

THE MOUNTAINEER
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THURSDAY, MARCH 4, 1937

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

For the past two years, Chas. E. Ray, Jr. has been president of the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce. The fact that the organization has not had a president since his death was at the time a matter of regret, and the organization has been in a state of limbo during the past two years. It is a matter of regret that Mr. Ray's death has left a void in the organization which has not yet been filled. It is a matter of regret that the organization has not yet had a president since his death. It is a matter of regret that the organization has not yet had a president since his death.

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SCHOOL EXPENSES

Current expenses for each pupil enrolled in school in Haywood County for 1934-35 was \$21.98, according to the University News Letter for the past week. This is over eight dollars less than that spent for the 1929-30 term, at which \$29.69 was spent for each child.

The average for the state was set at \$24.18, which is third from the bottom in all the 48 states. New York state led, with an average of \$124.13.

Haywood County is just at the half-way mark in rank in the state, being the 51st county.

The University News Letter explains these figures further, by saying:

"Perhaps the two major explanations for our unbelievably low cost are the economies achieved through the state administration of our school system, and the extremely low salaries paid to school teachers and others connected with the public school system of the state. It is probable that the major explanation lies in the low salary schedule in North Carolina. It is a fairly safe observation to make that in view of their training and experience and length of term taught, North Carolina teachers are the lowest paid in the United States. They do not miss much of being the lowest paid without making any qualifications whatsoever. In other words, it is apparent that the average dollar spent on public education in North Carolina buys more public education than the average dollar spent in any other state in the Union."

THE QUESTION OF LIQUOR CONTROL

Never before have the citizens of North Carolina given as much thought to the question of liquor control as they are today. We do not believe that the people have ever been more sincere in their opinions. Neither do we feel that they have ever tried harder to seek the best solution to this major question.

For the sake of a better understanding, we shall try and point out a few facts that should be taken into consideration on this important question.

First of all, what we have to say shall be based on facts, and not opinions.

North Carolina is a wet state.

Any citizen living in the state can legally buy liquor from any place where it is legally sold. It can be bought personally, or via express, in quantities up to a gallon per person.

Liquor can be bought in counties where it is legally sold, and transported to any county in the state, as long as the seals on the containers are not broken during the course of transportation.

A citizen of Haywood can go to Virginia, South Carolina or any of the 17 counties in this state where liquor is legally sold, buy as much as a gallon, return home with it and go to any cafe and order food and drink his liquor, and as long as he remains sober and behaves the officers of the law cannot arrest him. This statement is from those in charge of enforcing the law in Haywood County.

Some talk for that point in the recently passed liquor law of the state.

There seems to be on the part of those who are opposed to liquor stores, that a compromise on the question could be had by placing all wine and beer in the liquor store, and have all the other strict county control.

That has been a subject of much discussion during the past week or so—and discussed freely by both factions.

At first glance that proposition seems perhaps a happy solution to the problem, and the means of avoiding a bitter fight when the question is voted on.

But on the other hand, the proposition will not prove to be as satisfactory for those opposed to a liquor store as they would have it. In the first place, people who want to drink beer or wines, in most instances drink it at the place it is sold. Very few people take beer home.

The liquor law clearly states that there shall be no drinking in the liquor stores, but if wine and beer are put in the liquor store, it will complicate matters to a point beyond control, and destroy the real purpose back of the proposal.

If the county is to control the retail sale of wine and beer, it appears that these two items will have to be sold from a separate store than the liquor store. That will mean double operating expenses, but under no circumstances, do we feel that the sale of wine, beer and liquor all from one store would prove satisfactory.

The paper feels that the sooner the election is held, and the question settled—for at least three years—that the better we will all be. The question is already beginning to dwell in the minds of some until they have taken quite narrow views—this is true of both sides. And the sooner the majority of the people decide via the ballot what they wish is, we shall all become somewhat over-fed on the subject.

The Mountaineer has always been "bone dry." The fact that the state is wet has not changed our views on the wet and dry question.

We are, however, trying to look at this important question of control with an open mind. We shall respect the views of everyone on this matter. We do not honestly believe liquor stores will solve the liquor problem. We do, however, have a feeling that present conditions can and should be bettered. Whether the establishment of liquor stores can bring about this better condition, we are frank to say we do not believe anyone knows.

D. I. L. SMATHERS

The passing of D. I. L. Smathers, of Clyde, takes from the citizenship of Haywood County a man who was for years prominent in business, financial, political and civic affairs of his county.

Mr. Smathers was a successful farmer and stock raiser. At one time he was recognized as the largest single taxpayer in the county. He served as justice of peace, a member of the Clyde school board for 25 years, one term as county commissioner, and for 16 years as mayor of Clyde.

