

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

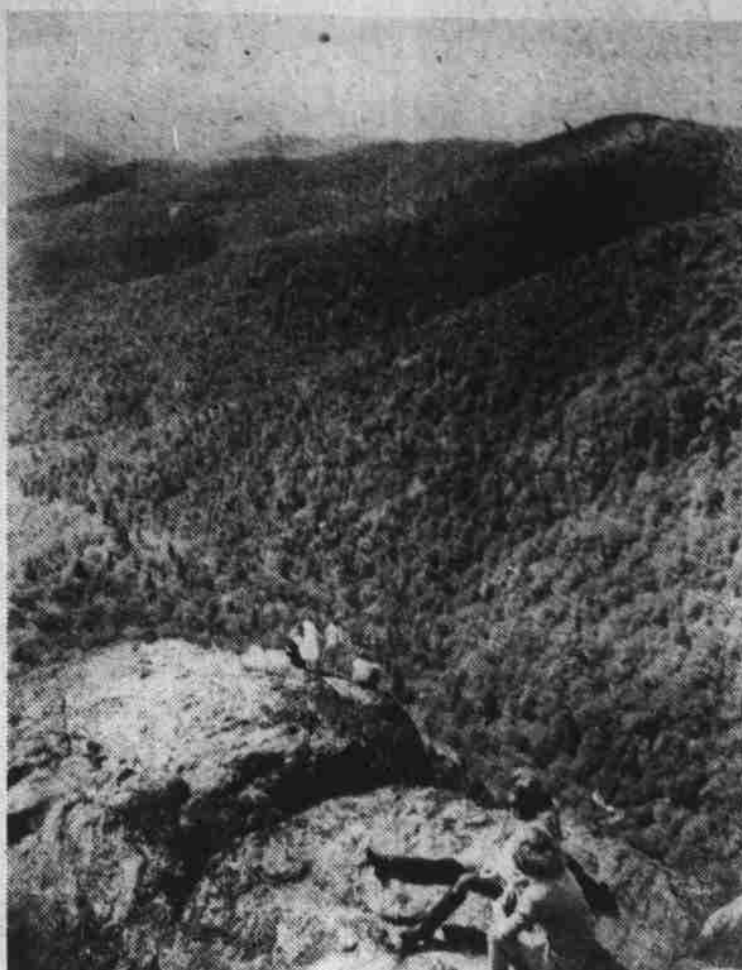
Average Elevation Of Haywood County Is 4,787 Feet

Checkup Shows This Area Best In East

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their extremities. In the by culminate in the Presi- range of the White Moun- New Hampshire (Mt. 6,286 ft.). In the south, culminate in the general and specific — in the Western North Complex between the and the Great Smoky as Mt. Mitchell, 6,684 ft.). Washington and its fellow plain" only about 1,000 or above sea level. In- rolling plains and rolling plains were left by the great (thousands of feet thick) down from the north thousands of years ago and planed off New England its present lower level. Western North Carolina averages about 2,000 in elevation and has on peaks over 5,000 feet high. 49 peaks are over 6,000 a great glacier, did not this region, and its much reduction in general and altitudes has been caused rain and river erosion, ex- over hundreds of millions It should be noted that of the oldest geological in the eastern United

One Of Many Views From Atop Of Haywood — Beech Gap



One of the longest range views in the entire Appalachian mountains is this one from Beech Gap, in Haywood County. This is near the famous Devil's Court House, another scenic attraction of this section. This particular view attracts hundreds of photographers, because it affords varied, as well as an abundance of photographic material. This area is reached by driving out past Lake Logan, and taking the beautiful road through Sherwood Forest.

all its area drained by Pigeon River.

To understand this drainage, let us conceive of an arm and wrist of a right hand laid palm down in the gorge where the river breaks through the Great Smoky Ridge, with the fingers pointing south. Between the thumb (the Newfound Range) and first finger is the Upper Pigeon River and its valley, between the fore and middle fingers is Richland Creek and valley, between middle and fourth fingers is Jonathan Creek and valley, and between fourth and fifth fingers is Catalochee Creek and valley with the Great Smoky Ridge on the west. Between every two streams is a short mountain range arising in the Balsam Mountains and stretching northeast, growing lower until it ends near the north-erly-flowing Pigeon River. This river and almost all its tributaries arise in the high Balsam Range on our south and south-west border. This is a rough sketch, but it makes things somewhat clearer. The Pigeon drainage pla-teau is circled by mountains with the break through the Smoky Range into Tennessee at Waterville (about 1,396 ft.).

Having located Haywood as a geological and geographical pla-teau and drainage basin, an area determined by its boundary moun-tains, let us now make a study of the Haywood mountains as fac-tors in its general elevation.

had known the compiler long and favorably. They, of course, had not been able to check up the figures, but they had confidence that they could be relied on. This answered the question.

Study of the McCoy booklet (1946) showed many more peaks than are to be found in N. C. Geol. Survey Bulletin 27 (1917). The reason was not far to seek. The old surveys had given only the out-standing highest peaks over 5,000 ft. in a mountain range. The newer and more exact surveys had given not only the big fellows but also the two-three-or four lower peaks (still above 5,000 ft.) in range. In short, the newer surveys had given not only the big brothers but the smaller ones also within the limit above noted.

The ground being cleared, a careful list of the mountain peaks in Haywood was made by classes and the results will now be pre-sented. These have been checked and rechecked for accuracy.

