



The Mountain Eagle.

The Way We Were

Clips from available Mountain Eagle pages since 1907.

One day may have saved many lives

By JADON GIBSON



Refugees sought safety on the plains of Minnesota during the U.S.-Dakota Indian War of 1862.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 5, 1943**
Funeral services were held Monday for Claude Hall, 26, of Mayking, who was killed Sunday night when the car he was driving crashed into the highway bridge pier at Mayking, near the home of his parents. Mr. Hall had been to see his girlfriend at Thornton when the wreck occurred.

In a front-page commentary announcing he is taking a leave of absence from his duties with The Mountain Eagle to run for public office, founding editor and publisher Nehemiah Webb acknowledges his chances to win the election for Letcher County Attorney as a Democrat are a longshot, but reminds readers and potential voters he has been a part of their lives since the newspaper was started in August 1907. "Mothers, when your children were born, The Eagle welcomed them into life," Webb writes. "If they passed away, we have spoken a kind and comforting word; in their school days we encouraged them; at the altar we spoke of their starting to sail upon a turbid sea; at their success in life we have rejoiced with you and in their failures and misfortunes, we extended sympathies."

Former Letcher County Sheriff C.C. Crawford was in Whitesburg Tuesday visiting with old friends. He now owns a farm in Rockcastle County.

All four high school football teams in Letcher County suffered defeat over the weekend. Jenkins High School fell to Belfry, 13-6, at Williamson, West Virginia; Hazard defeated Stuart Robinson, 26-6, and Whitesburg lost to Benham, 26-0. The Fleming Pirates forfeited their gam with Pikeville High School. The Fleming High School forfeiture comes after 18 players failed one or more subjects last week.

About 70 of Letcher County's school teachers were made happy this week when they learned they would receive pay for the first month of teaching even though the state is still operating in the red.

Rudy Draughn has been appointed receiver for the bankrupt Elk Creek Mining Company of Blackey.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 14, 1943**
Frelin Estopp of Millstone is dead and Claude Ison, also of Millstone, is suffering from gunshot wounds and shock. According to county authorities, the two were walking up the highway toward their home and thumbed a car. When they got in the car a man identified as Tommy Nelson of Logan W.Va., began begging them to go on with him and have a good time. When they reached Millstone, Estopp, a miner with South-East Coal Company, and Ison asked to be let out of the car. He refused and said, "If you can't go with me, you can take this," and pulled his gun and shot Ison three times and Estopp five times. While Ison was able to open the door and fall out of the car and play dead, the killer drove Estopp's body to the rock quarry just below Kona, dragged the body from the car, then threw it over the bank near the edge of the North Fork of the Kentucky River. Meanwhile, Ison was able to get to a telephone and notify authorities, who then alerted police in other jurisdictions. Pike County officers saw the suspect's car and shot its tires full of holes, but Nelson and a woman who says she is his wife were able to escape. They were found riding a bus on Grapevine Road on the road to Grundy, Virginia and surrendered without incident to Jenkins Police Chief Pat Blevins and Haymond police officer Willard Hall. Nelson, about 40, was recently released from prison. His wife, who is about 35 and is neat in appearance, said she and her husband had been on the road for four weeks before they ran into Estopp and Ison, and that Nelson had been drunk the entire time. She said the shooting happened after an argument between her husband and the two victims over two small bottles of whiskey that were missing. Nelson will be tried October 25 on charges of murder, armed robbery, and shooting and wounding. His wife is being held until then as a material witness to the case. Estopp had only been living and working in Letcher County a short while. His wife and child were still in Leslie County at the time of his murder.

Former Jenkins physician James Edward Johnson has been promoted from Major to Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. He is now serving in North Africa.

Former *Mountain Eagle* and *Neon News* columnist Clarence Daniels, a graduate of Jenkins High School, has been a prisoner of the Japanese in the Philippines since May 4, 1942, according to his father, J.W. Daniels of Lynch. According

By 1862 the Dakotas were in dire straits with insufficient food, clothing, blankets, and other essential items. Hunger was rampant and with the great need for food they were forced to eat their dogs and many of their horses to survive.

