



**HIGHLANDERS DIRECTORS** who met here Saturday to plan an area-promotion program for the coming travel season were (front row, left to right): Mrs. Edith Alley of Waynesville, secretary; John Parris, vice president and director from Jackson County; Major O. A. Fetch, president and director from Graham County; Paul Hyatt of Waynesville, Haywood County director; (Second row): P. B. Bennett, Jr., of Bryson City, director representing

Swain County; L. E. DeVous, president of the Haywood County Highlanders; Ben Palmer of Murphy, representing Cherokee and Clay counties; John Metzger of Asheville, representing Buncombe County, and James C. Gaither of Brevard, director representing Transylvania County. A number of other officials from county Highlanders groups were also present at the meeting in the Masonic Temple. (Mountaineer Photo).

## 3% Drop In Park Travel Blamed On Light August

**GATLINBURG** — A three-per cent drop in attendance of visitors to the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in 1953 was mainly due to a sharp decrease in August, according to a comparison of figures at the National Park Office here.

July and August usually have the greatest number of park visitors, but in 1953 the August total dropped a whopping 31 per cent below the previous year — from 582,726 down to 400,407. The August, 1953 figure was the lowest since 1949 when 285,585 visitors were counted. In 1950 the figure was 455,628; in 1951 it was 436,277.

A sharp drop in local travel from the surrounding counties is generally credited with being the biggest influence in the summer fluctuation. Both 1952 and 1951 had hot Augusts when many persons rushed to the mountains.

Still, the total attendance for July, 1953, was down only 14 per cent below that for 1952.

Only three other months of 1953 had attendance drops in 1953. These were January, April, May.

Seven months of the year showed attendance gains over the previous year.

Park attendance figures are now kept on a calendar year basis. Before 1952 they were totaled by travel years beginning with October.

For the last five years the totals for the year on that basis have

## Speeders Head List Of 1953 Traffic Violations

Speeding topped a year end report of traffic violations requiring the surrender of driving privileges the State Department of Motor Vehicles said today.

For the year 1953, 42,116 Tar Heel drivers had their operators' licenses revoked for exceeding the speed limit. The top figure was followed by reckless driving, reported at 13,575.

Driving without a license was in third place with 12,239 revocations.

The annual summary listed miscellaneous violations such as faulty equipment, failing to stop for a stop sign, improper passing and following too closely, which brought the 1953 total of license revocations to 86,680.

Licensing officials noted this was a decrease of 21,290 from the previous year.

been: 1,774,265 in travel year 1949; 1,753,414 in 1950; 1,979,208 in 1951; 2,322,152 in 1952 (calendar year); and 2,250,772 in 1953.



**HAPPY** though in a wheelchair, Penny Jensen, of Manhattan Beach, Calif., is shown with her dog, "Blackie," who has been at her side since she was stricken with polio in 1948. In urging support for the March of Dimes, the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis declares it took \$10,000, the equivalent of 100,000 dimes, to give Penny the hospitalization and therapy needed to win her polio fight. (International Soundphoto)

## Bids Sought On Guard Walls At Newfound Gap

**GATLINBURG** — Stone guard-walls are to be placed along more than a mile of the Newfound Gap Highway (US-441) on the Tennessee side of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

The US Bureau of Public Roads has asked for bids from contractors interested in constructing the guardwalls along a stretch of 1.143 miles of the upper portion of the highway. It will require 642 cubic yards of stone masonry, the bureau said.

Bids will be opened at 1:30 p.m., EST on February 3 at the bureau office here.

Guardwalls of this type were placed along a considerable part of this highway when it was built several years ago, but those on the upper part have never been completed. Large boulders in recent years have served as a protection along the outer parts of the highway where it skirts deep canyons.

Plans, specifications, and proposal forms for the new work are available at the Roads Bureau office here or at the office of the division engineer, H. J. Spelman, 1440 Columbia Pike, Arlington, Va.

### MAYBE IT'LL HELP

**MORRISTOWN, N. J. (AP)** — A thief took three books from the Exclusive Shop, including one titled, "A Treasury of Hymns".

