



The Mountain Eagle.

The Way We Were

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**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 1915**

J.P. Haney and E.P. Blair are the new owners of *The Mountain Eagle*, which was founded August 28, 1907 by Nehemiah M. Webb. "We expect to be first for the right, second for our friends, and third, against nobody but united against the wrong and the evil from any and all sources whatsoever," Haney and Blair say in a message to all readers. The paper, they add, "is for the mountain ways, for how could the mountains ever be wrong?"

Fess Whitaker is a Republican candidate for the office of Letcher Circuit Court Clerk. "Left an orphan when a little boy with scanty chances to accomplish anything, I have tussled along and have not been a great failure," Whitaker says in an advertisement announcing his candidacy. G. Bennett Adams announced that he is seeking Republican nomination for circuit court clerk. Adams is now in Louisville attending law school.

A new "fire-damp" indicator recently demonstrated in London, England will give increased protection to workers in coal mines.

Letcher County Court Judge H.T. Day has ordered that overseers of public roads in Letcher County be paid \$5 each for their extra work in "the prosecution of men who refuse and fail to work after being duly warned for six years as prescribed by law. It is up to the overseer to see that those who have not worked have been prosecuted." Road work is required of all able-bodied male citizens over 18 years and under 50 years of age, except ministers of the gospel and men living in incorporated towns and cities. Overseers are required to get permission from the Magistrate in their voting precinct before they are allowed to employ teams to do extra work on any road. \$3.25 is the top price per day for men, who must work days of eight hours each as prescribed by law, or \$2.50 a day for mule or horse teams. The Magistrate is to say how many days are required with teams.

The Evelyn and the Carib, cotton-carrying ships from the United States and bound for Bremen, sank February 20 and February 22 after hitting German submarine mines planted in the North Sea off the coast of Germany. A German scout boat saved the captain and 28-man crew of the Evelyn, which was sailing from New York City. A German patrol boat also saved all but three crewman of the Carib, which was sailing from Charleston, S.C. President Wilson called the sinking of the ships tragic accidents resulting from ship pilots not following the safe courses that were laid out for them.

According to news from Sergeant, the Louisville and Nashville Railroad "pay train" made its regular monthly round dispensing much of the "badly needed to its employees hereabouts."

The Consolidation Coal Company, which has been operating during the winter under greatly reduced workforce, is reported to have received big orders to keep its mines in the Big Sandy territory busy for several months. Consolidation Coal is the largest in the eastern Kentucky coalfields. The closing down of many of its workings at McRoberts and Jenkins has caused a considerable depression in that area.

Mattie Adams, operator for the Whitesburg Telephone Company, is back on duty again after an illness.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 26, 1925**

During a meeting of the Whitesburg Businessmen's Club held at Letcher State Bank Friday night, a resolution was passed calling on law enforcement to take action required of them by law to address the problem of "at least one dozen boys ranging in age from seven to 15 years, who habitually loiter upon our public streets and in and around public buildings and places of business." The boys are not being made to attend school, as is required by state law, the businessmen say. "We heartily condemn the laxity in enforcement," the resolution says, adding that without a proper education the boys will become ignorant criminals, or at least mere howers of wood and drawers of water." The group also asks that the Whitesburg Town Council pass a curfew making it unlawful for boys 15 and under to be out at night.

January sales of Ford cars and trucks in the United States totaled 103,022. In addition, 4,156 Ford tractors and 395 Lincoln cars were sold.

Reverend Enlow, new pastor of the First Baptist Church in Whitesburg, has arrived and will fill his pulpit on Sunday.



Fort Loudoun State Park honors one of the earliest British fortifications on the western frontier. (Tennessee State Parks)

A blockade at Fort Loudoun

By JADON GIBSON

Cherokee warriors assisted in the successful assault of Fort Duquesne but were attacked in what would later become Tennessee. About 15 were killed and others taken prisoner. The Cherokees retaliated by putting a blockade around Fort Loudoun.

Col. Byrd had to raise troops to aid those surrounded by Indians. He took it upon himself to have them build blockhouses and roads.

They built Fort Chiswell before marching to the Long Island of Holston where they constructed Fort Robinson in the winter of 1760. This area was considered part of Virginia at the time. A boundary survey in 1779 proved it to be part of North Carolina. It is interesting that the two oldest forts in Tennessee were built by Virginia.

While building Fort Robinson, Col. Waddell arrived with 500 men from North Carolina. Col. Byrd was in disfavor among his men at this time and resigned. He was replaced by Col. Stephens.

The garrison at Fort Loudoun was then dwindling in number and forced to wait out the blockade. They had the choice of dying of hunger or submitting to the rage of the Cherokee. The governor of South Carolina was pleased when he heard that Virginia was sending men to assist at Fort Loudoun, but the fort's location was so re-

mote and among hostile Indians, even an army couldn't deliver the much-needed supplies. The inhabitants at Fort Loudoun were forced to eat some of their horses and dogs.