Little Crow, who became chief of the eastern Sioux, or Dakota, following the death of his father, along with Chaska and other Indian leaders saw the breakdown between the Dakota tribe and government adversely affecting the Indians while benefiting the United States. Although the payments to the Dakotas were guaranteed they were often late or not paid at all due to the government's preoccupation with the Civil War.

They were to have a trust fund of \$1.5 million at five percent interest paid annually. The tribe found itself on a tract of land twenty by thirty acres which seemed unsuitable to them. They claimed they were cut off from every natural resource. They were to be fed, clothed, and taught agriculture. Houses were also to be built for them as well as schools for their children.

The prosperous picture the government painted for the Dakotas didn't materialize. Payments promised through the treaties were not paid for nearly two years. The government was contending with the advent of the Civil War while the Indians faced starvation each winter and their standard of living continued to decline. The government bargained with Little Crow for the northern half of the reservation for \$98,000. An agreement was reached but the money was paid to

to Mr. Daniels, he has cards from Clarence stating that he is well and uninjured. Mr. and Mrs. J.W. Daniels formerly lived in McRoberts. They have two other sons in the service, both in Italy. Clarence Daniels wrote the popular "This and That" column for the *Eagle* and the *News*.

On Monday, October 11, the citizens of Linefork held the Community Fair and a large crowd was present. Many beautiful exhibits were shown and greatly enjoyed by all the visitors, the 4-H Clubs and their friends.

New recruits at the Great Lakes Naval Training Station near include 20 men from Letcher County. They are Astor Blair, 31, Whitesburg; Fred K. Arm, 18, Carbon Glow; Edgar Shepherd, 18, Carbon Glow; Otis Sexton, 18, Colson; Everett E. Hale, 29, Dongola; Augustus E. Raleigh, 36, Eolia; Henry M. Strickling, 30, Ermine; Kenneth Whitaker, 18, Gordon; Elisha Ison, 29, Whitesburg; Ora Potter, 31, Jackhorn; Kermit Hayes, 29, Jenkins; Ernest J. Dixon (no age listed), Jeremiah; Spencer Whitaker, 18, Jeremiah; Raymond Elam, 18, Jeremiah; Maynard C. Hogg, 18, Oscaloosa; Coy R. Taylor, 28, Polly; Ira L. Frazier, 18, Roxana; James E. Parrott, 18, Southdown, and James R. Brooks, 29, Thornton.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Quillen have moved into their new home at the mouth of Goose Creek and have purchased the store formerly owned by Caney Tolliver.

The nation's coffee industry says supplies of coffee are at a wartime high and are urging civilians here at home to stop storing coffee away for the future and to use it now. Industry spokesmen say the coffee supply was low for a while, but there will be no rationing now that the needs of the armed forces have been met.

Dry forces won a tight local option election in Boyd County by the margin of 268 votes as more Kentucky counties vote to outlaw the sale of alcohol. The election was especially close in the City of Ashland, where the dry forces won by only 18 votes.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 1, 1953**
Larkin Aurelius Hogg, 25, of Oscaloosa, and Laverne Fields, 18, of Roxana, were killed in an automobile accident Friday in Charlestown, Indiana. Both were recently discharged from military service, and both were employed by the DuPont Powder Company in Charlestown.

Letcher County's oldest citizen, Riley Bentley of Rockhouse, died September 27 at the age of 99 years, 11 months, and five days. Born at Democrat, he was a community leader who served as a banker and a dentist. He was buried at the family cemetery at Rockhouse on September 29.

Lilbert H. Wing, who received citations for outstanding bravery during World War II, was recently promoted to 1st Lieutenant. He is now serving in Korea as a pilot. His wife is the daughter of Mrs. Ada Brown of Whitaker, with whom she is now making her home.

Al and Mollie Major announced

the traders to be applied toward the Indian account which they were unable to pay. This resulted in the loss of half of their land with nothing tangible to show for it. There were bitter feelings toward Little Crow among the Dakotas following these negotiations.

