

THE MOUNTAINEER

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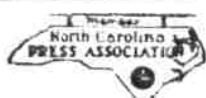
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FRIDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1946

Forceful Speaker

Not only the members of the First Methodist church, but also the public in general should be grateful to the Rev. Paul Townsend for bringing Bishop Hughes to Waynesville at this time. His sermons which attracted many from other churches were packed with enduring spiritual messages and all who heard him have had nothing but praise.

It is stimulating to see a man who though he has passed the retirement age set by his church for active duty is still able to render a service that many younger men could not give.

With a background rich in experience and a fine appreciation of the real values of life, and the power to impart to others through his sermons aid and comfort, Bishop Hughes made a deep impression upon the congregations who assembled to hear him during the past week.

Maybe a Change

We read that rumor has it that the 1947 General Assembly will be asked to make the Department of Tax Research a division of the Revenue Department.

It has been reported that Governor Cherry does not plan to appoint a successor to the late A. J. Maxwell as director of the department, at least until after the Legislature convenes. If the department is relegated to division status, no gubernatorial appointment would be necessary. There would be one less political reward to offer by the future governors.

Maxwell had headed the department since it was organized in 1942, following the creation by the 1941 Legislature. Maxwell was named director with a salary of \$6,000 a year.

While it is said that the department will probably become a division of the Revenue Department, there are no plans to stop any of its functions, but rather to expand the tax research with a view to making all possible improvements in the state's tax structure.

We would like to indulge in a bit of wishing, thinking and hope that in the improvement of the tax structure it might be found that the state could be run on lower taxes.

Traveling Companion

We note that in Chicago last week the National Safety Council, in view of the recent disastrous fire in Atlanta set forth seven rules to remember in case of fire. These rules would make fine traveling companions on a trip, which had overnight stops and stays in hotels, or in your own home. They included the following:

1. When you go to your room for the first time, locate regular and emergency exits.
2. If you detect fire or smoke, act quickly, but cool; notify the telephone operator; give exact information.
3. Feel your door before you open it, if it is hot, keep it closed; also close transoms and cover the cracks around the door with wet towels or sheets.
4. Do not act on impulse or take unnecessary chances to get out of your room; you may be safer where you are.
5. If your door is cool, open it a little; if the hall seems safe, leave by a known exit.
6. Close doors and windows behind you to reduce drafts.
7. If there is much smoke, hold or tie a wet cloth over your face and go on your hands and knees to an exit.

Hits Peak

Food prices have reached their peak and "the direction is somewhat downward" now, according to Clinton P. Anderson, secretary of agriculture. It is reported that the secretary speaks rather cautiously about this downward turn in food prices, for he does not want to be held responsible for depressing farm prices. It is easy to see his point of view, but a person in all fairness should not hold him responsible for this trend.

Mr. Anderson attributes the fall of food price increases to high production in the United States and also increasing production elsewhere which have been relieving shortages.

He made the statement that domestic surplus of about 400,000,000 bushels of corn in 1947 would mean increased meat production at lower cost.

Mr. Daniels In Mexico

The following account by W. J. Hooten in the El Paso Times regarding the recent visit of Josephus Daniels to Mexico City will be of special interest throughout North Carolina. In Haywood county we recall with regret the visit for it interfered with Mr. Daniels coming "home" to his adopted county to join in the Homer L. Ferguson Day celebration:

"One of the most astounding things to me in Mexico City was the agile manner in which the 84-year-old Josephus Daniels got around.

"Another thing that happened that impressed me very much was the apparent affection held by the Mexicans for our former Ambassador to Mexico.

"Mr. Daniels was practically lionized during the ceremonies in connection with the inauguration of Miguel Aleman as president of the Southern Republic.

"Stephen Aguirre, U. S. consul general, in Juarez, who was assigned by our government as aid to Mr. Daniels during the ceremonies, had considerable difficulty in keeping up with the elderly North Carolinian. Mr. Daniels was ready and willing to go at all times.

"It was my pleasure to renew acquaintance with him on several occasions in Mexico City. The first was at the reception given last Saturday by U. S. Ambassador Thurston. I saw Mr. Daniels on a number of occasions after that and if he was slowing up he showed no signs of it."

Christmas Programs

If the spirit of Christmas escapes us this year in the county and the community it will not be from lack of reminders. All organizations, schools, and churches have taken time out to give heed to the event.

Despite these programs and celebrations life seems to be moving on at such a rapid rate that most of us do not seem to have time to pause to let the meaning of the season give us the peace that it holds in store for us.

We commend such groups as the Salvation Army, Woman's Club, and the Lions Club as they give cheer to countless people in the area. They give us an opportunity to take part in their program and we trust that no matter how small your gift may be to them that you do not fail to give.

