



# The Mountain Eagle.

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## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 8, 1945

Dealers in alcoholic beverages were ordered to dispose of their wares immediately after a statement was issued from Frankfort declaring Letcher County officially dry. The statement comes nearly two years after a small majority of Letcher County residents voted 3,001 to 2,972 to outlaw the sale of alcoholic beverages and three months after the Kentucky Court of Appeals reversed an earlier ruling that had voided the election because of vote tampering in the Jenkins area.

▲  
The War Department has confirmed its recent telegram informing Mrs. Sallie Hoffman of Whitesburg that her son, Private John G. Hoffman, was killed in action in Belgium on January 7. The Adjutant General's Office said Hoffman died a hero, but that no more information concerning his death is available.

▲  
Mrs. Heddie Vest of Whitesburg was told by the War Department that her son, Corporal William A. Vest, has been missing in Germany since December 21. The report comes the same week during which Mrs. Vest announces the marriage of her daughter, First Lieutenant Josielee Vest, formerly of Whitesburg, to Lieutenant Colonel Eugene H. Callahan of San Antonio, Texas. The wedding took place somewhere in France of January 18.

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Tech Sergeant John W. Franklin has been awarded the Silver Star for his heroism during a battle in Germany. With all members of Franklin's platoon wounded and ordered to withdraw from their position near Pointe du Hoc, France, Sgt. Franklin remained alone at his post to cover the withdrawal. In the performance of this heroic act Sgt. Franklin was severely wounded, but still maintained his position until all the other men reached safety. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Franklin of Millstone.

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Harry M. Caudill has announced his candidacy for the Democratic nomination for the office of Letcher County Court Clerk in the August 4 primary election. He becomes the first veteran of the present world war to seek election to a Letcher County office.

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Private First Class Corbit Caudill, 28, of Jeremiah, was awarded the Purple Heart after being wounded in the hip and right hand while under attack by German forces in the Belgian city of Bastogne during the Battle of the Bulge in December. Caudill is "making very satisfactory progress," his ward surgeon, Major William H. Gifford said from an Army hospital in England. Private Caudill is a son of Billy Caudill of Jeremiah. Three of his brothers are also serving overseas in the Army.

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Lieutenant John Salyers of Jenkins has been missing in action in Germany since last month.

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Staff Sergeant Pete Barney of Jenkins and Private Arlie Cook, formerly of Democrat and the husband of Edna Cook, went missing while fighting enemy forces on January 10. Both are soldiers with the Seventh Army in France.

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The people of Neon were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of Captain Guy L. Young, known in Neon as Jr. Young. Captain Young finished high school at Fleming and attended Millersburg Military Institute before enlisting. He had worked for General Electric in Neon. He leaves a 10-year-old daughter in McRoberts to mourn his passing.

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Mr. and Mrs. David McFall of Blackey have been told by the War Department that their son, Private David McFall, has been seriously wounded in combat somewhere in Belgium. He has been overseas for about one year.

▲  
Sergeant John D. Johnson Jr., son of Mrs. Donna Johnson of McRoberts, has been awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement in action. He is serving with the Fifth Army front in Italy with a tank battalion of the First Armored Division.

▲  
Staff Sergeant Floyd Caudill of Eolia has been awarded the Purple Heart and Infantryman's Badge. Caudill is a patient at LaGarde General Hospital in New Orleans, where he is recovering from wounds he received while fighting German forces at St. Lo, France. "I had only 25 days of combat duty in France, from June 11 to July 4," said Caudill, "but they were hot ones."

▲  
Sam Castle Jr., son of Mr. and

# The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe

By JADON GIBSON

Alexander Spotswood brought a keen sense of diplomacy to colonial Virginia when he arrived as the new Lieutenant Governor in 1710. He may as well have been governor because the Earl of Orkney, the formal governor, never set foot on Virginia soil even though he received half of the compensation budgeted for the office.

