

# THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER



Published In The County Seat Of Haywood County At The Eastern Entrance Of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park

WEEKLY-FIRST YEAR NO. 8 8 Pages WAYNESVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 1945 (One Day Nearer Victory) \$1.75 in Advance in Haywood and Jackson Counties

## Record-Breaking Crowds Attending Stage Tournament

### Finals Set For Tonight; Finals Will Be Played Off Friday Night

The Haywood high school basketball tournament is being held at a high pitch, and capacities are expected tonight and tomorrow night for the final of the tournament at the community center.

The tournament is being sponsored by the Community Council, and beautiful trophies will be awarded to the winning teams and individual players of each team.

Waynesville boys and girls got away to a flying start last night in the tournament, as the girls defeated the boys, 29 to 15. St. John's girls lost a heart-breaking game to the Fines Creek girls, 18 to 17.

St. John's boys fared better, beating the Fines Creek 19 to 12.

Arrangement of the Crabtree and Medford of the Fines boys shared scoring honors, each with 16 points.

Waynesville (27), Crabtree (25), Medford (24), Caldwell (18), and H. Arrington (16) were the scorers.

Waynesville (13), Crabtree (10), H. Arrington (10), Evans, Bryson, Messer, and Bradshaw, Dotsen.

Waynesville (19), Fines Creek (18), James (11), Noland (5), Messer (7), McElrath (4), Walker (3), Moore (2), St. John's, Furtado (2), H. Arrington, Gaddis, Elders, Trantham (2), Ledford, Haines.

Waynesville (29), Crabtree (15), Carwell (9), Milner (8), Rogers (7), Fergusson (1), Russell (1), St. John's, B. Dunbar (2), Nicholson, Cagle, Merritt, Green, J. Green, McElroy, T. Rogers.

## Other Of Local Reported Prisoner

David L. Sorrells, brother of James Sorrells, of Waynesville, was reported in action in Germany on Dec. 18, 1944.

He was later reported in action in Germany on Saturday the family had been working on a near Stallag. He entered camp on December 15, 1943.

## R. Palmer Assist With Returns

R. Palmer, deputy collector of income and intangible tax, will be at the courthouse on 23rd and 24th to assist with returns.

Palmer will be the only one to assist with returns in this community and all persons who want to assist them should contact him on one day.

## Post Office And Closed 22nd

The first National Bank will be closed today in observance of Washington's birthday, it was announced from the bank office.

Waynesville post office will observe the national holiday, and will be closed according to the post office regulations.

Col. J. Harden Howell, Jr., is also in the armed forces.

## Lt. Dunavant Killed In Action In Belgium

### Memorial Services Conducted At St. John's Church Monday

Lt. Henry Clay Dunavant, 30, son of Mrs. Crews Moody, of Dellwood, has been reported killed in action in Belgium on January 30, according to a message from the war department.

Lt. Dunavant, graduate of the Waynesville high school, volunteered in the service and was inducted in September 1940. He had been a member of the National Guard for eight years.

He was stationed in numerous camps throughout the country, and went overseas in August 1943. He saw action in North Africa, Sicily, Italy, Holland and Belgium.

Prior to entering the service he was employed by A. C. Lawrence Leather Company. He was a charter member of St. John's church.

Surviving are: his wife, the former Miss Katherine Stinson, of Canton; a daughter, Linda Catherine, age 2; his mother, Mrs. Crews Moody, a sister, Mrs. William Orr, of Blytheville, Ark., and one brother, Leonard Dunavant, of Dellwood.

Memorial services were held in St. John's Church Monday morning, at 9 o'clock for Lt. Dunavant. A solemn requiem High Mass was sung with the Rev. A. F. Rohrbach officiating as celebrant; Rev. T. G. Roche, deacon, and Rev. H. P. Kennedy, subdeacon. Capt. S. J. Meany, chaplain, army redistribution service, Asheville, delivered the address. The choir was under the direction of Sister Mary Anthony. The color bearers of the local state guard stood at attention during the service. At the close of the memorial, taps were sounded by one of the color bearers.

## Blinded Haywood Soldier Awarded DSC At Hospital

Pfc. Thomas P. Gibson, 22, son of Mrs. Billie Gibson, of Lake Logan section, Canton, R.F.D. No. 3, who was blinded by German mortar fire in Italy in June, 1944, has been awarded the Distinguished Service Cross by Lt. Gen. Mark W. Clark, for "extraordinary heroism in action."

Before an assembly of blinded soldiers at the Old Farms Convalescent Hospital at Avon, Conn., Gibson received the medal from Col. Frederick H. Thorne, commanding officer. He was the first recipient of such an award at the hospital.

The citation accompanying the award described the action near Istia, Italy, and told how Gibson's platoon became pinned down by enemy machine gun fire from a nearby building.

