

The News Most Of Time — The Most All The Time.

# THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

TODAY'S SMILE  
The same rain that saves the optimist's lawn, makes the pessimist's weeds grow faster.

Published Twice-A-Week In The County Seat of Haywood County At The Eastern Entrance Of The Great Smoky Mountains National Park  
WAYNESVILLE, N. C., THURSDAY AFTERNOON, DEC. 1, 1955  
\$3.50 In Advance In Haywood and Jackson Counties

## Unagusta Officials Hope To Rebuild Plant 2

### Units Will Be Built; Four Homes



JERRY LINER

"I hope to start work on a modern 50-unit apartment house the next morning after I get my deed," Jerry Liner said a few minutes after bidding in the old Central Elementary School property for \$67,000 Wednesday afternoon.

Liner said he would add to the present three-story building, and have 50 modern apartments, complete with air conditioning and elevator service. He said about 18 months would be needed for the job.

In addition to the apartment house, Liner said he planned four residences on Tate Street which he would offer for sale.

"They will be nice homes, in the \$20,000 to \$25,000 range," he pointed out.

The bidding on the property was brisk, with a special committee from the First Methodist church making bids for the block-square site. The 23 lots were offered separately and were bid in at \$35,050 by several parties, including Liner and the Methodists.

When the property was put up as a whole, the Methodists started the first bid at \$40,000 and it went from there to \$67,000.

Jarvis Caldwell, chairman of the Haywood County Board of Education, said there was no question about the sale being confirmed at the end of 10 days, unless the bid is raised. A 10 per cent increase over the bid price is required in order to raise the bid, it was explained by W. Roy Francis, attorney for the board.

Medford Leatherwood was the auctioneer, and said afterwards it was the largest sale in his career.

Francis told prospective buyers before the sale that a "good title" (See Apartment—Page 6)



THIS PICTURE was made about fifteen minutes after the \$750,000 blaze started at Unagusta about 3:30 Wednesday afternoon. The first of the 55-gallon barrels of lacquer had just exploded when a Mountaineer photographer made this picture. The black, billowing smoke was seen as far away as Sylva. Pictures made at noon today are on Pages 2, 3 and 5. Other fire pictures on pages in this section and also Section Two of this edition. (Mountaineer Photo.)

### Damage Put At \$750,000 In Haywood's Worst Fire

Unagusta Furniture Company officials were in an all-morning conference today, working out details to get essential machines in order to keep Plant No. 1 in operation after fire destroyed Plant No. 2 Wednesday afternoon, causing Haywood's largest fire loss in history. The officials set the loss at \$750,000.

R. L. Prevost, Sr., president of the firm, told The Mountaineer this morning: "We are working fast to get replacement of main machines which were destroyed and put them in Plant No. 1 to keep that unit in operation."

### Community Meeting Set For Tonight

BULLETIN

A community meeting will be held tonight, 7:30, courthouse, to discuss a program for offering assistance to Unagusta employees while temporarily out of employment. The meeting is sponsored jointly by the Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association.

Members of church groups, civic clubs, and other organizations are asked to attend this meeting.

"The fire seems like a nightmare, and we are trying as best we can to collect our thoughts this morning, and while we are not wasting a moment, these things, of necessity, will take a little time," he explained.

The industrialist, when asked about rebuilding, said: "There are a lot of things involved. Our present thinking is to rebuild on a larger scale with a modern plant, but right at the moment we are trying to devote our efforts to getting machines in order that Plant No. 1 can continue to operate," he pointed out.

Office personnel were busy notifying the 30 salesmen, and large number of customers of the fire which swept through Plant No. 2 and in about two hours had leveled it to the ground. The main machines for the operation of Unagusta were in this plant. These included the precision and electronic machines, some costing up to \$25,000. The veneer for the corporation was produced in the burned plant.

Mr. Prevost said that there was some stock partially finished and that efforts would be devoted to getting that furniture finished and shipped as soon as possible, and that is one urgent need for the new machines.

As of Wednesday about 100 men worked in Plant No. 1 and 250 in Plant No. 2. Mr. Prevost said he hoped with the addition of the new machines that more men would be employed in Plant No. 1.

As to rebuilding, Mr. Prevost said: "A community built around industry can't afford to quit when a plant is destroyed. I have always worked on the motto: 'Where there is a will there is a way.' I have had some tough breaks in my life, but like Daniel of the Bible, I have tried to overcome the obstacles in my pathway, and hope to hurdle this one, even as bad as it is."

