

Devastating Forest Fires Hit Haywood

Sale Of War Bonds and Stamps To Be Pushed In Haywood

Campaign Committees Are Named For Work Which Starts Monday; Woody and Ray Head Drive.

As the nation-wide campaign gets underway Monday, to enlist the purchase of war saving bonds and stamps, every man, woman and child in Haywood will be contacted to do their part, it was announced last night by Jonathan Woody, chairman of the war savings committee in Haywood, and Charles Ray, county chairman for this campaign.

Mr. Ray named committees yesterday to carry on the campaign, and said: "Every citizen will be offered an opportunity to help beat Hitler and the Japs. We urge you to get ready to make your savings support the soldiers, sailors and marines who are fighting to protect your home here in Haywood."

"The purchase of war saving bonds and stamps is not a donation, but an investment at a liberal rate of interest for your present and future welfare," Mr. Ray said.

The President and Secretary Morgenthau have stressed the regularly employed industrial worker as the foundation of the war savings campaign, through voluntary payroll deductions. For that reason, Mr. said, "the most important group is made up of representatives of Haywood county industries, as follows:

Aaron Prevost, chairman, J. E. Shields, vice chairman, L. M. Richards, secretary.

register of deeds, C. C. and Bryan Medford are candidates.

the district, John M. Queening opposed by Baxter C. Bryson City, for the post of this district.

only Democratic race for is in Beaverdam town with W. H. Scott, Gordon Floyd T. Plemmons and Burnett all seeking nomination.

ocrats filing, and without tion, are:

on C. Palmer, representative. E. Leatherwood, clerk of court. E. Ferguson, tax collector. V. Welch, sheriff.

ge A. Brown, Jr., chair-board of commissioners and (Continued on page 12)

Haywood Cattle Made Fine Showing At Wilson Sale

The five head of Haywood Hereford cattle which were shown in the North Carolina Hereford Breeders Association show and sale last Friday in Wilson, brought a total of \$1,445 to their owners.

More than 1,000 persons attended the show and sale including Governor Broughton and former Governor McKelvie, of Nebraska, who spoke at the banquet held the night after the show with around 100 in attendance.

With only 35 head shown, Haywood county with five entries, coupled with the fact that the (Continued on page 12)

Joseph C. Byers Dies Following Short Illness

Funeral services were conducted at 2:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at the Clyde Baptist church for Joseph Casler Byers, 84, prominent resident of Haywood county, who died Monday at his home at Clyde following a brief illness.

The Rev. T. H. Parris, pastor of the church, officiated, assisted by the Rev. R. P. McCracken, a former pastor of the Clyde church, of which Mr. Byers had been a member for many years. Burial was in Pleasant Hill cemetery.

Members of the board of deacons (Continued on page 7)

Glenn Boyd Re-elected County AAA Chairman

Glenn A. Boyd, of route 2, Waynesville, was re-elected chairman of the Haywood county committee to supervise the 1942 AAA program. Sam Ferguson, of route 1, Clyde, was re-elected vice chairman, Charlie R. Linder, of route 2, Waynesville, a member, J. R. Mason Morrow, of route 2, Waynesville, first alternate, and Order F. Burnett, of Cruso, second alternate.

All those elected to membership in the county and in the various townships will be asked to serve for the duration of the war, according to Howard Clapp, county farm agent.

Members of the township committees are as follows, with the first named on the list to serve as chairman: the second vice chairman; the third as a member; the fourth as first alternate; and the fifth as second alternate.

Beaverdam, A-1, James B. Higgs, Haywood Chapman, W. P. Harris, T. R. Robinson and George Sutton; A-2, J. L. Westmoreland, C. C. Evans, Albert Sharp, C. H. Fish, and Luther Smathers; A-3, E. Judson Pinner, Billy Smathers, Thomas Mann, Turner S. Smathers, and Taylor Rhodarmar.

Cecil, (re-elected), J. E. Bur (Continued on page 12)

Registrants Of 3rd Draft Receive Questionnaires

The local draft board has received their supplies of the new occupational questionnaires that will be filled out by the nine hundred men who registered under the third registration. They plan to mail the blanks this week.

The occupational questionnaire, which is entirely different from the regular draft questionnaire will be sent first to all men who registered on Feb 16, ages from 20 to 44 not previously registered. After the information on that group has been compiled, the questionnaires will be sent to all other draft registrants not in the armed service, including the men between 45 and 64 who will register on April 27.

When this information is complete the occupational status of every man in the United States between the ages of 20 and 64 will be on file.

The following men constitute the local registrants' advisory board and any registrant wishing assistance in filling out the questionnaire which is being mailed this (Continued on page 7)

Work Started On Third Tunnel On Parkway, Will Be 340 Feet Long

Work on the third and last tunnel on the 7 1/2-mile link of the Parkway from Soco Gap to Big Witch Gap got underway this week.

