

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

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\$1.50 IN ADVANCE IN COUNTY

Prisoners Will Get Sumptuous Meals On Christmas Day

By Hilda Way Gwyn.
In a check up about town on how Christmas will be observed by various groups, a survey was made of the prisoners in the Haywood county jail and the state prison camp near Hazelwood.

In the jail are to date nineteen prisoners, who will have all the chicken and dumplings they want, baked sweet potatoes, turnips, their choice of either hot biscuits, or corn bread, and coffee. Each will be given by Sheriff Welch, a bag containing oranges, apples, nuts and candies. They will be served as usual in the seclusion of their own cells, on trays.

The seventy-nine prisoners at the state prison camp will eat their habitual cafeteria style. They will have chicken and dressing, baked yams, hot biscuits, apple pie, and coffee. At each place will be an orange, apple, banana, and some candy, which with the exception of the banana, supplied by Dr. S. L. Stringfield, is a gift from the state.

But the question naturally arises, what will the families of these men sit down to on Christmas Day? Will they have all they want of chicken and dumplings? Many of these men are heads of families and fathers of little children and before their imprisonment, the sole support of their dependents.

It brings up the ever old problem that has faced mankind always—if only the sinner suffered—in ninety-eight homes there will be a vacant place, and the vacancy will represent for those at home a heart ache.

What Price Crime?

Mrs. Florence Mays Buried Thursday Morning at Crabtree

Last rites were conducted on Thursday morning at 11 o'clock at the Crabtree Chapel for Mrs. Florence McCracken Mays, 67, who died on Tuesday night at 8:45. The pastor of the chapel, the Rev. A. F. Phibbs, assisted by the Rev. R. P. McCracken, of Clyde, officiated. Burial was in the cemetery nearby.

The nephews of Mrs. Mays served as pallbearers.

Mrs. Mays died at the home of her sister, Mrs. D. R. McCracken, in the Crabtree township, with whom she had resided since the death of her husband, Fletcher R. Mays, of Mooresville, a number of years ago.

Mrs. Mays has a wide family connection in the county. Immediate members of her family surviving are: three sisters, Miss Belle McCracken, of Crabtree, Mrs. Jerry R. Leatherwood and Mrs. Glenn A. Boyd, of Waynesville, and one brother, Weaver H. McCracken.

360 License Tags Sold In Waynesville

J. Dale Stentz is urging all motorists to get their motor licenses. To date there have been sold around 360, while it is estimated that there will be between 1500 and 2000 sold in this section.

There are only five more selling days, and after the last day of December there will be a heavy fine imposed on any driver who has not secured his 1938 license. There will be no extension of time, so everybody who drives is urged to attend to this purchase at once.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Bowles announce the birth of a daughter, Florence Ann, on December the 21st, in Irwinton, Ga.

"And the angel said unto them,

Hear not:

For behold, I bring you tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people."

St. Luke 2:10

ALL YEAR LONG, year in and year out, this, your newspaper, brings you the tidings of the world. Not all of them are joyful, certainly none so glorious as the Christmas story which St. Luke announced 2,000 years ago in the glowing words of promise above. But most of them are important to you, and all of them are as honestly reported and fearlessly, fairly presented as your newspaper's conviction of its obligation to serve all the people can make them.

☆ Fear not, in this world of ominous change and strife, when your newspaper, because it is an American newspaper, can dedicate itself unhampered to a life of truthfulness, education, moral and civic leadership. Fear not for the world when its people can and do still forget their petty selfishnesses in the Christmas spirit of fellowship and giving.

☆ There is no other news we bring you that fills our own hearts with gladness as the tidings of another Christmas fill them. And so, a Merry Christmas to you all, and may the love and peace and hope of the Great Birthday mellow your cares throughout the year.

The Publishers

Difficulty Encountered In Establishing Christmas Date

(Editor's note—This is the talk given by Rev. J. H. Higgin, Jr., at the Waynesville Rotary Club Thursday.)

There is no need to mention, of course, why we celebrate Christmas. The word means mass, or church festival, of Christ, and at that season we celebrate the birth of our Lord. But perhaps we are not generally acquainted with the origin of certain features of the celebration.

