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# BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

"Buncombe County's Outstanding Weekly"

**MEMBER**  
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## Road To Prosperity

It has been a long wait, but present indications are that better days are ahead, roadwise, for our neighborhood township to the south, Broad River.

Only a few years ago Broad River was without electric power lines, telephones, or hard roads. The school buses, in fair weather and foul, wound around the tortuous trail that served as the principal route of transportation for the area, making the trip twice daily to bring the children across the mountain to school in Black Mountain.

The citizens, who several years ago were separated from McDowell county and attached to Buncombe, protested but it seemed that their voices were not heard beyond the rim of the mountains which closed them off from the outside.

But the cry was taken up by the Black Mountain Chamber of Commerce, the Lions club, the Black Mountain town board, and other civic groups and citizens.

The wheels of progress began turning. The link from Black Mountain to the intersection of the Old Fort road was graded and covered with a coat of blacktop. Travel was made much easier.

But what of the link on to Bat Cave? The pessimists said that this end of the road would never be improved because, well, there were as many reasons as curves as to why the road would or could not be completed.

But the road is being completed. The grading is going forward at a fast clip and sometime within the months ahead Broad River will be traversed by a ribbon of hard surface from Lakey Gap to Bat Cave.

The power problem for the township was solved long ago and today the electric range, automatic washer, radio, and electric appliance of every kind are the rule rather than the exception. The telephone situation is still difficult, but that, too, will be overcome in due time.

Prosperity follows improved methods and means of transportation. As the principal route from Montreat to Myrtle Beach and other South Carolina points, improved No. 9 will be one of our most travelled roads by the summer of 1954. There is a bright future ahead for this section.

Broad River has been called the most beautiful valley in Western North Carolina. Paved roads will bring thousands of tourists each year to see the sights. Prosperity will follow. No section has waited longer or is more deserving.



**Coming Up** — With T. C. Johnson out of the way, it looks as if Gov. Kerr Scott will hold free sway in the matter of granting paroles during the next six months. Don't be surprised if they come in wholesale fashion.

First on the list was Wall Ewing of Fayetteville, who was convicted of beating his wife to death. He had served four years, 11 months, and 27 days of an 18-year sentence. The term of Raymond Hair, also of Fayetteville, who killed Roy Coble at Wake Forest college just before Christmas of 1949, was reduced from 25-30 years to 20-25 years.

Next on the list—unless this advance notice changes it—is Linwood Earl Summer of Goldsboro, who was convicted in January of 1950 of conspiracy and aiding and abetting in robbery with firearms in the famous "hole-in-the-wall" robbery.

Injustice — Friends of N. F. Ransdell of Fuquay Springs are seeing red over his being transferred from chairman of the probation commission to the hot seat as head of the paroles commission. They want him to resign. Reports are that his wife urged him to quit rather than change jobs.

The governor transferred him from a position where he had spent three years learning about probations — and where he had better than an even chance of remaining for another four years—to the graveyard of political appointedness.

A good, honest, easy-going fellow, Ransdell may find orders coming to him difficult to follow in the months that lie ahead. Resignation may be the only solution.

**Coincidence** — On last Thursday evening, when Mr. and Mrs. Estes Kefauver were in Raleigh and Greensboro, an event of some significance was also taking place in Washington.

There, at the Georgetown home of Congressman and Mrs. Thurmond Chatham, those congressmen and friends closest to Senator Richard Russell of Georgia were being entertained. Thus it was that a few of the leading party men in the state could not be in North Carolina to greet the man who may be your next President.

**Pigeon** — Up around Waynesville, in Haywood county, the Umstead people are still giving out with the alibis on what happened to their man.

Haywood gave Olive 5,037 votes to Umstead's 1,858. Now that's a licking on anybody's field. The Umstead folks explain it by saying that Governor Scott promised Haywood county he would see to it that the Pigeon River road would be put in first class condition. This road, N. C. 284, leads from the Tennessee-N. C. line down to Dellwood, which is about five miles from Waynesville.

Be that as it may, Haywood gave Olive 3,179 more votes than Umstead and within a few days after the primary Kerr Scott was in Asheville looking into the Pigeon river thing. It is as crooked as a dog's hind leg—the road, that is—but some of the Umstead folks still tell how the governor said he would "straighten it out." He was no doubt talking figuratively, for it would require a dozen sky hooks and 40 wheelbases to straighten out that portion running from Mt. Sterling to Cove



**WASHINGTON** — Seizures were very much in the limelight here last week. Many unsuccessful efforts were made in the congress to get legislation adopted authorizing the President to seize the steel plants.

Fortunately, most congressmen realize that if they were to authorize the seizure of the steel plants, then President Truman or some future President could insist upon seizing rubber plants, flour mills, lumber mills, textile plants—and anything else that he happened to feel ought to be seized. That is just too much power for one man to possess, even if he had all the wisdom that would be desirable in a President.

Every effort in the senate last week to give such power to the President was defeated. Both North Carolina senators voted against such presidential powers.

### UP TO TRUMAN

The President has refused, up to now, to follow the provisions of the law as set forth in the Taft-Hartley act, even though Americans from all walks of life have pleaded with him to do so. What he will now do remains to be seen.

The President seems unwilling to favor anything but seizure. Of course, if seizure of the steel mills can be justified, then seizure of other industries — and perhaps even farms—would no doubt be justifiable in his mind. One could go to many extremes.

The main difficulty in the steel case seems not to be wages or working hours, but compulsory union membership. It seems to me that no thinking American could support a plan which takes away a worker's privilege of deciding for himself whether he wants to join a union, a church or anything else. Really, American individual freedom is at stake.