Spotswood smartly brought evidence of his goodwill by delivering a writ of habeas corpus. It provided colonial residents with the right to a trial, a right to be brought before a court to determine their guilt or innocence and any punishment to be meted out. This had been lacking.

He became immensely popular and his approval on this and other matters led to the House of Burgesses, the first elected legislative assembly in the New World to apportion a tidy sum to erect a palace.

The early colonists had simple land and were largely content to reside east of the Blue Ridge. Inland incursions by the French and Spanish, from the southern and northern reaches of the continent led England to encourage exploration to and beyond the Blue Ridge.

There was little public interest in exploration at the time however. The settlements remained in a comparatively narrow strip up and down the Atlantic coastline that provided residents with ample crops and sufficient elbow room. They saw no need to needlessly face the perils that lay beyond the mountains.

Surprisingly Governor Spotswood organized an unusual venture in 1716. He led an inland expedition leaving Williamsburg in August of that year with a band of

Mrs. Sam Castle of Thornton, was awarded the Purple Heart for wounds he suffered during combat in the European Theatre. Castle, 22, has returned to the United States and is in Miami Beach, Florida awaiting his next assignment.

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The City of Whitesburg has "grown in spite of ourselves" and is in need of a "first-class hospital," a bakery, a laundry, a jeweler, a plumber, an airport, a new water system and a sewer system. That's the view of Whitesburg City Councilman Ben P. Sergeant, who was the featured speaker at the Whitesburg Rotary Club on February 9. Sergeant's observations were included in his address, "Post War Whitesburg — As I See It." "Twenty years ago there were very few houses in Whitesburg," said Sergeant. "We had one wooden bridge and we had no paved streets. Gradually the town has grown until now. Practically all of our streets are paved, we have three modern bridges, three modern churches, and good school buildings." Cautioned Sergeant: "We are not any too progressive and do not cooperate with each other."

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 10, 1955

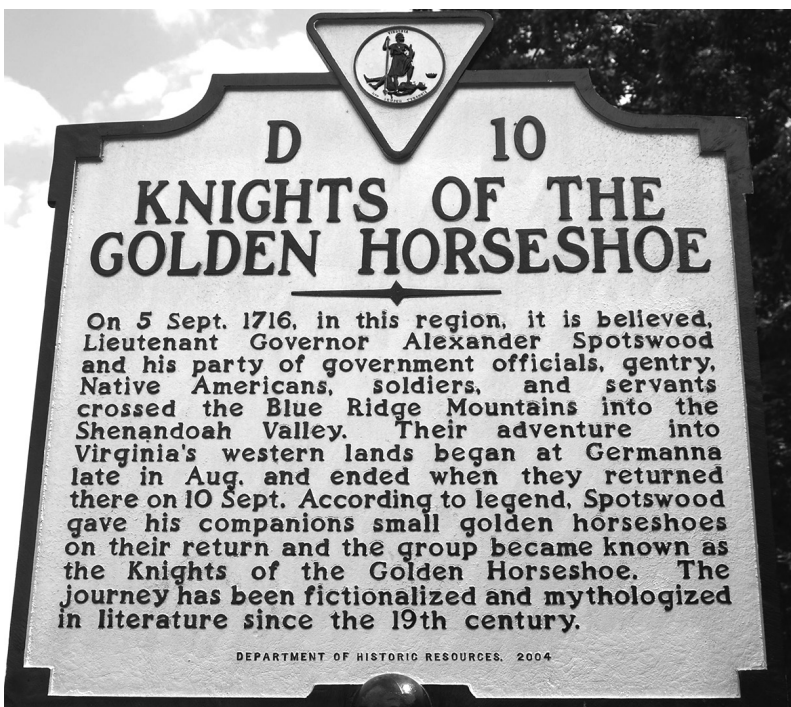
Jack Max, former businessman in Jenkins and Neon, has pleaded guilty to murdering his wife in DeLand, Florida. Max, 54, of DeBary, Florida, shot his wife to death with a pistol last March. After admitting guilt to second-degree murder last week, he faces a prison term of 20 years to life pending formal sentencing by Volusia Circuit Judge P.B. Revels. The woman Max killed was his second wife, his first wife having been a nurse in the Jenkins area.

