

**The Mountaineer**

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THURSDAY, MAY 9, 1946

## Fruitful Years

Tomorrow the members of the Haywood County Home Demonstration Clubs are holding their Spring Federation meeting. They will observe National Demonstration Club week and the program will include a review of the local organization and development of the work in this county.

It would be hard to estimate what the home demonstration clubs and their activities have meant to the rural families of Haywood. They have been far reaching not only in material things, but also in the more elusive things of the spirit. The clubs have helped the women to realize their ideals for better home making. The interests and aid gleaned through club work have aided them in giving their families more livable homes, better food and improved standards of living.

We did not keep abreast of the rest of the state in this phase of work. We were years behind. Not until 1933 under the ERA program did the foundation of the present system start. Miss Mary Margaret Smith, present home agent was sent to the western part of the state and assigned to 20 counties in canning projects. The work was in progress from May to September. Then in 1935 she was assigned to Swain and Haywood under another program of a ten months period, paid by the state.

In 1936 the full time home demonstration program was launched in both Swain and Haywood by vote of the county commissioners. The Haywood commissioners were very smart not only in starting the work, but in retaining Miss Smith here. Under her guiding hand from a few small groups we have a total of 18 clubs with 500 members, the largest group of organized women in the county.

## Mother's Day

We do not know to whom we should credit the following quotation but to our way of thinking there has never been a more comprehensive estimate of a Mother's worth than "God could not be everywhere and so He gave us Mothers."

Mother's day is the one anniversary of the year which we cannot approach dispassionately. We find ourselves submerged in the emotion of tender memories. We start with babyhood and go hand in hand down the years, remembering how she guided us when we were too young to know the way.

Then after childhood came the adolescence period and suddenly the years had swept by and we were grown and we had to make decisions for ourselves, but we had her support and courage to carry us on. If we had her all the way to maturity and beyond we have indeed been fortunate, but if she has gone on ahead we have had our memories tucked away in which to find comfort.

Friends come and go and often they are affected by our fortunes in life, but not so with our mothers. They are steadfast through all things and the more we need her the more she has loved us. She is the spirit of the home.

When Miss Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, planned a Sunday school program back in 1914 with Mother as the central theme to do honor to her beloved mother, she little dreamed what a movement she had started, which has grown with the years to have a permanent place in the life of the American people.

We give honor on the second Sunday in May with the one supreme thought, that the mother influence is still the most potent in the range of human knowledge. From all walks of life people think of the power for good their mother has been in their lives.

## C. Of C. Banquet

There have been many Chamber of Commerce banquets as the years have passed in this community. They have all held hopes of great things to come, but there was something about the program last Friday night that seemed to promise realization in a definite form.

The program was well balanced, an entertaining and satisfactory mixture of fun and the more serious contemplation of current problems. The speech by Governor Broughton offered much food for thought and gave an outsider's valuation of our section that gives us something to live up to.

When the program is viewed as a whole, it all comes down to the fact that our section is now on the threshold of a change. It is going on everywhere. During the war period we temporarily laid aside certain developments. We did not forget them, we were merely consumed with other affairs. It was right. It was the only wait to meet pressing problems which the war had brought.

Now the scene changes, and the curtain goes up on another act. The stage is set. How we play our part and what we will get out of it depends on us. Have we vision enough to catch the picture of the future as a whole and bring the climax to a glorious progress that will make the most of our advantages? Time alone can tell.

## Our Full Measure

The response to the call for food by the Haywood County Ministerial Association should be heart warming to its sponsors as well as to the people at large. As we go up and down the streets and see the stacks of loaves of bread and whether or not we can always find just some special food to our liking, there is always an abundance.

In view of this plenty it is hard for us to understand the need in the war devastated nations. "We must not fail", writes President Truman in transmitting to Congress the quarterly report of the United Nations Relief and Rehabilitation Administration and he further states:

For our continued participation in obligation to others marks the fulfillment of a pledge and the discharge of a debt to those who, beyond the common sacrifice of life and material resources, endured the devastation and brutalities that we were spared. Conscience alone demands that we meet the full measure of our obligation.

But what is our obligation? Is it merely to give what we can spare without any discomfort? We feel that all of us if we could only know the real need would gladly make a sacrifice for those who have endured so much more than we.

## A Bright Prospect

The picture of development in the South is a bright one according to Howard W. Odum, head of the sociology department at the University of North Carolina, who recently told the nation's foremost social scientists at a conference of key educators from 13 Southern States, that "the South has hardly begun to tap its immense reservoirs of resources or to use them for the enrichment of its economy and its people."

Dr. Odum pointed out that high in the catalogue of needs is an increasingly larger amount and more effective type of research and discovery through which the South's resources may be developed and made available. There is also special need for skills and ways of using these resources more effectively and for giving all people equal opportunity to profit from use through an economy of abundance.

Another great need, pointed out Dr. Odum, is for the South to re-discover the human worth of its people to re-discover and recognize the personalities of the folk and to recapture the spirit of its Christianity and democracy through the good society which will develop and give equal opportunity to all its people.

This re-discovery and development of the folk and the recognition of the immeasurable worth of the individual is in harmony with the new needs of an atomic age. In particular, 25 years of research in the South has shown this to be a supreme need. Unless this need is met, all the wealth and resources of the South will mean little.

From the viewpoint of these eminent scientists it would seem that at the end of the South's rainbow is an honest to goodness "pot of gold." The scientists have made what appears to be a very fine diagnosis of our needs. Perhaps they had better go one better and give us a detailed prescription of how to get results from the rich store of resources and people.

With President Truman able to keep only \$4,200 of his \$75,000 salary after payment of taxes and household expenses a small boy has more encouragement to grow up and be a hard-hitting outfielder.—Little Rock (Ark.) Gazette.

## THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

## AH, SWEET MYSTERY OF LIFE!



## HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

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A year after the fall of Germany we look about us and marvel at the courage and bravery of those whose hearts will forever keep vigil over a white cross that marks a grave somewhere overseas. They may never visit the spot, but will be familiar and sacred ground to them. Daily we are filled with admiration for the way they lift up their eyes and go forward with the routine of living. The world will forget in time, but the mothers and fathers will always remember. He is still their son as much as if he were living in the flesh today. He is with them always, in the rising of the sun and in the beauty of nature. His material possessions are everywhere reminders in the home.

During the week we contacted a father, whose son was one of our first casualties, a mere boy in his teens. We had never known the father before the day he handed us that message which began, "We regret to tell you . . . but after he told us the story we were no longer strangers . . . and since that day we have felt that we were friends of long standing.

We talked with a mother recently. It had been just a year. She had hoped, yet in her heart she knew what the final message would be. She told us of how she knew even before the message came how she could not sleep the night before and was up early. When she saw the car turn toward her door, she told one of the members of her family, what it brought, even before the telegram was handed to her.

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