### TIDELANDS AGAIN

Last week we had another flurry in the Tidelands argument. Senator Holland of Florida, one of the finest and most honorable men in the senate, discovered through confidential sources that a movement was underway for the secretary of the interior, Oscar Chapman, to grab the oil tidelands under an obscure law.

Senator Holland exposed this on the senate floor, and an investigation was ordered. Chapman's plan was for the general services administration to take charge of the tidelands and to lease them as "surplus property."

The GSA administrator, Jess Larson, appeared before the senate judiciary committee, of which I am member, and confirmed that the move by Chapman's agency was being made without public notice.

There were some suggestions that Chapman was waiting for congress to adjourn and then seize the lands. By the time congress got back, it would all be completed.

This is another illustration of how government officials try to gobble up power and use it as

creek. The only other twelfth district county carried by Olive was Swain, where he led by 193 votes.

Two Districts — Incidentally, Hubert Olive carried two congressional districts—the eighth, which runs from Stanly through Davidson diagonally to the Virginia line, and the fourth, which embraces the counties of Vance, Franklin, Nash, Wake, Johnston, Chatham, and Randolph.

Good Loser — A wonderful —Turn to Page 8, Sec. III

they see fit, regardless of the provisions of the constitution—if they think they can get away with it.

Incidentally, I have found that many people do not understand the Tidelands issue. While we in North Carolina do not have any known oil reserves under our coastal waters, certainly the people in eastern North Carolina appreciate the fishing rights and the deposits of marine life in our coastal waters. I prefer to have the State of North Carolina control those areas rather than have the federal government seize them, as has been attempted.

### SOIL CONSERVATION

The agriculture appropriations bill came before the senate during the past week and was very quickly passed. The only fight over the measure was waged by Senator Anderson and others to reduce by \$100 million the soil conservation appropriation.

I had checked on this matter with leaders in agriculture in North Carolina. I realize there have been many abuses in some states, and maybe some in North Carolina. Nevertheless, it seemed to me that this program is a good one for building up the soil in North Carolina.

Then, too, it seemed to me that since we are almost recklessly appropriating billions of dollars for foreign aid—including money for improvement of foreign soil—that we at least ought to do as much for the American farmer as we are doing for those of other nations.

Perhaps there should be tighter supervision of this program, and I think that will develop.

Incidentally, the senate and house finally agreed on a total foreign aid program costing roughly \$6,400,000,000. That is a billion and a half dollars less than the President requested—and in line with one of the votes I cast to reduce the program.

As much as we wish to help the foreign nations, we must remember that the money comes from the toil of American workers. I am in favor of some foreign aid—but I am not in favor of turning our treasury over to the foreign nations.

## POET'S CORNER

Conducted by Anne K. Sharp, Chairman, Creative Writing Club

May the Tenth, N. C. Confederate Memorial Day

Again spring comes with lavish hand  
And strews sweet flowers on her ways;  
She gathers up the wind's wild waste,  
And softly perfumes balmy days;  
And wafted on this breath of spring  
With gentle beauty's changeless grace,  
An echo floats across my heart,  
And with closed eyes I see a face.

A Southern boy in dove-like gray,  
With Gauntlets, sash and gold,  
His head held high, his dark proud mien,  
His story, long since told,  
Those boys of dim, departed years,  
These men found worthy of their trust,  
Sleep well beneath this sacred soil,  
Their banners furled, their swords now rust.

But ever in the heart's deep core  
Of Southern love and memory  
Dear,  
A flame burns for these valiant ones,  
Who faced their duty with no fear;  
On High they placed their country's pride,  
To death alone each bowed his head,  
They could not hold the heights—  
So died,  
These glorious, faithful, living Dead.

A poet sings "their tents are spread  
On fame's eternal camping ground,"  
Low though they lie; each gallant head  
With laurel and myrrh is crowned,  
Green is their sod, with tear drops sown,  
Blest is their memory bright,  
Undying love we give our own,  
In God's perpetual light.

By Maudie Waddell, Post Laureate General, C.S.M.A. Confederate Southern Memorial association.  
This tribute to our Confederate soldiers was sent to the chairman by special request for publication in the Poet's Corner of the Black Mountain News, and to be read over WISE July 7, 9:15 a. m.

## For More Fun Afloat

<p><b>KNOW YOUR BOAT</b></p> <p>Every boat has its limitations. Learn what you can expect from your boat.</p>	<p><b>HEAD INTO THE WAVES</b></p> <p>If waves are high, head your boat at an angle towards the waves at slow speed.</p>	<p><b>BALANCE YOUR LOAD</b></p> <p>Distribute weight evenly in the boat—from side to side and from bow to stern.</p>
<p><b>WATCH THE WEATHER</b></p> <p>Head for shore before a storm breaks. If caught out, seat passengers on floor.</p>	<p><b>DON'T OVERLOAD</b></p> <p>Seats do not indicate capacity. Two or three adults may be a full load under many conditions.</p>	<p><b>USE THE RIGHT MOTOR</b></p> <p>Too much power can damage your boat—may even swamp it. Look for OBC recommended horsepower plate.</p>
<p><b>AVOID SHARP TURNS</b></p> <p>Fast, sharp turns are hard on equipment—and sometimes on people. Take it easy.</p>	<p>Follow the eight simple rules shown here for more safety and fun afloat this season, says the Outboard Boating Club—of America, national organization of outboard boat and motor owners. Boating is the safest of outdoor sports, says OBC, if you'll use common sense and courtesy.</p>	<p><b>KEEP LOW</b></p> <p>And step in the center when boarding the boat or changing seats.</p>