

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

Published Twice-A-Week In The County Seat of Haywood County At The Eastern Entrance Of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park

Published
Twice-a-Week
Every Tuesday
and Friday

No. 69 EIGHT PAGES

United Press and Associated Press News

WAYNESVILLE, N. C., TUESDAY, AUGUST 31, 1948

\$3.00 In Advance In Haywood and Jackson Counties

Missing Man In Junaluska

Edgar Vernon Steadings, 24, Buried Sunday Afternoon

Nine days after leaving a note addressed to a girl named Mary, the body of Edgar Vernon Steadings, 24-year-old soda jerker and cafe counter man, floated to the surface of Lake Junaluska right at the dam.

Saturday afternoon, as several high-powered motor boats churned the waters of the Lake, the body of the 24-year-old man rose to the surface, and tossed about like a cork, when sighted by John Ewart, who was standing on the bridge. Highway Patrolman J. W. Mays was nearby and gave the news over his car radio.

Boatmen went to the spot, and towed the body to shore, and were met by an ambulance.

Young Steadings had left the note, his wallet and cigarette lighter, with instructions that it be given to a girl by the name of "Mary". The note scribbled on the back of an envelope, said: "I am leaving this world. Keep these in remembrance of me."

He then took a taxi, and went to the Lake, but gave no explanation to the driver, other than to take him to Junaluska. It was about 12:30 a.m. when the taxi left him.

After 24 hours, a search was begun, and the bottom of the lake dragged with special hooks made by the Waynesville police and fire departments. The Lake was drained down about five feet, and due to the fact that there was no definite assurance the body was in the Lake, plans were abandoned to drain further. A group of officers and citizens formed a searching party and combed the woods about Lake Junaluska, thinking he might have been in the woods.

Max Cochran, chief at Lake Junaluska, arranged for a constant look-out on the Lake for the body. Boatmen patrolled the Lake daily, as Chief Cochran maintained from the first that the man jumped into the Lake. "Circumstances just led me to feel that he had jumped off the dam or the rock cliff under the cross," he said. The water at both places is 38 feet deep.

Former employers of Steadings doubted that the body was in the Lake, when it was first discovered he was missing. "He just did not seem to be the type fellow who would do a thing like that," one explained.

Officers here expressed the opinion that the body would not have floated until Sunday or Monday if had not been for the churning of the water by the powerful boats Saturday. General opinions expressed were that the body came up right near the spot where it went down. The body was fully dressed when found. Officers said that the cold water of the Lake had resulted in the body being in a good condition, except for the discoloration of the face, and the natural swelling caused by being in water for such a long period.

News of the discovery of the body spread fast, and a large number of people went to the Lake, while others visited the Crawford Funeral Home.

Funeral services were held Sunday afternoon at 4:30 in Crabtree at the Rock Springs Baptist church, with burial in the Rock Springs cemetery.

Rev. Forest Ferguson officiated, with the following serving as pallbearers: Bill Pearson, James Clark, Ralph Dills, Paul Warren, Bill Kuykendall, and Raymond Scates. He is survived by his mother.

In N. C. Apple Festival



MISS JEAN ANN BRADLEY



MISS JACKIE SUE MESSER

THE TWO Waynesville young ladies have been chosen to represent the Chamber of Commerce and the Smoky Mountain Apple Growers at the N. C. Apple Harvest Festival in Hendersonville this week. Both will enter the beauty contest on Thursday night in Hendersonville.

Waynesville To Have Two Sponsors At Apple Show

Miss Jean Ann Bradley and Miss Jackie Sue Messer have been chosen as sponsors for Haywood County at the Apple Harvest Festival which will be held in Hendersonville September 2 to 6.

Miss Bradley will represent the Smoky Mountain Apple Growers Association of Haywood County and Miss Messer will represent the Waynesville Chamber of Commerce.

The girls will compete in the Beauty Contest which will be held at the Hendersonville High School Auditorium on Thursday night. They will go over on Thursday morning at the invitation of the festival sponsors, to select their costumes for the beauty contest from the Hendersonville stores.

Miss Bradley, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Bradley, is a graduate of the Waynesville High School and is a member of the sophomore class at Bryson College.

Miss Messer, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Messer, also attended the Waynesville schools and is a member of the sophomore class at Agnes Scott College.

The sponsors will be accompanied to Hendersonville by a large group of representatives from the Chamber of Commerce and the Apple Growers Association, and officers.

On Saturday morning the Waynesville High School Band will participate in a parade which will be a feature of the festival program.

Draft Machinery Handles First Registrations Here

Heavy Storm Hits Canton Area On Sunday Evening

A slashing hail and electrical storm that damaged crops in several sections of the county and knocked the lights out in Canton for over an hour struck the Eastern area of Haywood Monday evening about 7 p.m.

