

The Mountaineer

Published By
THE WAYNESVILLE PRINTING CO.
 Main Street Phone 187
 Waynesville, North Carolina
 The County Seat of Haywood County

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 Mrs. Hilda WAY GWYN, Associate Editor
 W. Curtis Russ and Marion T. Bridges, Publishers

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

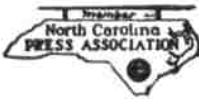
SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year, In Haywood County	\$1.75
Six Months, In Haywood County	90c
One Year, Outside Haywood County	2.50
Six Months, Outside Haywood County	1.50

All Subscriptions Payable In Advance

Entered at the post office at Waynesville, N. C., as Second Class Mail Matter, as provided under the Act of March 3, 1879, October 20, 1914.

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



THURSDAY, AUGUST 19, 1943
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

Right Here In Our County

As we pointed out last week in an editorial the sad story of the number of men rejected for service because of illiteracy, we also remind you that this month you may be given an opportunity right in your own community to do something about the matter—for the future.

These rejections should make us all realize that we have work at home and a responsibility. Maybe there is a little girl in your neighborhood, who needs a dress, to boost her morale, or maybe a boy who would go to school if someone was interested in him and showed that interest.

Maybe these children have not had the importance of an education put before them. Life does not have a definite pattern to them, of preparation in early years for fullness and richness of living.

Schools have opened in our county for the 1943-44 term. Let us all appoint ourselves assistants to our truant officers. Let us see that every child is entered in school and remains there until next spring when they close.

When Autumn Comes

From a survey made during the past week indications point to one of the best fall seasons ever enjoyed in this area. The summer season, which has far surpassed the expectations of the majority of local people, bids fair to continue even after frost has come.

We feel that this extension of the tourist season will not only affect this year, but the years to come. We have often made the statement that the majority of visitors left just on the eve of the most beautiful time of the year in the mountains.

We understand that the summer visitors come in the hot months to avoid the heat of their home towns, and that ere the autumn rolls around they can be comfortable at home, but even so, they miss something that we have to offer at its best.

We usually have a few nippy days and those not familiar with our climate are scared into thinking that winter is at hand, when in reality it is merely autumn announcing its arrival, so to speak. For after this announcement, the days become mellow with mild new charm and beauty, for the Indian summer is climate at perfection.

When the leaves begin to turn in their glory of color, the weather seems to match them in a state of perfection. It is neither too hot nor too cold.

We feel that those who stay later this year will never go back soon again, for they will know first hand what we have to give them in the way of an autumn season, and that the late season this year will mean later seasons in the years to come.

A Job Well Done

The Mountaineer takes off its hat and makes a low bow to The Forest City Courier for the accomplishment in publishing their 112-page edition to the men in service.

Rutherford County has over 3,100 men in service, and the 112-page edition is a fitting tribute to these men, and to those who may later enter service.

The staff of The Courier has done an outstanding piece of work, and we know their efforts are not in vain. The task was well done. Our recent 56-page edition was a man-size job. Theirs was a gigantic one.

Band At Practice

We note with pleasure that the Waynesville township high school band is getting back to their routine practice and plan to give a concert here and at Lake Junaluska in the near future.

The band has meant a great deal not only to the students who have been given the opportunity of learning to play, which will give them an appreciation of music for the rest of their lives, but also to the community.

This summer tension has been running pretty high as most folks have pushed themselves to greater effort to meet conditions. We feel that a good band concert on the courthouse grounds would help us all to relax a bit—some good stirring airs, that will pep us up.

How about it, Director Isley, and band students?

Miracles In 36 Years

August, 1943, marks the 36th anniversary of the creation of the U. S. Air Forces. It was started with one officer and two men. The story of the progress which has been made since that date reads like a fairy story.

Today there are hundreds of thousands of trained men in our air corps, which is such a vital part of our defense. But to reach this high goal of efficiency many have made sacrifices along the way in their effort to perfect travel in the skies.

What has been accomplished in the field of aviation since the war clouds gathered over this country and since we actually got into the conflict sounds like a miracle, when one considers the number of men who have been trained and the number of planes that are being turned out.

The accomplishments of the past three years in aviation and in the immediate years to come will be reflected in that great era of peace to which we all look forward. Great changes will take place in travel, for aviation has come to stay.

In the meantime we pay tribute to this first line of defense, our air corps, that gives us protection on our shore lines and inspires us with a feeling that the enemy will never get very far into our country.

High School Age Voters

"First in peaches, first in watermelons, first to give the vote to 18-year-olds."

Georgia can add this boast to the inscription on its Great Seal if it wishes. The Cracker State is the first in the American Union to lower the voting age which has never before been altered anywhere in the United States since the days of the Colonies.

