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TRENA P. FOX, Editor & Publisher

THURMAN L. BROWN, Shop Manager

ARCHIE BALLEW, Photographer & Pressman

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**RANGER RAMBLIN'S**



By Helton Carmichael

I would like to start this column off with an introduction. My name is Helton Carmichael and I am the new District Ranger in Burnsville on the Toecane Ranger District, U. S. Forest Service. My primary purpose in writing this column which I hope will be regular, is to acquaint you with your National Forests and the services it performs. First, some background will be needed to better understand how the U. S. Forest Service serves you.

The Toecane Ranger District is composed of 65,650 acres of land located in Yancey, Mitchell and Buncombe Counties. The District Office is located in Burnsville and the Work Center or warehouse located at Busick. The District is administered by a District Ranger who is in charge of protection and management of the entire District. My professional staff consists of an Assistant District Ranger and a Forester. These men are all college trained professional foresters. Other members of the District consists of a clerk, supervisory personnel and forest workers. The Toecane District employes a total of 17 people on a full time basis and carry out many varied types of jobs on the District such as timber marking and appraising, wildlife habitat improvement, timber stand improvement, recreation construction and maintenance, planting pine seedlings, road construction and maintenance, insect and disease control, fire control and many others.

**Local News**

Miss Sharon Howell of Mars Hill College spent the week-end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Howell of Green Mountain. She had as her house guests the following friends from Mars Hill College: Miss Donna Lewis, (her roommate), Judith Torrence, Betsy Glasgow, Ann Keplinger and Mary Owens.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Y. Fox of Morganton visited Mr. and Mrs. Arney Fox here Sunday.

Mrs. J. W. Christie is a patient in Memorial Mission Hospital in Asheville. She is a sister of the late Mrs. Molt

The Toecane District is one of eleven Districts in the State which makes up the National Forests in North Carolina. The National Forests are administered by a Forest Supervisor whose offices are located in Asheville. The National Forests in North Carolina are one of twelve National Forests in the south which make up the southern forests of Region 8, which is administered by a Regional Forester and his staff in Atlanta, Georgia. There are ten regions in the United States under the Chief of the Forest Service. This then in a nutshell is the organization of the U. S. Forest Service and a brief description of your own District.

I hope to be explaining other phases of the Forest Service work and relating interesting facts about the Forest and its people in the weeks to come.

Hensley. Misses Sarah and Willie Molt Hensley and Mrs. Margaret Miller visited her Sunday. They also visited their sister, Mrs. Robbie Heavner in Asheville. Mrs. Heavner's son, Lester Ralph, and family, Mrs. Heavner and daughter, Karen, were visiting Mrs. Heavner. Mr. and Mrs. Heavner are from Alexandria, La. where Mr. Heavner has been with the Tac Air Command, U. S. Air Corps. He was discharged from the Air Corps on May 11. He is recently back from Viet Nam where he served for several months.

Miss Barbara Hensley of Yadkinville, N. C. and Steve Hensley of Lees McRae College, Banner Elk, were the guests of their parents. Mr. and Mrs. Selwyn Hensley, last week-end.

Mrs. Billy G. Hughes and children, and Miss Eloise Brown of Hickory were visiting here over the week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Shepard and Mr. and Mrs. Ron Kiser spent the past week-end with Miss Rachel Woodard and Miss Olive Brown at their cottage on Long Beach at South Port.

Mr. and Mrs. Ward Ballew and Guy Ballew of Detroit, Mich are visiting relatives here due to the illness of their father, Sam Ballew, who is a patient in Yancey Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Leslie Hensley and Mr. and Mrs. George King visited in Williamsburg, Va. last week-end.

**Engagement Announced**



Miss Verna Lucretia Hensley will be married to Richard Cochran Harris of Charlotte in July. Miss Hensley is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kermit Hensley of Burnsville and is a senior at East Yancey High School. Mr. Harris is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Cochran Harris of Charlotte and is employed at Mack Trucks, Inc.

