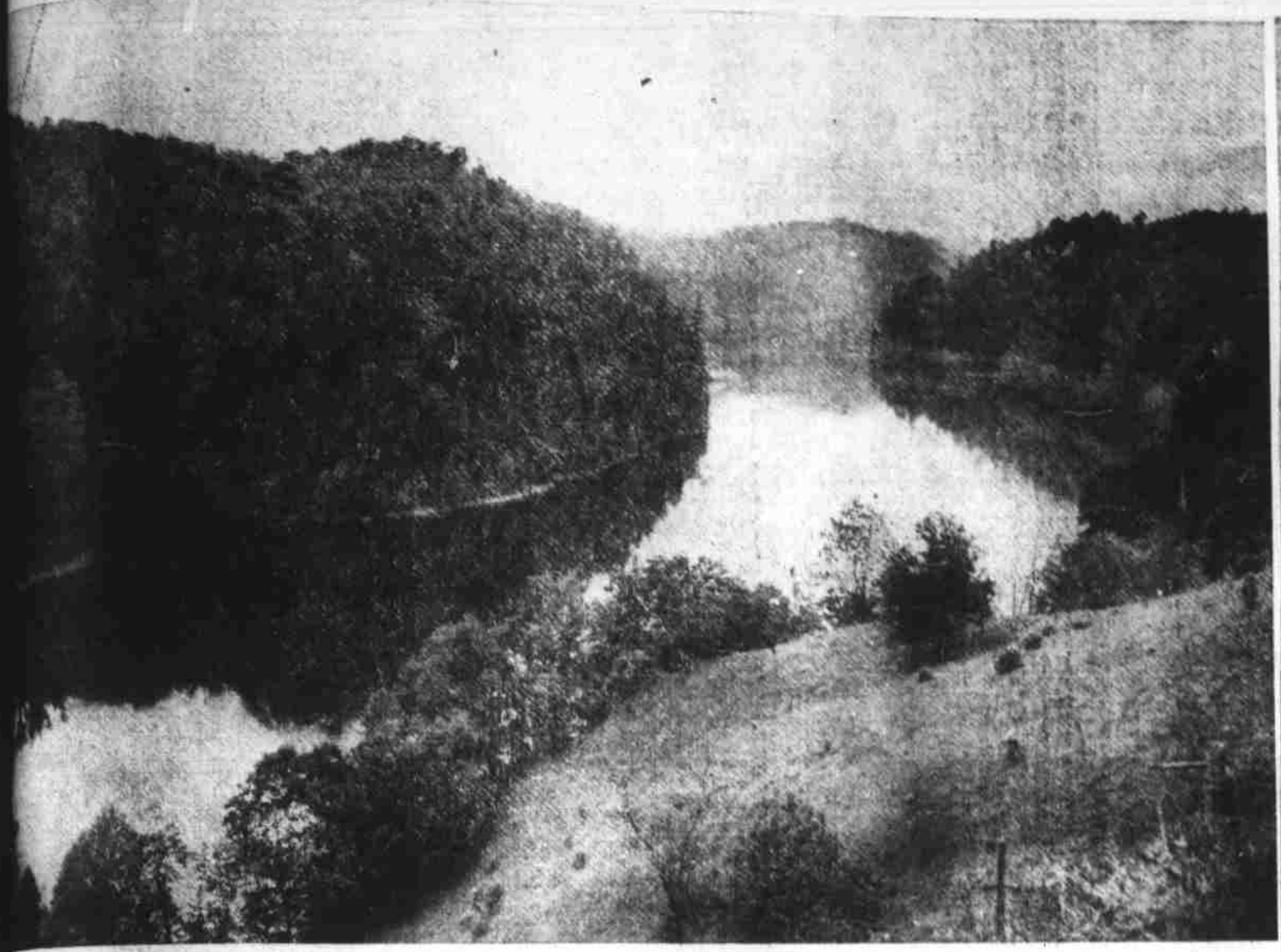
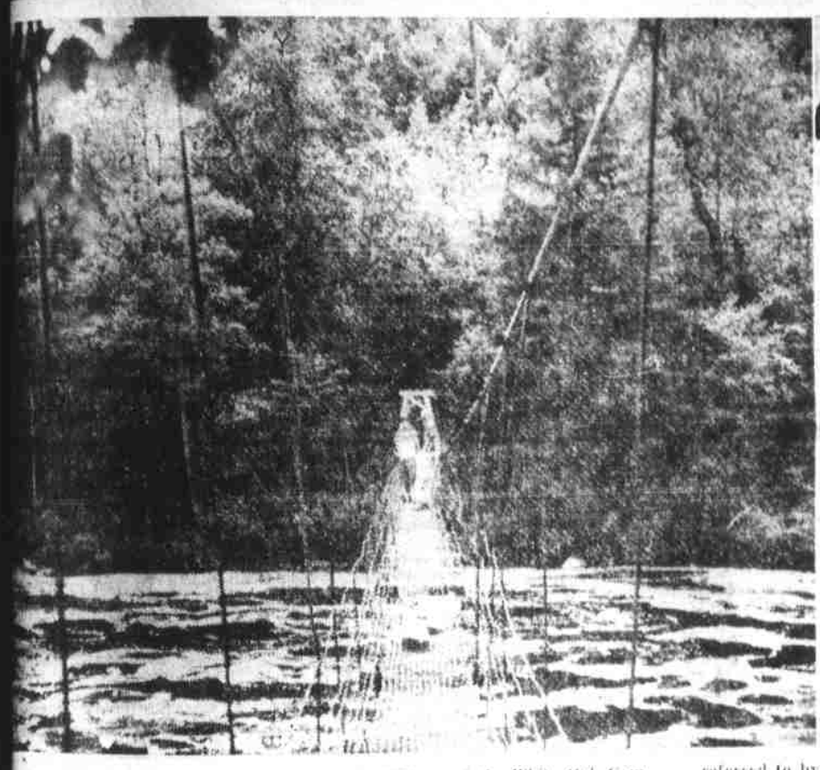
AY, JUNE 11, 1951

