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Correspondence

CLYDE CULLINGS

Mr. J. B. Rogers, a leading farmer of Stamey Cove, was here today on business.

Mr. and Mrs. James B. Bradshaw, of Ironduff, were in our "burg" last Saturday.

Mrs. and Miss Smith, of New Jersey, spent several days last week with Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Smathers.

Mr. Spurgeon Ensley, a soldier at Camp Sevier, visited his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Ensley, last Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Mark A. Leatherwood, James G. Jones and his mother, Mrs. C. B. Jones, visited relatives at Camp Sevier last week.

Magistrate DeWitt West is serving our "Uncle Sam" as night telegraph operator at Canton. He is also a member of the town board of aldermen and is an excellent young man.

Those who attended the congressional convention at Asheville last Saturday were: D. L. Smathers, T. H. Haynes, A. G. Shook, Homer West and Walter Smathers.

Miss Louise Lennon, of Knoxville, Tenn., is doing a large business making and selling hats at the store of Grover C. Haynes.

Rev. R. E. Hunt and Prof. L. Q. Haynes delivered war addresses at Lake Junaluska last Saturday evening. The sermon by Mr. Hunt at the M. E. church, south, last Sunday morning on "Is the Young Man Safe?" was indeed a most excellent one.

Rev. L. Q. Haynes will preach at the Baptist church next Sunday morning on the "Millennium." A large congregation is expected to be present and hear this live topic discussed as there is a diversity of opinion regarding it.

Most of the student body of Haywood Institute, Mr. J. L. Morgan, Miss Latimer, Mrs. W. A. Hart and Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Byers, went to Eagle's Nest last Saturday and had a high time.

The commencement exercises of Clyde High School will be held Friday afternoon and Friday night of this week. A debate and recitation contest will be held Friday night which promises to be quite interesting.

Mr. W. H. Ferguson, county farm agent, and W. K. Scott, assistant emergency boys' club agent, addressed the Clyde High School last Friday afternoon at which time about

25 of the Clyde girls and boys joined the various clubs. The speakers in the recitation contest the same afternoon were Misses Ava McCracken, Jennie Green, Pauline Fish and Avie Messer. After considerable discussion the judges, Mrs. W. P. Fincher, W. K. Scott and the writer, finally decided in favor of Miss Green, who will recite in the big contest at Cullowhee.

Miss Eva West, Clyde high school music teacher, and Miss Fannie Fincher, assistant postmaster, are studying telegraphy. They have a telegraph line extending from the post office to R. W. West's store over which they send and receive telegrams.

Colonel F. K. Bailey, of South Carolina, will have charge of the Medford Farm this summer where he and another gentleman will establish a military school, build a lake and teach young men to swim and dive.

At 2 o'clock Saturday afternoon of this week a War Savings Society will be organized at Haywood Institute auditorium. Hon. Felix E. Alley and Dr. Green, of Waynesville, are expected to address the society. Let all the people come and hear these distinguished speakers and join the society.

—M. B. S.

ROCK SPRING ITEMS

The farmers of this section are very busy planting potatoes, harrowing their land and preparing to plant corn.

Wheat in this part of the country is looking good; 50 per cent better than it did April 1, 1917. The prospects are good for a big crop of fruit and berries. Let us one and all get busy and can, dry and preserve the entire crop. Let nothing go to waste.

Mr. Rider Hogland, of Rock Springs, returned from a visit to Camp Sevier last week. He said the boys in camp are well cared for and have plenty to eat and that they are more than anxious to go to France to fight the Kaiser.

Mr. James Smith, of Big Branch, was a visitor at James Chapel last Sunday and took dinner with H. W. Carver.

It may be a surprise to the readers of our good paper to learn that we have a new town on Ball Creek—Janessville. There are four streets leading from the square, South Main, North Main, Brooklyn avenue and June Bug Lane.

Mrs. Will Bradshaw and Mrs. Leo Dunkin visited friends on Sandy Mush last week.

Mr. Horace Medford and James Bugg made a trip to Canton Sunday.

Mr. F. W. Messer, our merchant-farmer, is making great improvements on his new farm.

Mr. Ralph Janes and Will Duckett are still on the job trading horses.

There has been much talk through the papers of late about the proposed dog law or in other words, "Dogs vs. Sheep." We certainly do need a dog law that will give the farmer some protection for his sheep. We also need a road law that will give our roads some protection. We need a law to build and maintain roads by direct taxation. The old way, by "free labor," has proven a failure. Have we a candidate for representative with the nerve to step out and tell the people through the Mountaineer just where he stands and what he will do in regard to a dog and road law?

A man who hasn't that much nerve is not worthy of the voter's consideration. There is a saying that "You can fool all the people part of the time and part of the people all the time, but you can't fool all the people all the time." I think we have been fooled long enough. Let's get down to business and try to ascertain just what our candidates stand for.

