

Because the ground is chapt, for there was no rain in the earth, the plowmen were ashamed, they covered their heads. —Jeremiah 14:4.

Editorial Page of the Mountaineer

Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God, if He ever had a chosen people, whose breasts He has made His peculiar deposit for substantial and genuine virtue.—Thomas Jefferson.

Jackson Looks At The Pigeon River Road

Our good friend and neighbor just across Balsam, The Sylva Herald, devoted an editorial last week to the Pigeon River road and its effect on Western North Carolina. We are very much interested in the different angles which the Herald pointed out in stressing the need for "more and better highways."

The editorial read as follows: "Editor Curtis Russ of The Waynesville Mountaineer says that the people of Haywood County are elated over the final approval by the U. S. Bureau of Public Roads for building an interstate highway down the Pigeon River — Editor James Story of the Marshall News-Record expresses disappointment that the approval was not given the French Broad route and questions the reasons given by State and Federal engineers for the final decision in favor of Pigeon River."

"The Herald sees in the selection of the Pigeon River route another entrance into the vast scenic section of Western North Carolina, an all-weather, water-level route that will provide safe travel when higher elevation roads such as Newfound Gap, Soco Gap and sections of the Marshall-Hot Springs roads are dangerous at times due to snow and ice. The Pigeon River route will also provide a military road should it ever be needed. This country has never had to see its men, women and children scrambling frantically over congested highways before an onrushing enemy. We trust the day will never come when we do. To be prepared, however, is to be forewarned."

BUT, we are wondering if this will be another by-pass of Sylva and Jackson County, especially the Cherokee and western section of the county, even Swain and counties west. Tourists will be able to enter the new road in Tennessee and drive straight through to Asheville, by-passing Waynesville and points west. Maybe, however, the "Old Smokies" will continue to have their pull and this section will continue to get its share of the tourist travel over Newfound Gap. But if U. S. 441 from Smokemont to Newfound Gap isn't soon rebuilt, a new route down Pigeon River will be needed, as no one will want to travel the worn-out park highway.

"Travel over the Pigeon River route from the north to the south and southwest should naturally flow over 23 through Sylva and 441 and 19 south and west. This route would be a continuation of that lower elevation road. With the rebuilding of the Sylva-Balsam section of 23 this route should be even more attractive to the traveling public."

"The Herald feels that we should not be too much concerned about where a new highway is built. More and better highways are badly needed in this section of Western North Carolina to carry the ever increasing traffic load. The fact that they are to be built and improved is the main thing of interest now."

Aide Memoire?

And yet another shattering blow from Paris of one of the most widely cherished ideas of Americans. The French magazine Elle has made a survey of 1,500 typical girls, and it shows that the average made-moiselle of today is straitlaced, teetotaling and willing to share expenses on a date. Only 38 per cent of them said they use perfumes.

Keep this, if you can, from any aging veterans of the AEF of 1918. It might prove to be too much for some of the old boys to learn that Mademoiselle from Armentieres is dead. —The Dallas Morning News.

Two Banks Here Take Steps Forward

The profits which a bank can make are entirely dependent upon the prosperity of the community which it serves. The same applies to business in general.

For that reason, the boards of directors of the First National Bank, and the First State Bank, last week, decided upon a program of "generating greater community prosperity" by increasing the interest rates paid for savings accounts.

The two banks are devoting substantial sums from their earnings as payment to individuals who put money in savings accounts, which in turn, will be loaned to people in this community to build homes and expand their businesses, as well as other progressive projects for the good of the community.

The whole program is a cycle of developing a community, with the banks starting it off by paying to get the program going.

Most businesses are dependent, at times, upon loans from banks. Many farmers are dependent upon similar loans. A bank can only make loans up to a regulated percentage of its deposits.

Figures from official governmental sources reveal that there are thousands of dollars in this community that is not now on deposit in any bank. If this money were made available to banks — where it is fully protected under Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation — there would be many a project that could be started on the money. This would mean a faster growing community.

And a faster growing community will mean more prosperity for everyone.

It looks like the banks have inaugurated a program designed to stimulate more prosperity, and in the words of the old colored man in discussing business, "that's what we is the most fondest of."

Transylvania Having Fire Troubles

We can well sympathize with the Transylvania Times as it calls for immediate action to put an end to the malicious burning of vacant homes and of forest land in certain areas of the county.

Some years ago, several thousand acres of Haywood's valuable timberland were burned. The guilty persons were apprehended and convicted, but many years must pass before the forest recovers from the harm it suffered.