Mr. Prevost said the thing he was so thankful for was that no one was hurt. He was warm in his praise of the magnificent job the firemen did in keeping the blaze from spreading to the kiln and (See Fire—Page 6)

### Red Fund Within Of Goal

Red Fund is \$5,800 short, Dr. J. E. Fender told directors Wednesday.

At the same time he announced number of solicitors were "clean-up" of their assignments.

Announcement of the who have made 100 per cent contributions were announced.

Store, Kurt Gans, Haywood Co-op, Moody Rulane, Heating, Garrett's Furniture, Charlie's, Unagusta Mountaineer, Waynesville Sales, Harry Liner, First National Bank, Bank, Rural Electric Assn., Farmers Federation, Reliance, Lyda Ins. Agency, Shop.

He said the board will meet December 14th for the election and election of officers.

Committee, campaign chairmen, those wishing to contribute to the fund, serving 25 agencies, by calling the United Way, 6-6277, or mailing to the office.

### F. C. Green Says Investigation Is Welcomed

"We will welcome any investigation as to any of our actions," Faraday C. Green, chairman of the Board of Commissioners said this morning in referring to the part of the Grand Jury's recent report in which a recommendation was that "a thorough investigation be made relative to the sale of some personal property at the county home."

Chairman Green said, "we welcome any investigation, because if we have made a mistake we would like to know about it ourselves. We have nothing to hide, and all transactions are open for any investigation that anyone or any group might wish to make."

"I am sorry," the chairman continued, "that such a thing has come to the minds of any citizens, but we still want it known that any investigation will have our hearty approval, and at any time," he concluded.

## County Farm Injunction Hearing Slated Here Friday Morning At 10

The second hearing on a restraining order stopping the sale of the 140-acre county home farm is slated to be heard before Judge George B. Patton, of Franklin, in the courtroom here at 10 a.m. Friday morning.

Judge Patton is also expected to hear a petition from the county commissioners, defendants in the case, in which they ask that the plaintiff's bond be raised from \$1,000 to \$25,000.

Max Cogburn, one of the lawyers for the 108 plaintiffs said today that about 80 applications had been received from others asking that they become parties to the suit to prevent the sale of the farm.

Ray Haynes was named general chairman of the group opposing the sale of the 140-acre farm when over 300 people met at the Bethel school recently. A steering committee of about 20 were named at the same time, it was announced today.

Grover C. Davis, county attorney, announced last week that a damage suit of perhaps \$25,000 would be brought by the county against the plaintiffs of the restraining order because of the stoppage of the sale on November 9th.

Davis had no statement to make this morning other than to mention the date and hour of the hearing before Judge Patton.

This is the second restraining order issued to stop sale of the county farm. The first injunction was dissolved by Judge Moore, and when the second complaint came up, he transferred it to Judge Patton, explaining he had expressed an opinion after hearing the first complaint.

### Court Adjourned Tuesday As Most Cases Are Heard

Superior court adjourned here Tuesday afternoon by Judge Dan K. Moore after most of the 400 cases had been cleared from the docket.

Two manslaughter cases and the second trial of a man charged in the shooting of his son were continued.

The manslaughter charges against Dewey Forrest Bryson of Waynesville, Rt. 1, and Charles Howard Leatherwood, 17, of Waynesville, arose from the deaths of two persons in separate traffic accidents.

Bryson is charged in the death of 13-year-old Bobbie Jean Crowder of Bryson City; and Leatherwood, in the death of Charles Weldon Gidney, 52, of Canton.

Burl Warren of the Thickety section was granted a new trial by the State Supreme Court after he was convicted last February of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill his son, Paul, and sentenced to five to seven years.

In other actions Judge Moore placed on probation three 15-year-old Canton boys after hearing a report they paid for goods taken from a number of stores. They also had been charged with taking an automobile.

### Weatherman Promises Warmer Weather Wednesday Store Closings Halted Until Christmas

The weatherman has promised more seasonal weather tonight after coming up with three days of the year's bitterest cold. The thermometer at the Experiment Station dipped to a low of 7 degrees both Tuesday and Wednesday nights, coming up with a "warm" 13 last night.

The season's most severe cold wave came on Monday night, riding a mass of air borne down from Canada. Tuesday's high, as reported by the Experiment Station, was 33 and Wednesday's high was 39.

