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Not Mailed, but our phone number is 8321

—FIVE CENTS

Byrd Denies New Ku Klux Charges; Calls It 'Smear Campaign' by GOP



Mrs. C. I. Begler, Mrs. Paul E. Ash, J. E. Bazzie, Mrs. Walter Duncan, (Register Photo)

Women Prepare For Fund Drive

Mrs. Paul E. Ash has been named to head the Women's Division of the \$35,000 United Fund Campaign of Raleigh County. Co-chairmen named with Mrs. Ash were Mrs. Walter Duncan and Mrs. C. I. Begler. The group met Wednesday to complete plans for the division organization and now are enlisting captains to cover residential areas of Beckley and Mabscoot. The division captains will meet at 1:30 p.m. Monday to set a goal for the division. The kick-off meeting has been set for Oct. 22.

C&P Gets Permit For \$30,000 Bldg.

A \$30,000 building, to be used as a garage and storehouse by the Chesapeake and Potomac Telephone Co., is to be erected on Valley Drive by E. M. Crouch. The contractor was granted a permit for the one-story structure at the office of City Recorder Thomas E. Bazzare.

Theodore Robinson, Jr., manager of the Beckley office of the telephone company, said the new building would be leased by his company when completed.

County Teachers Vote To Pass Up Meetings

Raleigh County will not be represented at the fall meeting of the West Virginia Education Association in Charleston or the State Teachers Association in Huntington next Thursday and Friday. D. W. Bryson, county superintendent of schools, said today his office is in the process of notifying county principals of the second vote of the teachers. This summer the Board of Education indicated attendance at these meetings would be governed by a vote of the teachers. However, this was before polio delayed the opening of schools from two to three weeks. The first vote had not been completed at a recent meeting of the Board of Education, when the decision was made to allow teachers to again express their desires in light of the polio epidemic. The second poll clearly indicates a prevailing majority of teachers think schools should remain in session on these dates, Bryson said. He pointed out that the Negro group, or State Teachers Association, and the white group, the WVEA, were independent of each other in the voting, bound by the decision of the majority of their own groups.

Woman Admits Torso Murder

BLUEFIELD (AP)—State Police say they have obtained a Negro woman's admission that she committed Bluefield's grisly torso slaying and dismembered the victim's body with a Boy Scout axe. The reported confession from six-foot, 200-pound Arizona Love came only a day after the Negro torso found on a dump near here was identified as that of Sunny Marshall.

State Police Cpl. E. D. Bazzie said a murder charge would be filed against the Love woman, who kept house for Marshall. She is held in the County Jail at Princeton.

Marshall was a 68-year-old retired railroad brakeman. The Love woman is 49. Bazzie said she signed a statement that she hit Marshall several times with a poker in a fight Oct. 2 in the basement of his Bluefield home. She was quoted that after she realized Marshall was dead she dismembered the body and buried parts of it in a furnace.

Robert C. Byrd, Democratic candidate for the House of Representatives, called new charges that he was a member of the Ku Klux Klan in 1946 a "smear campaign" on the part of the Republican Party.

Byrd denied any recollection of a letter purportedly written by him six years ago proclaiming his desire for renewed Klan activity in West Virginia. "I do not recall having written this letter in 1946, nor do I recall having had any connection with the Klan after 1943 as has already been said. Furthermore, the Klan is a dead issue. Efforts by the Chairman of the Raleigh County Republican Executive Committee to revive it as an issue at this particular time are obviously for purposes that are purely political and will be considered as such by the electorate. That it is a part of the current 'smear campaign' is evident."

Byrd was accused at a Republican rally in the Courthouse last night by Robert J. Ashworth, Republican county executive committee chairman, of writing a letter in April, 1946, to Dr. Samuel Green, imperial wizard of the Klan, suggesting the name of a state organizer.

The letter Ashworth read to a packed courtroom of Republicans said in part: "The Klan is needed today as never before and I am anxious to see its rebirth here in West Virginia. It is necessary that the order be promoted immediately and in every state in the Union. Will you please inform me as to the possibilities of rebuilding the Klan in the Realm of W. Va."

Byrd, 34, previously had said he quit the Klan in 1943 after joining it in 1942 "because it offered excitement." This explanation was made after a Democratic opponent made the Klan revelation almost on the eve of the primary election.