There is nothing sacred about 21 as the age of majority. It is fixed by common law for male maturity, but some States fix 18 as the age for women. Some States even say a minor has reached an age of sufficient discretion to select his own guardian at 14. And Mrs. Roosevelt says, "If they're old enough to fight, they're old enough to vote." Many thinking people recognizing the difference between the functions of a voter and a soldier, will question this. Yet the Constitution of the United States permits the States to determine their own qualifications for voters. Georgia, indeed, may have started something.

Georgia's 18-year-olds next year will have two opportunities to distinguish themselves: It is possible for them to be the first of their age to help elect an American President for a fourth term in office—or they could become pioneers in breaking away from the tradition that they must vote "the way granpappy did."—Christian Science Monitor.

A New Service

We were interested in the reports of the Civil Aeronautics Commission on their "pick-up" air mail service. There are now 115 cities ranging in population from 500 to 120,000 that have this type of service, with extension anticipated in other areas.

Air companies are contemplating offering the service to as many as 1,453 cities in 29 states. The way it is handled does not require a large airport—but only two strong poles across which a line is attached on which the package to be picked up by the mail plane, is suspended.

The new simplified service is another sign of the effects of changing times, that will come within the next few years.

If there is any truth in the old saying that "Happy is the country without a history", then Sicily must be one of the most unhappy countries in the world.

The so called weaker sex do not seem to be weak now.

ANOTHER STEPPE CHILD!



HERE and THERE

By
 HILDA WAY GWYN

We are so far removed in this section from the actual war activities that the crash of the army plane near the Haywood-Jackson county line last Friday afternoon brought a deeper realization of the toll of war to us . . . and shocked us into what it means to fight in the sky . . . it also brought home the training it takes to be a member of this great skyline defense group . . . and how even with that the mechanism of the plane may fail . . . We were a little surprised to learn that it was the first time that either of the two aviators had bailed out . . . for we had thought that method of leaving a plane was one of the features of training . . . it seems, so we learned from one of the authorities here for inspection . . . that only the paratroopers are given this type of training . . . We know, just as others have done, under similar conditions, that those two men must have lived a lifetime . . . in that split second in which the door of the plane was opened and they felt themselves falling into space . . . that thin line between them and death . . . and the tragedy of the one who could not make it . . . We heard the pilot say that the civilians in this area had given one hundred percent cooperation . . . and he seemed quite overcome with their kindness . . . and consideration which was proof that the Lt. did not know the mountaineers, their ready sympathy to those in trouble . . . their deep dyed patriotism . . . We have too many boys of our own in uniform not to be ready to give our best to the man in service who needs us . . .

We overheard one soldier say to another one (riding behind them on a bus this week) . . . that he was glad his furlough was over and that he was going back to regular army ways . . . that civilians were too jumpy for him . . . that they seemed to be running around in circles and getting nowhere . . . but that in the army they were really doing something about it . . . and getting results for their work . . . Soldier, you may have something there . . . but you will have to admit that we mean well at any rate . . . the conversation has come back to mind several times . . . for we have never known as many tired, overworked people . . . everyone you meet seems to be living on an exacting schedule . . . both as to the necessary details of living and the extra war effort . . . nobody has time like they once did . . . it makes one long for a return to the days when the sands of the hour glass were unhurried . . . and "time by all records stood still" . . . we wonder if life with its stepped up tempo will ever go in reverse again . . . and we find we have that rare state, of leisure, once more to deal with . . . you recall a few years back . . . there was a lot of talk about how to spend one's leisure . . . and now, who has any? . . .

From time immemorable men have poked fun at women and their fads and fancies . . . and changing styles in dressing . . . and most of the time we have brought it on ourselves by our absurdities . . . but one fad that is growing in such amazing manner, has appeared to go unnoticed . . . that is this business of the stockingless age . . . it has not been so long ago that only the very young were privileged to roam around with socks, or minus them . . . and now there is no age limit to the custom of stockingless legs . . . some have acquired the habit from force of circumstances, because they cannot buy their favorite nylons . . . to others it is a grand excuse to go without hose . . . believe it or not, we have yet to hear the first man say one word of criticism about the fashion . . . we have been greatly impressed by this silence . . . could it be that the low cost of bare legs has something to do with it . . . or is it a state of resignation to let us do as we please, because they know we will in the end . . .

A group of people in an evening's conversation can cover a lot of ground . . . from the settlement of world problems . . . the duration of the war . . . down to their favorite dessert . . . can all be crowded into the talk as it changes back and forth . . . the subject of writing "bread and butter" notes came up . . . and the prize went to the hostess who said that she had recently heard from a week-end guest who had written, "that he felt so much at home while visiting in her family that he was afraid he had forgotten to be polite" . . . what more could you ask of a guest? . . .

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