"Ignoring the fact that any movement brought instant deadly fire from the enemy," the citation said, "Pfc. Gibson on his own initiative rushed across open ground and opened fire, forcing one machine gun to withdraw. Another machine gun opened fire on him, but he held his position and returned fire to enable his squad to advance and enter the building."

The citation described the action in which Gibson broke up machine gun attacks and enemy counterattacks and concluded: "The Germans in desperation concentrated their mortar fire on his position, totally blinding him. The heroic performance of Pfc. Gibson resulted in saving the lives of his comrades, accounted for 16 dead Germans and enabled his company to accomplish its missions."

## Baptist Workers Council To Meet Monday, 26th

The monthly Church Workers Conference will meet Monday, February 26, in the auditorium of the First Baptist Church, Waynesville. The meeting is to begin at 7:30 p. m. Group conferences are planned for the officers of the Woman's Missionary Union and the Training Union. The associational officers will lead the various group discussions. Officers of each of the organizations, Woman's Missionary Union and Training Union, in the Baptist churches of this county are invited to be present.

## Sgt. Woodrow Owen Now In China

Y-Force, China Theatre.—Sergeant Woodrow W. Owen, of Waynesville, is now serving as an instructor for Chinese troops at a Y-Force artillery training center in Yunnan.

Sgt. Owen, son of Mr. and Mrs. listed in the regular army in January, 1929, and served in Hawaii, as well as at Fort Bragg, Fort Benning, Ga., and Fort Meade, Md., before being ordered to China.

He arrived in India on December 26, 1942, and was sent across the Himalayan "Hump" to China to join Y-Force, the American military mission which trained and equipped the Chinese Expeditionary Force for the Salween Campaign to reopen the Burma Road, and whose American specialists advise and technically assist the troops in combat areas.

In addition to field training, Y-Force established infantry and Chinese troops where selected artillery centers were selected in American methods of making war and taught the mechanics and employment of American-supplied weapons.

Sergeant Owen is an instructor in communications for the units being supplied with American 75 millimeter pack howitzers, the only big gun which can be used in the rugged, roadless Chinese terrain, where most of the transportation must be by pack animal or coolie.

A brother, Dan, is also in the armed forces.

## Gun Crew That Shot Down Jap Bomber



The above is a picture of the gun crew of one of the U. S. ships that shot down a Jap dive bomber that was diving on the ship. The men are shown with the wing of the bomber. Clarence Shelton, gunner second class (second from left), son of Mr. and Mrs. S. S. Shelton, of Waynesville, R.F.D. No. 2, is a member of the crew.—Official photograph U. S. Navy.

## Parents Receive Letters From Sons In Two Theaters

Mr. and Mrs. Frank McElroy, who have five sons in the service, had two letters during the past week, arriving on the same day from two of them, one serving in the European and another in the Philippine theater.

In the letter from Pfc. Billy McElroy, Ranger, who was with the first unit to land during the invasion of the Philippines, there was a description, (as much as the censor would allow) of the freeing of the American prisoners, and of their joy. "They were glad to see us, but we were just as glad to see them," he wrote, "and I feel that I have done something worthwhile."

The other letter came from Pfc. Paul McElroy, who is serving with a tank destroyer, which has been attached to the 101st Armored Division, who is doing his part in the European theater.

In the letter was enclosed one from his commanding officer, excerpts of which follow: "The undersigned desires to take this means to commend the officers and enlisted men of Combat Command B, 10th Armored Division, for their most excellent work in the defense of Bastogne, Belgium during the period 15, December, 1944, to 27, January, 1945."

"During the period in question this organization was attached to the 101st Airborne Division and took an active part in the historic defense of Bastogne. During a part of the time, the entire garrison was surrounded by the enemy and isolated from ground contact with friendly troops. This unit under the command of Col. W. L. Roberts, U. S. Army, performed an outstanding service. I doubt that service has been rendered by an armored unit in the U. S. Army which can parallel the accomplishments of this splendid group of officers and men."

The other sons of Mr. and Mrs. McElroy, who live on the farm of D. Reeves Noland are: Frank McElroy, Jr., S 2/c, in South Pacific; Cpl. Reed McElroy, in France; and G. C. McElroy, S 2/c, in European theater. All five sons are graduates of the Fines Creek high school and all were engaged in farming at the time they entered the service.

## T-5 Ernest M. Sutton Awarded 3 Bronze Stars

Tech/5 Ernest M. Sutton, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Sutton, of Waynesville, who is serving overseas, has been awarded three bronze stars for battle participation in Normandy, North France and Germany war campaigns, according to information received from headquarters of the Seventh Army.