Today is warmer and the upward trend is expected to continue tomorrow.

Starting next Wednesday, Waynesville area retail businesses will remain open on Wednesdays during the month of December except for December 28.

Stores and businesses also will be open on Friday nights until 9 p.m. on December 9 and 16.

The week before Christmas, stores also will be open for several consecutive nights on a schedule to be announced later.

The store hours for the holidays were set by a committee made up of Joe Cline, chairman; Charles Ray, Bob Wilson, J. C. Jennings of the Merchants Association and Ned Tucker of the Chamber of Commerce.

### Unagusta Workers Asked To File For Compensation

All employees of the Unagusta Furniture Co. have been asked by President R. L. Prevost, Sr., to file for unemployment compensation Friday at the Waynesville office of the Employment Security Commission, located at 120 Church, St. behind the Waynesville postoffice.

Employees whose last names begin with A through M are requested to file between 8 a.m. and 12 noon.

Those whose names begin with N through Z are asked to file from 12 noon until 5 p.m.

This applies to employees of Unagusta's No. 1 plant as well as the No. 2 plant which was destroyed by fire Wednesday afternoon.

Miss Debrayda Fisher, manager of the employment office, asked that all war veterans filing for compensation bring their discharge or military separation papers.

She also asked that anyone who can use workers or temporary workers call the employment office.

### Key Warehouses Cancel After Protests Here

Plans of Haywood County tobacco producers to go to court over new charges set by Asheville burley warehouses resulted in the dropping of the controversial fees as auction sales opened Tuesday.

At a meeting Monday morning in the office of County Farm Agent Virgil L. Holloway it was reported that the Asheville warehouses were planning to charge four different fees, including a 3 1/2 per cent commission, 25-cent basket fee, 10-cent weighing and handling charge, and an auction fee of 15 cents for 100 pounds or less or 25 cents for more than 100 pounds.

Lamar Gudger, Asheville attorney, told tobacco farmers and county agriculture officials, that the latter two fees "violated the spirit" of the law passed by the North Carolina General Assembly at its last session.

The attorney added that this act prohibits any warehouse fees except the 3 1/2 per cent commission and 25-cent basket fee.

Oral L. Yates, field representative (See Burley—Page 6)

### First-Day Burley Sales Bring Average Of \$56.32

Nearly two thirds of a million pounds of burley tobacco brought an average of \$56.32 Tuesday during the opening day of warehouse auctions at Asheville.

Last year the first-day average was \$58.89.

Unofficial sales totals Tuesday were \$352,832.14 paid for \$26,702 pounds of burley.

At Boone the opening day average was \$55.75 and at West Jefferson \$55.95.

On 14 East Tennessee markets, Tuesday sales averaged \$56.51.

Asheville's second-day average was reported as \$56.27. Totals were 585,018 pounds of burley sold for \$329,241.24.

### Sidelights Of Fire

A lid from an exploding lacquer drum sailed several hundred feet in the air, and looked as if it were headed for a group of about 50 people across the street. The crowd scattered back much further.

An elderly lady living near the plant was moved by ambulance to the home of a son, because her family did not want her frightened. The sight of the ambulance started many unfounded rumors.

Crews were kept on the roof of the Tannery and Welco Shoe Corporation. Several times the Tannery roof caught but the guarding watchers quickly put out the blaze.

### Highway Record For 1955 In Haywood (TO DATE)

Killed . . . 3 (1954 — 3)  
Injured . . . 83 (1954 — 56)  
Accidents 168  
Loss . . \$77,830  
(This information compiled from records of State Highway Patrol.)

### Moose Get 300 Pieces Of Clothing

More than 300 articles of clothing and 42 pairs of shoes — mostly for children — were collected by members of the Waynesville Moose Lodge during their porchlight drive Tuesday night.

Mrs. E. J. Stanmyre of the Waynesville Clothing Closet said the items collected are now being sorted and will be distributed during the latter part of next week.

Distribution will be made from (See Moose—Page 6)

### Senator Medford To Be Speaker At PTA Meeting

State Senator William Medford will speak at a meeting of the Waynesville High School Parent-Teacher Association Monday night at 7:30 o'clock. Mr. Medford will discuss problems facing the schools at this time.

Paul Davis, president will preside.

Miss Grace Blanton, student at Woman's College, visited her parents during the Thanksgiving holidays.

FAIR & WARMER

Max.	Min.	Pr.
53	28	
33	7	
39	7	