## Waynesville's Public Schools Established In 1899; First Bond Issue Was \$10,000

### News Events Of White Oak Area

By Patsy Davis  
Community Reporter

Mr. and Mrs. Rowe Ledford, and son Troy, Frank Dee Ledford and Robert Hugh Davis, spent a week in Galveston, Texas, with Mr. and Mrs. Paul Ledford, and Mr. and Mrs. Sammy Ledford.

Miss Patsy Davis entertained a group of friends with a birthday party at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Davis on January ninth. There were 47 attending the lovely affair. They were from Waynesville, Crabtree, Fines Creek, Iron Duff, Cove Creek and White Oak. Games were played, allowing the opening of gifts by the honoree.

Assisting Mrs. Davis in serving refreshments were: Mrs. Rowe Ledford and Mrs. Mark Ferguson.

Miss Susie Bryson of Chattanooga spent the weekend with her sister, Mrs. Robert Davis.

Miss Dorothy Hoglen and Mr. Hubert Conard were recently married.

Mrs. Conard is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Hoglen and Mr. Conard is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Conard.

T. N. Leatherwood is a patient at the Aston Park Hospital, Asheville.

Bobby Hunter underwent treatment at the Haywood County Hospital after suffering injuries while playing basketball in the Clyde-Fines Creek game.

An extremely interesting account of the early days of the public school system in Waynesville, in a pamphlet entitled "Report for Fifteenth Year of the Public Schools," has been brought to The Mountaineer by Jarvis Hollifield.

Mr. Hollifield brought in the pamphlet to show us that the old Central Elementary School was not opened until the school year of 1913-14, instead of in 1910 as The Mountaineer was informed previously.

The report covers the period from 1899 to July 31, 1915 and stresses progress made by the town's public schools and their prospects for the future.

One section of the report, "Historical Facts," contains this information:

"The Waynesville Public Schools have now been in operation sixteen years, and there are some facts as to the establishment and operation of the schools which should be preserved in printed form for future reference. It is now difficult to obtain some of the simplest data, owing to deprecations of time and divided responsibilities.

"After considerable agitation in the Waynesville Courier and free discussion among the public-spirited citizens of the town the year 1899 became prominent in the annals of Waynesville, as it marked the beginning of the Public Schools. The Charter was granted by the legislature in March, 1899.

In May of the same year the people ratified the charter at the polls. At the same time they voted for a bond issue of \$10,000 with which to purchase and equip suitable school buildings. A school board of nine men was elected with Mr. J. K. Boone as chairman.

Steps were taken at once to make adequate preparations for the opening of the schools in the fall. The old brick building on the present site was purchased for \$4,200 and equipped for service. W. C. Allen was selected as the first superintendent, and he with the board, selected five other teachers to assist him in the work.

"Later the town purchased the corner on which the cottage stands

### Bookmobile Schedule

Tuesday, Jan. 19

CECIL - BETHEL	
Parris Store	9:15-9:40
Retreat Cash Groc.	9:50-10:05
James Reeves	10:15-10:30
J. E. Burnett	10:45-11:00
Cecil School	11:15-12:15
W. H. Hargrove	12:30-12:45
J. W. Johnson	12:50-1:00
Belhel School	1:15-3:00

Friday, January 22

CRUSO-DIX CREEK

Mrs. Lorrie Mann	9:30-9:50
Otis Smith	10:00-10:15
Robt. Freeman	10:30-10:45
Cruso Grocery	11:00-11:15
Cruso School	11:30-12:45
Dosha Burruss	1:00-1:15
Burl Henderson	1:30-1:45
Jim Clark	2:00-2:25
Burnett's Cash Groc.	2:40-3:15

for \$900, and Mr. S. Limer's residence and grounds on the school lot for \$2,800; which deals gave the school the whole block as a site. In 1907 a bond issue for \$20,000 was voted. In 1912 the bonds were sold, and the new building was completed in the summer of 1913. This equipment cost about \$25,000 and was used first during the year 1913-14.

