

THE MOUNTAINEER

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FRIDAY, OCTOBER 17, 1947

Punishing Criminals

In the Tuesday edition, we published an editorial from the Sylvia Herald, which agreed with Warden Hugh Wilson that criminals should be punished for their crime in the county where the crime is committed.

The Charlotte Observer studied the statement of Warden Wilson, and wrote an editorial taking an opposite view, pointing out that Mr. Wilson's idea was 100 years old and had been tried, and was now out of date.

We are inclined to disagree in part. There are many practices that society has tossed aside as being old-fashioned that are even better than present-day ones.

The Observer writing under the caption "Warden's Idea Is Old" said:

"There may be ground for argument for and against the contention of State Prison Warden Hugh Wilson that executions ought to be public and in the counties in which the crimes are committed."

"However, he and others who agree with him should not overlook the fact that what he advocates was the unbroken rule in North Carolina until early in the present century. For generations the practice was public hangings in the county seats where the criminals were convicted and sentenced to death.

"It was within the last 40 years that the General Assembly changed the law to require that all executions in the state be by electrocution in the penitentiary at Raleigh, to be witnessed by only a very small group of persons. Many years later the law was amended again, and execution by gas was substituted for electrocution.

"So the plan advocated by Warden Wilson has been well tried in North Carolina. It is a question whether there is good ground for the warden's argument that public executions in the county seats would prove more effective as a deterrent than the 'private' executions at Raleigh. Perhaps the question could be answered only by a lot of research necessary to determine if more or fewer capital crimes have been committed, in proportion to population, since executions have been confined to the penitentiary than when they were public in the several counties.

"However, there is little or no validity in Warden Wilson's assumption that when a man from the far western section of the state is taken to Raleigh for execution the people in his home county 'hardly know what is going on.'" News reports of executions are always published in the daily papers throughout the state and usually featured in the local papers in the home counties of the condemned, as are the crimes, the trials, convictions and sentences.

"Public executions at the 100 county seats long have been regarded as out of date and out of harmony with wholesome public sentiment in North Carolina."

Better Record Than 1946

The number of people injured and those killed on Haywood's highways steadily increases. As of October 15th, the number of people killed on highways in the county during 1947 total 8, while 46 had received injuries.

It is interesting to note that on October 15th of last year that the record stood—13 killed and 153 injured.

The present record is so far much better than last year, yet we have some of our worst driving weather ahead. We are elated that there is a market improvement, yet the record is not good enough, in fact it never will be until it is 0 and 0.

Project Number One

During the past two week-ends that the 5-mile section of the Parkway at Wagon Road Gap has been opened, we have spent considerable time talking to people visiting the area. We felt all the time we knew what their reaction would be to the many scenic views from the Parkway, but we find we did not anticipate all their reactions.

We have seen people from many states stand at Green Knob, a lookout point on the Parkway, and point out spot after spot across the 260-degree panorama in majestic Pisgah Forest, as their eyes fairly glistened with appreciation and gratitude. Yet, in almost every instance, and with a tone of disappointment in their voice, they wanted to know why the two sections of the Parkway in that area are not linked together.

They know that beyond the dead-end of the Wagon Road Gap link, there is a 3-mile section of the Parkway already mapped that traverses some of America's most scenic spots. They know, too, that thousands of dollars were spent in building the Beech Gap section, which is not open to the public. They wonder, with keen disappointment, why the two sections already built have not been connected.

It is on this 3-mile link that the proposed 5,000-acre Yellowstone Lake would be built, and the recreational area nearby. The beautiful Yellowstone falls can also be seen from this area, in fact the route of the Parkway comes close to the falls.

The Parkway plan was born back during the dark days of the depression, when taxpayers had to grit their teeth to give the nod of approval to go ahead, "we'll pay the bill." The public was given assurance that construction would be pushed as fast as possible. Engineering crews soon flocked to points all along the proposed route, as Congress appropriated the money, and before long dirt began to move.

Unfortunately, work started on sections that did not have as many scenic attractions as are found along the route in this area. In fact construction in this area has been extremely slow, and today there are only 3 miles of the Parkway west of Asheville that is graded and has crushed stone. A 5-mile section, and another of 3 miles, and both dead-ended, as stated above.

By building the 3-mile connecting link, the 11 miles would afford a drive that would be of value to every person taking the trip.