Congratulations

We congratulate the Chamber of Commerce and the secretary, Miss S. A. Jones, on the calendar which has just been issued by the organization. It is well planned and executed and the pictures of unusual attraction.

We wish that we had more of this type of publicity, for if properly placed, the 1947 calendar will bring many guests to this area by its pictures. We have only one criticism to make. In the section which is marked "notes"—which of course is a fine thing to use as reminders, we would have liked to have had the space devoted to more information about this section. However this is not serious, and perhaps we are merely overly anxious to get the outside world "told" as much as possible on every opportunity about our advantages here. We admit that the calendar is more attractive as it is, rather than cluttered up with too much printed matter.

Avoid Holiday Fires

With Christmas trees and other holiday decorations set up, the people of Haywood county should be extremely careful in connection with the danger of fire from the inflammable material.

Fire-fighting experts and other safety engineers urge families to be careful during the holiday season. They suggest that trees be removed from the house as they dry out, that Christmas wrappings be put in the trash and that special care be given to heating plants, electric wiring and hot ashes. A little attention might avert a disastrous fire during the holiday season.

Your Week

DECEMBER 16-22

WEEKOSCOPE
YOU ENJOY SPORTS OF ALL KINDS AND TAKE AN ACTIVE INTEREST IN GOOD HEALTH AND PHYSICAL FITNESS

MON 16
TODAY MARKS THE 175th ANNIVERSARY OF THE BOSTON TEA PARTY.

TUE 17
THE FIRST SUNDAY NEWSPAPER APPEARED IN BALTIMORE (THE SUNNY MONTON)

WED 18
150 YEARS AGO THE FIRST SUNDAY NEWSPAPER APPEARED IN BALTIMORE (THE SUNNY MONTON)

THUR 19
BE SURE TO REMEMBER THE BOYS IN THE MILITARY HOSPITALS WITH GIFTS AND CHRISTMAS CARDS

FRI 20
IRENE DUNNE'S BIRTHDAY

SAT 21
WINTER BEGINS—SHORTEST DAY AND LONGEST NIGHT OF THE YEAR

SUN 22
BIRTHDAY OF JAMES EDWARDS COLEMAN (BORN 1896) WHO FOUNDED GEORGIA, 1773, AS A REFUGE FOR MEN JAILED FOR DEBT

IT IS VERY HARD TO SHAVE AN EGG—

HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

It has come to us as we hoped it would—the real spirit of Christmas which carries one along during the hectic days that come before December 25th. We had begun to get a bit uneasy for fear we might miss the big thrill of anticipation. It came in a most ordinary manner. We had not made a fruit cake since the first year of the war. We had forgotten how long it took to make them— but as we creamed the butter, we began to remember the last time we had made such a cake. Then from there we went back several years, and the next thing we knew the happy memories of Christmas just piled up in one grand heap—and suddenly we were deluged with the Christmas spirit—for after all Christmas to the very young is looking forward and to the adult it is a mingled emotion of both looking forward and backward. At any rate we are taking Christmas—so won't you come along—for it is much better to join the group—and enter into the day.

Aren't the Christmas cards gay and attractive this year? During the war they grew a bit stale—and we had the feeling that we did not like to send such merry ones—they did not seem appropriate, but now we can go back to the joy in Christmas. We read this week that the exchange of Christmas cards began in England in 1844 when an artist, W. C. Dobson, sent a card he designed to a friend instead of a Christmas letter. The following year he had his card lithographed and sent copies to his friends. Little did he realize what he had started and how the custom would grow over the years. It is said that this year almost 2,000,000,000 Christmas cards will be mailed in the United States. It is no wonder that the postmaster has asked us to start mailing cards early—for from the looks of people having cards here, the clerks in the P. O. are going to be plently busy, but we think Christmas cards are one of the nicest things about the season. True, they clutter up the house, but each one has a special place with you as a reminder of some friend, and it makes you glad to be remembered.

The following clipping handed us with the request that we reprint here—Former Governor O. Max Gardner, who is due to cross the Atlantic soon as U. S. Ambassador to Great Britain likes to tell a story on himself concerning his first glimpse of sea water. At the age of 16 he went to Wilmington and saw the ocean for the first time. He was so fascinated by the water that he filled a bottle full of salt water to take home to show his family. On the train he began talking to a friendly conductor, who asked him what he was carrying in the bottle. Gardner explained that his folks had never seen the ocean so he was taking part of it home. "Well," said the conductor, "you know the tide rises at 6.30, don't you?" "Yes," young Gardner replied. "It's 6 o'clock now and in half an hour the tide will rise and your bottle will overflow, if you don't empty part of it." So Gardner did as he was told and he says that he didn't know until he was 21 years old that he was being kidded. "We know that the British will like the Gardner's... and are proud that North Carolina will again represent this country at the court of St. James.