Byrd's answer, which takes up other charges hurled at him by Ashworth, appears in full.

"I do not recall having written this letter in 1946, nor do I recall having had any connection with the Klan after 1943 as has already been said. Furthermore, the Klan is a dead issue. Efforts by the Chairman of the Raleigh County Republican Executive Committee to revive it as an issue at this particular time are obviously for purposes that are purely political and will be considered as such by the electorate. That it is a part of the current 'smear campaign' is evident."

"The Republican Executive Committee Chairman submits the question as to why I did not join the armed forces. This is a subject that has been raised in all of my previous campaigns by those who envy and hate me. It is a matter of general knowledge that for every man who shoulders a gun in the defense of his country, six or eight other men are needed to supply him and support him. I contributed to my country's war effort by helping to build the ships, and my deferment was granted by the draft board upon the basis of its own judgement as to whether or not my work was vital to the cause. Does the Republican Chairman seek to impugn the wisdom or the loyalty or the honesty of those who were members of the local draft board during the war period? I wish to remind Mr. Ashworth that many thousands of good Republicans were granted wartime deferments because they, too, worked in the shipyards, in the factories, and in the mines. Does the Republican Chairman wish to insinuate that these men were unpatriotic or disloyal? Does he desire to infer that they were draft-dodgers? Mine is the same case as theirs."

"My Republican opponent in his race for Congress has quite often made me the subject of his tirades in his frantic efforts to gain the support of minority groups. Thus far in the campaign, I have ignored his thrusts and I have consistently refused to make any ref-

erences to him or to his public record. I have always subscribed to the 'let-by-gone' habit of the people about him; know him best and I shall not be a party to casting any aspersions upon him."

"My record as an elected public official is open to the scrutiny of all who seek to examine it. It is a record of service to all the people, regardless of race, creed, and color, whether they be miners, industrial workers, business men, school teachers, or farmers. I am willing, as I have always been, to let my political fate stand or fall on the basis of that record. My Republican opponent must do the same with regard to his own record as a public servant. May he long remember that the best way to lose ground is to throw dirt."

Byrd purportedly wrote the letter to the late Dr. Samuel Green of Atlanta, then Imperial Wizard of the Klan, on April 8, 1946.

The handwritten letter, bearing the signature "Robert C. Byrd," described the writer as "a former member of the Ku Klux Klan in Raleigh County and adjoining counties of the state." It continued:

"The Klan is needed today as never before and I am anxious to see its rebirth here in West Virginia."

The letter inquired as to "the possibilities of rebuilding the Klan in the Realm of W. Va." Deleted was the name of a person referred to Green as a prospect for the post of Klan organizer in West Virginia "in the event you should deem it advisable to reopen this territory for solicitation of membership."

Ashworth, who would not reveal how he obtained the letter, made it available to the press. Photographs of it were published in today's editions of the Beckley Post-Herald, the Charleston Gazette, and page 4 of the Register. Ashworth put to Gov. Patterson the State Democratic Chairman J. Howard Myers the public question whether, in view of the letter, they still endorsed Byrd for Congress. Byrd, now completing a state Senate term, first was linked publicly with the Klan in the campaign leading up to the primary election last May. It was at that time that he issued his statement saying he belonged only about a year and in the nine ensuing years devoted his energies to the upbuilding of his community, my church and my fellow citizens of every race, creed and color. Ashworth was a speaker at a rally here which also was addressed by Byrd's Republican opponent, Lattelle M. LaFollette, and Republican U. S. Senate Nominee Chapman Revercomb.

Surprise Fire Drill Successful at Hotel

Four minutes after the alarm sounded, equipment of the Beckley Fire Department was in use in a demonstration at the Beckley Hotel this morning.

The demonstration was a feature of Fire Prevention Week and was in honor of the meeting of West Virginia League of Municipalities' legislative committee at the hotel today.

Assistant Fire Chief Otis Lyons rescued a "smoke victim," Frank Ubeeda, carrying him down the ladder.

The only "casualty" of the event was a window, broken while a ladder was being placed against the building.

Water was in play during the demonstration, causing the league's executive secretary, Pat Maloney, of Charleston, to comment:

"If I had been told about this, I would have brought my car. It needed a washing."