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An explosion at an illicit liquor distilling outfit was fatal to 3 persons

—last Thursday (January 26) in a dense laurel thicket near Glade Valley. The dead are: Homer Reynolds, 26, Glade Valley; Eugene Murphy, 23, who lived near the North Carolina-Virginia line, and DeWitt Moser, 25, of near Galax, Va. According to a statement made Saturday night in Sparta by Sheriff

DeWitt Bryan, of Alleghany County, who investigated the tragedy, the explosion occurred about noon Thursday. The bodies, however, were not found until late Friday night, when they were discovered by Stanley Pugh, of Volney, Va., and J. W. Conklin, Mouth of Wilson, Va.

Pugh and Conklin reported the discovery to Sheriff Bryan, who rode into the hills and found that the explosion had occurred on property owned by his sister, Miss Lilly Bryan. Miss Bryan said she was unaware that the distilling outfit was on her property.

Sheriff Bryan found a mass of wreckage there in the hills when he went to investigate. The bodies were scattered, blown a great distance from where the gigantic outfit was located.

The place was rough and remote, and the sheriff said it was at a place where no one would suspect a "still."

He explained that the three men had located their "still" there in the laurel where a creek runs nearby. "Evidently," said Sheriff Bryan, "when the men went to the 'still' Thursday they built a fire under it and the pipes were cold and when they began heating the explosion occurred."

The outfit was of the steam boiler type, it was said.

Persons who live in that section told the sheriff they heard an explosion about noon Thursday but "didn't pay any attention to it."

Pugh and Conklin, entered the secluded spot Friday looking for Reynolds, whom they knew, it was understood.

The two Virginia men found where the "still" had been and saw that an explosion had occurred.

"They said they then noticed the bodies which were some distance from where the 'still' had been," explained the sheriff.

Pugh and Conklin immediately rode out of Glade Valley and went to Sparta to notify Sheriff Bryan.

"It was one of the worst things I ever saw," the sheriff said Saturday night as he told of reaching the scene of the tragedy. "The men had been blown almost to bits. Pieces of their bodies were scattered over a wide area there."

He said it might have been as if a bomb had been dropped squarely in the laurel thicket. Bits of laurel and trees were blown about. Barrels of mash had been blown open and scattered about the "still" site.

The boiler was blown a distance of 130 yards, the sheriff said.

Drawing a word picture of the tragedy, Sheriff Bryan explained: "Moser was lying there, his clothes torn. His hair was matted. Blood had dried in it. A bolt from the 'still' had gone through his mouth and stuck through his neck.

"Murphy was 40 or 50 yards from the 'still.' Slivers of the boiler had struck him all over. His clothes were in shreds.

"Reynolds was in another direction from the 'still'—about 40 yards away. It was hard to tell who he ever was. He had been torn and mangled just as badly as the other two."

Sheriff Bryan said he found Reynolds' watch in a pocket of his trousers and that it had stopped at 11:53.

"I take this to mean," he said "that the explosion happened about noon. Folks hereabouts said they heard a big noise about noon Thursday. So that tallies."

Dr. B. O. Choate, Sparta, Alleghany coroner, said that death was accidental and, therefore, he held no inquest.

Young Moser was a son of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Moser, who reside in the Mt. Vale community a few miles south of Galax.

Last rites for Reynolds were conducted Sunday at Hooker, in the Union Baptist Church, by Elders Mack Brooks and Quincy Higgins.

(Turn to Page 8, Please)

Seeks Legion Post



William T. ("Bill") Dowd, of Lee Post No. 18, American Legion, Sanford, who is a candidate for Commander of the North Carolina Department, will be chosen at the state convention to be held in Raleigh.

Governor Hoey warned the General Assembly

—Tuesday night, in an address delivered in person at a joint assembly of the Senate and House in Raleigh, that the aims of so-called anti-diversionists would disrupt North Carolina's government, possibly resulting in lower salaries for teachers and "other damaging reductions."

"The state," Hoey said in a fighting speech, "is one body, having many members.

"I am unwilling for some to famish and perish while others grow strong and powerful," he added. "Let's comprehend a commonwealth of human beings and visualize our duty to protect the whole state.

"I maintain that the state owns the roads—the roads do not own the state."

The Governor asserted that school children, needy aged persons and handicapped individuals might suffer unless a provision was made in the state's budget for the possible transfer during the next 30 months of \$7,000,000 from the highway to the general fund.

