

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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PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES One Year, in Haywood County \$1.50 Six Months, in Haywood County .75 One Year, Outside Haywood County 2.00 All Subscriptions Payable in Advance

Entered at the post office at Waynesville, N. C., as Second Class Matter, on November 10, 1934, under Post Office No. 1478, November 10, 1934.

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



THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 1941

Aid For Libraries

The introduction in the Legislature providing for State aid to public libraries will find much interest in this community.

The Waynesville Public Library was established nearly fifty years ago. It has served a great need in the community. It would be impossible to estimate the value of its services or what it has meant in both pleasure and cultural stimulation to the local people and to the visitors.

Today it stands as a high tribute to the civic pride and culture of its founders and also to those who have continued to carry on and lend their support, often in the face of discouragement, for the institution has literally led a "hand to mouth existence."

There is no public service in this community that has been dispensed at the pitiful cost that the library has been kept in operation.

During the past few years there have been enormous amounts expended on so many things, while others have been neglected. No new improvement has changed our need for the knowledge we gain from books.

The nation is spending 37 cents per capita on public libraries, but North Carolina is spending less than nine cents, and ranks near the bottom of the list of the states. Yet in industry, the strides made in the state, have been excelled by few other states.

The Waynesville Library, which has served so well the immediate community, could, if funds were provided, serve the county. This has been demonstrated in the few weeks in which a bookmobile, loaned by the State Library Commission, was operated in the county. It was also shown during the weeks of operation that the people of the rural sections were "intellectually hungry" for the opportunity to read.

While there has been great work done to eliminate illiteracy in North Carolina, the potential value of the public library has been sadly neglected.

It is to be hoped that the present legislature will go into this matter very thoroughly. The bill pending would provide less than 3 cents per capita appropriation, and would start a library movement that a state "first" in so many things, should have.

Double Trouble

The recent experience of the two state highway patrolmen serving this vicinity was an unfortunate affair.

The public does not like to feel that the law came out on the wrong side of the fence, and if there was a good reason why the men chased, should have been taken into custody, it was regrettable that they made their escape.

One thing is apparent, the high rate of speed the patrolmen are reported to have been traveling, made then as such a menace to other motorists, as the car ahead which they were chasing.

To those traveling the highway at the time, it meant a "double danger." Whether or not even those who are entrusted with regulating the speed limits on the highways, have the right to make the law, also a transgressors against safety, is a question in the minds of most people.

Some other means ought to be advised for apprehending criminals, other than out speeding them against the safety of the motoring public. Connection between officers by radio or a patrol telephone system, might be the answer. Certainly excessive speeding is not.

There is more employment now, but there will never be enough soft jobs to go around.

Making History

Last Saturday morning when the courtroom of the Haywood County Court House was filled with farmers, their wives, and their children, history was made in Haywood just as dramatic as when the National Guard left town back in the fall.

The number of rural people who assembled was significant in many ways. They were drawn together in the common bond of interest in mutual problems. They came to plan for the future and to give recognition to the accomplishments of the past.

They made their plans for the future with confidence, for they had definite results to show them how to plan ahead.

They represented the solid background of Haywood County citizens, eager to keep in step with agricultural improvements, with an earnest desire to fight the ravages of nature and to reclaim and hold the soil, and to improve it.

There was stimulation for both the adult and the rising generation in a joint meeting, for both groups are interested in the same problems. Each generation serves as an incentive to the other. The sons and daughters learned from their parents, and the parents had an opportunity to be proud of their children.

The meeting on Saturday was not the result of the past year's work alone, it represented the culmination of several years of growing interest in agriculture in Haywood County. It was a tribute to the splendid leadership of the farm and home county agents, who have shown the farmers the way, and the progressive farmers who have been willing to forge ahead.

We take this opportunity to thank the Demonstration farmers for the award made to The Mountaineer on Saturday. We are proud to have given any aid we may have to the great work. The plaque will hang upon our walls as a reminder of the progress that Haywood rural people are making.

We Disagree

Mrs. Roosevelt's proposed good-will trip to Latin-America has been "killed," so to speak, by the State Department. The idea of the trip in the first place came from Nelson Rockefeller, Pan American cultural-relations coordinator.