—W. BILL.

PINES CREEK FOLKS

Corn planting seems to be the principal occupation here and everybody's striving for a larger crop than usual.

Mrs. Wes. Curry, Mrs. Gaither Ferguson and Mrs. D. R. Noland, of this township, are in the Meriwether hospital at Asheville.

Mrs. Georgia Rhea, of Canton, formerly of this township, has been very ill.

Erastus Messer, candidate, of Waynesville, was seen in our "burg" last week.

Lawrence Kirkpatrick, of Bluff, N. C., brought his cattle to his grass farm here this week.

Aunt Binda Fisher visited her brother, G. W. Green, of Canton, the past few days.

Our Sunday school reorganized last Sunday with Silas Kirkpatrick superintendent, Burnett Webb chairman, and Mrs. Webb organizer.

A party of young folks motored to Asheville Saturday, returning Sunday.

Zeb Ferguson took his flock of over

100 sheep to his farm on Spring Creek a few days ago. Hope the dogs will not raid them, as they have already killed a lot of sheep in that section.

—"MADGE."

CANTON CLIPPINGS

(Observer.)

Messrs. John M. Curtis and E. E. Clark will leave Monday for Hot Springs, Ark., where they will spend several weeks.

Mr. W. J. Hampton, who has been at Hot Springs, Ark., for several weeks for his health, is expected to return to Canton in a few days.

The announcement of the marriage of Mr. Wayne M. Smathers and Miss Fannie P. Sigmon has surprised their numerous Canton friends. The ceremony was performed on Saturday night, March 30, at the home of R. R. Cook. The officiating minister was the Rev. W. H. Pless.

C. W. Hawkins, a merchant of Canton, has filed a voluntary bankruptcy in the office of W. S. Hyams, clerk of the United States court. In his returns, Mr. Hawkins lists his liabilities at \$1,940.28 and his assets at \$1,772, claiming from the latter a \$500 exemption for personal property.

On Monday last the complete distilling outfit, captured March 19 by Officers E. J. Stroup, C. M. Blaylock and G. C. Brookshire, was taken to Waynesville and turned over to the county commissioners who are required by law to destroy it. The reward of \$20, which the law provides for the capture of an illicit still, will be divided among the three officers.

CAMP SEVIER CHAT

Camp Sevier, April 7, 1918.

Dear Mountaineer: This cold, rainy evening I will write a few lines. There are no happenings of interest this week.

The paper passes through many eager hands when it comes to camp. We are glad to see the different writers getting back on the job; that's one thing we certainly have to do—be on the job.

It is the general opinion that we won't be here so very long but we can't tell about that.

In regard to Mr. Sinclair's speech about the Germans coming up the Mississippi valley, I can't get it made up in my mind that they will ever see the Mississippi valley. If they should, I believe they will be sewed like Governor Bickett said Kaiser Bill was sewed. They'll go down the valley one by one, with hot bullets in their pants.

Most of the boys are very anxious to get started "over there," but I suppose we haven't had enough training to be taken yet.

I must close. Success to all.

L. R. WILLIS.

FROM PECKHAM, COLORADO

Peckham, Colo., April 2, 1918.

Dear Mountaineer:

We are surely having some fine weather here. We had a little rain the other day, the first in seven months. The farmers are getting along fine with their work and trying for bigger crops to help win the war.

Most everybody here belongs to the Red Cross. The school children are knitting sweaters and wristlets for the soldier boys.

I have been here two years and think this is a fine country. It is as level as a floor almost as far as one can see. Although you can see the Rocky Mountains from Peckham, which have snow on them all summer, they are 80 miles away. There is where we get our water for irrigation, which comes from a large ditch from a river. Each farmer has so many shares of stock and a ditch of his own connecting with the big ditch which waters his farm. Then we have a ditch rider who sees that each farmer gets his share of water.

Yours truly,

ELEEN PRESLEY.

FROM FORT THOMAS, KY.

Fort Thomas, Ky., March 4, 1918.

Editor Mountaineer: You will please allow me space in your valuable paper for the following.

Having been located at Fort Thomas recruiting station since December 14, 1917, which you will see when you look on your calendar was almost four months ago, I feel that the experience I have had within that time has really been worth more to

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Will You Serve As A Red Cross Worker In France?

The Bureau of Personnel of the Southern Division of the American Red Cross has been asked by Washington Headquarters to supply at the earliest possible time a number of men and women for Red Cross work in France. The request from Washington follows a cablegram from Henry P. Davison, chairman of the Red Cross War Council, who is now in France studying conditions, and who is deeply impressed with the vital necessity of materially increasing the number of Red Cross workers in Europe at this critical time.