Blockaded night and day the men threatened to leave the fort and die at the hands of the Cherokees rather than by starvation. The commander called a council of war to consider the prudent course of action. They concluded it was impossible to maintain the status quo and decided to surrender the fort to the Cherokee on the best terms they could get. Capt. Stuart procured leave to go to Chota one of the primary Indian towns in the area where he reached an agreement with two Cherokee chiefs.

It read as follows, "The garrison of Fort Loudoun shall march out with their arms and drums with as much powder and ball as his officer shall think necessary for the march. And all the baggage he may choose to carry that the garrison be permitted to march unmolested to Virginia or Fort Prince George as the commanding officer shall think proper and that a number of Indians be appointed to escort them and hunt for provisions during the march, that such soldiers that are lame or by sickness, disabled from marching, be received into the Indian towns and kindly used until they recover and then be allowed to return to Fort Prince George, that the Indians provide as

many horses as they conveniently can for the march, agreeing with the officers and soldiers for payment; that the fort, guns, powder ball and spare arms be delivered to the Indians without fraud or further delay, on the day appointed for the march of the troops."

Capt. Stuart and the garrison of Fort Loudoun delivered the fort over to the Cherokee when the agreed upon day arrived. They marched out with their arms, accompanied by Oconostota, the Prince of Chota and principal chief of the Cherokee and as many as 15 other Indians. They departed and traveled 15 miles on the first day, resting due to their extreme weariness brought on by malnutrition suffered during the blockade.

That night they camped near the Indian town of Taliquo, and during the next hour all of the Indians left them. Capt. Stuart considered it to be a bad sign and placed the camp under a strict guard that changed during the night to maintain alertness. Although the night was uneventful at the break of day one of the guards came running into their camp.

"The Indians are coming," he said anxiously. "They're in war paint and ready to attack. They're all around the camp."

His words of warning were interrupted by hideous yells coming from different directions. The men immediately looked up and saw Indians attacking from every

direction. Gunfire from the Indians followed. Panic was rampant in the camp and the men were so physically spent and mentally dispirited they couldn't mount an effective resistance.

The captain and at least three other officers and as many as 26 soldiers fell during the initial wave. Captain Stuart and the men that remained were taken prisoner, tied up and taken back to Fort Loudoun. Other soldiers fled into the woods, but they were hunted down and captured.

Attakullakulla, Cherokee chief, soon learned that Capt. Stuart had been captured and taken back to the fort. He considered Stuart to be a friend. He hastened to Fort Loudoun where he proceeded to give up a rifle, some clothing and wampum (ornate beads) to the Indian who captured Capt. Stuart. Attakullakulla then took possession of what had been Capt. Demere's house in the fort and kept Capt. Stuart there as though he was a member of his family.

The remaining soldiers were kept in a most horrid condition.

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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Jasper Cornett is resigning as postmaster at Linefork after 19 years on the job. He said he hopes that whoever succeeds him has an easier time that he has had, having written thousands of letters for the public without charge.

Sheriff John D.W. Collins headed a raid into the head of the Cumberland River section of Letcher County last week. He and deputies Oscar Marcum and Henry Brown made up a posse that destroyed 10 moonshine stills and liquor. The loss to the operators of the stills is estimated to be \$7,234. Just a few days before the officers went on the raid, they poured out four gallons of moonshine on the streets of Whitesburg.

The proposed construction of an L&N Railroad branch line up Linefork to a connection at Chad, or Poor Fork, would cover a distance of a little more than 20 miles, bringing two great and distinct sections of the state together, says *Mountain Eagle* editor and publisher Nehemiah Webb. "The section opened up would be one of the greatest timber areas in all the mountains, to say nothing of some excellent coals. The Kingscreek route in several miles the shorter way to the Black Mountain Division of the L&N, but it would not cover such an area of timber and coal." The survey of the proposed line will be completed in a few days.

The 1925 Studebaker Standard Six Sedan is on sale at Miners Motor Company in Whitesburg for \$1,545.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 22, 1945**

Governor Simeon Willis denied clemency this week to Tommy Nelson, 35, who murdered Frelin Estep in Letcher County in 1943, and set Nelson's execution date for Friday, March 16. Nelson, a stove repairman from Logan, W.Va., killed Estep in a quarrel after they and others had been drinking in a roadhouse. Nelson claimed someone stole his whiskey and that he fired his gun when Estep threatened him with a rifle. The Court of Appeals has upheld the conviction and the U.S. Supreme Court refused to intervene. Governor Willis said he had considered the record carefully and saw no reason to intervene. Nelson is to die in the electric chair at Eddyville

before sunrise on the date set in this week's orders.

