

Death Of W. L. Hardin, Jr., Brings Total To Five Victims From Gasoline Explosion

Special Venire Jury To Hear Kidnapping Case

Liner Enlarges Mill Units In Fines Creek

Several Pieces of Equipment Added Besides Planing Mill; Employs 275 Men.

A modern planing mill is being installed by the Grace Lumber Company, operating in "The Gulf," the Fines Creek area of the county. Harry Lee Liner, owner and manager announced this week. The firm is now operating two planing mills, a band mill and a circular mill, cutting 40,000 feet of lumber daily, and employing about 275 men, with about 25 to be employed in the new unit of the company. Practically all of the lumber cut by the firm is shipped from Lake Malheur.

The mills are now working on special orders that go into defense plants.

An 83,000-acre tract is being cleared, and the mills are confining their operations to hardwoods exclusively.

A new boiler, edger and larger carriage have been installed in the planing mill, in order to take care of the increased orders, and economy in cutting heavier timbers. The mills are working 56 hours a week.

Registration Of Motor Vehicles Starts Today

All owners and operators of cars, motor boats, ambulances, taxis, trucks and any other motor vehicles other than passenger cars will be required to register with the rationing board beginning this morning at 9 o'clock and lasting through Saturday noon.

Hours for registration have been set for 9 to 5 o'clock on Thursday and Friday and from 9 to 12:00 o'clock on Saturday.

Owners will need their state motor vehicle registration cards and will be required to know their license and gasoline used in the month of June.

All filling station operators will register on the morning of July 16, in order to get their inventory ready for selling gasoline.

30 Tons Of Rubber For Scrap Here

Haywood contributed 60 tons of scrap rubber during the nationwide drive, according to a survey made this week by W. J. Campbell, co-chairman of the salvage drive in Haywood.

Mr. Campbell was gratified at the response, and felt that Haywood had responded splendidly, and in accordance to what had been accomplished in other communities.

EDITORIAL

An Expensive Gamble

During the period of gasoline rationing, some people have been prone to store quantities of the highly inflammable fuel in their homes, places of business and garages.

This fact was recently proven when an inspection was made here by some town officials.

This community should realize after Tuesday morning's terrible holocaust, that exploding gasoline can do untold damage to life and property.

Certainly no citizen would for the sake of a few extra gallons, want an explosion on their property. So if you have had it in mind to store up a few extra gallons, it would be the wise thing, the patriotic thing, the American way, to forget it, and keep all your gasoline in the tank of your car.

The lives of your family and friends are worth too much to take such a chance.

Frank Burnett To Face Charges On Two Counts Today

Charged With Kidnaping and Criminal Assaulting Girl From Pigeon Section.

A special venire of 50 was ordered yesterday by Judge F. Donald Phillips, from which a jury will be drawn to hear the case today of Frank Burnett, who is charged with criminal assault and kidnaping.

The July term of criminal court convened here on Monday morning and it was thought yesterday would continue throughout the week.

Burnett, a native of this county, was arrested on June 13th, in Brevard by the chief of police there, and was brought to the county jail here. He is alleged to have taken a young teen-age girl from her home in the Pigeon section and forced her to go with him to Brevard.

Yesterday character witnesses were heard in the case of Brownlow Conard, who is charged with dynamiting fish and setting fire to the woods on the Waynesville watershed. Conard is expected to be sentenced on Friday. He pleaded guilty of dynamiting the fish, but denied the charge of setting

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Sugar Bonus Of Two Additional Pounds Is Granted

The local rationing board has been advised that after July 10th, food rationing stamp Number 7, is good for a bonus of two pounds of sugar, effective until August 22. Stamps number five and six are also good for two pounds of sugar each. Stamp number five remains effective until July 25th, and number six will be good from July 26 to August 22nd.

Second Annual "Hog Eye" Rifle Attracts More Than 200 Persons

Around 200 persons attended the second annual shooting match held at Cataloochee Ranch on Wednesday, despite the rationing of tires and gasoline. They started arriving at 8 o'clock in the morning and continued throughout the morning. Some came on horseback, others on muleback, in cars and a few walked to the ranch.

Forty-two persons competed in

Much Interest Is Shown In Series Of County-Wide Baptist Revivals

Pastors of the 17 Baptist churches in Haywood that are participating in the county-wide revival will hold their second of a series of pastor's conferences at the First Baptist church this afternoon at 2:30 to discuss further

plans for the remaining days of the meetings.

Reports are that much interest is being shown in all the revivals, and a number of conversions are expected during the coming days.

The revivals are being sponsored by the State Mission Board of the North Carolina Baptist Convention. The visiting pastors in all the churches are from out of the county, and are being paid by the State Mission Board.

Rev. Mr. Canipe Is Drawing Good Crowds At Revival

Strong spiritual messages that are void of sensationalism, are being brought to increasing congregations of the First Baptist church by Rev. J. C. Canipe, of Boone, in the progress of county-wide revivals being staged by the State Mission Board.

Rev. H. G. Hammett, pastor of the church, anticipates that the church will be filled to capacity every night at eight o'clock from now through Sunday, and there is a possibility that the revival will

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Condition Critical



LAWRENCE KERLEY, chief of the Waynesville fire department, remains in a critical condition at the Haywood County Hospital, suffering from burns and shock, received early Tuesday morning at the explosion of a gasoline tank at the bulk-plant of the Standard Oil Company. This picture was made of Chief Kerley in his fireman's uniform as he posed for a picture to illustrate a series of articles published in this newspaper, "They Work While We Sleep." That is what he was doing when injured.

