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TODAY'S SMILE
Education is learning a lot
about how little you know.

More People Than
Ever Are Reading
The Mountaineer

69th YEAR NO. 60 18 PAGES

300-Acre Soco Gap Development Under Way

Post Offices Show Big Gains Over Last Year

Waynesville Business Up 10 Pct.; Hazelwood 16 Pct.

The Waynesville post office for the first six months of this year showed an increase of 10 per cent over the first six months of last year, according to a report this morning from Postmaster Enos Boyd.

The monetary gain is \$2,092.82 for the first six months in 1954 over a gross business of \$34,191, as compared with \$32,178.31 for the first six months of 1953.

Postmaster Boyd said the increase was due to a general increase in business, and that every department reflected a proportionate increase for the first half of the year.

The postmaster also pointed out that the volume of mail was more than last year. "This is due to a larger sale of two-cent stamps, and reflects in overall volume," he said.

"The 1954 visitor is writing and using more two-cent stamps than last year," he said.

The business done by the post office is considered one of the business barometers in the community.

The Hazelwood post office shows a gain of 16 per cent in business for the first six months of this year over the same period of last year, according to a report this morning of Postmaster Thurman Smith.

The Hazelwood office, a first class office, had a net gain of \$4,629.81 for the six month period over 1953. The total receipts for January to June of this year amounted to \$34,219.49, as compared with \$29,589.68 for the same months last year.

The gain was general in every department, the postmaster pointed out.

The total money orders issued for the first six months of this year were about \$14,000 above the same period of 1953, the report shows. This year money orders totaled \$100,290.90, while last year's first six months amounted to \$86,173.90.

Indications are that this gain in gross business at the Hazelwood office is greater than any in Western North Carolina.

Plans Made For \$100,000 Lake Youth Center



SWITCH THROWN to turn on the lights along the highway at Maggie was done as a large crowd looked on Wednesday afternoon. Left to right: A. C. Sutton, industrial power sales engineer of Carolina Power and Light Company, Claude Medford, member of the committee, J. C. Marchant, throwing switch, chairman, Roy Wright, manager of the Hazelwood office of the power firm, Carl Henry, also a member of the committee, and J. Rex Brown, of Carolina Power, commercial sales. (Mountaineer Photo).

Trustees To Discuss Final Plans

By O. B. FANNING

Major steps toward the realization of a new \$100,000 youth center at the Lake Junaluska Methodist Assembly will be taken this week-end, climaxed by the annual observance of "Junaluska Sunday."

Trustees of the assembly, summer program headquarters of the Methodist Church in nine southeastern states, are expected to discuss building plans at their semi-annual meeting Friday and Saturday. The group will also map highlights of the 1955 and 1956 programs.

Edwin L. Jones, Charlotte, is president of the 45-member board. Other officers are Bishop Costen J. Harrell, Charlotte, vice president; Dr. Edgar H. Nease, Salem, secretary; the Rev. J. W. Fowler, Jr., assembly superintendent and treasurer, and Dr. George E. Clary, Sr., program director.

Bishop Harrell will preach at the (See Youth Center—Page 6)

Business Area Also Is Planned

A new 800-acre summer residence area — at an average elevation of more than 4,000 feet—is now being developed on Soco Gap by the Davey Tree Experts Company of Kent, Ohio.

When fully developed, the mountain-top area will provide summer dwellings for approximately 1,000 people. In addition to 263 private residences planned, a number of business buildings are also to be constructed—including a motel, service station, craft shop and restaurant.

Hugh Birkner, vice president of the Ohio firm, told The Mountaineer by long-distance telephone Tuesday that surveyors will start staking off building sites in the near future. Construction of business buildings will get under way either this fall or in the spring, he added.

Residential sites, Mr. Birkner explained, will average from approximately three-quarters of an acre to 15 acres—many at elevations from 4,200 to 4,400 feet. These parcels will be sold both in Ohio and by agents in Western North Carolina.

Homes built on this land will have "exquisite views of the Smoky Mountains," he asserted.

Work on the Davey property on Soco Gap has been going on for about a year, Mr. Birkner said, including grading on the ground where the business buildings are to be constructed and the laying out of an access road. Additional miles of roads will connect residences when the area is completed.

J. R. Morgan of Waynesville, attorney for the Davey Company, disclosed that the business building portion of the development will have a frontage of about 630 feet along the south side of the highway, approximately 1,000 feet west of Soco Gap. The land is bounded on the east by the Blue Ridge Parkway and on the west by the Qualla Indian Reservation.

Mr. Morgan explained that the land was purchased by James G. Davey in the early 1920's. Later when the Parkway was built, some 1,400 acres were taken over by the National Park Service by right of eminent domain, the attorney added.

A strip of land on the north side of the highway has been conveyed by the Davey firm to the Ferguson and Deitz Company of Sylva.

