

THE YANCEY RECORD

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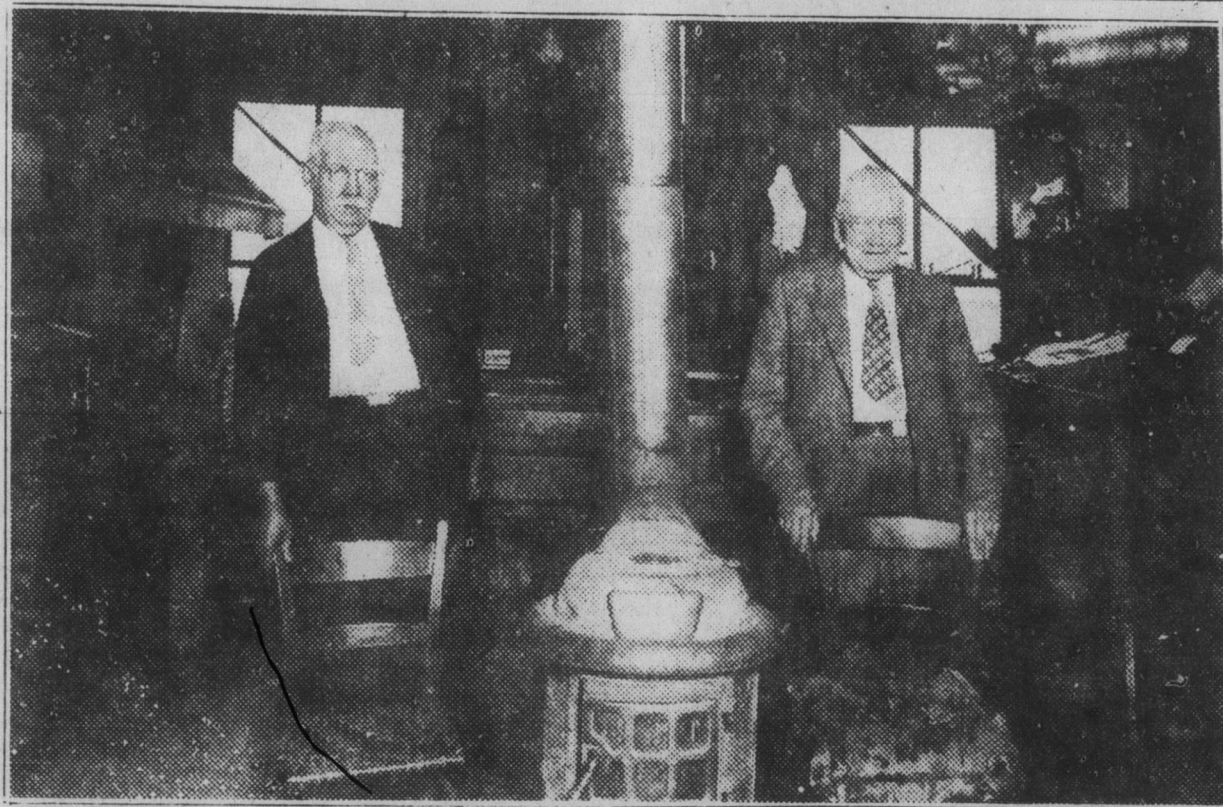
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Partners For 40 Years In Newspaper Business



The two men, shown above in their newspaper shop in Burnsville, ended, a few days ago, a 40-year partnership when they sold The Burnsville Eagle to S. T. Henry, of Spruce Pine. On the left is O. R. Lewis and on the right is his brother-in-law, J. M. Lyon.

From the Asheville Citizen-Times May 3, 1936

Burnsville, May 2. When the Burnsville Eagle, a weekly newspaper published here, was sold a few days ago to S. T. Henry of Spruce Pine, who will combine it with the TRI-COUNTY NEWS there, it brought to a close a partnership that had existed between J. M. Lyon and O. R. Lewis, brothers-in-law, during the 40 years existence of the newspaper.

It was in April, 1896, the year that William J. Bryan captured the Democratic National Convention with his "Crown of Thorns and Cross of Gold" speech, and was nominated to make his first race for the presidency, that the paper began publication. It was during this year also that Federal Judge E. Y. Webb made the race for Congress in what was then the ninth Congressional district and gained an overwhelming victory.

The publication of the Black Mountain Eagle, as it was called at that time was made possible by the subscriptions of a number of stockholders who felt the need of a county paper in Yancey. They advanced the cash to purchase the material, which consisted of a Washington hand press and 200 pounds of type. The stockholders were to receive the paper one year for each dollar subscribed. They were as follows: J. W. Higgins, G. D. Ray, E. F. Watson, J. E. Evans, L. E. Briggs, S. G. Byrd, M. C. Honeycutt, J. E. Huskins, J. A. Higgins, and perhaps others. Joseph A. Higgins hauled the press and material from Asheville to Burnsville, and it required four days for him to make the trip with wagon and four horse team.

Paper's Name Changed

In later years the name of the paper was changed to THE BURNSVILLE EAGLE. During its life of 40 years neither the ownership or the names of the

editor and publisher ever changed. However, around 1914, during Mr. Lyon's absence for a short time in Tennessee, Charles Ray assisted Mr. Lewis in the publication of the paper.

About 20 years ago the old worn out hand press and type were discarded and new material installed. Since that time the presses have been operated electrically, but the composition was done by hand.

