



Standard Pkg. Co. (2)
SCHOOL SCHOOLS START
MONDAY, AUG. 9—MOTOR-
ISTS ARE URGED TO
DRIVE CAREFULLY

The Mountain Eagle.

Volume No. 48.

Whitesburg, Letcher County, Kentucky, Thursday Evening, August 5, 1954

Number 11.

Horrible Accident Claims 11 Lives

Letcher County Records Worst Single Car Accident In U.S. History

On last Saturday about noon one of the worst tragedies to ever happen in this county occurred on Pine Mountain, when Hexie Maxie's car driven by his brother-in-law, Tom Brown went out of control just over the crest of the mountain, burning eleven people to death, among them seven children and one 'teen age girl.

According to Maxie, he and his family along with Tom Brown and family had started to Linefork to show their wives where they worked. They had only been away from home at nearby Millstone about 30 minutes when the tragedy occurred.

Maxie stated, when Mrs. Archie Craft and his nurse talked to him, that he did not want to live that he had nothing to live for, since his little children and good wife were gone." He said he tried desperately to free them from the tudor car, a '41 Buick, but the flames from the gas quickly engulfed not only the car but caught onto him as well, he was trying to cut into the car with an ax that he never knew how he got, nor where it came from.

Letcher county was horrified at the tragedy and people by the hundreds went to the funeral home to view the charred bodies of the victims who were too badly burned to be recognized except by their size, sex, etc.

The Whitesburg fire Dept., headed by Remious Day went to the scene which is approximately 6 miles Southeast of Whitesburg, but all was quiet, and the car was a mass of burning flesh by the time they arrived.

The bodies were buried double in Shea's Fork Cemetery at McRoberts, with the exception of the Gibson girl who was buried at the family cemetery on Linefork.

Tom Brown, 41, driver of the car and son, Hayden, 4, buried together. Mr. Brown is survived by three brothers, also his mother, Mrs. Dicie Brown, of Hemphill.

Mrs. Tom Brown, 38, was buried with Geraldine, 2, and she is survived by her brother, Hexie, the only survivor of the accident, and a half brother, Riley Hughes, of Millstone, along with their two sons, Harold, 19, and Clarence, 17.

Christine, 11, and Shirley Jean Brown, 7, buried in one casket.

Mrs. Hexie Maxie, 31, with baby, Louise, 10 months of age, buried together; Mrs. Maxie is survived by one brother, Ray Collins, of Cincinnati and her father, Hobert Collins of Virginia, along with her husband, Maxie.

Betty Sue Maxie, 4, along with Ellis Ray, 2, buried together.

Miss Martha Gibson who was staying with the Browns, the only one of the wreck of no relation was buried at the family graveyard on Linefork. She is survived by three brothers and three sisters besides her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Johnny Gibson, of Linefork.

The largest crowd ever to assemble for a funeral at the Shea's Fork Cemetery were on hand Monday morning at 10:00 A. M., for the last rites.

Hundreds and hundreds of people from throughout this

New County Judge Pro Tem Appointed

Willard M. Gilliam, of Mayking, Ky., was appointed Judge Pro Tem to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Goebel Adams accepted employment with the Letcher County Board of Education.

According to our information, Mr. Gilliam has had varied experience in many fields of work and has qualities which should enable him to perform the duties required of him in an efficient manner.

Assistant Educational Adviser in the Civilian Conservation Corps, 1936-1939.

Property Supply Clerk and shipping clerk at Dayton, Ohio for Wright Air Field and Kurz-Kasch Plastic Company, 1942 - 1946.

State Tax Equalities Program in Letcher and Laurel Counties for two years.

He has been with the county surplus food program since May of this year.

Mr. Gilliam attended Hamilton Business College, Hamilton, Ohio and the University of Idaho, Southern Branch Night School, Pocatello, Idaho. He is extremely interested in the development of our county and has written several articles for this paper expressing his ideas on this subject.

We feel sure his many friends will be happy to learn of his appointment.

Robert Fike Resumes Duties As Farm Agent

Robert H. Fike, former Farm Agent has returned to Whitesburg and has resumed duties as County Farm Agent of Letcher County. Mr. Fike has been working in the southeastern part of the State near Somerset where much is being done toward the development and exportation of strawberries on a commercial basis. An increase from 200 acres to 1000 acres of strawberry plants to be gathered from next spring has been developed since the project began in that part of the State.

Mr. Fike states that he is now available for any type of farm information at his office in the Post Office building. His many friends give him a warm welcome and are glad to have him back in the community once again.