The ill will also extended to the traders who stayed in St. Paul rather than going out among the tribesmen. When the chiefs heard about the Civil War, they wondered what effect it would have on them. Some of the Dakotas felt the distraction may enable them to drive the settlers from Minnesota and to reclaim

their land. Time passed and the annuity payment and food that was due the Dakotas wasn't forthcoming. Little Crow was forced to support the decision by the war council in 1862 to pursue a course of war to drive the whites out of Minnesota. He let it be known that he disapproved of killing settlers who had done them no harm and told the warriors to spare the women and children.

Approximately 500 Dakotas broke into the trader's warehouse forcing Indian agent Thomas Galbraith to give them provisions. The need for food among the Dakotas

was the main cause of the Dakota War of 1862.

Chief Little Crow knew the white men would seek vengeance for their acts. The majority of the war council was bent on war. Little Crow led a strike the following morning in which 20 white men were killed. He had been blamed for the tribe's misfortunes and hoped to regain his standing among them. In the days that followed as many as 800 Dakota braves rampaged throughout the area with hundreds of whites killed. Buildings were looted and homes and crops were burned. Hundreds

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this week they are leasing their store building in Whitesburg and closing their Al Major Department Store after 20 years of business.

A new foundation is under construction for a 64-foot-long and 54-foot-wide two-story addition to the Graham Memorial Presbyterian Church in Whitesburg. The top floor of the addition will be made up of a fellowship hall with complete kitchen facilities. The bottom floor will contain classrooms, a pastor's study, and a small chapel. The addition was designed by Roy Crawford and is being built by Joe Romeo.

The best in fat hogs can be seen at Isom this coming Saturday in the Kentucky River Fat Hog 4-H Show beginning at 9 a.m. CST. Prizes and ribbons will be awarded. The hogs, which will be shown by 20 boys from Letcher County, 11 boys from Perry County, and five boys from Knott County, will be sold at noon to the highest bidders.

Edd C. Hogg of Mayking is a new staff member at Berea College. He will be an instructor in Poultry Husbandry with the College Agriculture Department. He holds bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Kentucky.

About 1,500 children gathered at the Jenkins Athletic Field September 26 for the National Kids' Day Program sponsored locally by the Jenkins Kiwanis Club.

The Jenkins Cavaliers registered a 31-6 win over the Fleming Pirates last Saturday night to close another chapter in one of southeastern Kentucky's most bitter rivalries. The Cavaliers were led by Bobby Collier, Burton Bradley, and Truman Sexton.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 3, 1963**
Demolition of the Letcher County Courthouse should begin sometime before November 1, and the new courthouse should be ready for occupancy by November 1, 1964. Letcher Fiscal Court this week awarded a contract for demolition of the old building and construction of a new one to Ramsey & Chubb Construction Company of Shelbyville, Kentucky. The firm bid \$535,865.

Several county offices will be relocated during demolition of the old Letcher County Courthouse and the construction of a new one. The sheriff's office will be moved to the Cook building above The Mountain Eagle office. County Court Clerk Charlie Wright will have his office in the basement of Letcher Lanes, which is where County Judge James Caudill's office will also be if there is enough room. Sessions of circuit and county will be held in Whitesburg City Hall.

The Whitesburg Miners Memorial Hospital, built eight years ago by the United Mine Workers of America Welfare and Retirement Fund, this week became part of the Appalachian Regional Hospitals Inc. ARH is a non-profit corporation set up under sponsorship of the United Presbyterian Church Board of National Missions to operate the Whitesburg hospital and four others in the 10-unit UMW chain after the union said it would have to sell them

or close them.

A two-part Mountain Eagle editorial says the New York-based United Presbyterian Church, which has just taken over the United Mine Workers-founded hospital chain that includes the Whitesburg hospital, has already committed three blunders that threaten the future existence of the hospital here and in nine other locations in the mountain coalfields. One blunder, according to The Eagle, is the decision to change the name from Whitesburg Miners Memorial Hospital to Whitesburg Appalachian Regional Hospital. Another blunder, the Eagle points out, is the decision to locate the new hospital chain's headquarters in Lexington rather than inside its service area in the mountains. But "the greatest blunder of all," says The Eagle, is the Presbyterians' "decision to hire an outsider as administrator with no demonstrated knowledge of or concern about eastern Kentucky and its problems." The Eagle's editorial adds, "If the Presbyterians seriously are interested in eastern Kentucky where the institutions and the problems are, then they will locate the administrative offices for the institutions in eastern Kentucky where the institutions and problems are. ... (If not) then their resignations should be accepted immediately. Let them go back to where they came from."