The Times continues: "This lawless, criminal, destructive action must be stopped, otherwise the current progress and development in Upper Transylvania will be greatly thwarted."

"With the promotion that is being given to Whitewater Falls, plus the establishment of the Cosby Choir Camp and the Sapphire Valley Country Club, people . . . are being encouraged to build summer homes there."

"Unless there can be assurance, as well as insurance, against loss of homes that are vacant . . . this development will be greatly retarded."

During the past two weeks, two homes burned to the ground, for a total of six in the past few months. In addition, a forest fire burned over a large area.

The Transylvania Sheriff's Department and the State Bureau of Investigation are both on the case, and the Times proposes: "Let's increase the law enforcement personnel and catch the fire bugs."

When you run into a man with real enthusiasm for hard work, he usually is your boss.—Waynesboro (Ga.) True Citizen.



Views of other Editors Looking Back Over The Years

20 YEARS AGO

Senior Class of WTHS has banquet at Welch Memorial building. Lawson Summerrow, class president, is master of ceremonies.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Herman move their residence from Boundary Street to Thomas Park.

Work begins on City's \$4,500 incinerator.

Commencement exercises of WTHS set for May 3-7.

10 YEARS AGO

Howard Clapp is new president of Rotary Club.

Nathan Carver of Jonathan Creek is named member of Haywood Board of Public Welfare.

Ensign James L. Walker of Clyde is graduated from the U. S. Merchant Marine Academy, Long Island, N. Y.

Mrs. R. G. Chasan heads Beth-el PTA for 1946-47.

5 YEARS AGO

Miss Fannie Pearl Felmet weds John Freeman Hayes.

Miss Clara Estella Dotson is engaged to James Erastus Davis.

Miss Jackie Sue Messer is member of the May Court at Agnes Scott.

Miss Anne Albright, former dean of women at WCC, entertains at luncheon honoring Dr. Freida Anne Greider, new dean of the college.

Miss Edna Summerrow, retiring president of Beta Sigma Phi, entertains members of the sorority in her home.

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK

A collection of humorous illustrations and text by R. J. Scott. Includes a man with a large mouth, a woman with a large nose, and various jokes about 'scrap' and 'victims'.

Rambling 'Round

By Frances Gilbert Frazier

Swish! Off goes another leaf of the calendar, and suddenly May pops into view. We cannot remember when we have taken such a deep pleasure in "taking a month off" as we do this year. April has been a cruel disappointment and her exit causes absolutely no grief. And what hurts us is that we gave her such a big blow-off just before she arrived.

Somehow, we have faith in May. She has always been dependable with only occasional lapses into "onry" manners. With May we associate graduates, May queens, May poles, and the fragrance of blooming blossoms. May also brings us our advance summer visitors; the warmth of lengthening days and the sweet silence of velvet nights.

Ah, yes, and then 'twill be Spring . . . MAY-be.

If I could be a some-one-else, I just don't know who it would be. You see, I like myself so well I think I'll stay just plain old me.

Of course there's no reason for us to get all flustered over it but, somehow, this American blood of ours gets almost to the boiling point when we realize the insults that are being hurled at the Western world, and we don't have a brick or two in return. This matter of turning the other cheek can be slightly overdone, as we see it.

Personally, we hope the United States "Welcome" mat is left in the basement as far as the two visiting firemen from Russia are concerned. Their smiling faces remind us quite vividly of the masks worn by the participants in TV's "Masquerade Party". And there is about as much sincerity as is exercised behind other masks.

We would think that their mixed-up reception received on their English tour would be sort of a dampening-down and they would feel quite satisfied to return to their own fireside . . . and remain there.

Reflections that are not pleasing—the sun shining on a wind-shield in direct line with our eyes.

ZANY DEFINITIONS:

- A bad cold: a pain in the neck. A bore: ditto. Optimism: setting out picnic tables. Spring: something we had last year. Calendar: taking a month off, but no vacation. X marks: for ballots and picture post cards on trips. Television: something that interrupts conversation. Radio: a nuisance when turned on somewhere else. The last word: NO!

New friends are the samples we use in making old friends.

AN ACT OF FAITH

In the midst of all this talk of horror and destruction as a result of a push-button war and the problems posed by segregation North Carolina and the nation has witnessed an act of faith that should bolster our spirits.

For the first time in national history a state-supported art museum has come into being. Because of legislative appropriation of one million dollars for the purchase of famous art objects, the State's new Museum of Art is now open. The opening attracted art enthusiasts from all over the country. More important, however, is the fact that on this past Sunday many hundreds of people had viewed the contents of the museum.