The sum is approximately equal to the application of the state's general three per cent sales tax to the gasoline fund. The transfer is opposed by anti-diversionists, who claims that all money collected from a tax on gasoline should be spent for roads.

"Upon an impartial review of the whole subject, it must be apparent that North Carolina has not only been fair, but generous, in dealing with her whole highway system," the Governor said. "She has provided and is now proposing to provide better for the roads than any other interest in the state.

"The roads are going to receive preferential consideration and treatment, but you, gentlemen of the General Assembly, must see the state as a whole.

"We must not neglect childhood. Unless we provide education today it will be too late tomorrow. Solicitude has been expressed lest the roads to the schoolhouses shall not be kept in proper repair. I share that solicitude and have provided and am providing the funds for that purpose.

"But what shall it profit the children to have a road to the schoolhouse if there is no money to run the school?"

Education Official



Dr. J. Henry Highsmith (above), of Raleigh, vice president of the North Carolina Education Association, which will hold its 55th annual convention in Raleigh March 16, 17 and 18. Dr. Highsmith is also Director of Instructional Service, State Department of Public Instruction, Raleigh.

Educators' Head



B. L. Smith (above), of Greensboro, president of the North Carolina Education Association, which will hold its 55th annual convention in Raleigh March 16, 17 and 18. Mr. Smith is also superintendent of the Greensboro city school system.

A seed-judging contest was held at Sparta H. S.

—on Monday, January 23, by the Parkway Federation of Young Tar Heel Farmers, which is comprised of the Young Tar Heel Farmers chapters in Alleghany, Ashe and Avery counties.

The purpose of this organization is to coordinate the work of the local chapters in these three counties. Two officers of the Federation are Alleghany County boys, Charles Pugh, of Sparta High School, having been elected president, and Bruce Osborne, of Piney Creek High School, treasurer.

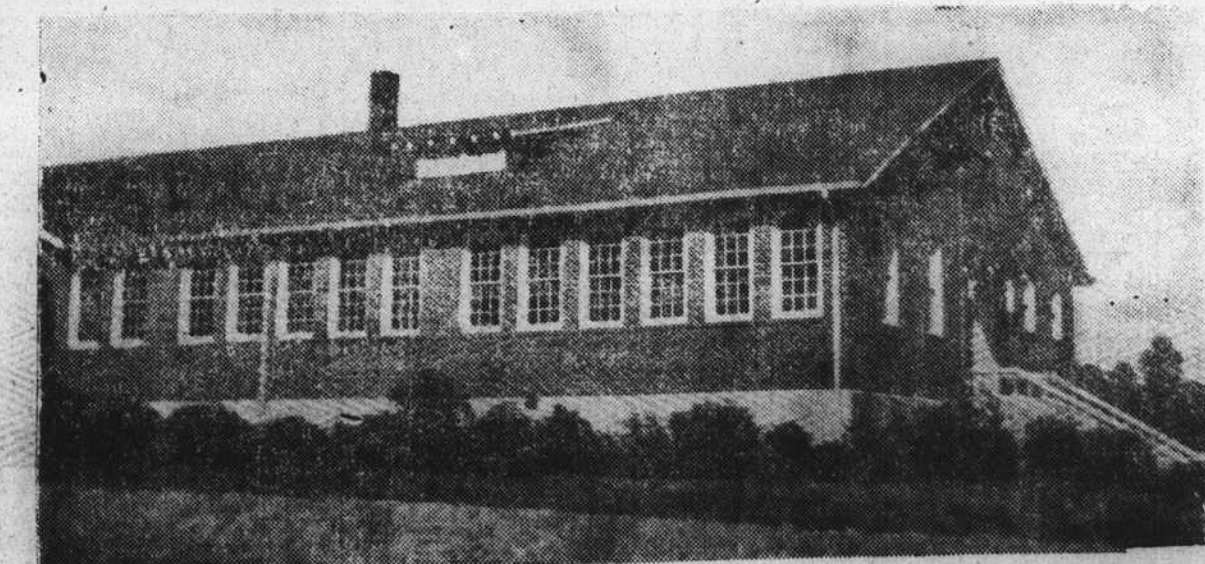
Each of the seven schools in the Federation sent a team to compete in the seed-judging contest, which consisted of the identification of 80 samples of grains, grasses, and weeds. The Sparta team took the five first places, three of the members of the team failing to identify only one kind of seed each out of the eighty samples. The other two boys on the Sparta team missed two and three, respectively. The boys representing Sparta High School were Sam Miller, Wilford Cox, Neal Sexton, Ernest Moxley and Elmer Hendrix. The Piney Creek Chapter won second place in the seed-judging contest.