Architect for the Davey interests is R. A. Wilhelm of Gatlinburg.

Three Accidents Reported; Car Overtakes Atop Soco

Three accidents have been investigated by the State Highway Patrol in the last two days. None resulted in serious injuries.

One collision on U. S. 19 near the Gale Haven Motor Court at 4:50 p. m. Wednesday involved a 1954 Chevrolet driven by Howard Allen Peters, Jr., of Mechanicsburg, Ill., and a 1954 Ford station wagon driven by Mrs. Hazel Ruth Linton of Route 2, Abernathy, Texas.

State Patrolman Harold Dayton reported that the accident occurred when Mrs. Linton's vehicle struck the rear of the Peters car as the latter slowed down in a line of traffic.

Damage to the Chevrolet was estimated at \$75, and to the Ford at \$150.

At 6 p. m. yesterday, Gerald Jackson Stepp of Route 2, Canton, driving two miles north of the Salvation Army Mission at Max Patch, lost control of his 1941 Buick, which ran off the pavement and struck several large saplings. Damage was estimated at \$150.

The investigation of this accident is being continued by Patrolman Dayton and Sheriff Fred Y. Campbell.

An Asheville man, Clarence Newell Gilbert 45, escaped serious (See 3 Wrecks—Page 6)

Speeders Warned To Watch Signs At Hazelwood

Motorists driving in Hazelwood would do well to keep an eye on the signs designating the speed limit.

Chief of Police Roy Stephens issued a warning today that those who violate the speed laws would find themselves in police court.

"We have worked out plans for checking speeders, and we are going to enforce the laws and get violators into court," he said.

This warning, Chief Stephens said, is the only warning that will be issued.

Draft Board Classifies 74 County Men

Draft classifications for 74 Haywood County men were announced this week by Selective Service Board 45 at the courthouse. They were:

Class 1-A (available for induction)—Olen Belles James; Herman E. Mathis; James Thomas Nelson; Charles Gordon Reagan; Donald Eugene Fowler; Eddie Lee Bruce Doyle Smith; Jimmie Dillard Denton; James A. Nathan; William Eugene Main; James K. Sanford; Michael Guy; Richard Radford Guy; Herbert Robertson Tallaford; Harold Lee Sherrill.

Class 1-C (inducted)—Robert Enos Medford; Shufford Gardner; J. C. Smith; Roy Williams; Stuart Grasty; William Howland; Ray Johnson; John H. Ray; David Edwin Terrill; David Bryson.

Class 1-C (enlisted)—James William Lemphill; David Weaver Miller; Dewain Francis Crawford; (See Draft Board—Page 6)

Work To Start Next Week On Clyde Whiteway

Construction of a "whiteway" system on the new four-lane highway at Clyde will start next week, it was reported today by committeemen of the town's "Finer Carolina" organization.

The lighting system will be made up of 14 lights stretching through the town along the new roadway.

Equipment and materials are being contributed by the Carolina Power and Light Co., sponsors of the "Finer Carolina" program. The lights will be mounted on poles already being used to support electrical wires.

"Islands" in the new highway at Clyde were completed this week

Cataloochee Beef Shoot Set August 4

A "shootin' match" where the guns are considerably older than the marksmen is set for Wednesday, August 4, at the 16th annual Cataloochee Beef shoot. Ancient muzzleloading rifles are being utilized with respectful hands in preparation for the event at Mile-High Cataloochee Ranch perched on Fire Top Mountain in the heart of the Great Smokies.

And somewhere a handsome steer is being fattened — he is the "beef" which becomes the prize for the marksmen.

Although the contest gets underway about 9 a. m., and lasts until about 3:30 p. m., spectators and contestants begin arriving as soon as the road is light enough to travel. Both enjoy the fiddlin' and banjo-pickin' heard between rounds, the picnic lunches, and the elaborate preparations for the meet. Lead must be melted, bullets poured and powder charges carefully measured (sometimes in a hollow bear's tooth).

Cataloochee Ranch is reached by a three-mile gravel road connecting with US 19 between Waynesville and Soco Gap.

'Mountain Top Gathering' Is Sunday At Max Patch

The 18th annual singing and mountain top gathering of the Salvation Army Mountain Mission near Max Patch will be held Sunday. It has been announced by Major Cecil Brown, head of the mission.

The Rev. Pete Hicks of Canton will be the guest speaker on a program which will include a number of outstanding Western Carolina and East Tennessee vocal groups.

Among the singers will be: The Sleepy Valley Choir, Antioch Quartet, Southernland Sisters, Lawson Quartet, Shelton Family, Piney Grove Quartet, Coke County Singers, Hederick Trio, Sexton Quartet, Dalton Sisters, Rowland Trio, Fairview Quartet.

Other singers are invited to participate on the program. All entertainers on the program will be given a free chicken dinner.