H. C. Moffitt, Canton police officer, said that high tension wires on the Fiberville road outside of Canton were torn down by the storm. The electric supply to Canton was completely cut off from 8:15 to 9:20 p.m., after which repair crews restored the power.

Moffitt also said that the hail downfall was very heavy "around town" and that the tobacco and corn crops were hit hard in the Beaverdam section. Probably the section which was struck most severely by the storm was the Dutch Cove area, where heavy rain and hail damaged crops badly.

Canton police reported that highways and roads in the area were undamaged by the storm.

AAA Committee Names Practices For 1949 Program

The Haywood county AAA Committee met with vendors and agricultural agencies in the county recently to discuss and select the practices to be carried out under the 1949 ACA program.

A full meeting was present, with Jeff H. Enloe, district field man, leading the gathering.

The following practices were selected and submitted to the State office for approval:

Liming materials, superphosphate, potash or basic slag, winter cover crop, small grains, winter cover and grazing, permanent pasture, constructing permanent fences, constructing and improving trails to aid in conservation and improvement of inaccessible pastures.

The county committee named Sarah Fullbright, chief clerk, as the person to approve AAA forms (ACP-128) for the committee.

Funeral Services Are Held For J. Clark Kelly

Funeral services were held yesterday afternoon at Crawford Funeral Home for J. Clark Kelly, 61, who died Saturday night at his home here. Rev. Malcolm Williamson, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, officiated and interment was in the Crawford Memorial Park.

Pallbearers were Welch Singleton, Earl Moore, Ellis Burnett, Clifton Terrell, Paul Hyatt, and Guy Wells.

Mr. Kelly, a native of the Pigeon section of Haywood County, was the son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James T. Kelly. He retired in June 16, 1945, after 28 years of service with the Seaboard Airline Railroad of Jacksonville, Fla. He returned to Haywood County only a few months ago.

Surviving are the widow, Mrs. Helen Banks Kelly, one son, Clyde Eugene Kelly of Washington, D. C., two grandchildren, three brothers, Ralph O. Kelly of Waynesville, Fred B. Kelly of St. Anthony, Idaho, and Arthur Kelly of Hazelwood.

Funeral services were conducted at the Hazelwood Presbyterian church on Sunday afternoon with the Rev. Paul Throver officiating. Interment was in Green Hill cemetery.

Pallbearers were Lloyd Putnam, Bill McWhorter, Tom Garrett, Bob Milner, Howard McWhorter, and Arthur Smith.

Surviving in addition to the mother are five brothers, Frank Scates of Knoxville, and Raymond Edward Joe Robert, and Dennis Scates, all of Hazelwood, and one sister, Mrs. Hester Self of Mooresboro.

Mr. and Mrs. C. L. Dickson of Durham, are guests of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Massie at their summer home on the Pigeon Road.

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3 Convicts Hold-Up Truck Driver, Escape; 2 Caught

6,500 Go Back To School



THIS WAS a typical school scene Monday, as some 6,500 Haywood students turned their backs to their summer vacations and headed back to the school room. There was the usual excitement and interest of the first day, with the weatherman adding a bit of uncomfortable weather, that took both the students and teacher's minds off of fall or did it?

Convict Shot In Hand As He Held File On Driver

Long-Termers Were Working At Crabtree Rock Quarry Friday

Officers are still on the look-out for Robert Clark, escaped colored convict, who was one of three who escaped from a truck quarry 4:30 p.m. Friday morning, holding a truck driver captive in order to make their escape good.

Two of the convicts were nabbed the same day, but one is missing a finger, which was shot off while he held a file to the back of the neck of the truck driver, Carl Ray.

The truck was loaded rock at the quarry, when the three colored convicts pushed into the cab of the truck and held a pointed file at Mr. Ray's back. Julius Rogers, guard, is said to have fired at the prisoners, not knowing Mr. Ray was in the cab. Mr. Ray drove the truck down the highway, and about a mile from the quarry, the convicts told him if he would dump the rocks, they would let him out of the truck unharmed. He met their request, and the three convicts drove the truck on up the highway and at Panthers Creek Gap, ran off the highway down a 20-foot embankment. None of the three were hurt, and they started running down the river.

Highway Patrolmen O. R. Roberts, and J. W. Mays went to the scene and captured one of the men by the name of Whitesides. He is the one who lost a finger by buckshot fired by the guard. About three quarters of a mile away a Mr. Woody nabbed another convict by the name of Sales, another long-termer. Neither of the men gave any resistance when they were met by officers.

Clark was wearing brown prison clothes when he made his escape. Two of the convicts had on chains, but had filed the unit that kept them from taking long steps. Whitesides was serving a life sentence, and told officers he just had one sister, and with a life sentence hanging over her head, and no relatives, why not try to get away?

James T. Hall, 76, well-known Haywood county farmer, died at his home in the Beaverdam section Saturday morning.