Geo Tolliver's Grocery Raided At Haymond

On Monday Letcher County Sheriff, Bob Collins, assisted by Jim Short, Boyd Caudill, and John Doyle Burke raided George Tolliver's deep freeze and found 16 pints of red liquor.

Tolliver will be tried in Magistrate's court this week, according to Sheriff Collins.

Tolliver operates a grocery in the Old Haymond Grocery Store location. He is charged with selling intoxicating liquor in dry territory.

region visited the scene of the accident over the week end to view the burned automobile.

As this is written Dr. A. B. Carter of the Fleming Hospital staff states that Hexie is improving and has a good chance for recovery.



ANOTHER VIEW—The interior of the car in which 11 died when the brakes apparently failed on a mountain road near Whitesburg, Ky., is shown. The car crashed into a cliff and burned.

G. B. Hughes Retires After 25 Years As Consol. Store Mgr.

Mr. G. B. Hughes of McRoberts is retiring after more than twenty-five years as store manager with the Consolidation Coal Company and Champion Stores. For the past eight years, Mr. Hughes has been store manager at McRoberts.

On Wednesday evening, July 28th, Mr. and Mrs. Hughes were guests of honor at a banquet at the Colonial Hotel at Wise, Va., in recognition of Mr. Hughes retirement. Those attending the banquet were Mr. C. O. Glass, Division Manager of the Kentucky Champion Stores who acted as Master of Ceremonies, Rev. J. S. Hale, Guest Speaker of the evening, store managers of all the Kentucky stores, office and store employees of the McRoberts Store.

An enjoyable evening was spent by all who attended and Mr. and Mrs. Hughes received best wishes from their friends who shall miss them greatly, but who congratulate them on their retirement.



WHERE THEY DIED—This is the wreckage of a coal miner's car after it crashed into a cliff, killing 11 on a mountain road near Whitesburg, Ky.

Letcher County Development Meeting

If you want a factory in Letcher County, be sure to attend the mass meeting at the Neon-Fleming Grade School building Friday night at 8:00 EST.

Hundreds of dollars will be given away in prizes and there will be plenty of hill-billy entertainment. Free nylons will be given to first 20 ladies present. The purpose of the meeting is for

election of directors and discussions toward better understanding of this worthwhile project. Let's all attend this meeting and help in Letcher County development.

CORRECTION

Last week it was erroneously stated that Atty. Harry M. Caudill was receiving \$100.00 per month from the Letcher County School Board for legal services. This should have read \$100.00 per year.

"Three Possible Impossibilities"

(—by Rev. Francis L. Cordrey—Baptist Local Missionary—)

There are three things known to all which are thought of as impossible situations. When we think of them, it causes an emptiness within or a heart felt depression of gloom to overtake us. These three situations are: (1) political purity, (2) persistent security, and (3) perpetual peace.

Speaking to the average interested person of the subject of political purity, his answer would be, "Impossible! that will never happen." Maybe it won't ever happen, but it isn't impossible.

We may feel as though it could never be attained, knowing of the political graft and greed taking place at the poles in our communities and in our governmental elections. "Now, please, don't think I'm speaking against our form of government, I'm not." It's the men which make an organization what it is. Our communistic friends would jump at such a statement and say to me, "If you don't like democracy, try communism." But to do so would be like ex-

changing a neck tie for a hangman's noose. Once you try it you'll never try anything else.

I said that political purity was a possibility and I retain that it can be had, but only through God-fearing men being elected as the officials of our democratic government. I would not have to wager in saying that the decisions of those men appointed as our political officials today, are not made through nor by the guidance of an omnipotent God. Known to us from the pages of history, are two great monuments of faith, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, men who feared God.

We read from our religious history of General George Washington at Valley Forge, the story of faith. A messenger from the White House was sent to General Washington to get him to relinquish his hold on the fort and return home. The messenger arrived during the night and waited until the next day before bothering the General. Upon looking for him the next morning, he was told that the General went

toward the thicket on a horse every morning about that time. The messenger followed and found Washington's horse tied to a tree and the General on his knees by a stump in the snow beseeching God for reinforcements and medical supplies for his soldiers. The messenger believed in his faith so that he returned to the White House without delivering his message. We know, God and Washington won out. This kind of leadership today will bring to pass this impossible political purity. We need God-fearing men at the official posts in our government.

My next mention was that of persistent security. This, too, when casually spoken of would bring forth the answer, "Impossible." One might feel that before this could be accomplished, we would have to cleanse Washington, D. C. and institute a new government. "Not so!" We do not need a new government, but a new relation between the power-heads of the present existing

Memorial Hospital Work Resumed At Whitesburg

According to information received from Douglas Smith, Jenkins, engineer for the Memorial Hospital, construction work has been resumed and will probably continue without any interruptions for the remainder of the time required to complete the project. Recent shutdown was due to lack of obtaining materials, Mr. Smith stated.