O. R. Lewis, the publisher, was born in Newport, Tenn. on Oct. 28, 1872, where his parents, Dr. and Mrs. O. M. Lewis, resided at that time. When he was a lad of about 12 years the family moved to Texas. Later on, becoming dissatisfied with the Texas climate, the family moved back to the doctor's old boyhood home, Burnsville, where he was actively engaged in the practice of his profession in Yancey, Mitchell and Madison counties, until his death in 1904.

At the age of 64, O. R. Lewis has laid aside the newspaper burden and has sought the quiet and restful atmosphere of his farm which he has owned and operated for a number of years. With his wife, formerly Margaret Ray, and his three sons and two daughters, who are still at home, he hopes to spend the remainder of his life on his farm.

J. M. Lyon, who edited THE EAGLE through all those years, was born in Greeneville, Tenn., Aug. 13, 1861. On June 28, 1884, at Forest Glade, Tex., he was married to Mary Lewis, oldest daughter of Dr. and Mrs. O. M. Lewis. His wife died on March 16, 1923. Three sons and three daughters were born to the union, all of whom are still living.

Knew Andrew Johnson

Greeneville, Tenn., the town in which Mr. Lyon was born and where he spent his boyhood days, was the home of President Andrew Johnson. Inheriting the talents of his grandfather and

father, who spent many years in the newspaper business in the seventies, when a lad of 13 years Mr. Lyon held the position of "devil" in the newspaper office of THE GREENVILLE INTELLIGENCE, published at that time by Andrew Johnson, Jr. Mr. Lyon remembers distinctly many conversations he had with President Johnson when as a lad he carried a bucket of water each morning to the printing office from the gum spring in the rear of the President's home.

Before coming to Burnsville, Mr. Lyon published a newspaper in Texas, and one in Tenn.

In 1905, when the Bank of Yancey was organized in Burnsville, he was made cashier. Later on, when it was merged with the Citizens Bank here, under the name of the Citizens Bank of Yancey, he was retained as cashier. For 27 years Mr. Lyon was connected with the bank, but kept his interest in The Eagle and edited the paper throughout these years. From 1920 to 1924 he served as chairman of the Board of County Commissioners, having been elected for two terms with J. A. Hannum and W. S. Edwards as the other members of the Board. In the November, 1930, election he was elected Yancey County's representative in the legislature and he served in the memorable session of 1931 which lasted for nearly five months. Mr. Lyon has been a ruling elder in the Presbyterian church for 26 years and during recent years represented French Broad Presbytery in the general assemblies of his church on three different occasions — at Louisville, Denver, and Indianapolis.

**BUY A
FRUIT CAKE
FROM A LION**

UNITED FUND FALLING FAR BEHIND GOAL

ALL-AMERICAN RED HEADS TO APPEAR IN C.R. GYM.

Do you want to see the greatest girl's basketball team in America? Then come to the Cane River gymnasium Monday, night, December 2 and see the All-American RED HEADS play the Yancey County All Stars. The All Stars will feature some of the great basketball players of Yancey County such as Ronnie Robinson, Tommy Fox, Gordon Banks and others. Game time is at 7:00 p. m. and admission is \$1.50 for adults and \$1.00 for students.

Only \$1600 cash and \$618 in pledges have thus far been received on the \$8800 United Fund goal, with about one-third of the solicitors reporting. No deadline has been set for bringing the campaign to a close, but Campaign Chairman, Bob Rhinehart would like to urge all individuals and firms who have not yet been approached to respond generously when a worker calls upon you. Better still, don't wait for a worker, but call in your pledge, or bring your money, to Treas. Arney Fox at Northwestern Bank. It is vitally necessary that this drive go over the top if the fund is to meet its obligations.

Donald R. Hensley Retires From U.S. Army After 20 Years Service



Sgt. First Class, Donald R. Hensley, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bascom Hensley of Banks Creek on Sept. 30, 1968, retired from the United States Army, after having served 20 years.

Much of Hensley's 20 years service was spent abroad, including 3 years in England, two separate tours of duty in Korea, and 7 years in Germany.

He received his basic training in guided missiles and electronics at Fort Bliss, Texas. After his training period he was sent to Red Stone Arsenal in Alabama and from there to Germany as instructor of missiles.

After retirement Hensley accepted a position as instructor of guided missiles at a U. S. base in Saudi Arabia, where he is now living.

Upon retirement Sgt. Hensley received the following Army Commendation Gold Medal: "The Army Commendation Medal is awarded to Sergeant First Class E7 Donald R. Hensley, United States Army for meritorious service as a member of

the United States Army Air Defense Center during the period 14 January 1966 to 30 November 1968. Displaying unique leadership and administrative ability, professional zeal and a sincere desire to provide the finest possible service, he performed all duties in a truly outstanding manner thus achieving mission accomplishments. Ever attentive to the welfare of his men, he provided them the leadership and exemplary conduct found only in the most highly motivated and dedicated members of the United States Army. His knowledge and ability to perform under stress were continually tested throughout his tenure, and he always responded with pertinent information of optimum usage to requesting agencies. By his seemingly inherent ability to find reasonable solutions to incipient problems, he provided timely responses to many requests for assistance normally above the capability of his peers. In all endeavors he has continued to display those traits of loyalty, professional competence and sustained devotion to duty reflecting great credit upon himself and the U. S. Army Air Defense Center."

Court Will

Adjourn Today

Yancey County criminal term of court started Monday, the 25th, with Judge T. D. Bryson, Jr., of Bryson City, as judge. Court will adjourn Wednesday, the 27th, for Thanksgiving, and probably will not reconvene.