Four Members Of Caldwell Family Buried On Tuesday

Funeral services were conducted at 4 o'clock Tuesday afternoon at Greenhill cemetery for Andy Caldwell, 57, his wife, Mrs. Caldwell, 40, their son, Jarvis, 14, and young daughter, 9, all victims of the accident on early Tuesday morning.

The Rev. R. E. McBlain, rector of Grace Episcopal church, officiated.

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Dies Of Injuries



W. L. HARDIN, JR., prominent civic leader and business man of the community, died early last night in the Haywood County Hospital from burns received at the Standard Oil plant, of which he was manager and commission agent.

Hardin Took An Active Interest In Community Life

Held Several Important Places In Community; Work Among Blind Was Outstanding.

Walter Lauriston Hardin, Jr., 44, died Wednesday night in the Haywood County Hospital at 8:40 o'clock from wounds and injuries received from an explosion of a storage tank at the distributing plant of the Standard Oil Company shortly after 3:00 o'clock Tuesday morning.

Mr. Hardin, prominent in the life of the community for several years, was born in Fayetteville, on August 24, 1898. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. L. Hardin, of Waynesville. His father has been secretary to Congressman Zebulon V. Weaver for many years.

Mr. Hardin was educated in the local schools and has resided in Waynesville since he was around ten years of age.

After graduating from school here he went to Atlanta, where for four years he was secretary to the late Francis Willis, prominent business leader of that city.

Returning to Waynesville he was

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Four Others Remain In A Critical Condition From Tuesday's Fire

Citizens of the community were startled from their sleep shortly after three o'clock Tuesday morning by the deafening roar of an explosion that shook buildings within a two-mile radius, followed by a skyline suddenly canopied with leaping flames, quickly added to the chaos was the alarming wail of the siren, and screams of injured.

A storage tank at the Standard Oil Company bulk plant on Water street started leaking, and in some undetermined manner, the fumes became ignited and caused the explosion, which has brought death to five Waynesville citizens, and four others are in a critical condition at the Haywood County Hospital, suffering from burns and shock.

The accident was the most tragic and disastrous in point of loss of property and life ever to occur in this community. Since early Tuesday morning the entire population has been under its pall of gloom, hourly awaiting news from the bedsides of those who suffered injuries.

THE DEAD

W. L. Hardin, Jr., 44, commission agent for Standard Oil Company. Died Wednesday night at 8:40 o'clock.

Andy Caldwell, 57, employee of the town. Died at 7:30 Tuesday morning.

Mrs. Leona Caldwell, 40, wife of Mr. Caldwell, died instantly.

Jarvis Caldwell, 14, son of the Caldwells, died instantly.

Betty Caldwell, 9, daughter of the Caldwells, died instantly.

THE INJURED

Lawrence L. Kerley, chief of Waynesville's fire department, in critical condition, suffering from burns and shock.

Thomas DeWitt Taylor, truck driver, of Spartanburg, burns and shock, remains in serious condition.

Fred Walkup, truck driver, of Spartanburg, burns and shock, in a critical condition.

W. C. Fincher, employee of town of Waynesville, in fair condition.

When the horizontal storage tank exploded, the end cut itself clean of the tank, and landed 50 feet away on the Paul Walker property. The remainder of the tank shot 150 feet forward and struck a glancing blow on the 4,000-gallon park transport truck. The tank lifted itself up and went over a row of coal cars across the double track, to land 250 feet from its abutment, one of which was knocked down.

Two 4,000 gallon transport trucks were at the plant to be unloaded, when the explosion took place. Firemen were successful in

getting one away in safety. The other exploded.

Mr. Hardin discovered one of the storage tanks at the plant was leaking, and after calling an official of the company in Asheville, scene, realizing the danger of spilling gasoline. Mr. Hardin, Chief Kerley and the two truck drivers were at the scene when the storage tank exploded.

It was about thirty minutes after the first explosion, when the 4,000-gallon transport tanker caught fire and went off in a deafening blast.

Those near the scene, at the time of the second explosion, said it resembled a burning fuse of a giant fire cracker, or escaping steam from a locomotive. As the hissing grew louder, many realized what was about to take place. Then a ear-splitting burst, the mass of gasoline shot hundreds of feet into the air, and seemingly spread over a large area, creating a noise like a low moaning siren, as it fell.

Several people, received cuts and bruises, when throngs started running as the second explosion went off. One woman suffered a fractured rib, a bruised leg and cut knee, while still another had to have several stitches to close a wound she received when knocked down by the rushing crowd.

The second explosion sent hundreds scurrying for shelter. In the Turbyfill yard, which was a popular gathering place for people from Waynesville proper, a young woman stumbled over a chopping block, skinned both knees.

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General View Of Area Damaged By Explosion Tuesday Morning



This photograph was made from the back of the C. M. Dicus residence and shows the area damaged by the two explosions at the Standard Oil bulk plant here Tuesday morning. "A" is burning oil that was stored in the warehouse. The white flame can be seen leaping from the upright tank on the left. "B" is the remains of the transport truck, which was loaded with 4,000 gallons of gasoline and exploded thirty minutes after the tank "C" was blown across the street, the car and the double railroad track. The tank (C) was a twin tank to the horizontal tank and was about where the letter "A" is when it exploded. "D" is the ruins of the Caldwell home, where three died. "X" is where the Paul Walker home was blown down and burned. All vegetation for hundreds of feet was as brown yesterday as if it were midwinter.