

WAY BACK WHEN: LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY
Happenings in the Cookeville area as recorded in the pages of the
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN.

By Bob McMillian

1950's

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1950

(January 12, 1950) An advertisement for Citizens Bank reads: "There's a tribe in South Africa that requires a prospective bridegroom to milk a lioness as proof of his bravery. You needn't be brave to open an account with us. Our friendly staff makes even widows and orphans feel at ease."

(January 19, 1950) Cookeville's Postmaster F. P. Moore says he's seen a lot of changes in postal service here since he became postmaster in 1939. That year, postal revenues here totaled \$24,913. This year they were \$40,000. In 1939, there were five rural carriers covering 234 miles. Today, there are five carriers covering 288 miles.

(January 26, 1950) Coming to the Victoria Theatre in Algood this week: Lester Flatt, Earl Scruggs and the Foggy Mountain Boys. With them will be Cedric Rainwater, "the South's Funniest Comedian." Admission is 30 and 60 cents.

(February 2, 1950) They've released the Cookeville City School honor roll for the last six weeks. Among those who made it are Betty Davis, June Derryberry, Billy Frazier, Patsy Fox, Elizabeth DuBois, Jean Bennett, Carole Webb, Douglas Pippin, Henry Frank Carlen and Muriel Cowan.

(February 9, 1950) Students at the Brotherton School have organized a 4-H club with help from assistant extension agents A. Q. McDonald and Louise Cox. Officers for the new club are Mac Henry, president; Mildred Benson, vice-president; Betty Jenkins, secretary-treasurer; Doris Moran, song leader; Robert Judd, game leader; Sue Bilbrey, reporter; and Mrs. Edith Brewer, adult leader.

(February 16, 1950) The Southern Continental Telephone Co., in what it says it hopes will only a temporary measure, announced this week that it was laying off all but one of its construction crews in Tennessee. It can't borrow any more money, the telephone company says, because it is making no profits on its previous capital expenditures.

(February 23, 1950) Over at the Buford Motor Co. on West Spring Street, you can buy a new 1950 Hudson, the car with several special innovations. It's called "the car with the step-down ride" because it has a recessed floor that you "step-down" into to sit. It also boasts a "fluid-cushioned clutch," a "weather control" and heating and air system and "super-cushion tires" with the new "safety-type" wide rims. The car also features "supermatic drive," which gives you "America's best and safest ride." Telephone 306-W today for more information.

(March 2, 1950) All large industries here in town are participating this month in a mass X-ray program in an effort to eliminate tuberculosis, the disease of the day. State health officials this week will be bringing their portable X-ray machines to Wilson's Sporting Goods, Cookeville Planing Mills, Tennessee Handle Co., Atlas Boot and other plants.

(March 9, 1950) The Marvin A. Bilbrey Singer Sewing Machine center in Algood will convert your old, foot-operated treadle machine to an electric sewing machine for only \$25 this week, according to an ad. Don't be fooled by the competition. Singer stores are the ones with the big "S" on the door.

(March 10, 1950) The Putnam County Chamber of Commerce has created a new Industrial Committee to help attract new industry here, create more jobs and fight the trend of people leaving the region for work in the north.

(March 16, 1950) TTU's Golden Eagle football team began spring training this week and on the coaching staff was a new face, freshman coach George Watts. He's completing his graduate work at Peabody. He's played at Appalachia State College in Boone, NC and later for the Washington Redskins. He's welcomed to Cookeville in a page-one story.

(March 30, 1950) The newspaper prints a full-page business page each week and this week, it lists a number of local businesses, including: Hub City Natural Gas Co. on Walnut; the Midway Lunch Room on 206 E. 9th St.; Woodbine Dry Goods Store on the Square; W. H. Stamps Key and Battery Shop at 17 W. Broad; the J. O. Paris Electric Co.; Thrasher's Dry Cleaners on the Sparta Highway and the Alva Hall Grocery at 104 N. Cedar.

(April 2, 1950) The Tennessee Central has filed papers with the state to drop the Double Springs depot as an "agency station."

