

THE MOUNTAINEER
 Published By
THE WAYNESVILLE PRINTING CO.
 Main Street Phone 137
 Waynesville, North Carolina
 The County Seat of Haywood County

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 W. Curtis Russ and Merion T. Bridges, Publishers

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES
 One Year, In Haywood County \$1.00
 Six Months, In Haywood County .50
 One Year Outside Haywood County \$1.50
 All Subscriptions Payable in Advance

Entered at the post office at Waynesville, N. C., as second class mail matter, as provided under the act of March 3, 1879, November 29, 1934.

Obituary notices, resolutions of respect, cards of thanks, and all notices of entertainments for profit, will be charged for at the rate of one cent per word.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1937

ROOSEVELT AND THE COURT

Despite all the talk and fuss about President Roosevelt's proposal to increase the membership of the United States Supreme Court from nine to fifteen members, there really isn't much to argue about.

It's an open and shut proposition. The three departments of our Federal government are supposed to be three distinct and separate units: executive, legislative and judicial.

The reason why the President wants to add more men to the Supreme Court is so that he can appoint judges who will carry out his wishes.

That means that the judicial branch of the government would be subservient to the executive branch.

In addition to that, there is one important factor to be considered. President Roosevelt was elected by an overwhelming majority at the last election. The Senate and House of our National Congress are also Democratic by a wide margin. This means that most of the membership will be inclined to back up anything and everything that the President suggests. Which means further that not only the judicial branch of the government but also the legislative branch would be subservient to the Chief Executive.

In other words, it is apparent that unless the brakes are applied we are going to have a political dictatorship in this country which will be almost like that now in existence in Germany and Italy.

The power of a dictator in the hands of President Roosevelt might be a grand thing. It should be remembered, however, that Mr. Roosevelt will not always be president; that other administrations will follow his and that we might not approve of placing into their hands the authority which Mr. Roosevelt is now seeking for himself. They, too, would be able to pack the Supreme Court and make that body conform to their wishes. They, too, would be able to control Congress. They, too, would be able to rule things with an iron hand. But their method of handling the nation's affairs might not be to our liking at all. Nevertheless, the power would be theirs, and we could do nothing about it.

And that is why we said at the outset that this is an open and shut proposition, with very little room for argument in it.

Are we going to place all of our governmental power—executive, judicial and legislative—in the hands of one man, or are we going to keep them separate and apart, as has been the case in the past?—The State, Raleigh.

SOME FACTS ABOUT THE SUPREME COURT.

At this time when the Supreme Court issue is a general topic of conversation the following facts regarding the court are worth knowing:

The Supreme Court of the United States was established in 1789 with six (6) members.

In 1807, five years later, the membership of the Supreme Court of the United States was increased to seven (7).

In 1837, thirty years later, the membership of the Supreme Court of the United States was increased to nine (9).

In 1863, during the War Between the States, the membership of the Supreme Court of the United States was increased to ten (10).

In 1866, just three years later, the membership of the Supreme Court of the United States was reduced to seven (7).

In 1869, also a three year interval, the membership of the Supreme Court of the United States was increased to nine (9) and has been at that figure ever since.—Morganton News-Herald.

"GET US OUT OF THE MUD"

The press of the state, seems to have risen "up in arms" during the past few weeks, over the conditions of secondary roads in the state. The weeks of steady rain have made some of the roads the worst in years. Schools in many counties have had to suspend their work because of the roads.

Under the caption, "Get Us Out of the Mud," The Mecklenburg Times had the following comment to make:

"Get us out of the mud" is the cry of rural residents in all parts of North Carolina. This winter has given a severe test to the roads in North Carolina and many of them have been impassable for weeks at a time, making it impossible for school busses to operate in many districts and slowing down traffic of all kinds.

Rural residents feel that they have paid sufficient taxes into the state highway department to have much better roads than they are getting. They also feel that more money is being spent on what is known as primary highways than is necessary and that the greater part of these funds should be diverted to improvements of secondary roads which have been neglected during the past five years.

These people are in dead earnest and expect to continue until they get some action from the highway department. Many of them feel that the highway department has an enormous amount of money. In fact, it is known that other state departments have tried to get funds diverted from the highway department for use in other state departments. Farmers in this section want no diversion of funds except from primary roads to secondary roads.