Marine Staff Sergeant James Majority, son of Mrs. Ollie Majority of Whitesburg, was presented the Purple Heart Medal from his commanding officer for wounds received as a result of enemy action during the Guam campaign last July. Majority, a veteran of 23 months of fighting in the Pacific, also took part in the Bougainville campaign.

Corporal James M. Combs of Crown has been rescued from a Japanese prison camp, the War Department said February 18.

Sergeant Eugene Vermillion, 19, of Whitesburg, was awarded the Air Medal for meritorious achievement while participating in sustained bomber combat operations over Continental Europe. A nose gunner on a B-17 Flying Fortress, Sergeant Vermillion is taking part in the bombing attacks against targets in Germany. A graduate of Whitesburg High School, he is a son of William T. Vermillion.

Neon businessmen are "getting the jump" on post war plans and will establish a new building for a laundry that will be owned and operated by J.M. Sims of the American Dry Cleaning Company.

Private Clifford Shepherd of Blackey has been seriously wounded in Germany. Another Blackey soldier, Private Ralph Brashear, is missing somewhere in Germany.

Private Clyde Fouts of Skyline has been seriously wounded somewhere in Belgium.

Ralph Thompson of Seco is only 16 years old, but is already home on leave from the Navy.

Humphrey Bogart and Lauren Bacall star in "To Have and Have Not", showing Sunday and Monday at the Kentucky Theatre in Whitesburg.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 24, 1955**

Approximately 900 guests joined Mr. and Mrs. Archie Craft for the reopening of their newly remodeled Craft Funeral Home in Whitesburg

on Saturday.

Despite continued recession in the coal industry, upon which the area's economy is based, banks in Letcher and 15 other eastern Kentucky counties showed a marked improvement in assets during 1954. A consolidated statement of 28 banks in these counties reveal an increase of \$7,627,838.74 in assets in 1954 over 1953, when total assets were \$131,834,227.18.

The Jenkins Board of Education is discussing the possibility of leasing the Jenkins Field House as soon as it has been converted into a modern gymnasium. The Jenkins Kiwanis Club is converting the Field House into a gym that will include space for dressing rooms, offices, washrooms and hopefully a youth center. The playing floor will be above what is now the basement or first floor.

Dr. Dow Collins of the Letcher County Health Department was in the Jenkins School District this week giving typhoid and smallpox immunizations.

The widening use of conveyor belts in coal movement is demonstrated at the Narragansett, Rhode Island electric utility plant where coal moves to the crushing station from the docks at a rate of 1,000 tons an hour, or 615 feet a minute.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 25, 1965**

South-East Coal Co. has filed suit against the men and women who were involved in picketing activities at the Polly Mine near Colson. Letcher Circuit Judge J.L. Hayes issued a restraining order prohibiting picketing at the mine. The company said in the suit that none of its employees were involved in the picketing.

Hoover Dawahare is conducting a one-man campaign to get letters written to Gov. Edward Breathitt and the University of Kentucky officials in support of locating a UK community college in Letcher County.

The Whitesburg Municipal Housing Commission is to begin registration from persons interested in living in the city's new low-income housing project under construction.

**THURSDAY
FEBRUARY 27, 1975**

Letcher Fiscal Court voted a 10-cents-a-ton franchise on all coal shipped in the county. Collections will begin April 1, 1975. With an estimated 7.5 million tons of coal mined annually in Letcher County, the amount of revenue would be approximately \$750,000. The revenue will go to the county's general fund.

A legal notice contains a map showing the proposed highway corridor of the Pine Mountain Crossing of U.S. 119 from Partridge to Ermine. The notice, published by the Kentucky Department of Transportation Bureau of Highways, says the project will begin approximately 1.5 miles east of the Harlan-Letcher county line and extend northeast to the junction of the proposed Whitesburg Bypass, a distance of 13.720 miles.

Three people were arrested in Whitesburg on charges of stealing three parking meters from a city parking area adjacent to the railroad tracks behind Hoover's Carpetland. Police also reported the arrest of five juveniles who were nabbed outside Gibson's Department Store with merchandise they had stolen from the store. According to police, the boys entered the store wearing long coats to conceal various tools, drills, pocketknives and other items.

Kingdom Come Elementary School has been "invaded" and "taken over" by a loose knit gang of local youths, according to parents, PTA officers and at least one teacher. Two Letcher County youths were arrested on charges stemming from an incident at the school when two 18- or 19-year-old youths reportedly entered a classroom when the teacher was absent, "roughed up" one fifth-grade boy and held a knife to the stomach of another.

**WEDNESDAY
MARCH 6, 1985**

Eastern Kentucky landowners won a major victory when a federal judge blocked state officials from issuing strip-mining permits solely on the basis of a broad form deed.

Volunteer firefighters from

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