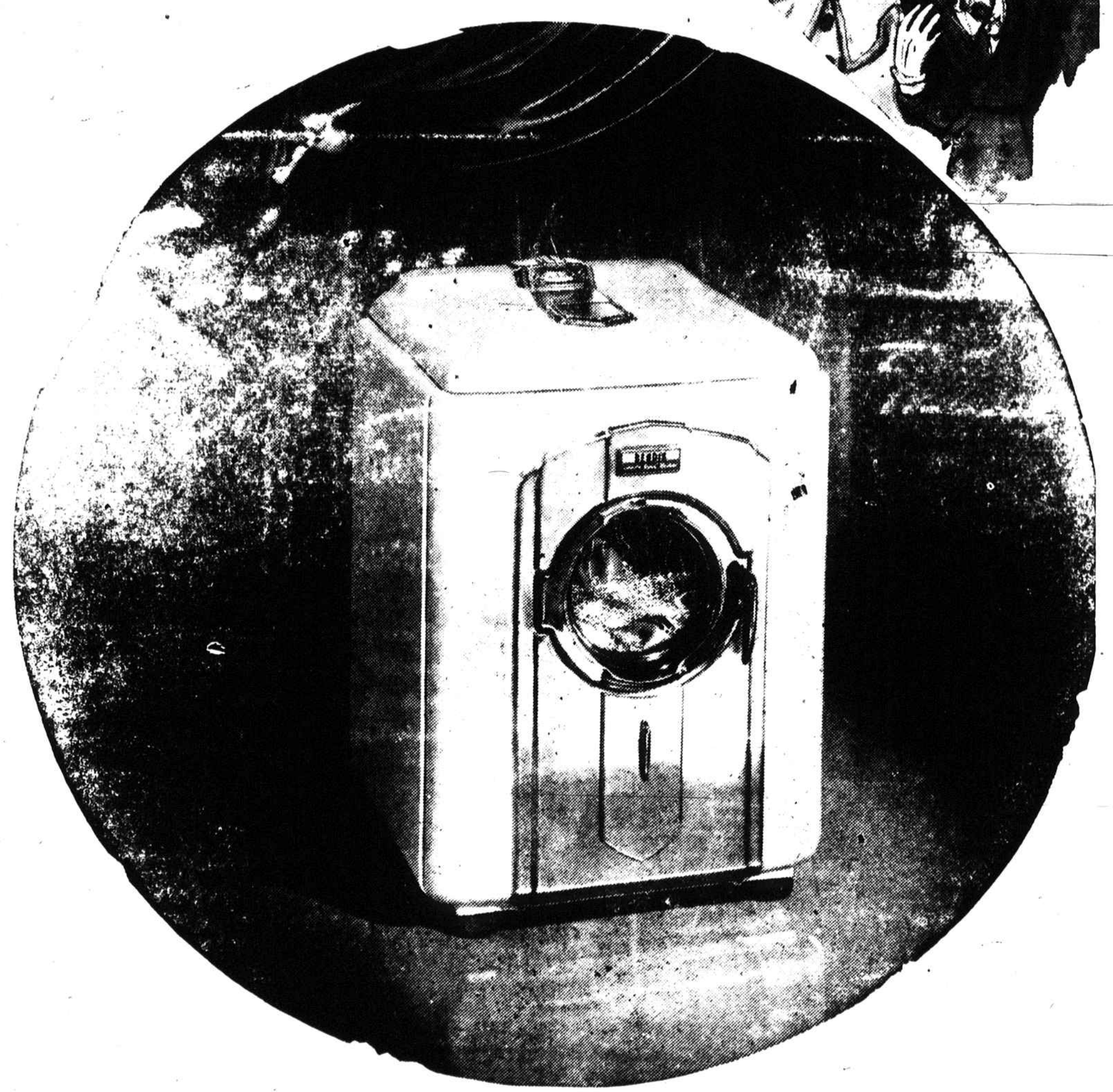
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