The program of work adopted by the Federation includes the following activities: seed judging; a basketball tournament, to be held at Cove Creek on February 13; livestock judging, and public speaking, both contests to be held in Sparta on March 20; Field Day, at Boone, April 17 and quarterly publication of the Parkway Federation Bulletin, which gives the news of each chapter.

The Sparta chapter will represent Alleghany County in the Federation basketball tournament to be held at Cove Creek on February 17.

A FRESH SNOWSTORM SWEEP ACROSS THE WEST TUESDAY—while many laborers attacked some of the deepest drifts in recent years in the North and East.

The New Sparta High School Building



Pictured above is a view of the new Sparta High School building which was erected and made ready for use more than a year ago. A portion of the shrubbery around the building can also be seen in the picture.—Photo Courtesy Winston-Salem Journal.

Chancellor Hitler delivered an address to the world in a very moderate tone

—Monday, beginning at 2:00 p. m. (EST), in Berlin, Germany. The German dictator, however, said that Germany and Italy will be "side by side" if Premier Benito Mussolini is driven to war because the Reich realizes what her own fate would be if fascism should be crushed. Der fuehrer, in a strident

Millions of Americans danced Monday night

—at birthday balls for President Roosevelt throughout the nation to finance the fight against infantile

paralysis. The president, whose 57th birthday anniversary was being celebrated, cheered them with a radio appeal that "the good cause must go on."

"Only by such co-operation has tuberculosis been brought under control in our lifetime," the President said in a message carried to dancers at 25,000 celebrations. "Only by the same concerted action will the scourge of infantile paralysis be stamped out."

To those unfamiliar with the campaign, the President said that 50 per cent of the proceeds of the birthday balls will go into the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis created nearly two years ago. The essential job of the foundation is to track the germ of the disease to its source, through research and other experiments, with a view toward eliminating it.

The remaining 50 per cent of the proceeds, he said, will be spent in the communities where the money is being raised.

The Chief Executive celebrated his birthday anniversary quietly. He remained away from the executive offices and conferred only with his legislative leaders. He had as his dinner guests the "cuff link gang," a group of old friends who wear gold cuff links given to them by the President.

Mrs. Roosevelt entertained at luncheon a group of Hollywood movie stars, including Andrea Leeds, Eleanor Powell, Mitzi Green, George Brent, Jean Hersholt, Ralph Bellamy, Luise Rainer, Errol Flynn, Lili Damita and the bandmaster, Paul Whiteman. She and the actors and actresses visited seven hotels where packed ballrooms attested the capital's enthusiasm in its first citizen's fight on paralysis.

A legal ban was sought by a Tennessee solon

—recently in Nashville, when State Senator Lem Motlow proposed that a law to prohibit the tobacco auctioneer's rapid-fire jargon be passed.

The Lynchburg (Tenn.) lawmaker introduced a bill requiring the auctioneer at every tobacco sale in Tennessee "to speak distinctly and slowly enough so that he may be understood by the average citizen."

The auctioneer who did not apply the oral brakes would be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of \$5 to \$25.

two hour and 14-minute speech before the 855 deputies of the Greater German Reichstag, said that Nazi Germany and Fascist Italy were "strong enough to resist any coalition" of the western powers.

Hitler's speech which left him hoarse and fatigued, was the highlight of the sixth anniversary of his rise to power and keynoted nazism's strides in its seventh year.

He angrily assailed foes of nazism in the United States, particularly Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes, whom he called a war monger.

Germany demands restoration of her war-lost colonies and Germany will remain an explosive factor in world affairs until she has "room to live" Hitler said.

He told the United States, Britain and other democracies to stop interfering in affairs which are "purely German," including the Nazi anti-Semitic drive.

Hitler said that although Germany demands satisfaction of her colonial claims she is not prepared to go to war to obtain them.

Europe's war jitters, he said, are stirred only by war mongers abroad and the "international press" which he condemned as being dominated by "capitalistic and Jewish" influence.

Hitler admitted that Germany is facing "extremely grave conditions" in her internal economic affairs but already has won a "terrific battle" to feed and care for her 80,000,000 people.