There are in Haywood County or on its boundary lines 19 peaks ranging from 6,621 ft. (Mt. Guyot on the Haywood-Tennessee line) down to three peaks each measur-ing 6,000 ft. These 19 peaks average 6,171 ft. altitude above sea level. Then there are in Haywood 54 peaks ranging from 5,941 ft. elevation down to 5,000 ft. Their average is 5,467 ft. Thus there are in Hay-wood 73 (54 plus 19) peaks rang-ing in height from 5,020 ft. up to 6,621 ft.—truly an impressive ar-ray.

separate the Pigeon River drainage in Haywood from that of the Tuckasee in Jackson and Swain counties. On the north Haywood is bounded by the main ridge of the Smokies, and by Tennessee.

Haywood County is a natural geological unit—a plateau on and above the general plateau region of Western North Carolina. Since Haywood is a plateau, whose boundary lines run exclusively on mountain ranges, to get into it, one has to climb up and over the mountain rim. This I have done in several places: on the southwest from Sylva (2,063 ft.) to Balsam Gap (3,347 ft.); on the east from French Broad River (Ecusta, 2,100 ft.) to Wagon Road Gap (4,524 ft.) on South Pisgah Ridge; and from the highway in the valley of South Hominy Creek (elevation about 2,200 ft.) to Hominy Gap (2,678 ft.—Canton, 2,587 ft.); on the northeast from the headwaters of Sandy Mush Creek (2,250 ft.) a long climb to the gap (about 3,000 ft.) leading to Crabtree Creek; from Hot Springs (1,326 ft.) across the gap to Lower Fines Creek (2,000 ft.). All other approaches to Haywood County are by similar climbs. All these climbs may be likened to the slope of a sharply-pitched roof.

Haywood County is a geographical unit—an interior basin, as may be conjectured from the above. Every square foot of it is drained by Pigeon River and its tributaries, except the little valley of North Hominy Creek three or four miles long from Canton to Turnpike. Of this, Mr. H. C. Wilburn, who has a very exact knowledge of Haywood County, writes me as follows:—(The interpolations in brackets are mine.) "Going from Pisgah north-

ward, the (boundary) line leaves the Newfound Range at Sugar Top, (runs along a ridge on the east side of North Hominy valley) to Turn-pike, and (turning northward) in-tersects the Newfound Range at Big Butt Mountain." For this he has no explanation, but I have a possible and even a probable one out of my own experience.

About 65 years ago, four boys were coming down Lickstone North Ridge in a dense fog. When we came to the fork in the trail, I (the trailer) took the right hand fork in the trail, because the offset ridge looked bigger and the trail more travelled. But about half a mile down it, the fog lifted a bit and we saw the West Fork of Pigeon below us. We then backtracked to the fork and took the left hand trail on the main ridge, which led us to Wolf-Pen Gap and thence to Camp Branch and home. The surveyors of long ago, marking out Hay-wood's eastern boundary (presum-ably coming down the Newfound Range from Pisgah) in the dense woods, took the right hand larger appearing ridge at Sugar Top and came down it to North Hominy Creek at what is now Turnpike. Here (instead of retracing their trail to Sugar Top and following the left or main Newfound Range) they followed a ridge running north from Hominy Creek) which brought them to Big Butt Mountain in the main Newfound Range. This little North Hominy valley is ge-ographically a part of Buncombe and not of Haywood. It should go back to Buncombe, and Haywood's east-ern boundary should run on the Newfound Range from Pisgah to Sandy Mush Bald—which Range is our true geographical boundary. Then Haywood would be a true geographical unit, bounded by mountain ranges all around, with

THE
**YOUNGER
SET**
By
MILDRED MEDFORD
High School Senior

A lot has happened since last Thursday... and just a little bit of everything at that!

Ralph Feichter had a party (that's just one of the things)—and everybody was just almost dead the next morning from dancing and eating so much. In fact for the two days to come they weren't feeling so very well.

Of course they met at The Lodge, and then piled into cars and drove off to a movie... but the movie was only a beginning for the party.

With two life guards (Joe Jack Wells and Richard Crowder), three girls from Iowa State College (Peggy Noland and her two guests, Jo Ann Wilson and "Jackie" Folsom), two boys from Notre Dame (Ralph Feichter, the host, and Hayse Hall), Buzz Bourne, a student at Miami University of Ohio—and then, last but not least, the prospective students for college next year... Bette Hannah, Kathryn Hyatt, and Hallett Ward. I guess they can be called just "fresh"... well, everybody just had a wonderful time. After dancing for about an hour (doing the "Birmingham Hop"), scrambled eggs, toast, jelly and some very good coffee was waiting — then

call him "Pretty Boy" (you know he is good looking!)

The girls who had to do all the cooking, as usual, were: Kathleen Calhoun, Nancy Bischoff, Mary Jane Rogers, myself, and Anne... who made the perfect hostess.

Their only regret is that there is not a street dance every night and that Anne doesn't give a Ham-burger Fry every night or just once a week... at the least.

Five weary girls started the day off Wednesday when they greeted dawn Wednesday morning after staying up all night... on a camping trip. Those that wanted to sleep couldn't because of Nancy Bischoff and Mary Lou Gerringer, who kept the other girls laughing practically all night. While Buzzy Watkins, Eileen Gerringer and Anne Bischoff tried to sleep... Nancy and Mary Lou did everything possible to keep them awake.

That was one merry night, but it just had to end the next morning when most of the girls had to leave for work... and believe me it was kinda hard for any of them to stay awake the next day.

I know that Bette Hannah is having a wonderful time while in New York. She left last Friday with her mother for a week's stay in New York... seeing the sights and buying fall clothes for the "Town and Country Shop".

If it's not a party or tea she is going to, it's off on some big trip way up North... come on Bette, and see if you can't stay home for just one week.

Johnny Wrostek of the Cincinnati Reds led the American Association in batting with a mark of .358 in 1944.

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