The Kress foundation is to give the State another million dollars worth of paintings.

Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS

Eisenhower to Get Bulk Of Foreign Aid Request? Congress May OK Up To \$4.5 Billion, Believe

WASHINGTON—Despite the initial howls from Congress at the size of President Eisenhower's \$4.9 billion foreign aid request, chances are that he will get a big part of what he is asking. Most legislators want to cut down on foreign aid spending, especially in an election year when they think the voters might register their appreciation at the polls.

However, the fact is that the President's new program leaves little room for trimming without some vital assistance being blocked and few legislators actually want to stop foreign aid altogether.

Unless there is some notable improvement in the international situation—and that is highly unlikely—Congress eventually will go along with most of Mr. Eisenhower's request.

The outlook now is that an aid program of at least \$4 billion will be approved, and it possibly might run up to \$4.5 billion. So, don't look for any sharp slash in Ike's proposal.

NEW CABINET OFFICER?—Interior department "insiders" expect Under Secretary Clarence Davis to be the next secretary, succeeding Douglas McKay who is quitting about mid-April to run for the Senate seat now held by Oregon Democrat Wayne Morse. McKay, former governor of Oregon, is known to be highly pleased with the help he's had from Davis, who he brought to the department when he became secretary in January, 1953. Davis, a Nebraskan, is highly popular in the department and has made no political enemies on Capitol Hill.

NEW RUSS LINE—Speculation in diplomatic circles is flourishing about the possible significance of Russia's debanking of the late Josef Stalin. One theory is that it could mean the beginning of a genuine revolution among the masses—because the current leaders are striving desperately to use Stalin as a scapegoat for all troubles within the Soviet.

Another is that the whole episode is being played up beyond its true worth in the hope of fooling the world into believing there is a basic change in the Communist outlook.

The only agreement in all circles is that something definitely is happening within the Soviet which forces the leaders to make a grandstand play—whether that grandstand audience is intended to be the people of Russia or the people of the Western world.

SKINDIVERS HARK!—The Maritime administration has no desire to discourage skindivers, but it would like them to know there is no sunken treasure to be had for the taking. Every spring the agency is deluged with letters asking for information on ships that have been sunk and can be salvaged.

Maritime's answer is that private ships and cargoes belong to the owners, even if they rest in Davy Jones' locker, and that government vessels lost in wars are pretty hopeless. Of some 1,500 U. S. ships sunk during World War II, locations are known for about 1,000—but only 175 have ever been considered for possible salvage.

Maritime says there just are no known shipwrecks where gold or other fabulous wealth awaits the adventuresome diver. Even the safes of the government ships would have no more than \$100 in cash.

Views of Other Editors Using All Of Tobacco

It had to come. Now it is officially admitted by the one of the major tobacco manufacturers that his firm has put into operation a new technique which makes good cigarettes without wasting any of the tobacco they buy.

Every firm, every business is duty-bound to make every possible advance that will reduce waste.

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cut costs, and insure a better return to its investors.

The Chicago meat packers long ago turned into some cash every part of the meat they process except the squeal of the pig.

Rising costs of labor and taxes and maintenance and transportation and everything forced tobacco firms to find a way out. This processed tobacco seems to be it for them. Of course it throws grave new problems into the laps of farmers of Eastern North Carolina and of the entire section. The new processes will cut demand for our great money crop. We shall have to reduce acreage some more.

As yet only one big leaf manufacturer has admitted the new process. Whether others have yet put this technique into operation or not they will do so as quickly as possible. The effect on us down here will be the same whether the tobacco is called reconstituted tobacco, homogenized tobacco or processed tobacco.

Whatever they call it, the research departments have worked out a way to utilize satisfactorily stems and bulk which previously had been waste.

Tobacco Associates says that last year the manufacturers made three per cent more cigarettes on 4,000,000 pounds less of tobacco.

There is no use to rail and rant and to resent this new advance. It had to come.

Here at home we who depend on tobacco farming for a living must in turn find a new way.

This great and serious problem for us makes all the more important the market survey to be undertaken in Wayne late this month.

—The Goldsboro News-Argus.

There is an unpleasant side to newsgathering and reporting, but what would happen to the confidence of readers in their newspaper if they thought that the only unpleasant news printed was about people the reporters don't like? Or if the newspaper adopted a Pollyanna policy which shut its eyes to all unpleasantness and reported only the bright and positive events? Most readers recognize the fact that newspapers don't make the news; they simply report it. But