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Mrs. Henry Holbrook of Colley is a patient in the Fleming hospital, where she is being treated for burns she suffered after her clothing caught fire while she was near an open fireplace.

▲  
The Jenkins Kiwanis Club has purchased a Pneolator, which provides automatic artificial respiration for a victim of asphyxia. This instrument, patented in 1951, is an advance in the field of respiration as it inflates the lungs of an unconscious patient with the right amount of oxygen at the right pressure for the individual's own specific need. The machine was purchased for \$420. Classes on how to use the emergency device will be held for members of the Jenkins fire department, police department, Kiwanis Club members, and any other citizens interested. The Penolator will be kept at the Jenkins Fire House.

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Jennie Coldiron of The Vogue Shop will begin classes in modeling at 7 p.m. on Tuesdays at her shop in Whitesburg. The six-week course is available for girls ages 8 and up.

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Bad luck related to fires has again struck Mr. and Mrs. Bill Collins of Haymond. The couple's home was destroyed by fire of unknown origin last Thursday afternoon, just two years after their



This historic marker was erected in 2004 by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources. (Photo by Dawn Bowen)

"rangers, pioneers and Indians." Additionally, they were accompanied by servants who were in charge of the amenities befitting those in the excursion. Each evening brought a sumptuous meal of the kill from the day's sport. It was eaten and drank down with their choices of a wide range of liquid spirits.

The party was armed as well that no adversary dared to attack them. When they reached the Blue Ridge and scaled her peak Gov. Spotswood and the party sat around the campfire, "toasted the king and drank white and red wine, Irish Whiskey, brandy, two kinds of rum,

champagne, canary, cherry punch and cider." They didn't lack for merrymaking.

Spotswood named the two highest peaks Mount George and Mount Alexander one after the king and one after himself. A written proclamation proclaiming the valley the territory of the king was buried in a bottle marking the valley of Virginia for King George. The expedition lasted from August 17 to September 20, 1716.

Upon their return to Williamsburg, they were preceded by trumpeters and Gov. Spotswood presented each member of the expedition

Safety Problems. The subcommittee, which includes Rep. Hoover Dawahare, D-Whitesburg, voted to recommend a number of area road improvements to the Kentucky Bureau of Highways.

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Rupp Arena has been chosen as the name of the sports coliseum that will be part of a \$46 million Lexington complex. Schedule for completion in the fall of 1976, the basketball showcase will seat more than 20,000 people. The arena will be named for Adolph Rupp, who was the University of Kentucky basketball coach for 41 years.

▲  
Rib roast is \$1.29 a pound at the A&P Food Store. Pork chops are \$1.09 a pound.

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 20, 1985

The Letcher County Board of Education plans to relocate Whitesburg Middle School and renovate and add onto the present Whitesburg High School as soon as possible after state approval is received. Members of the school board voted unanimously to remodel the existing buildings on School Hill and build a 24-classroom addition. The new middle school is to be located next to the elementary school in West Whitesburg.

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The Fleming-Neon Lady Pirates defeated the Cawood Lady Trojans 79-58. The Lady Pirates had four players in double figures. The Lady 'Jackets ran their record to 20-2 with a win over the Lady Mountain Lions of Pineville.

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Jeff Blair, a senior at Letcher High School, performed with the Kentucky All State Symphonic Band in Louisville. The performance was the finale to a conference of the Kentucky Music Educators Association.

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15, 1995

The Kentucky Department of Transportation sent a notice to the Letcher County Fiscal Court saying the county had 10 days to make arrangements to start paying \$79,429.23 it owes the state for road salt and bridge flooring since 1985 and 1986. The next day the county judge's office received a separate notice from the Transportation Cabinet saying court action would be taken in 10 days if arrangements aren't made to pay \$84,471.09 that had been due for road and bridge materials since 1984. Judge/Executive Carroll Smith says the county will contest the two bills.