According to reports from the highway department made public to the legislature there is at present about \$160 per mile per year available for maintenance of county roads. This is a great amount of money but the people of this county do not believe that they have had the average amount for roads in Mecklenburg County.

In addition to the money collected by the state highway department for roads, the Federal government has furnished considerable funds for highways, roads and streets, very little of which has come to any of the secondary roads. The National Emergency Council during the period from April 8, 1935 to December 31, 1936 spent in North Carolina for highways, roads and streets, \$8,648,455 according to Robert M. Gantt state director. Money from other Federal funds has been used in employing labor and purchasing material for highways in this state. With all of this the secondary road system went to pieces during this winter so that school buses could not run and many farmers could not get their automobiles away from home.

Following this same line of thought, The Gates County Index, takes the position that the state is getting the cart before the horse, in providing a million and a half dollars for free school books for the children, when the rural roads are getting worse all the time, and with many more rainy weeks as we have just experienced, the schools won't be open long enough to justify the expenditure for the free text books.

AN IMPORTANT MEETING

Tonight, at seven thirty, at the court house, the interested and loyal citizens of this community will meet for the annual reports and election of officers of the Chamber of Commerce.

This is an important meeting. There will be matters of importance that will be brought up and disposed of.

The election of the ten directors in itself, will be most important.

Those who have been prone to criticize the organization, and what it has accomplished, should be there and hear the reports of the officials.

If you are interested in the future of your community, you will make every effort to attend this meeting tonight at seven-thirty. You can be assured that no subscriptions will be sought, no back pledges collected. In fact, you can leave your pocketbook at home, but bring all the family.

TOO MANY CONFLICTING MEETINGS

Every week there seems to be a conflict of public meetings in this community. From time to time civic and religious organizations will schedule important meetings at the same time, and expect the same people to attend.

It seems to us, that since this community has a full-time secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, that it would be wise to list with him the date, hour and place of all proposed meetings.

We feel that the secretary would be pleased to keep records of such meetings, and thus eliminate a lot of worry on the part of those in charge of meetings to find "an open date and hour."

THE OLD HOME TOWN by STANLEY



Random SIDE GLANCES

By W. CURTIS RUSS

My nerves are still on edge, from the fright I received last week. It so happened, that as I was typing an editorial based on the fourth boiler explosion in this state within a few months, that I heard a hissing sound that grew louder and louder.

At first, the direction of the frightful sound could not be determined. I thought of the boiler in the basement, then of the gasoline tanks at the service station next door. The thoughts of them, however, only added more fear in my trembling soul, as the sound grew louder.

In a desperate lunge, I made to the window, and was relieved to find that a car had been driven into the service station air line near my window, and the pipe had snapped.

Needless to say, the contemplated editorial was thrown into the waste basket, and my thoughts were quickly diverted to more delightful things than bursting boilers—and I hope broken air lines.

Several days after the "air line fright" I was listening to R. E. O'Farrell, manager of the station, tell how it all happened, and then it was all very amusing.

And, by the way, Mr. O'Farrell tells me about a farmer, who had a large herd of cattle. He bought some special hay for them, but they refused to eat it. For weeks the cattle trampled the hay under their feet—never taking a bite.

One day, the farmer—an energetic man—built a fence around his hay. He raked all the hay together and put it inside the fence, out of reach of the cattle.

Within a week, the cattle had broken down the fence, gotten to the hay, and had eaten every last bite.

And right along that same line, Mr. O'Farrell told of another farmer who had three pretty daughters, all in their twenties, but neither of them had any boy friends, and the proud father was beginning to wonder if he would have three old maids on his hands. So he hit upon a plan.

The plan was like this. Every where he went that there was a group of single men, he always mentioned in boastful terms, that under no circumstances would he allow his daughters to have company.

The story goes, that within a year, each of the three daughters had taken unto herself a husband.

A CHANGE OF HEART

The legislature of Georgia has traveled a long way since they gave Governor Talmadge such a free hand in their state. Governor Talmadge ruled with a strong hand, not having an appropriation bill from the legislature, he proclaimed that he would spend the state's money according to his own judgment. When the treasurer and comptroller refused to release the money he appointed new officials, using national guards to enforce his orders. The new legislature last week voted for an investigation into the regime of ex-Governor Talmadge who meanwhile, has retired to the grass roots of his own farm.