DR. P. E. SLOAN SHOWING IMPROVEMENT

Dr. Preston E. Sloan who has been confined to his bed for the past five weeks is slowly improving. Dr. Sloan is suffering from arthritis and complications and his many friends here hope that he will be able to leave his room soon and make a speedy recovery toward regaining his health.

BROTHERHOOD MEETS

The Brotherhood of The First Baptist Church met on Tuesday Evening at 6:30 P.M. Twenty-seven (27) members and visitors enjoyed a good meal served by the Grace Hutson Circle of the Church. Brother Francis L. Cordrey, speaker for the evening, gave an inspiring message with his outline of the church program.

"The Robe" In Cinema Scope Due In Spectacular Opening

"The Robe" in Cinema Scope, already hailed as a milestone in motion picture history, is scheduled to have its glittering first showing in this area Sunday, August 8th at the Isaac's Alene Theatre.

The selection of "The Robe", surely one of the most eagerly awaited properties in film-dom's history, as the initial project for CinemaScope, was the master stroke of Darryl F. Zanuck, production chief of Twentieth Century-Fox, and the film's producer, Frank Ross. Mr. Ross has cherished the aspiration of bringing "The Robe" to the screen ever since he purchased the film. (Continued on back page)

FISH FRY

A Fish Fry is being planned for Saturday, August 7th from 5:30 - 8:30 P. M., CST, at the VFW Post Clubhouse, sponsored by the VFW Auxiliary. Fish, French Fries, Salad, Corn Bread and Coffee will be served. The price is \$1.00.

M. D. LEWIS PROPERTY SELLS FOR \$26,000 TO SETTLE ESTATE

On Monday of this week, Master Commissioner J. L. Hays, after properly advertising the M. D. Lewis property for sale offered the home building and lands to bidders who purchased the property for the sum of \$26,000, the high bidder being Frank J. Horsman of Norton, Va. with Arthur H. Johnson as surety. The property was rated as one of the out-standing homes in Whitesburg and is considered very good for business property or for a home.

When questioned about the purchase Mr. Johnson stated that no plans had been made as to what the building might be used for, stating that, "we considered it a good invest-

Charlie Holcomb Fills Bond of \$5,000 In Murder Charge

Charlie Holcomb of Linefork filled bond in the County Judge's court this week to answer an indictment returned by the Letcher County grand jury; his bond being fixed at \$5,000 according to Judge James M. Caudill.

Holcomb is charged with the killing of his son-in-law, Ezekiel Holcomb, who according to neighbors of Charlie, is said to have come to his home, beat up his wife and family, and then started on Charlie's family. It is reported by the neighbors that Charlie shot him in the leg hoping to stop him from whipping his family, but instead arteries were shot into and he bled to death.

Friends and neighbors were horrified and grieved over the incident, stating that Charlie was a fine Christian gentleman and it was such a tragedy for this to happen to him as well as Ezekiel.

First Polio Case Reported by Local Health Department

Ellis Cornett, age 13, years, Gilly, Ky., son of Columbus Cornett was admitted to St. Joseph Hospital in Lexington, Ky., on July 24th with a diagnosis of poliomyelitis, according to the local health department. This is the first case in the county reported for the calendar year.

The Eagle is informed that there is a preventative immunization that is given to children under 16 years living in a home where there is a polio case or to pregnant woman of any age living in the home with a case. The three young children in the Cornett home were given this preventative immunization.

The Cornett boy lives in the rural area of Letcher County and had not been in contact with a case. Last year this county only had one polio case and that child was brought into this county with polio, the authorities states. The report from St. Joseph Hospital says that Ellis will most likely make a complete recovery without any Paralysis.

The Health department states that during this, which is considered the Polio Season, children should go on with their regular routine way of life. Worry does not help and there is a preventative immunization to be given where it is needed.

ment, and that is why we purchased it." He indicated that the building might be rented for a time. Mr. Horsman could not be reached for comment.

The contents of the home were also sold at auction, and mostly the members of the family purchased the various items sold. The furniture was semi-modern, or reproductions of period furniture. The sale of the furniture brought approximately \$1950 according to a spokesman of the Lewis family. The widow, Mrs. Mattie Lewis, had been given her choice of the furniture prior to the sale.

The home was appraised at \$20,000 and had been built for some 32 years.