Deputies Wade McDaniels and John Kerley and Revenue Officer Roy Reece had a pretty busy time last week. The Haywood men however did not have quite as strenuous a seven days as Mr. Reece. He took part in the capture of no less than six stills—two in Buncombe, one in Jackson and three in Haywood. We always like to boast about Haywood being first—and biggest, etc.—but this is one time we will put on the soft pedal on our record.

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
Central Press Writer

nags—we can't even pronounce 'em!

Zadok Dumkopi says a chap who talks through one of those new yellow or pink hats might be called a colorful speaker.

It's the pessimist who enjoys the fact the days are growing shorter. It gives longer nights in which to lie awake worrying.

A mysterious package sent to the British Board of Trade, first feared to contain a bomb, held, instead, a Scottish nudding made of tripe, chitterlings, suet, oatmeal, etc. Grandpappy Jenkins thinks it was just another kind of infernal machine.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Would you like to see a White Christmas this year?

Ned Tucker—"No. There are too many people planning to travel during the holidays, and bad roads will cause a lot of accidents."

Robert C. Ferguson—"It would be a lot of trouble to me on the milk route, but I would like to see one."

Edna McCracken—"Yes. It doesn't seem like Christmas without snow. But I don't want any before then."

Carlyle Haynes—"No. I would rather be where there isn't any snow."

Charlie Ruff—"I'd like to see it snow the night before and on Christmas day."

Jimmy Reed—"Yes. So our little daughter can see her first snow."

Letters To The Editor

HOMER L. FERGUSON DAY NOV. 9 IN HAYWOOD

Editor The Mountaineer:
My copy of The Mountaineer having the full plans for Homer L. Ferguson Day was lost in the mail and the second copy only reached me recently. Old Haywood surely "did herself proud" in her celebration of the day and in her tribute to her distinguished son. I am proud of the splendid celebration, but (as a little five-year-old girl once said), "my feelings is hurt" that I could not be there and do my part.

As I write, my thoughts go back to the far past. I saw the first Ferguson home (a frame building) go up on Haywood street. I was often in that house and its successor. Our family and the Fergusons were very intimate. The husbands were old Confederate veterans and as lawyers together they rode the mountain judicial circuit on horseback. The wives were the closest of friends and there was a constant coming and going of children to borrow tools and various household things. Then if one garden abounded, for instance, in peas and the other in potatoes, there were boys going from house to house with a "mess" of such products in exchange. We were neighbors. Mrs. Ferguson was "Aunt Laura" to me as a boy and indeed long after I became a grown man.

I have known Homer Ferguson all his life. As a boy I knew his (Continued on Page Seven)

Washington Letter

VEGETARIAN FISH TO GET SPINACH FOR CHRISTMAS DINNER

By JANE EADS

WASHINGTON — Vegetarians among the fish family of Fred G. Orsinger, director of the fish and wildlife service's aquarium in the Commerce Department building, will get a special helping of spinach for Christmas.

Other fish, who Orsinger says hate spinach worse than our own small fry, will get special helpings of fried beef heart.

As for Ollie Orsinger, the jovial director's understanding but really long-suffering better-half, she'll get "\$5 for groceries and a special oiling of her vacuum cleaner and electric washing machine."

That's what Fred says, but of course he's kidding.

"He's what's the use of being serious, anyway?" Fred queries, his grey eyes twinkling. "Nobody wants a lot of stiffness. The folks I know prefer just plain garden-variety nonsense."

Orsinger added that Ollie would probably up his weekly 50-cent allowance to a dollar for the holiday.

"We've been married 43 years," he said, "and Ollie has never been stingy yet."

Seriously, though, Orsinger has done a great deal to be an aquarium. He loves his fish family, and it is regret he is forced by law to retire next July 10.

He will be 70 years of age, doesn't look it. Stocky, energetic and full of life, he has the appearance and man in his late forties that is a sign of age.

"I've got some mitey and use it. He is thinking of going to a spell with Ollie three sons are grown and fend for themselves."

elder Orsingers have a farm in the southern part of his mind to deciding what next.

He has had three offers from the University of the South to open a new aquarium would like to have a meager's experience here. Some people in Haywood are up about a new, wonderful gift system of their Gulf stream and they have spoken to Orsinger.

Then Capt. William Pass Christian, Miss. a for many years and a recent book called "Shark Stings Yet."

(Continued on Page 7)

WHEN HIGHWAYS LEAD HOME!

Excitement and anticipation grow and grow... and then, what fun it is to be home-bound at Christmas time, rolling along, safe and carefree in a big comfortable seat, aboard a modern Trailways luxury liner... For the best value in Holiday travel—take TRAILWAYS... Low, easy-on-the-budget fares... Convenient schedules to all points in the U. S. A. ... No reservation worries! See your friendly Trailways agent for complete information on schedules and fares to your home.

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