**Byrd Creek News**

By Donald McCourry

Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barnett of this place visited with Mr. and Mrs. Garfa Hughes at Hunt Dale Sunday, May 9th.

Dave Griffith and Clarence Bennett of Brummett's Creek area were here last week on business with Park Hughes.

Conway Hughes told this reporter last week that wild locusts were in bloom. The locusts have lots of honey in the bloom and the honey-bees like very much to gather honey from this kind of bush.

The farmers here at this area say that tobacco plants are very scarce this year. Some farmers have lots of plants while others have none.

Ray Barnett recently tore down a chimney which was attached to a dwelling house here which he plans to move to the dwelling later in the year. The chimney was built some fifty-years ago out of rock material.

Miss Zula Barnett who is doing house work at Roan Valley, spent a night over the week-end here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barnett.

A new barn here at Byrd Creek on the Barnett farm is now under construction. The new barn is being built on the same site where recently was an old barn which had been built for some fifty years was torn down.

Mr. and Mrs. Toney Barnett, of Lenoir, newly wedded couple spent two nights here nearly two weeks ago visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Barnett.

Mr. and Mrs. G. D. Barnett was at Banner Elk Wednesday, May 12th where they visited with Mrs. Sena Ray, who is still a patient there in the hospital.

Carl Barnett, of Byrd Creek was reported to this writer last week of exchanging cars. Mr. Barnett is employed in Burnsville, N. C.

Ray Barnett of Byrd Creek took a milk cow and a calf to the stock market at Johnson City May 12th.

Asple McCourry told this witer recently that he killed a small moccasin snake about 3 a. m. one morning recently. His dog had the snake treed all night until Mr. McCourry got out and killed the snake.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Peterson of the Poor Flats area were

**Mrs. Wampler Hostess To Junior Club**

The Carolina Hemlock Junior Woman's Club met Monday night, May 17, at the home of Mrs. Garland Wampler. The program "The History Of The General Federation of Woman's Clubs and The Junior Division of N. C." was presented by Mrs. Wampler and Mrs. Bert Sutton.

Officers for the coming year were elected. They are as follows: President, Mrs. Woodward Finley; First Vice President, Mrs. Charles Gillespie, Jr.; Second Vice President, Mrs. Don Wilson; Secretary, Mrs. Grey Boyles; Treasurer, Mrs. Thomas Weeks. These officers will be installed at an installation banquet on June 25.

The Club received a Project Hope Certificate Of Appreciation for the aid they have given to the U. S. Hope hospital ship. They sent doctor's and nurses' uniforms, made attendants aprons, collected toys for the children's wards, and sent money to this project.



Gerald R. Fender, who spent two weeks here with his parents following his graduation as an Honor student from Nashville Auto Diesel College on March 30, is now employed by Overnite Transportation Co. in Atlanta, Georgia. Fender was also an Honor student (Salutatorian) of East Yancey High School, Class of 1964. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clay Fender, Rt. 2, Burnsville.

here recently visiting friends and relatives.

Dennis Hughes of Byrd Creek son of Mr. and Mrs. Seth Hughes, and Miss Shirley Bennett, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Lee Bennett of Bailey Settlement area, were married May 8th. Rev. Joe Brown solemnized the wedding at his home in the Jake Hollow vicinity. The couple plan to make their home in this nearby area.

Clifford Barnett, Carl Barnett, Wade Malone Barnett, Odell Barnett, D. J. Hughes, and Lawrence McCourry all went on a picnic excursion on Saturday night, May 8th. They spent the night at what is called, "Ledy Place" on the head waters of Byrd Creek. They reported to the writer of the trip being successful. They are from Byrd Creek and Brummett's Creek areas.

This writer, accompanied by three others, ate a picnic supper on Saturday evening, May 8th, at the Joe Arrowood farm on the headwaters of Dog Flay Hollow. It was the first picnic supper in over one year's period.



May 9 through May 15 was Girls' Auxiliary Focus Week in the Baptist Association. Pictured are scenes from the Coronation Service held in the First Baptist Church in Burnsville last Friday night.