The state highway commission recently finished paving Highway No. 276 which connects with the Parkway at Wagon Road Gap, thus affording a modern highway from Waynesville and Brevard to the Parkway. The highway commission assures everyone that the state road to connect with the other end of the 11-mile Parkway section will be in "excellent" condition by the time the Parkway is open to complete the loop.

The public has been patient. The public has waited, and listened with interest to all that has been said in Washington about completing the Parkway. The public has not quibbled over the other end of the Parkway getting the lion's share of all monies. The people of this area are tolerant as well as patient, but there are limitations to both virtues.

Those charged with the construction of the Parkway have had numerous problems to cope with, to say nothing of curtailment during the war years. Now that the construction program is beginning to take shape again, we trust that immediate attention will be given to a well deserved project, one that should even rate first priority, and that is the completion of the 11-mile section between Beech Gap and Wagon Road Gap.

Good-Bye, and Welcome

This week will see much moving on the part of many ministers of the Western North Carolina Conference of the Methodist church. A number of changes are being made right here in Haywood.

The Mountaineer knows, and loves each of the men who are moving to a different field. Some we have had the pleasure to work with for four years, some for only two years. We admire and respect all of them, and wish for them every success in their new fields of labor.

To those pastors and leaders moving into Haywood, we know you will find friendly, loyal people. You will find a people who are interested in the work, and we feel that you will enjoy becoming a citizen of Haywood.

We have never known of a county where the pastors of all denominations have always worked so closely together, and in such harmony, as here in Haywood.

The Waynesville Fire Department certainly put on a creditable barbecue Tuesday night at the Armory. The Firemen's party has grown each year, and this week over 750 were graciously entertained and given an abundance of delicious food.

"GRIDIRON SELECTION OF THE WEEK"



Rambling 'Round

Bits Of Human Interest News Picked Up By Members Of The Mountaineer Staff

We deeply appreciate the interest our Rambling 'Round readers take in our column. For instance, J. R. Morgan, the attorney, came in to tell us of a perfect tree he could see from his window and how much pleasure it had given him. Then Frank Rogers, principal of the East Waynesville school, brought in the information that he had found a dogwood tree that was valiantly trying to hold on to summer by having a branch in full flower while the rest of the tree had decked itself out in its red berries.

Last Saturday when all of Waynesville was interested in the dollar-a-pound baby beef in the First National Bank lobby, a

young man of three years was begging his mother to take him over to see the animal. After much coaxing, she agreed but in all solemnity admonished him: "All right, I'll take you to see it but don't you dare play with it."

Signs of something or other: Two neatly dressed little colored boys are met on Main street by another little colored boy. He cordially greets the others with: "Hello. Where you from?" The other two answer in unison: "We's from Florida."

We often wonder if we are grateful enough for the blessings (Continued on Page Three)



WASHINGTON GETS A RULE BOOK FOR THE SOCIETY GAME

By JANE EADS WASHINGTON—The 1948 Social List of Washington, bible of Capital hostesses, is out with a precedence-breaking revision of who outranks whom at local shindigs.

When President Truman created the new department of defense, just three days after the green suede book went to press, the action threw its publisher, Mrs. Carolyn Hagner Shaw, into a whirling dither.

No one seems to know how it

all started, but the business of one official's standing ahead of another in a receiving line and sitting nearer the head of the table at dinners grew through the years into a full-fledged topsy, unquestioningly accepted by all.

"It is well to remember," cautions Mrs. Shaw, "that personal friendships do not count in official circles. The rank of one's guest must be the deciding factor at all times."

"When there is doubt as to which of two persons bears the higher rank, it is the part of wisdom never to invite them at the same time."

The President always tops the (Continued on Page Three)

Looking Back Over The Years

5 YEARS AGO

Haywood markets buy 4 fat baby beeves at show. Robert Hugh Clark is named fire chief of Waynesville. Town to stage clean-up and fire prevention week.

High school students are being given military exercises. They go through hard drills daily in the special defense work. Lt. Mack Davis, junior grade, has recently been promoted to lieutenant, senior grade. Claude McClure, Jr., is now with

the Marines. Cpl. Sam C. Welch is now at Fort Benning, Ga. Billy Burgin was given a surprise birthday party on Tuesday evening at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hurst Burgin.