The Jenkins Cavaliers took a quick 6-0 lead over the Lynch Bulldogs, but it was all Bulldogs after that as the Cavaliers fell 27-6. Because of the strong Lynch defense, Jenkins star quarterback Phil Greer was unable to complete many passes to his normally reliable receivers.

The federal government's decision to finance construction of a new nine-mile section of Kentucky Highway 15 between the Mountain Parkway at Campton and Van Cleve in Breathitt County is welcome news, a Mountain Eagle editorial says. "Construction of the section, tying in with work already done from Jackson to Van Cleve, would complete the road from Winchester to Jackson, thus bringing closer the day when the Whitesburg-to-Jackson section will be built."

The Whitesburg Yellowjackets, led by the running of halfback Ronnie Day and the passing of Steve Frazier, swamped the Navajos of M.C. Napier last Friday night, 34-6, in Hazard.

The Whitesburg High School Band, under the direction of Frank Bickel, received a trophy as "most improved band" Saturday at the Big Sandy Bowl in Paintsville.

**THURSDAY
OCTOBER 4, 1973**
The Letcher County Teachers Organization claimed this week that negotiations with the Letcher County School Board are "nearing a standstill." The teachers continue to work without a formal contract this year, but LCTO spokesmen say that some "are getting pretty angry."

Advertisement for bids has finally been authorized for a new 64-unit low-rent housing project to be built across Highway 15 from the present housing project in West Whitesburg.

Duke Power Co.'s big mine at Brookside in Harlan County remains just about closed down as the United Mine Workers of America under its new leadership continues its fresh drive to organize the larger coal mines in the Kentucky coalfields.

Whitesburg's annual Homecoming is set for this week. The event will be highlighted by a parade down Main Street Friday afternoon. The Yellowjackets will host Prestonsburg in an evening game.

**WEDNESDAY
SEPTEMBER 21, 1983**
A judge's ruling has cleared the way for the Letcher County School Board to condemn the Whitesburg/Letcher County Industrial Site for use as the location for the proposed new Whitesburg High School. Whitesburg Mayor Ferdinand Moore says the city will appeal the ruling.

A study by the University of Louisville projects the Letcher County population will nearly double by 2020. The study says it expects the county's population to reach 60,687 by 2020.

The hot, dry days of September are causing many people to worry about their water supply, writes Ice correspondent Sara C. Ison. "We have had droughts before and survived them, and we hope to survive this one," she says.

The Fleming-Neon Pirates defeated the Elkhorn City Cougars, 8-0. The game was played in the rain with muddy conditions on the field. Neither team completed a pass and the Pirates and Cougars combined for eight fumbles.

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 6, 1993**
Funeral services were held in Jenkins for a father and son who died the same day. Joseph Wayne Potter, 27, was injured when the coal truck he was driving wrecked on the Daniel Boone Parkway. He died two days later. His father, Brit C. Potter Sr., 56, died after suffering a stroke when doctors told him his son would not recover.

Eastern Kentucky schools show the most improvement in the state assessment test scores. Fourth grade reading scores show signs of improvement in Letcher County, especially at Kingdom Come School.

Some species — especially the goldenrod — don't merit protection, according to Eagle columnist Ike Adams. He describes the plant as a weed and says it causes him to feel "agony for which modern medicine has yet to offer any feeling of relief."

Writing a history of the Whitesburg Methodist Church, correspondent Virginia H. Combs quotes Harry M. Caudill in describing the church building. Caudill said in his book *The Mountain, the Miner and the Lord*, "The beautiful little Methodist Church at Whitesburg is surely one of the finest examples of the stone cutters' skill to be found in Kentucky." The church was built by Joe Romeo.

**WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 8, 2003**
Welfare participants are increasing. (Continued on Page 15)