Mr. Rockefeller liked the plan, and Mrs. Roosevelt evidently thought well of it, as she agreed to go. It was reported that the president "tentatively" approved.

Now comes the report that the Under Secretary, Mr. Wells, by "studied coolness" broke up the party.

We have no way of knowing just what prompted the Under Secretary, but any woman who has worn down the disapproval and won over her critics as Mrs. Roosevelt has in the last eight years, we feel that we could trust her to make good with the Latin Americans.

Willkie Abroad

Regardless of political affiliations and the heat of the recent campaign, one cannot help admiring the dash and enthusiasm with which Mr. Willkie is making a first hand investigation of war conditions in Europe.

A man of unbounded energy, he seems to be making a thorough investigation of war torn England and despite personal danger and air raids is certainly going places in London.

Mr. Willkie seems to be inspired by no other thought than to get a first hand and accurate picture of war conditions to bring back to his fellow countrymen.

We admire the spirit that has prompted this trip and await with keen interest his report upon his return. It is clearly understood that he is in no sense an official envoy, but is rendering this service entirely on his own.

Yet his findings will be sure to have a tremendous weight in shaping public opinion on current policy of the United States regarding further aid to Great Britain.

Good News

Farm prices, according to the latest information issued by the United States Department of Agriculture, in mid-December averaged 101 per cent of the 1910-1914 level, further decreasing the spread between prices paid and prices received by the farmer. Also, farm product prices were relatively stable during 1940. This is good for agriculture. The American farmer has steadily improved his position in spite of chaotic conditions over most of the world. A large share of the credit for this must go to the farmer himself.

He has not let government farm aid deaden his resourcefulness. Federal money has not blinded him to the fact that in the long run he will sink or swim, depending upon his own initiative. He has steadily sought to improve production and marketing techniques. The farmer would be lost without them in the business world of today.



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

We were much amused the other night at the Shelton golden wedding anniversary... in hearing a certain prominent professional man in town reminisce about the pleasant hours he had spent in front of the fireplace in what is now the "Indian Relic Room"...

much... and most of the ideas I started with I've had to discard... but of one thing I'm sure and I grow more certain of that one thing every day... It pays to love... I've never really loved yet without profiting by it... That doesn't mean that it has always been easy to love... or safe... or comfortable... or successful in obvious ways...

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT Central Press Writer

If Italy loses the war, asks an editorial, where can Mussolini go? That's a problem, since all roads, we've always heard, lead to—not from—Rome.

A psychiatrist says that one out of every five persons in the world has lost his mind. We don't know there were that many horse players.

Wolf meat is nourishing, according to an explorer. Now we'll know what to do the next time he comes around to our door.

According to a famous woman writer, there will be complete equality of sexes by the year 2000 A.

D. Golly, is it possible we fellows can catch up with the girls in so short a time?

Zadok Dumbkopf is now busily engaged in inventing a rubber roof, off which air bombs will harmlessly bounce—he hopes.

Poker playing may be injurious to the heart, says a doctor. We don't know about that, but we do know it can be fatal to the billfold.

Junior has taken to reading the news from Europe with more interest since he saw the item which said 90 per cent of our spinach seed comes from now-blocked Holland.

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK By R. J. SCOTT. Illustration showing a man and a woman with text: FULL-BLOODED INDIAN COMPOSE HALF OF PERU'S POPULATION OF 6,000,000. CONDEMNED PRISONERS IN MONGOLIA ARE OPEN PLACES IN WOODEN BOXES, CARRIED OUT OF THE BARRER PLAINS, AND LEFT TO DIE OF STARVATION AND THIRST. THIS WAS THE FIRST AUTOMOBILE TO RUN OVER 90 MILES PER HOUR - EARLY ROAD DRIVE IT IN 1895 AT 91.4 M.P.H.

Army Does Not Use Kid Gloves On "Selectees"

By Charles P. Stevens Central Press Columnist

Voice OF THE People

What do you consider the greatest nuisance in this community?