Der fuehrer, berating the "theft" of Germany's overseas possessions by the World War victors, said the German people refused to be "eternally doomed as Pariahs," and implied support for Premier Benito Mussolini's Mediterranean and North African claims against France with the statement:

"This applies not only to Germany but to other nations in a similar position.

"Either property will be distributed on the basis of force, or on the basis of the right of reason, and then it will be impossible for a few powers to forever possess all the colonies."

Germany's problem, he said, must be solved in one of two ways:

1. An increase in the export of German manufactured goods, permitting increased imports.
2. The granting of more "lebensraum"—room to live—for the German people.

The Senate was in rebellion at spending policies

—of President Roosevelt Friday and, by the dramatic margin of a single vote, joined the House in ordering a \$150,000,000 cut in work relief appropriations.

It voted, 47 to 46, to provide \$725,000,000 to finance WPA from February 1 to June 30, instead of the \$875,000,000 requested by the Chief Executive—to the dismayed surprise of administration leaders, who had waged a hard, week-long fight to sustain the President.

The Senate's "economy bloc," consisting of almost the entire Republican membership and twenty-some Democrats, was jubilant at winning the first battle of the session, and the first test of strength on this issue since the November elections.

The result was a guarantee that the \$725,000,000 appropriation will be in the bill when it is sent to the White House. Since the House, too, approved that figure, it cannot, under congressional rules, be changed in the House-Senate conference which presumably will be called (turn to page five, please)

THE FIGHT OVER RELIEF

Last week the Senate took up the supplemental appropriation to finance the WPA through the rest of the fiscal year, with Senators showing the sharp difference of opinion over Federal unemployment relief that was apparent during the debate on the confirmation of Harry L. Hopkins as Secretary of Commerce.

Readers will recall that the President requested \$875,000,000 and that the House cut this by \$150,000,000. This cut was approved by Senate Committees but Administration forces fought to provide the full amount requested by the President. In this they were aided by outside pressure. The issue overshadowed for the time other activities of Congress, involving as it does, the whole nature of social security, of which unemployment relief is but a part.

The amount of funds for relief will not be settled even if both houses agree to the \$725,000,000 figure set by the lower house. In fact, the Senate subcommittee would limit WPA disbursements before April 1 to five per cent of the present number on the rolls, which means, of course, that the savings effected would be slight until that time. However, on April 1st, drastic reductions would have to be initiated and the pressure from those affected would raise the problem of additional funds again. In fact, the Senate subcommittee provided for a new presidential appeal for funds should the unemployment emergency continue.

ECONOMY DIFFICULT

The trouble as we see it is that many congressmen are anxious to effect certain economies that will reduce the total of Federal appropriations but the difficulty is to secure an agreement as to what activity should feel the knife. It is one thing for congressmen to vote appropriations to be distributed among the residents of his district and another thing to take funds from people in his district who are insistently demanding relief. The President insists upon the full amount requested and there is powerful outside support behind him. This means, in our opinion, that regardless of what the Congress does in the present instance, the full amount requested will be available before the end of the fiscal year.

THE HEALTH PROGRAM

Last week the President referred to Congress "for careful study," the report and recommendations on national health prepared by his inter-departmental committee to coordinate health and welfare activities. Pointing out that losses on account of sickness, disability and premature death account for \$10,000,000,000 annually, the committee saw a need for a national health program. Sickness, it is said, is more frequent among the low-income families, among whom maternal and child-health is inadequately protected. On an average day, according to the report, about five million persons are disabled by sickness. Five reasons are advanced for the program, which involves possible expenditures of \$850,000,000 annually after ten years, as follows:

Services to prevent sickness are grossly insufficient; hospital and organized facilities are inadequate, particularly in rural areas; one-third of the population receives inadequate medical service; a far larger part of the nation suffers from the economic burden of illness; wage-earners and their families need protection during periods of temporary or permanent disability.

BASED ON AID TO STATES

The essence of the medical-aid program is Federal-State cooperation, says the President, who points out that Federal legislation must indicate the assistance to be available to States in a cooperative program for the nation's health. No great expansion of Federal health services is planned, but the program should be worked out and administered by states and localities, with the assistance of Federal grants-in-aid.

The cost of the program represents a sound investment, argues the Chief Executive, which, in the long run will wipe out certain cost now borne in the form of relief. The idea back of the program is the thought that the entire nation can bear the expense necessary to insure adequate medical treatment for its people which, in many cases is impossible for millions of families and is financial catastrophe for other families. The President (turn to page four, please)