Workmen for Lowdermilk Brothers, contractors for the project, pushed through the second tunnel last Friday, and are expected to complete the "timbering up" this week. The tunnel is 310 feet long, and was difficult to construct, in that the loose dirt and rock caused several breaks in the walls.

The third tunnel will be the largest of the three, being 340 feet long.

The first was through almost solid rock and was 287 feet long. The contractors plan to push this last tunnel to completion as soon as possible, and plans are also underway to put crushed stone on the road in the near future.

About 55 men are now at work, and more are being added every week. Indications are that the project will continue through the summer.

The contract for the 7 1/2-mile link is costing approximately \$750,000.

State Guard To Parade Tuesday In Raleigh

The full company of the Waynesville State Guard unit will participate in the parade and other activities Tuesday in Raleigh, as the capitol observes its sesquicentennial.

Major J. H. Howell, commander of the 8th Battalion, announced yesterday that several companies from this section of the state will participate in the Raleigh celebration.

The Waynesville unit, under the command of Captain W. A. Bradley, will leave via a special bus Monday night, and take part in the parade Tuesday morning. The men are due back in Waynesville early Wednesday morning. Several courtesies have been planned for the men.

A final drill will be held Friday night, and Captain Bradley announced it was compulsory for all members to be present.

Rev. Williamson Elected Moderator Of Presbytery

The Rev. Malcolm R. Williamson, pastor of the local Presbyterian church, was elected moderator of the Asheville Presbytery at the 92nd semi-annual session of the group which was held in the Weaverville Presbyterian church Tuesday.

Rev. Williamson was elected moderator upon nomination of Rev. George B. Hammond, of Canton. Ministers and elders representing 23 Presbyterian churches in eleven counties in Western North Carolina were present for the session at Weaverville.

Local Schools To Close May 1; 100 Graduates

The Waynesville district schools will close on Friday, May 1, according to M. H. Bowles, district superintendent, after one of the most successful years in the history of the schools.

More than one hundred graduates are expected to receive their diplomas on Monday night, May 4th, the final event of the commencement program. Mrs. E. L. McKee, of Sylva, former state senator, and candidate for representative will deliver the annual literary address. Mr. Bowles will present the diplomas.

Final examinations will be held next week, starting on Monday and continuing through Thursday. School buses will run an hour later on Friday, May 1, in order that (Continued on page 7)

Expect Huge Crowd At C. Of C. Supper Tonight At Armory

Annual Event Will Get Underway At 8:00 O'clock; Buffet Supper Will Be Served.

Indications last night were that a record-breaking attendance would be had at the annual Chamber of Commerce supper meeting tonight at the Armory, starting at eight o'clock.

The committee in charge of the buffet supper have prepared a bountiful "spread" for the occasion, and the program committee, headed by Jonathan Woody, said in regards to the program, "short, snappy, and to the point."

The annual drive for funds will be climaxed today, and workers so far have met with "good response" according to Paul Davis, president of the organization.

Tickets for the meeting tonight are being given free to all contributors to the organization. Those failing to get tickets in that way can buy them at fifty cents each.

Jonathan Woody will serve as master of ceremonies, and the general program for 1942 will be explained by the president.

Starting at ten o'clock, the meeting will listen to a nation-wide 30-minute broadcast which will inaugurate the new drive for the purchase of more war stamps and bonds, in which this community will co-operate. More details appear elsewhere on this page.

A special square dance will follow the program, it was said.

The Chamber of Commerce is out to raise a budget of \$3,080 this year.

The committee designated to arrange the meal for the annual dinner is: C. A. George, Charlie Woodard, Felix Stovall, and R. B. Davenport.

The program committee for the dinner meeting, is Jonathan Woody, M. H. Bowles and W. S. Prevost.

John Evans Now Chief Of Police At Hazelwood

John Evans, of Clyde, was sworn into office by Mayor Clyde Fisher, as chief of police of Hazelwood, last week.

Mr. Evans began his duties Thursday and fills the vacancy made by the resignation of Jerry Rogers a few weeks ago.

Chief Evans, who was born and reared in the Jonathan Creek section of Haywood county, resigned as chief of police in Clyde to accept the office here. Before going to Clyde seven years ago he had served on the Waynesville police force.

Mr. and Mrs. Evans plan to move to Hazelwood soon.

55 Men Now At Work On Project, Which Will Take All Summer To Complete.

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The contract for the 7 1/2-mile link is costing approximately \$750,000.

Haywood Masons Are Attending State Meet

A number of Haywood county Masons are attending the annual communication of the Grand Lodge of Masons of North Carolina, which is in session this week in Raleigh.

Among the number are Dr. J. R. McCracken, past master, who is representing the Waynesville Lodge; C. B. Hosaflook, district deputy grand master of the 41st Masonic district; J. E. Justice, master of Sonoma Lodge, W. T. Hawkins, master of Pigeon River Lodge, H. E. Terrell, master of Clyde Lodge.