Tech. Sutton is attached to the 106th Cavalry group of the Seventh Army. He has materially assisted his unit in the completion of all assigned missions which has contributed greatly in the rout and destruction of German forces in France.

The 106th Cavalry group has been spearheading many drives as a forward reconnaissance force and during the Forest de Parroy fighting on the Seventh Army front fought as infantrymen until the German defenders were smashed in that sector. Recently the group held a major German division attack long enough to allow troops to be shifted to meet the threat.

## Fred Martin, Jr. Home For Short Leave

Flight Officer Fred Martin, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Martin, spent three days with his parents here last week. He has recently been awarded his wings and commission as flight officer at Phoenix, Ariz.

He entered the service as a volunteer in the summer of 1943 while he was a student at Western Carolina Teachers College. He has received his training at the following fields, Keosauqua, Miss., Luke Army Air Field, Sioux City, Santa Ana, Calif., and Tucson, Ariz.

Pfc. Wm. N. Alexander Wins Bronze Star

Pfc. William N. Alexander, of Canton, who is serving with the 399th Infantry was among the group of the 100th Division of the Seventh Army who received recognition of individual bravery and ability under fire according to a release sent The Mountaineer from headquarters. Forty-two awards were made to Carolina men.

Pfc. Alexander was awarded a bronze star for his combat duties.

## Leatherwood Shot In Leg By A Sailor

### Clerk of Court Slightly Wounded By Pistol Bullet Here Saturday Morning

Hugh Leatherwood, clerk of the Haywood county Superior court, was shot in the leg while in his office Saturday morning by Wade Chambers, U. S. Navy, former operator of the bus station here.

Mr. Leatherwood's injuries were slight and after treatment at the Haywood county hospital, was taken to his home.

J. P. Dicus, who was in the inner office talking to Mr. Leatherwood, is said to have knocked the gun down as Chambers fired. One bullet struck Mr. Leatherwood in the leg near the knee.

Chambers was taken into custody almost immediately and lodged in the county jail. While none of the county officials would make any statement, it was learned from an authoritative source that Chambers remained in jail, without charges until Wednesday morning when he was taken to an undisclosed naval post and turned over to the Naval authorities.

## C. E. Arrington Reported Missing Since January 15

Sgt. Clarence E. Arrington, son of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar T. Arrington, of Waynesville, R.F.D. No. 1, has been reported missing over Yugoslavia since January 15, according to a message received by his parents.

Sgt. Arrington volunteered for service in the Air Force in September, 1943, and went to Keesler Field, Miss., on October 13, 1943. Other posts at which he was trained were: Sioux Falls, So. Dak., Yuma, Ariz., MacBills Field, Fla., Hunter Field, Fort Dix, and when sent overseas he went to a base in Southern Italy.

Mr. and Mrs. Arrington received a letter from the office of the commanding general, Fifteenth Air Force, which read in part: "Your son, Staff Sergeant Clarence E. Arrington, participated in a combat mission to Vienna, Austria, on January 15, 1945. As the craft failed to return to the base, Clarence and his crew have been missing in action since that date."

"On the flight from the target in the vicinity of Viteze, Yugoslavia, they ran short of fuel and no contact could be established with the craft after that time."

"Your son won the respect and admiration of all his fellow airman for the many sterling traits of character which he possessed. You may be very proud of the splendid record of service which he has established."

Sgt. Arrington was salutatorian of the 1941 graduating class of the local high school. Prior to entering the service he was employed by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, Wilmington.

## 36th Annual DAR Declamation Held Today

The thirty-sixth annual declamation contest sponsored at the Waynesville Township high school by the Dorene Bell Love Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution will be held this morning at 10:45 in the auditorium, with Mrs. W. F. Swift, presiding and Mrs. S. H. Bushnell, chairman of patriotic education, in charge of the contest.

The following boys will deliver declamations: Ray Rogers, Tommie Norris, Mark Hollingsworth, Cecil Ford, Winifred Limer, Bob Ferguson, Aaron Hyatt and J. D. Kelley.

The public is urged to attend as well as all members of the sponsoring organization.

## Sgt. Joe Tate In Raid On Germany

An Eighth Air Force Bomber Station, England.—Sgt. Joseph N. Tate, 21, of Waynesville, was gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, received his baptism in aerial warfare during an Eighth Air Force bombing attack on a railroad marshalling yard at Kassel, Germany.

Sgt. Tate participated in another of a series of aerial assaults aimed at Von Runstedt's vital lines of supply. The attack was a part of the concentrated effort of the AAF to soften resistance for the Allied armies' thrust into the Reich.

The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph N. Tate, Route 1, Waynesville, Sgt. Tate was a driller supervisor, employed by the North Carolina Shipbuilding Company, before entering the AAF in February, 1944. He is a graduate of Waynesville high school, class of 1941.