With all the rain during the past few months, we see scores of hillsides that need something like Kudzu planted on them. This is especially true on banks along the highways. Kudzu planted this spring would beautify and protect bare banks from further erosion this summer.



Random SIDE GLANCES
By W. CURTIS RUSS

I take away from that an interesting thing. The fact that the people are so interested in the question of liquor control is a sign of a people who are beginning to think for themselves.

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After reading the report on the handling of letters and cards at the rate of 10 per minute, you can readily understand why they are piled in the wrong box at times. Of course, the clerks do not necessarily work that fast, but regulations require it, and in the post office department, the word regulation is spelled, and pronounced with capital letters—and never otherwise.

Each letter that comes into the post office is handled four times before being placed in the box, or the right rack at the general delivery window. Perhaps you and I had a kindred thought that a letter is taken from the mail pouch and handed to the post office clerk.

The same four parings are required for each piece of mail that is mailed through the local office.

The 400 boxes at the office are divided into four sections, then there are two city carriers, general delivery, and two rural routes. When a letter comes in, it is placed in a chute which denotes which box, section, route or carrier it is to go. After thus assorted, the letter is again handled, and put into the individual rack or box, at the 10-a-minute rate—regardless of the poor hand writing—or wrong addresses.

Parcel post is handled much in the same way, only large canvas boxes on wheels take care of the packages for each section of delivery.

The post office buildings are well taken care of—the floor in the back being swept from four to five times a day, and every piece of furniture thoroughly dusted.

And speaking of sweeping, you can imagine how the woman must have felt who called and asked that the clerks look around on the floor for a package she had been expecting for days, when told how clean the office is kept.

The dispatching is an interesting feature of the work, and requires the utmost in accuracy. Each dispatcher's names goes out with a bundle of letters, and if an error is made, there is a check-up immediately, and too many such check-ups usually mean a check-out.

Postal regulations—there is that word again—will not permit visitors inside the room where the mail is assorted, but a space has been provided for visitors to see the entire work go on, and if you want some idea of what you get for your postage bill it will interest you to get a glimpse of the postal clerks at work.

And the next time you have a batch of letters, it will be a big help to the post office if you keep the letters straight, with the stamps turned right, and hand in the entire batch at once instead of throwing them through the chute. Straightening out mail tossed in the chute is a job, within itself.

Incidentally, a batch of bills are being prepared for mailing right now—and here's where we tie them up for

IN WASHINGTON
By ROBERT R. REYNOLDS, United States Senator

Washington, D. C., March 3.—The Supreme Court today announced that it will review the constitutionality of the President's proposed reorganization plan.

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19 Years Ago in Haywood

(From the files of March 7, 1918.)
 Mrs. Gray E. Ray, of Haywood, spent several days in town with relatives.

Rev. A. V. Joyner filled his regular monthly appointment at Allen's Creek church.

A beautiful sight now are the many colored crocus along the driveway of the C. E. Quinlan residence.

For the first time in some time you can buy all the coal you want. Two cars in and some left over after the cars filled.

Mrs. R. H. Mitchell returned Sunday from Anniston, Ala., where she visited her son, Robert.

A farmer living three miles from town says that he has plenty of lumber on his place, but that with the high cost of labor it is cheaper for him to buy coal.

Fred Martin, Dave Miller, and Tom Lee Jr., of the engineering corps, were here two hours on Sunday afternoon, from Camp Sevier. A certain young man in town says it was a shame they could not stay longer.

Misses Alice Quinlan, Sue Lindley and Georgia Miller as guests of Mrs. Tom Satterthwaite motored to Asheville on Friday.

A powerful radio plant is being located on Broadway, New York, that will get in touch with Germany in thirty minutes.

When the war is over Haywood county will build some roads.

Spring seems to be here. Gentle rains in fact, the whole month of February seemed like spring. The wheat gardens are being planted, the corn is a little back in the rows, the peas are sprouting and the tomatoes are beginning to show.

The highest place in town yesterday was Hunt establishment. Farmers and gardeners were buying seed and fertilizers galore.

The morning service at the Methodist church was a patriotic one and much that was filed. The pastor delivered a lecture on "Why We Are Fighting Germany."

A telegram received yesterday morning from Washington, D. C., to R. J. Sloan, owner of the Haywood White Sulphur Springs property, just outside of town, announced that the hotel had been decided upon as a temporary hospital for a tubercular sanatorium for our soldiers while Annapolis is being built.

March... THE MONTH OF WIND

Many fires are started by a hard wind blowing sparks under dry singles, or through defective flues.

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