

Telephone Hearing Ends; Decision Is Due In June

Recent Rate Increase Draws Sharp Criticism From Users

Both Western Carolina Telephone Co. and subscribers protesting the firm's application for a rate increase cleared the line Friday morning and left the rest of the conversation to the State Public Utilities Commission.

Final word on the application will probably be forthcoming some time in June, Commission Chairman Harry T. Westcott said. The firm has applied for a rate increase that would provide additional gross revenue of \$283,075.08 annually.

Both the attorneys for the company and the protesting group claimed the privilege of filing briefs with the commission on the three-day hearing which adjourned about 10 p. m.

Charles W. Hayes, assistant attorney general assigned to the commission, said he will likely also file a brief. F. Kent Burns and E. P. Deaton, representing the protest group, and Western Carolina attorney Kester Walton, agreed to the commission's request that briefs be filed within 20 days after copies of the transcript are mailed.

A bare minimum of 15 working days will be required to receive the testimony, and other work will extend the time to 30 or 40 days.

Two protest vigils were called Friday morning, the fourth day of the hearing in the District Court Federal Building.

Mrs. Glend Harlan Waverly, Asheville, and Mrs. J. W. Harlan, Asheville, called the telephone company "greedy" and "unscrupulous" during the hearing.

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Error In Time Of Precinct Meetings Sat.

In the advertisement on Page Six, the time of the Democratic precinct meetings is listed as 2 p. m. This should be 10:00 a. m. All precinct meetings in the county will be at 10 a. m. Saturday morning.

DEMO PRECINCT MEETINGS TO BE HELD SATURDAY

County Convention To Be At Courthouse Here On Saturday, May 12

At the precinct meetings on May 11th, the Democrats residing in that precinct elect a five-member committee, at least two of whom will be men, and at least two will be women. The precinct committee, after their election, will select from its membership a chairman and vice chairman, one of whom shall be a woman and the other a man, and a secretary-treasurer. Both the precinct chairman and vice chairman are automatically members of the county executive committee.

James stated that wide publicity is being given the first general Democratic county convention. It will be held at the courthouse here on Saturday, May 12.

C. of C. President



Jim Story

OFFICERS ARE ELECTED AT CC MEETING TUES.

Story Is Elected President, Next Fiscal Year Critical

The C. of C. meeting Tuesday evening was a successful one. Officers were elected and the next fiscal year was declared critical.

The meeting was held at the courthouse and was attended by a large number of members.

The officers elected for the next fiscal year are: President, Jim Story; Vice President, ...

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HOT SPRINGS WOMAN SHOTS MAN, HERSELF

Gahagan Gets Neck Wound; Miss Talton Fires A Bullet In Chest

An all-night party in the home of Miss Margaret Talton in Hot Springs, came to an abrupt halt early Monday morning, police said, when Miss Talton shot E. W. Gahagan Jr., then turned the pistol on herself.

Miss Talton, about 45, suffered a .22 bullet wound in the chest and Gahagan, about 50, of Rt. 5, Marshall, had a similar wound in the neck. Both are in satisfactory condition.

Police Chief LeRoy Johnson swore out warrants charging Miss Talton with assault with a deadly weapon, with intent to kill and charging Gahagan with being drunk and disorderly.

Sheriff E. Y. Ponder said the shootings climaxed a party and brawl in the Talton home in Hot Springs.

EXTEND TIME FOR UNIFIED TOBACCO COMMENTS, VIEWS

The three ... fair condition.

Feldman said the investigation would be continued but a preliminary check at the scene of the accident indicated the convertible rounded a curve at high speed on the wrong side of the road. The auto was headed north and when it crashed into the truck, Feldman said, the pickup was knocked backwards for 25 feet and went over an embankment.

Due to the extremely dry condition of our woodland, State Forester F. H. Claridge has ordered all outstanding burning permits canceled.

No more permits will be issued until we have a general rain and further orders that no burning to be done within 500 feet of woodland until we have a general rain.

J. MOODY CHANDLER, County Forest Ranger

Fisherman Bitten By Copperhead Snake At Ivy Wednesday

Albert Tipton, 44-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Coleman Tipton, of the Hillside section of Marshall, was bitten by a copperhead snake Wednesday afternoon while fishing at the Furness Brook near the Ivy bridge.

The man was bitten on the left leg and the bite is being treated by a physician.

WOMEN'S DEMO MEETING CANCELLED

The May meeting of the Madison County Women's Democratic Club has been cancelled, according to Mrs. George A. Clapp, president.

The meeting was scheduled for May 10 at 2 p. m. in the ...

Appeal Made To Governor For New Hot Springs Road



BOOSTERS briefed Gov. Sanford on hopes to establish a leading tourist center. The governor met with the town Friday at Grove Park Inn in Asheville. Mayor Jobie Henderson, Father A. V. Graves, ...

Friday's meeting was opened by Father Andrew V. Graves, chairman of the Hot Springs planning board, who briefed the governor on the town's history, pointing out that as many as 400 people had crowded into the Hot Springs Hotel at the turn of the century. A hotel built on the same site now is used as a private residence.

Father Graves told the governor that the Hot Springs Redevelopment Corp. has been organized and now holds the option to buy the hot springs and about 100 acres of surrounding land for \$175,000.

The study will not begin until next week, but already the Hot Springs people have been told by professional planners that success of such a project depends on a good road.

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Conference Is Held At Grove Park Inn, Asheville Last Friday

By BOB SEYMOUR, Citizen Staff Writer

The future of Hot Springs as a tourist resort rests with the State Highway Commission.

This was made clear Friday at a meeting in Grove Park Inn of Hot Springs residents with Gov. Terry Sanford and officials of the federal Area Redevelopment Administration.

Hot Springs recently became the recipient of the first North Carolina ARA financial grant. The \$18,000 grant, with \$2,000 of local money, will finance a study into the economic feasibility of constructing a complex of tourist attractions centering around the hot springs for which the town was named.

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