10 YEARS AGO

Scout work is growing rapidly in Haywood county. Scout executive, A. W. Allen, says several more troops might be organized soon. An order has been placed by the county commissioners for letters to

be used in putting the words, "Haywood County Court House" in the panel over the four large columns in front of the building. The letters are of brown sanded bronze. The exhibits of women's work of the WPA, demonstrating the various projects, have received much favorable comment. Mrs. Harry Marshall entertained last week with a house party of Philadelphia friends. Mrs. Dan Watkins will preside at the meeting of the Woman's Club Thursday afternoon.

They'll Do It Every Time

THAT'S A BEAUTIFUL JOB, PIERRE. IT'S EXACTLY THE WAY I WANTED IT. I MUST HURRY NOW AND CATCH THE 5.15...

AHA! MADEMOISELLE HAVE WHAT ZEY CALL ZE HEAVY DATE TONIGHT, N'EST-CE PAS?

By Jimmy Hatlo

So she caught the 5:15, but so did a fresh air fiend... THE URGE TO KILL



MIRROR OF YOUR MIND



Can a girl ever forget her first sweetheart?

Answer: That often depends, not on how much she loved him, but on how much guilt or shame she felt at the degree of her surrender to him. For love, in a healthy-minded man or woman, can be "transferred" without reservation from one person to another, whereas something that we are ashamed of sticks in our minds like a splinter and becomes a center of infection to all our emotions. Also, the more guilty a girl feels at her "past," the more she has to keep justifying it by insisting "true love" caused it.



Do "truth drugs" help in reforming criminals?

Answer: Not directly, though they may lead to confession and conviction. But with prisoners who resist psychiatric treatment, or are not intelligent enough to understand it, Dr. George J. Train

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LETTERS TO EDITOR

THANKS NEWSPAPERS FOR PART IN CAMPAIGN

Editor The Mountaineer: We count it a privilege to extend greetings to you during National Newspaper Week, and to congratulate you upon the very substantial part which you have in the growth and well-being of your community and our state.

It seems to us that the theme, "Your Newspaper Serves Freedom By Serving You," expresses very well the role of the press in American life. We hope that you will continue always to be a vital part of a free and courageous press alert to the dangers and conscious of the opportunities of our day and generation, and serving freedom by serving your readers. We wish to take this opportunity

Capital Letter

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

ELECTIONS BOARD — With a big political year just around the corner, Governor R. Gregg Cherry is expected soon to name a chairman of the State Board of Elections to succeed Col. William T. Joyner, who, about a year ago, asked to be relieved of this job. The talk here is that Governor Cherry may appoint R. L. McMillan of Raleigh, attorney, and in the fore front of the American Legion and Baptist church.

NOTES — From July 1 to October 1, the advertising division of the N. C. Department of Conservation and Development received 19,646 out-of-state inquiries on North Carolina climate, farm costs, fishing, hunting, etc. — State Treasurer Charles Johnson, president of the N. C. Fox Hunters Association, reminds members that the annual meet will be held in Raleigh on October 28-31. No politics, just dogs chasing foxes over Wake county. The State, worried over the scarcity of skilled medical personnel in its mental hospitals, is preparing to raise salaries and thus attract more physicians.

OFF AGAIN — Just when the tormenters of Dr. Frank Graham, president of the Greater University of North Carolina, are ready to stomp him and throw him in the nearest ditch as a semi-Communist or worse, he comes up bright as the sun.

A few days ago the Knapp (Caldwell's, Woman's Home Companion, American) Foundation gave North Carolina \$250,000. Officials, in announcing the gift, said that much of the credit for its coming into this state should go to Dr. Frank Graham. Now Dr. Frank has been named to a committee of the Se-

YOU'RE TELLING

By WILLIAM RITT Central Press Writer

BLACK MARKET TURNS WHITE MILK BOOTLEGGING is now so rampant in France, we understand, that over there Bossy refuses to give with the lactical fluid until told: "Benny sent me."

Now that milk is so scarce in Paris it seems the black marketers are getting the cream of the business.

The French cow isn't to blame. The trouble is she doesn't have enough sisters.

A Frenchman, between the ages of infancy and 70 years is barred from buying milk these days and, if thirsty, must resort to a sort of wine. "What," hic-

By LAWRENCE Consulting Psychologist



Is growing up easy from home

Answer: Very much easier for it is nearly impossible to make up your own mind about things like getting a job—and to do so without the help of your parents. Again, if you have a tendency to do as you please there is no temptation to do as you please when you are a grown-up.

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