R. C. McBride—"The greatest nuisances in this community are the automobile horns and stray dogs."

Quincy Kippe—"The loud talking and yelling on the streets at night would be my answer."

C. F. Kirkpatrick—"I don't think there is a nuisance in Waynesville. It is filled with the nicest people and the nicest places to do business I have ever known."

Miss Mattie Moody—"The traffic situation on Main street."

Albert Abel—"I consider reckless and drunken driving the greatest nuisance in this community."

Mrs. Dan Watkins—"I consider the stray dogs greatest nuisance in the community."

Mrs. T. Grady Boyd—"The greatest criticism I hear from outsiders is about the blowing of the horns. I hear a lot of complaint about this."

Mrs. T. C. Norris—"The heavy traffic on the streets."

Delos L. Dean—"I would say the greatest nuisance in this community is the reckless driver."

Mrs. D. D. Alley—"I would list two major nuisances in the community: unnecessary street noises from cars and lack of courtesy, or 'motor manners'."

Bill Ray—"The girls. I can't get 'em off my mind."

how great the hurt... the weary hours one spends in loving and serving little children... the lonely hours one spends loving a man or a woman... But hard as the price is, don't begrudge it... pay it willingly... and though its trials be marked with blood and tears, follow it... love always pays...

American automobile factories have produced 79 million motor vehicles valued at \$3 billion dollars in 40 years.

Leeches were in such great demand a century ago for curing distaste by the blood-letting process that a game law, protecting them at certain seasons, was passed in Russia.

TO SPEAK of a young man having been drafted into Sam's military service or to him as a conscript almost on being a severely punishable fence these times.

The chap by no means is ed. He's selected, which is a compliment to him. It's not he's physically and mentally human specimen, or he's had passed examination, selective service authorities doing so, he becomes a He ought to be proud of it. Drafted? A conscript? ens, no! Those are terms. They hint at cons All sorts of pains were dodge their employment, wording of the selective law. Anyone who uses them is due for a stern down from selective service quarters. One of these "braters" main ideas is to training tremendously popular. yes. It's all right, if you call a selectee a trainee instead. When a boy has the good to get by the board he in pears before, he's questioned any peacetime craft he may be skilled in, and if it's ture calculated to make him cially useful in some part of military activity, the board commends him to the army cordingly. It's nicer for him into one of these special branches than to serve as a ry buck private in the ranks he's likely to be directly if we actually become involved war.

The army people, however, invariably act on the board's recommendation. This Can Happen For instance, suppose a competent auto mechanic board indorses him as a He reports for duty. The booted army officer in command amine his credentials. He says, "O. K. Come out and look at one of our tanks. See if you can work it."

Now, a tank's operated ferently from an automobile hasn't the kind of engine an auto has. Except that both automotive, tanks and have precious little in common. So the kid completely test. "Such being the case," officer, "you're due for four inary months of regular rifle training. By then may have learned enough for classier duty."

Why don't they assign lectee to an auto in preference to a tank?

Answering that question rather common, talk that sional army men aren't sympathetic with the home policy of representing military as something perfectly The professionals have ders, to be sure, to treat with all consideration. The out these instructions, too. lic. In herding a bunch of into their coaches in rail tions, with lots of civilian ers looking on and listening cordom is as polite as you induees (that's another permissible to call 'em elegant accommodations Pullmans and all that sort But when they arrive at ments it begins to be, "the army now."

At least, so I hear from the professionals themselves. Not Coddling

The professionals unad don't believe in coddling don't believe in it for their own good. In essentials they're provided for. They're the fat of the land—better than them, than they probably on where they came from cies are included—guards shavetail professional I the other day, "are we make soldiers out of sel handling 'em as softies as be, they're chucked into a have to shoot and be shot There's no implication trainees are deliberately the professional gang ments, but it's extremely that the regular fighters, top sergeants, anyway, their best to toughen 'em have to do it surreptitiously ever. They could be opary with drafted conscript not with inductees, train selectees.

The newest German planes are the 112 single with a speed of around an hour. The planes have guns and a number of guns.

In the last six years have robbed armories in places where government ammunition are kept of 2 and 300,000 rounds of am