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The Kentucky Board of Education indicated it is not likely to turn the Letcher County school system back to local management for some time. The Kentucky Department of Education has been in control of the Letcher County school system since June 1994, when it brought charges of "gross mismanagement" of the system against then-superintendent Jack Burkich and signed a contract with the Letcher County Board of Education permitting its members to remain in office and to carry

with a small golden horseshoe to be worn as a badge. The governor dubbed them Knights of the Golden Horseshoe. Interestingly King George refused to pay for the golden gifts requiring Gov. Spotswood to do so.

It was hoped that the expedition would result in an increased interest in exploration, but little emigration followed.

Several decades later however there was an increase in the number of immigrants from Europe bringing to America "a hardier race of individuals many who were chased or expelled from foreign lands." Not a small number came to evade death or prosecution for crimes. Many of these new arrivals also sought to escape religious intolerance.

These newcomers tended to settle along the westernmost confines of the valley, and they had a penchant "for settling in the great woods beyond."

It would be just a matter of time before these encroachments into the borderland would advance the territory of the pioneer in the New World.

All of Gov. Spotswood's predecessors in office returned to England when their service to the crown was completed.

Spotswood remained in Virginia, however. Spotsylvania County and other landmarks bear his name.

▲  
*Jadon Gibson writes from his home in Harrogate, Tennessee. His writings are both historic and nostalgic in nature. He wishes to thank Lincoln Memorial University, his alma mater Alice Lloyd College and the Museum of Appalachia for their assistance.*

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on the functions of a local school board while state managers took over the day-to-day supervision of the schools.

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"The Brady Bunch Movie" and "The Quick and the Dead" are playing at Whitesburg 1 & 2.

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The Lady 'Jackets, the state's top-ranked girls' team, downed the Lady Cavaliers to reach 22-0. The top scorer in the game, however, was Jenkins's Karrah Sampson with 26 points.

## WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 16, 2005

The Letcher County Fiscal Court received another warning from County Treasurer Phillip Hampton about a possible budget shortfall that could reach more than \$1 million in a worse case scenario. Hampton told the court that a combination of payroll, landfill fees, health insurance, and other costs could sent the county into a serious deficit by June 30.

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The Letcher County Sheriff's Department says two men and a woman were arrested while waiting for the United Parcel Service to deliver prescription narcotics ordered through the Internet. The arrests were made in the parking lot of the Ermine Post Office while the three were waiting for a UPS delivery truck to come by.

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A house belonging to Lawrence Goodgame of Fleming caught fire February 11 and quickly burned out of control. Neon Volunteer Fire Chief Carter Bevins believes the blaze started when a coal fire spilled from a grate in the front room. Bevins said the wooden coal camp house was built between 1928 and 1934 and that the lumber was very dry and burned quickly.

## THURSDAY FEBRUARY 11, 2015

A teenager charged with killing a four-month-old baby near Seco entered a not guilty plea during arraignment in Letcher Circuit Court Tuesday. The indictment naming the 17-year-old boy became public February 10 when he appeared in circuit court with his defense attorney, William Lewis Collins. Before Tuesday, he was treated as a juvenile and all matters.

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An Economic Impact Statement (EIS) required before a federal prison can be constructed in Letcher County is now complete and will be available for public viewing beginning Friday (February 13). In announcing the publication of the impact statement, the federal Bureau of Prisons also announced that a public meeting will be held in Whitesburg next month to give local citizens the chance to offer their input on which of two locations would be best for a proposed United States Penitentiary and Federal Prison Camp.

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With coal markets continuing to weaken, TECO Energy Inc. has cut its asking price for TECO Coal Company from \$170 million to \$140 million. The \$30 million price decrease was made public last week as TECO neared a deal with Cambrian Coal Corporation