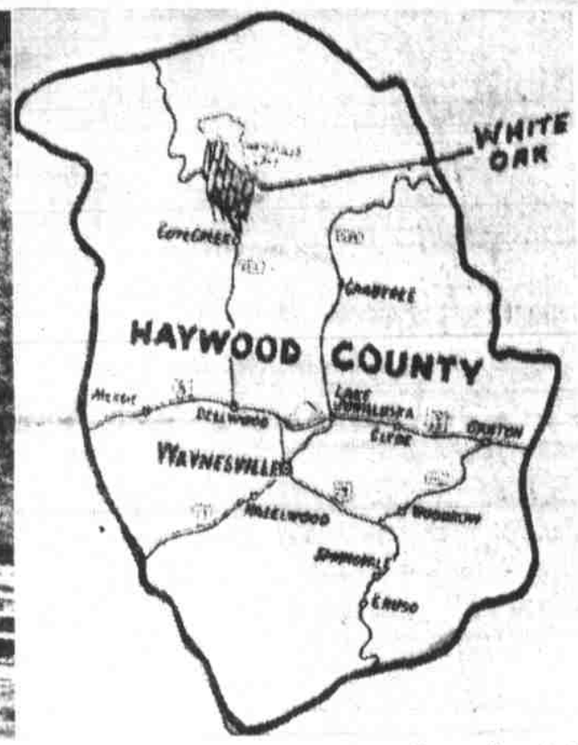
THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

SECOND SECTION

he Fourteeth Of A Series of Farm-Home Pictorial Pages







—A general view of the beginning ack waters of Waterville Lake, Pigeon River valley in lower Oak. The pasture in the fore- extends right down to the edge.

—A swinging bridge across Pigeon soon after entering the White ommunity. The bridge is main- by the state. The wire mesh gives a lively spring as pedes- walk across the structure. Two can be seen standing about the of the bridge.

No. 3—Officers of the White Oak Community are shown here (left to right) seated: Miss Roslyn Messer, secretary; George Boring, chairman and trustee; Mrs. George Boring, reporter and County reporter. Standing: Henry L. Teague, treasurer; Rowe Ledford, trustee, Robert Fisher, co-chairman; Brown Messer, trustee.

No. 4—Many of the citizens of White Oak gathered at the Community House to meet the Mountaineer photographer, and to show their interest in the publication of this edition. This group was referred to by the officers as "One Big Family" and includes, seated: children are Bill Teague, Troy Ledford, Jerry Davis. Adults: Virginia Ledford, Janie Davis, Betty Sue Lowe, Marcene Lowe, Patsy Davis, Mrs. Walter Lowe, Mrs. Rowe Ledford, Mrs. Sam Ledford, Miss Roslyn Messer, Mrs. George Boring, Mrs. Robert Davis, Mrs. Teague Williams, Mrs. Bill Williams. Standing: Carl Davis, Robert Hugh Davis, Edgar Messer, Oliver Parton, Robert Fisher, Paul Kirkpatrick, Yonder Messer, Teague Williams, Sam Ledford, Brown Messer, Newt Leatherwood, Walter Lowe, James Messer, Rowe Ledford, J. C. Ledford, Earl Ledford, Floyd Teague, Robert Davis, George Boring.