HIGH COMMISSIONER

Last week President Roosevelt announced that Paul V. McNutt, of Indianapolis, who retired last month as Governor of Indiana, had been appointed as High Commissioner to the Philippines, a post which carries a salary of \$18,000 a year. Mr. McNutt, known as "the handsomest governor in America," was an ardent Roosevelt supporter in the last campaign. He is 45, tall and dark, a past commander of the American Legion, a former dean of the Law School of the University of Indiana, a Methodist, a Mason and an Elk.

LETTERS to the Editor

A SOLDIER

Editor The Mountaineer:—

I have one of the most versatile jobs in the world. I sometimes fill the place of a typist and stenographer. In many cases that classifies a person as an office worker exclusively. Not so with my job. I may be called at any moment to the field with all the resourcefulness of a woodsman and pitch a tent where the water won't run in and fix the ground so I can sleep in comfort.

The man who makes a living driving a truck along the highways and I have much in common. At times I drive heavy trucks with loads trailing behind that weigh tons and worth thousands of dollars. Sometimes I am a bus driver. I am at times a garage worker, repairing and keeping motors in condition. On the other hand I may be a photographer, using a small camera or an amateur movie camera. I may even develop my own films.

This isn't all that my job requires. I have to know something about ohms and kilowatts, international code and radio sets. I should know the principles of telephony and telegraphy. In addition I should know some first aid and sanitation. I should know how to apply tourniquet and treat for shock. Perhaps I will have to use artificial resuscitation to save a drowning man. Who knows?

MRS. ROOSEVELT ON LIFE IN THE WHITE HOUSE

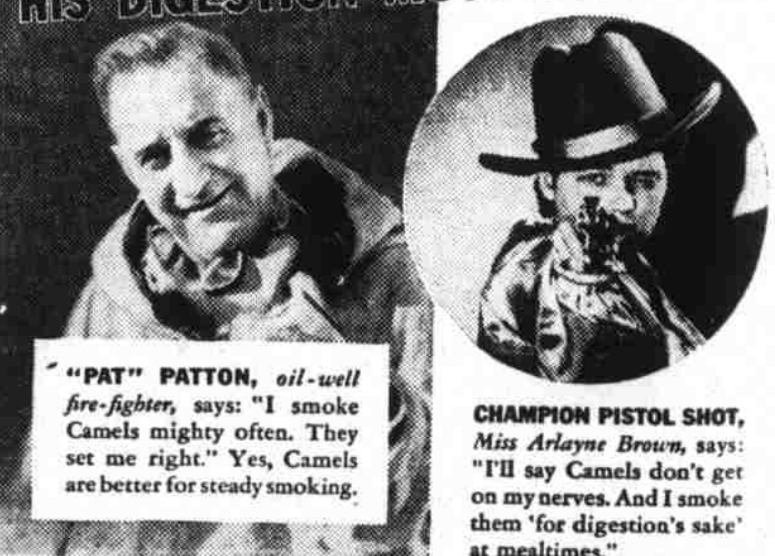
Last week Mrs. Roosevelt told a record gathering at Cornell University of the annual Farm and Home week, that "Being the President's wife is hard work. Any man who is President pays a price for being your public servant. He has very little time of his own. When a farmer's day is over, it's over."

It probably isn't hard to guess what I do, but I am one of the persons who will not tell all of this when you ask what I do for a living. It is so much easier to answer, "I am a soldier." To those who have no idea what that short phrase encompasses it is hard to explain.

There is one thing that I nor those who follow the same vocation do not do. We do not become wealthy.

JOHN BEST,
8th F. A. Btry. A.,
Schofield Barracks,
Honolulu, Hawaii

HIS DIGESTION MUST STAND UP



—for Digestion's sake—smoke Camels!

"I Know Just The Thing For That!"

Almost everyone who has been sick has been told by some friend, "I know just the thing for that."

It is really amazing that people who would never presume to give advice in other specialized fields, such as the law or engineering, feel that their word is of value in the important matter of health. It takes a doctor long years of specialized study to acquire the knowledge necessary to diagnose and treat illness.

It is always safer and more sensible to seek the advice of a doctor in any illness, no matter how trivial the ailment may seem to be. Again we say—

ASK YOUR DOCTOR

ALEXANDER'S DRUG STORE

Phones 53 & 54 Opposite Post Office

TWO REGISTERED PHARMACISTS FOR YOUR PROTECTION