For one thing it is interesting to observe that it was centuries after the birth of Christ before the Christian church finally settled on a date on which to celebrate the anniversary of Jesus' birth. For a long while the 6th of January was widely used. The 25th of March was thought by some to be the proper time. Finally, about the beginning of the fifth century, the 25th of December was settled upon and has been used ever since. Nobody knows, of course, the actual date of the birth of Jesus; nor indeed it is a matter of any significance.

Strangely enough, December 25th was settled upon because it was the date for certain heathen festivals,

and had been so long before the birth of Christ. The Romans had their "Saturnalia, and the people of Northern Europe their "Yule." They were both nature festivals, celebrating the winter solstice when comes the turning point in winter, and the sun begins to climb back toward the zenith, overcoming the bitterness of winter with his warmth and bringing a promise of spring and summer. They were very joyous festivals, the Saturnalia lasting for seven days, beginning December 17th. The Romans gave presents and burned candles, and among the Northern people there flourished the custom of lighting a huge log in the homes of the wealthy with appropriate ceremonies.

The adoption of December 25th as Christmas Day by the church was a piece of sheer strategy. Since a festival celebrated on that day was already entrenched in the minds and customs of the people, the church simply took over the old festival, completely altering it in purpose and significance. No longer was it natural joy at the conquest of the sun

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Many Trees Fixed With Christmas Lights This Year

Among the many decorative features of Christmas observance about town, which are adding their bit to the general festive atmosphere, are the attractive outdoor trees, which are annually increasing in number.

They give not only the local residents a cheerful feeling after dark, with their colorful symbol of Yuletide, but also the motorist far from home, who is passing this way, is cheered.

Particularly effective are the trees on the lawns which are located on hillsides and can be seen some distance, as is the case of several about town.

It is a very beautiful custom, for the owners of homes to share their Christmas with others, and should be encouraged, as the Woman's Club is doing in their contest which is held each year for the most attractive tree.

Also adding a note with deep significance is the wreath which is given each year by Father Howard V. Lane, and is hung across the street near the post office.

Annual Community Christmas Tree Will Be Held Here

The annual community Christmas tree, which is sponsored annually by the Woman's Club, and to which the Rotary Club, the town aldermen and other interested citizens contribute, will be held on Christmas afternoon at 4 o'clock on the lawn of the court house. Oscar Briggs has supervision of the erection of the large tree which is placed each year on the main walk on the court house grounds.

A brief program consisting of Christmas carols will be the only feature, outside of the distribution of gifts, and candy and fruit bags. In charge of the list will be Mrs. Dan Watkins, the president of the club, and the following committee: Mrs. Frank Ferguson, Mrs. John M. Queen, Mrs. J. C. Brown, and Mrs. James W. Killian.

To Give Driver's License Test Here

Since the legislation was passed demanding that all drivers of motor cars or trucks, hold a state drivers' license and the abolishing of the first method of passing an examination before a member of the State Highway patrol, all persons in this community have had to go to Asheville to take the examination.

Announcement has been made this week, that beginning on Monday there will be a state representative, who will pass applicants on each Monday morning at the town hall, from 11 o'clock to 1 o'clock. The fee for a drivers' license is one dollar.

It has been necessary since the enactment of the legislation in 1935 for all drivers to hold a driver's license.

Marriage Licenses

Doyel Pressley to Parthena Gibson, both of Canton.

Bill Rose, of Waynesville, to Velma Hannah, of Cove Creek.

Wm. Glenn Griffin, of Canton, to Fay Rogers, of Enka.

Jim Southerland to Annie Mae Burgess, both of Clyde, Route 1.

Winfred Wright, of Hazelwood, to Myrtle Middleton, of Balsam.

Dave Shipman, of Canton, to Sallie Hall, of Asheville.

The offices at the court house will be closed at noon today. Usual hours will be resumed Monday morning.

Regular Paper To Be Published On Wednesday Night

The Mountaineer will be back on schedule next week, going to press at Wednesday noon, as usual.

This special issue was published in order to carry a number of special Christmas features as well as the large number of season's greetings.

But next week, the publication dates will be back normal.

Christmas Tree Held At Tannery

Santa Claus distributed 640 bags, containing oranges, candy and nuts, to the employees and their children of the Junaluska Tannery last night.

This was the 14th annual Christmas tree event staged by the Tannery for their workers and children. The plant will close at noon today for the Christmas holidays. The men are paid for Christmas Day, a custom which has been followed since the Tannery was started 54 years ago.