No. 5—M. V. Jenkins, the mail carrier of White Oak, is really a public servant of the community. He makes the trip to town daily, and shops for the people, carries packages, looks after business and carries passengers. Residents along his route say they can set their clocks by his arrival, he is so prompt. Here mailman Jenkins was photographed as he pushed a copy of The Mountaineer in a mailbox on Stevens Creek.

hite Oak Citizens Are rd Workers, And Depend Farms For Incomes

The fourteenth trip into a community, this week takes White Oak—a community a position to "look down" rest of the county, because elevated on the high overlooking the Pigeon riv- the territory below.

people of White Oak are not , however, to "look down" one—either from their point, or from the person-

White Oak citizens—68 families their living from the soil. very few of them working of the community. The are hard workers, and al- facing many obstacles, their ability to get things done is powerful. The people have gone ahead with everything from homes to roads, to paint! [illegible] approved a bulldozer.

[illegible] community center is [illegible] a rundown building but [illegible] a beginning structure on the high [illegible] overlooking the valley. The [illegible] citizens in the city and [illegible] a legion of friends who [illegible] all those who pass on the [illegible] below.

[illegible] added a new road, [illegible] the Angels gave a helping [illegible] and served meals while the [illegible] on the work. The fact that in 1949 they won a cash [illegible] award for accomplishments in [illegible] county-wide contest.

Indicative of the [illegible] ists in White Oak as the [illegible] ity house which is a [illegible] town, much less a [illegible] munity. The community center is [illegible] a former Presbyterian church. The [illegible] citizens became interested in converting the run-down [illegible] which was no longer [illegible] church, into a community [illegible] The Presbytery deemed [illegible] erty to the community [illegible] use. Then the citizens [illegible] en in many ways, [illegible] and accomplishments are [illegible] of their purpose in fix- [illegible] building.

There are two roads leading into the community — one from Cove Creek and the other from Fines Creek. Where these two roads meet [illegible] the community building. There the road forks, and ex- [illegible] about five miles north, following in general the contour of Pigeon River. The upper waters of Waters So Lake dock up to this point of White Oak.

The much talked-of water-level highway to Newport would go through the White Oak community and open up a lot of territory now hard to reach.

The farms in general, are small, but fertile and highly productive. The farmers are improving their pastures, and adding a lot of purebred animals to their herds.

The highway through White Oak is grave, and is a beautiful road from beginning to the end. It has many curves, and some places the embankment is 400 feet from the roadbed to the bottom.

There are numerous creeks starting up the mountains and flowing to the Pigeon river, and it is along these creeks that some of the best burley produced in the county is grown. The farmers point out that the moisture from the creeks and rivers provides heavy dew at night, and that, together with the know-how of the farmers, results in top quality tobacco throughout the section.

White Oak is perhaps the only community of its size in the state that does not have a single foot of paved roads. The citizens have talked the matter over with officials, and are still hopeful.

Children of school age attend the Rock Hill and Fines Creek schools as there are none in White Oak. Two busses take them back and forth.

The community has been ardently working for road improvement in the section. There are no paved roads as yet, but members hope to have the entire 21 miles of road within the community paved before too long!

Electricity is available, and a majority of the homes have electrical equipment, but thus far there is no telephone service.

Two churches fill the religious needs of White Oak. The Pigeon Baptist Church has a membership of 58 with a Sunday School enrollment of 47. The Rev. Pete Hicks is pastor. The Liberty Baptist Church, recently repaired and and-scaped, has a membership of 54 and a Sunday School enrollment of 46. Its pastor is the Rev. D. D. Russell.

Recreation in the community centers around its community house. The house is large enough to serve as a meeting place for the Community Development Program and even to entertain guests from other communities. White Oak sponsors basketball and softball teams for both boys and girls. Last year they purchased new softball equipment, as well as basketball uniforms for the boys team. Workers from the CDP recently cooperated in reorganizing the 4-H Club, which promises to increase its membership within the year.

BURLEY TOBACCO

[illegible]

[illegible] Oak farmers [illegible] Burley tobacco [illegible] 53 [illegible] Walter Lowe [illegible] Burley tobacco [illegible] Oak farmers [illegible] this first crop every year since 1920 when Zack Clark began. In 1925 his brother Grover started growing burley.

DAIRYING

A [illegible] dairy farm has an [illegible] milk supply. There is no [illegible] marketing in the community. A [illegible] cows, mostly [illegible] and Guernseys, take care of [illegible] milk needs. There are about [illegible] acres of pasture and 7 silos.

POULTRY

Every farmer in White Oak has poultry for his own needs, and four [illegible] raise turkeys. New Hampshire Reds are the predominant breed [illegible] Jenkins has [illegible] Mrs. Sallie Sutton, 350; Robert Davis, 350 and Sherrill Teague [illegible].

FRUITS AND VEGETABLES

In fruits and vegetables, as in other food products, White Oak farmers can afford to "let the rest

(Continued on Page 4)

REA

ELECTRICITY HAS CONTRIBUTED GREATLY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF HAYWOOD'S RURAL COMMUNITIES

HAYWOOD ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

WAYNESVILLE, N. C.

REA