## Committees Named For Annual Red Cross Campaign

### Killed In Action



PVT. CARL HANNAH, 19, paratrooper, son of Mrs. Violet Ferguson, of Cove Creek, who was killed in action in Belgium on January 9, according to a message from the War Department. Pvt. Hannah entered the service in November, 1943, at Fort Bragg and had been overseas since May, 1944. He was formerly employed by the American Enka Corporation.

The drive will open on March 1 and continue through the 10th, with all workers completing their work by the closing date.

"This year we feel that everyone will be more anxious than ever to contribute to the needs of the Red Cross. We know what it means to our men overseas and what it is doing for the families right here in our own county. Considering the large number of Haywood boys in service we also know what a large part of Red Cross funds are benefiting our people," said Mr. Davenport.

## Cannery Users Required To Attend Meetings

### Community Cannery To Open Earlier This Season

Plans are now being completed for the operation of the community cannery on the high school grounds for the 1945 season, it was learned from J. C. Brown, manager.

It will be necessary this season for all those who expect to use the cannery to attend at least one of the preliminary training meetings to be held by the management of the cannery.

The equipment in the plant has been rearranged and also new equipment added, including a new boiler. The season will begin early enough so that early beans may be canned at the plant, which will probably be the first part of June.

Meetings scheduled for this month are as follows: Dellwood school, on Monday, 26th, at 2:00 o'clock; Rock Hill school at 3:00 p. m. Monday, Feb. 26; Allen's Creek at 2:00 p. m. on Tuesday, 27th; Saunook at 3:00 p. m. Feb. 27; Francis Cove, Feb. 27, at 8:00 p. m.; East Waynesville, Feb. 28, at 2 p. m.; and Hazelwood, Feb. 28, at 3:00 p. m.

All meetings will be held in the school buildings, with the exception of Francis Cove, where it will be held in the church. The meetings for Waynesville and Red Cliff Cove will be held at the East Waynesville school.

## Present Location Of 14 Men Sought By Draft Board

The draft board serving the Waynesville area of the county is trying to locate the whereabouts of the following men and the addresses when last heard from were:

Ernest Shuler, Waynesville, R. F. D. No. 1, Handy Wilson Kirkpatrick, 505 Danica Ave., Portsmouth, Va.; Duck Weaver Clark, Glendora, N. J.; Clinton H. Caldwell, Clyde, R.F.D. No. 1; Victor Lee Lewis, Statesville, R.F.D. No. 3; Sid Gibson, Waynesville; John Riley Mathis, Waynesville; Samuel Joseph Hall, Middle River, Md.; George Graham Stewart, Van Dyke, Mich.; Riley James Johns, Charlotte, 328 1/2 Brevard St.; John Pinkney McElroy, Waynesville, R.F.D. No. 1; Jess Scruggs, Highland Park, Gastonia; Eugene Edward Love, Waynesville, and Jess Ray Duckett, Clyde, R.F.D. No. 1.

## DROWN IN MISSISSIPPI

Two persons drowned in the Mississippi river when their small boat overturned. The victims were an 80-year-old woman, Mrs. Lena Owens, and her 37-year-old foster son, Alvin Poster.

Mrs. T. C. Clayton returned home on Wednesday after a visit with her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. C. R. Hill, Jr. Atlanta.

## All Workers To Meet For Supper Meeting Friday Night To Get Final Instructions

The organization for raising the \$7,800 quota of the Haywood Red Cross Chapter has been completed, according to K. B. Davenport, who is serving as chairman for the drive. All the committees have been named and the entire group is expected to attend a dinner meeting to be held at the Hazelwood school cafeteria on Friday evening at 7:00 o'clock.

The speaker of the evening will be Sgt. Victor Cameruci, who holds the Purple Heart and is a patient at Moore General Hospital. Sgt. Cameruci will give first hand information of how the Red Cross is serving the men in the service on the battle fronts overseas.

Mrs. Caroline D. Hill, field representative of the Red Cross, will also address the meeting, giving an account of the various services that the organization is rendering at home and abroad.

The drive will open on March 1 and continue through the 10th, with all workers completing their work by the closing date.

"This year we feel that everyone will be more anxious than ever to contribute to the needs of the Red Cross. We know what it means to our men overseas and what it is doing for the families right here in our own county. Considering the large number of Haywood boys in service we also know what a large part of Red Cross funds are benefiting our people," said Mr. Davenport.

Speakers of the evening will be: Mr. Davenport, chairman; Mrs. W. F. Swift, chairman; Mrs. Jonathan Woody, Mrs. Douglas Edwards, Mrs. Harry Whiteshank, Mrs. Nora Swift Atkins, Mrs. C. V. Bell, and Mrs. Frank Kimsy, Jr.

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