Funeral services were conducted at Beaverdam Baptist church at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, with the Rev. Vinson Plemons, pastor, and the Rev. Harrison Beatty officiating. Burial was in the church cemetery.

Grandsons served as pallbearers and granddaughters were in charge of flowers.

Mr. Hall was a native of Buncombe county but had resided in Haywood county for the greater part of his life. He had been active in the Baptist churches in the communities in which he had resided for the past 50 years.

Surviving are the widow, the former Miss Mattie Wines, five sons, Francis, Mildred, Alfred, Raymond and Weaver, all of Canton, five daughters, Mrs. Harley Robinson of Alexander, Mrs. David K. Clark, Mrs. Lowell Lindsey and Mrs. Fred Carver, all of Canton and Mrs. Melba Hall of the home, 44 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Garrett funeral home was in charge of the arrangements.

Messer Looks For Heavy School Enrollment Here

Business Will Suspend Here For Labor Day

Business will suspend here for Labor Day. It was announced yesterday by Dave Felmet, president of the Merchants Association here.

The decision was made several years ago to close the stores on Labor Day, and the practice has been followed throughout the years.

Services Are Held Sunday For Wanda Scates

Wanda Susie Scates, nine-year-old daughter of Mrs. Ruth Morrow Scates and the late Raymond Scates of Hazelwood, died Friday in an Asheville hospital following an illness of three weeks.

Funeral services were conducted at the Hazelwood Presbyterian church on Sunday afternoon with the Rev. Paul Throver officiating. Interment was in Green Hill cemetery.

Pallbearers were Lloyd Putnam, Bill McWhorter, Tom Garrett, Bob Milner, Howard McWhorter, and Arthur Smith.

Surviving in addition to the mother are five brothers, Frank Scates of Knoxville, and Raymond Edward Joe Robert, and Dennis Scates, all of Hazelwood, and one sister, Mrs. Hester Self of Mooresboro.

Most high school students registered earlier in August. Seventh graders registered Monday. Mr. Messer warned again that all parsons were not open to the public.

Continued on Page Eight

2 Teen-Agers Go On Wild Auto Trip Down Highway 19

Two young men from central North Carolina will long remember a ride they had on Highway No. 19 about 10 o'clock Monday morning.

The two teen-age boys, were standing on the side of the highway not far from Dellwood, when a colored man driving a black Mercury, quickly turned around, opened the door and offered them a ride. No sooner had they gotten in than the driver stepped on the gas, and the needle on the speedometer swung around to 95 miles an hour.

Both the boys began to squirm, especially after they had caught a glimpse of a pearl-handled pistol on the back seat. Between their chattering teeth, they told the driver they would get out at the next crossing. The colored driver oblig-

ingly let them out, and went on down the highway just as fast he could go.

The shaking boys caught a ride into Waynesville and went to the sheriff's office, when the news was put on the police radio of the speeder.

The younger of the two boys, John Wells, of Clemmons, and William Downs, of Salemburg, are here visiting relatives. Young Wells was looking for his grandfather when he took the fast ride. When asked by officers if they got the license number, they said, "We're sorry, sir. We were shaking like leaves, and that did not occur to us—we were too thankful to get out of the car."

The two were still visibly shaken from their fast journey down Highway 19, as they answered questions for officers.

You Can't Please All Of Them



AH, GEE WHIZ

I'M TICKLED PINK

—There you have the contrast of the opening of school in Haywood on Monday—some liked it, others were saddened. Anyway, about 6,500 went to school, and on the 13th another 3,500 in the Canton area will start.

Highway Record For 1948 (To Date) In Haywood Killed 4 Injured 30 (This information compiled from Records of)

people miles of their ideal center
At 86
of a resident of
a native of Georgia
time of this
service
Poland
day
Poland, 92 wife
of afternoon at
Mrs. Walter
Waynesville, after
were held Sun-
at 6 o'clock at the
church with the
and the Rev.
officiating. In-
the church cen-
as pallbearers
were in charge
daughter of the
and Carolyn Ray
of county, was
30, 1936 and
in the county
member of the
church for many
new daughters,
Mr. J. B. Hays
and Mr. D. R.
of Junaluska
and Geneva No-
ble, and C. T.
23 grandchild-
and children, two
Davis of Way-
and Mrs. Milda
and two broth-
of Waynesville.
were under the
and funeral
N. Barber, Sr.,
of Asheville
and the hospital
and Mrs. Bar-
Saturday.
Market
22c to 25c
20-28c
15c
10c
32-36c
1.75 to 2.00
2.25 to 2.50
17.00 to 19.00
22.00 to 23.50
22.00 to 24.50
25.00 to 28.50
27.00 to 28.00
22.10 to 25.10
Max. Min.
85 54
87 57
88 56
91 56