Mr. Davison's cablegram says in part:

"Conditions are now such that every intelligent American man and woman with the right spirit and unquestioned loyalty can be utilized. You cannot send too many and there is work for all who come."

Knowing that Mr. Davison is now personally in touch with the situation in France, H. D. Gibson, general manager of the Red Cross, is urging all Division Offices and Bureaus of Personnel to do everything in their power to increase the number of men and women offering their services for work abroad.

All parties interested are asked to consult with Mrs. Kate C. Pegues, Waynesville.

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me than any four months of my past life.

Fort Thomas is beautifully located among the mountains of old Kentucky just across the Ohio river from Cincinnati, and the people here are indeed nice to the soldier boys and of course that makes us love the camp life so much more.

On Saturday night, March 30, all the soldier boys in Fort Thomas were invited to the Soldiers' and Sailors' Club in Cincinnati, and believe we all had something to enjoy while there. The mayor gave a good speech just for the benefit of the soldiers and sailors, also had good music, something good to eat and every person there enjoyed it to the fullest extent.

Camp life at Fort Thomas is a life worth living. I only weighed about 170 when I came here in December and now I weigh 210 and feel better than I ever have.

I will leave here tomorrow, April 5, for Fort Beardon, Wash., which is only a short distance from Seattle. I only hope I may find the people there as courteous to the soldiers as they are at and near Fort Thomas.

I will probably let the good people of Haywood county hear more from me when I get to my next post of duty. Yours very truly,

CORDELL RUSSELL.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

The Good Roads and the Better Schools questions are so closely related that the discussion of one necessarily involves the other; if improvement is made along one line the other is soon benefitted. When a community builds good roads, the very next step is to build a better school house and lengthen the school term. Where the ancient pig and sheep trail suffices for a road, the dilapidated school house with crude, straight backed desks or split log benches is still used to accommodate the pupil with the expectation of making a good citizen of him. It goes without saying that some good men have gone out into the world who have received their education in just such quarters, but there is no excuse in this age for any such makeshift. The stock men provided quarters for their stock in these far behind communities just about as well as they provided for the education of their boys and girls, while today in the same communities they make good provision for the care of the cattle and hogs, while the boys and girls must tough out their school days on the same old seats their parents warmed in the good olden times. I don't say these conditions prevail in all country communities, but in some it does. Who is at fault? The writer

happens to know that the county board of education in Haywood has done exceedingly well with the meager sum provided for the public schools of the county, and it is owing to the good management of the superintendent and the board that the schools are getting along as well as they are. So then the trouble lies where it generally does in such cases—with the people. When every district in the county that has a special school tax doubles it, and the districts which have no tax votes one to equal that of the others, then we can expect better schools. It is not necessary to say much about better qualified teachers, for we cannot expect teachers to spend one or two thousand dollars qualifying themselves to teach for \$30 or \$40 per month, five months in the year. When we are able to pay reasonable salaries, the properly qualified teachers can be found.

Now, then, when we get the schools in better condition the roads will follow, and when we get the roads some plan to maintain them will be worked out. This disgraceful "free labor" system should be abolished for all time to come.

One of the most familiar scenes the writer recalls is the fence lined with a few men and boys with some worn out hoes, a mattock or two, perhaps a shovel that saw action at York Town. This was road working day, and not as much work was done in a day by that crew as would have been done in the same length of time by one man at \$1 a day.

The taxpayer is the man mostly benefitted by good roads, and it must fall to his lot to foot the bills if we ever have better roads. The complaint is often made that the loafer gets the most benefit, but the day of the loafer is almost gone. North Carolina has a vagrancy law on the statute books that, if enforced, will

put the loafer to work on the public road if he is not disposed to work for the maintenance of his family. Now the writer has no specific plan to offer to raise the money for roads, for there are several good ones, with some objectionable features in all, but we cannot wait for the perfect plan. Let us have roads first, and then we will not object so much to paying for them. One fellow says he is opposed to putting a tax on his children to pay. What he really means is that he is too durned stingy to eat a square meal. Better roads and better schools make better people.

Speaking of loafers, there is food for reflection right there, and if some of the said loafers were put to work there would be more food for some hungry children in Haywood county. The loafing crime (and it amounts to a crime in time of a world's war when every man is needed at the front or at home producing something to help win the war) is not confined to the single man alone, but there are married men in almost every community loafing, producing nothing, yet eating a plenty. Governor Bickett's suggestion to "Go to work or go to the roads" should be carried out. Shirkers and slackers should find no favor in the eyes of any good citizen in this time of need. If the exemption board only had power to round up all such and send them along to the training camps it would be best for the community which have to harbor such parasites.

The writer really believes that the man who believes in, works for, and helps pay for a better country here below stands a better chance of reaching a better country in the hereafter than the one he left behind.

—TAXPAYER.



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