Churches Will Feature Family Day On Sunday

The county-wide nine weeks Go-To-Church campaign will be climaxed on Sunday morning with a Family Day at church, when all families are asked to attend their church in one group. The text of the sermon for all participating churches will be "The Head of the House—Christ."

Locally, a union service of all the churches in the community will be held at the First Methodist church on Sunday evening at 8:00 o'clock, at which time Dr. C. Grier Davis, pastor of the First Presbyterian church of Asheville, will deliver the sermon.

The pastors of the First Baptist, the Presbyterian, Methodist, and Grace Episcopal churches, will also have a part in the union service.

Members, visitors in town and the public in general are invited to attend the union service on Sunday night. Dr. Davis is one of the leading ministers in this section of the state and is a forceful speaker.

The ministers of the churches throughout the county participating in the campaign to revive interest in church attendance have been much gratified over the increase in their congregations and feel that interest in church attendance will continue.

15,000 Acres Along A 75-Mile Front Burning Forests To A Crisp

Fires Raged On Three Sides of Haywood Last Night; Still Out Of Control—Total Damage, Will Bring On Worst Fire In History Of County, Fire Wardens Say.

Devastating forest fires were raging on three sides of Haywood last night, along a 75-mile front, with more than 15,000 acres already burned to a crisp, and the roaring flames far from being under control.

For 50 miles in the Pisgah National Forest, in Haywood and Transylvania counties, the fire raged. According to fire wardens, this will be the worst in the county's history.

Hundreds of men from all nearby areas are on the 75-mile front, battling flames, some of which are said to have leaped 50 feet in the powder dry forests. Fire fighters were holding their own in some areas, although new fires were constantly breaking out in unprotected spots.

Fire in the Pisgah National Forest broke out about three o'clock Sunday afternoon on the Big East Fork of the Pigeon River. That day some 197 fishermen had taken advantage of the first open day on the stream and had been checked in by G. C. Plott, county game and fish warden, who said yesterday that he saw the first smoke, and it looked like it was coming from a chimney.

"In less than 10 minutes, it appeared to have covered two miles, it spread with such rapidity," he said.

At that time there were still some 75 persons in the area where the fire was gaining alarming headway. As the raging inferno closed in around them, the fishermen had to take to the river and by keeping under the water as much as possible, kept from being burned by flames that lapped at the water's edge.

So intense was the heat that leaves floating on the icy waters caught fire and vanished in smoke.

The stillness of the scenic area was soon broken by the roar and crackling fires that swept everything in their path clean to the ground, laying waste with one grand sweep the scenic areas that were being preserved for generations to come.

Watershed Fire Under Control

Fire fighters from the Waynesville watershed in town for food last night, told The Mountaineer they expected to have the fire in that area under control by this morning.

On Tuesday morning around 11 o'clock a fire was reported on Snaggy Ridge, on the town watershed, approximately five miles from Waynesville.

Bradford Mehaffey, an employe of the town, and a crew of 18 men left shortly after the report was sent in by Will Wilson, caretaker at the watershed.

The men fought hard for around twelve hours before the fire was under control. Before it was put out it had spread from Snaggy Ridge across to Deep Gap, almost to the Deep Ridge mine.

Again on Wednesday noon Wilson, caretaker, reported another fire on the Roberson Ridge on the watershed. Mehaffey and the same crew that had worked the night before left and late last night Mehaffey reported that he thought the fire was under control.

It was reported that there was no serious damage from the fire on the watershed as the better part of the acreage had been burned over two or three years ago and there were no large trees in the area.

Fire On Plott's Creek Reported Under Control

The second fire to start yesterday afternoon, was on Plott's Creek, and last night was under control, according to Thad O. Chafin, on whose property the greater part of the fire was burning.

Townpeople showed much interest in this blaze, as the billows of smoke and flames could be seen from here.

R. E. Caldwell, county fire warden, and a crew of men were called to the scene and remained until late last night. Mr. Caldwell was later joined by J. H. Beech, county smoke chaser, and another party of fire fighters.

There was no estimate made last night of either the acreage or damage suffered.

17,000 Spruce Trees Planted Just Saturday

On last Saturday a planting project of 17,000 spruce in Sherwood Forest was completed, which in the years to come would have been one of the show places in the forest.

Believe Fire Will Ruin Everything On Beech Gap

The Beech Gap Road, which has been one of the most popular and scenic drives in this section, will be a wilderness of waste, according to some of the fire fighters, who felt late last night that the fire would devastate the entire area from the checking station at the entrance to Sherwood Forest up to the Devil's Courthouse.

Fishermen Use Soaked Sweaters For Protection

One fisherman who was caught in the forest on Sunday afternoon who had taken his young son with him, had to wade down the stream to get out of the area. To protect the young boy from the falling timbers along the stream he had to continually dampen a sweater and keep over the boy's head.

Some Fishermen Suffer Burns In Escaping

It was reported that practice every fisherman who left the after the fire started went (Continued on page 7)