The event is open to the public. Those attending may bring a picnic lunch or buy "chicken-in-a-basket" and other refreshments at concession stands on the grounds.

Woodrow Rowland of Hazelwood will act as chairman of this year's gathering.

Mrs. John Ashback and son, John Ashback, of Durang, Colorado and Mrs. Leon Halls of Mancos, Colorado, are visiting Mr. and Mrs. Manson Medford and other relatives in the county. The visitors are nieces of Mr. Medford.

Maggie Has Lights On Highway

More than a mile of Maggie Valley is a bright spot at night, since the 16 street lights have been turned on.

The formal throwing of the switch was made Wednesday afternoon, when J. C. Marchant pulled a switch, as a member of the committee who worked up the project.

There are 16 lights along the highway, and they will burn every night from dark to daylight. The 405-watt bulbs are in a special sealed reflector, and hang over the highway.

Citizens along the route raised the money to pay for the current, at the rate of over \$500 per year. At the time the switch was thrown, Claude Medford, acting treasurer, handed a check for a year's power bill to a representative of Carolina Power and Light Company.

"We never saw such enthusiasm, and cooperation on any project as this one," said Marchant. "In fact, it was 99 per cent perfect."

Ross Caldwell said today that traffic slowed down upon getting into the lighted district. "It just seems to call for slower speed," Caldwell said.

Carl Henry, also a member of the committee, said that citizens in the upper end of the valley are interested in extending the lighting service there, and commented: "Within a year I expect to see the entire valley lighted, from one end to the other."

Mary Jo Battle of Andrews and Carol Jean Platt of Marietta, Ga. are visiting their grandmother, Mrs. G. C. Platt.

Pool At Lake Proving To Be Popular Recreation

More than 8,000 swimmers have cooled-off in the new pool at Lake Junaluska, a report from there today showed. The pool opened June 12, and since then has been heavily patronized, one day the 100 by 125 foot pool, is almost filled to capacity.

A huge pump keeps the water circulating and through the chlorinating machine, while two auxiliary pumps are used for changing the water, at the rate of 1,000 gallons per minute.

The water in the pool is checked daily, and engineers of the State Board of Health here Tuesday were gratified at the consistent reports which the pool has acquired.

The pool is 11 feet deep at the diving end. The pool is operated every day except Sunday.

Hazelwood Tax Rate To Remain Same, At \$1.65

The Hazelwood tax rate will remain \$1.65, according to the budget adopted by town officials for the coming fiscal year.

The total budget requirements as set out in the budget amount to \$46,789, with \$21,780 being raised by taxes, and \$25,029 from sources other than taxation.

This year's budget shows that 70 cents, the same as the last three years, goes for general fund, while the street fund is set at 60 cents, which is 20 cents below that of last year. The debt service goes up 20 cents—from 15 to 35 cents, making the total tax rate the same as prior years.

This year's general fund calls for \$18,076, while \$7,655 is set aside for streets, and \$15,313 for water, and \$5,745 for debt service.

Hazelwood has an estimated valuation of \$1,537,000, and the budget shows a poll tax of \$200.

Haywood Baptists Purchase House For Home And Office

An 8-room brick house and four acres of land on the Jones Cove Road has been purchased by the Haywood Baptist Association, as headquarters and a home for the associational worker.

Rev. Elmer Green, missionary for the association, will move into the home on Monday, and will establish his office there. The property was bought from Taylor Sutton for \$16,000.

Authorization for the purchase of the home was made last August at the Associational meeting.

Rev. T. E. Erwin is chairman of the executive committee, who was charged with securing a home for the Associational Worker. The building committee who spent much time in looking over several pieces of property, was composed of Rev. W. N. Reece, Canton; David Franklin, Clyde; and Rev. Gay Chambers, Bethel.

The trustees for the property is composed of Frank Kirkpatrick, Waynesville; Glenn D. Brown, Clyde; and M. N. Crisp, Canton.

Other Business Buildings Planned By Sylva Firm

Harry Ferguson of the Ferguson and Dietz Company of Sylva told The Mountaineer this morning that his firm's plans for developing a strip of land on the north side of the highway just west of Soco Gap have not been completed, but disclosed that a 20 to 25-unit motel, service station, and craft shop probably will be constructed on the property.

Building is expected to start next spring, he added. Some grading has already been done on the land there.

The property is bounded by the Qualla Indian Reservation and the Blue Ridge Parkway.

Dewey McRay has returned home after spending a week in El Paso, Texas, with Corporal and Mrs. Hugh B. Hall, Jr. He also visited various places of interest in Mexico and New Mexico.

Highway Record For 1954 In Haywood (TO DATE) Killed . . . 1 Injured . . . 19 (This information compiled from Records of State Highway Patrol.)

Weather

HOT

Generally fair and quite warm today and Friday.

Official Waynesville temperature compiled by the State Test

Max.	Min.	Pr.
85	59	.12
84	58	
85	59	