"The following gentlemen have served as trustees of the school since the organization: J. K. Boone, Chairman 1899-1912; J. D. Boone, first secretary, W. H. Faucette, W. W. Stringfield, B. F. Smathers, J. L. Williams, R. D. Gilmer, C. S. White, T. L. Green. The above named constituted the first board. The others are: W. J. Haynes, Dr. J. H. Way, W. T. Crawford, chairman 1912-13, R. E. Osborne, J. P. Swift, C. E. Ray, W. J. Hannah and M. J. Ownby. Those serving on the board during the years 1914-16 will be found in the first pages of this report. If any name has been omitted it has not been intentional, as I had to depend on others to furnish the information.

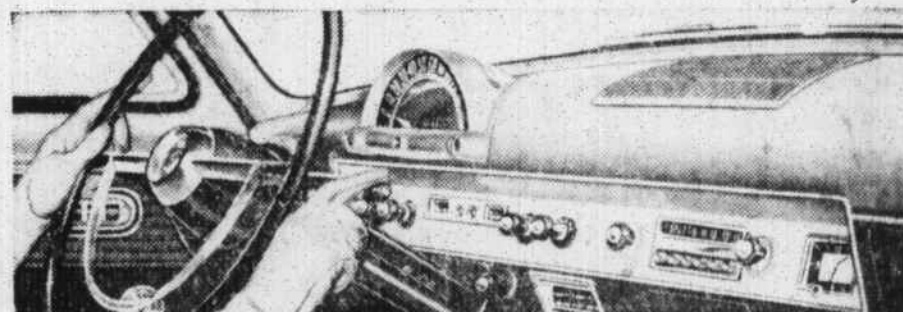
### TEACHERS

"Those who have taught in the schools are as follows: W. C. Allen, Superintendent 1899-1913, Mrs. W. J. Haynes, continuous service since the schools opened, Misses Oberia Rogers, Nora Welch, Mary Ector, Mr. J. K. Boone, the above composed the first faculty. Misses Harriett Boone, Mary Rinaldi, Mary M. Davis, Mary L. Stringfield, E. L. Gwyn, Francis Boone, Mrs. Etta Wyche, Misses Jessie Herren, Berta Wright, Bertha Thompson, Lizzie Boyd, Maggie Kirkpatrick, Sara Hannah, Cora Ward, Jane Swift, Mary McFadyen, Mary A. Boone, Fannie Howell, Fannie P. Haynes, Evelyn Lee, Lelia Cathey, Laura Roberts, Lelia Mock, Lillian Allen, Lettie Kern, Sarah Roberts, Frances E. Turley, Marion Gray, Frances M. Hickey, Messrs. W. Henry Lee, W. N. Walker, R. D. McDowell, J. R. Sanders, Baxter L. Baker, S. C. Bryan, N. T. McManaway, W. M. Marr, Thomas H. Franks, J. W. Bagby, E. W. Davis, D. F. Nicholson, Superintendent 1913-14, Mesdames B. L. Baker, George Wharton, and C. S. Smathers."



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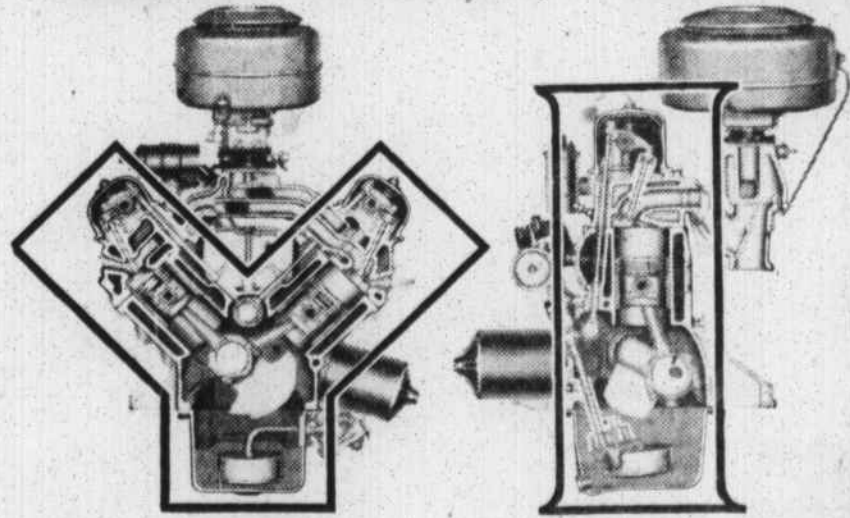


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