(April 6, 1950) City police say that they've been getting quite a few complaints from motorists who say they've gotten "nasty notes" from someone upset over their parking at the curb in residential neighborhoods. The police remind the note writer as well as the general public that it is legal under city codes to park at the curbside anywhere in the city unless it is specifically prohibited to do so by a posted sign.

(April 10, 1950) Don't plan on using the Nashville Road — Highway 70 North — from Cookeville to Nashville during the daytime over the next 60 days. It's being widened from 18 to 24 feet and is getting a new non-skid surface, state officials say. The route will be open at night for those who have to use the highway, they added in their announcement this week.

(April 17, 1950) Noted child psychologist John Dallavaux will be the speaker for TTU's chapel exercises next Wednesday. Eleanor Roosevelt describes his book, *How to Raise a Brat*, as "savagely but unforgettable." He writes that the automobile is the number one problem facing today's teens. Some 80 percent of all crime in the US involving youths under 18 involves cars, he notes. He suggests that kids wait until they're older to buy a car rather than rushing out and laying their cash down on "a jalopy." He writes that the three greatest "sins" of parents are backing up a teen who has done wrong, doing too much for a teen, and giving them too much rather than letting them earn it themselves.

(May 10, 1950) Work has been completed on the Putnam County Airport's new \$28,000, 35-foot by 60-foot administration building, which features a waiting room for pilots, restrooms, an office and space for a restaurant.

(May 28, 1950) Five years ago, the 194-acre site was a prisoner of war camp for captured Germans. Now the area near Crossville is being turned into a 4-H camp. Still standing are several barracks that are steam-heated. The former officers club will be turned into a crafts center. And the camp and auditorium, which has its own movie theater, will be used to show 4-H instructional films.

(June 12, 1950) The Tennessee Central has been denied permission from the Tennessee Railroad Public Utilities Commission to end passenger service from Nashville to Harriman. The state says the TCR did not prove its case that it was spending 130 percent of its passenger revenue to keep the trains running.

(July 20, 1950) WHUB is celebrating its 10th anniversary this week, proving that a strictly rural audience can support a radio station. The newspaper notes that the station had hard going in its early years, but Luke Medley hung on.

In 1944, WHUB became affiliated with CBS Radio, enabling the station to offer network broadcasts and news as well as music. Medley, by the way, is now a candidate for Putnam County Judge.

The station's present staff includes station director Joe Mabry, chief engineer George Daugherty, John Carr, Genira Jo Qualls, Jones Haile, Tom Harris, Claude Haston, Lester Ketchersid, Stacy Mott, Ernest Wells, and Ed Zegarske.

(Aug. 17, 1950) The state headquarters of Dairy Queen his located in Cookeville. It's in the Howard Smith building on the southeast corner of the Square.

Jesse Judd of Algood holds the franchise for all Dairy Queen restaurants in Tennessee. Until recently, he ran the Judd Ice Cream. Co. in Cedar Rapids Iowa.

One Dairy Queen has already opened here on Spring Street. It's owned by Wheeler H. Freeman. Another is set to open soon on North Dixie and 8th Street. Statewide there are now 1,500 Dairy Queen restaurants.

(Oct. 26, 1950) Workers began tearing down the Methodist Church on the corner of Dixie and Spring this week. It's stood there since 1895. It gained a steeple in 1903 and its east wing in 1910. Now it's being replaced by a new church facility.

The educational building of the new structure is already finished and will be used for services until the rest of the building is completed. The church has 1,030 members presently.

(Nov. 30, 1950) Just weeks ago, the end of the Korean War seemed in sight. But that was before 200,000 Chinese soldiers crossed the border and began pushing back UN troops.

China accused the U. S. of trying to start World War III. In Cookeville, the Red Cross says that with the fighting in Korea escalating, the need for blood donations is greater than ever now.

(Dec. 7, 1950) The Silver Star chapter of the Disabled American Veterans organization her plans to sponsor a stop by the traveling "Ripley's Believe It Or Not" exhibit this week. Among the curious items and oddities that Cookeville residents will see is a life-size figure, a representation of an artist that is so life-like that it contains his teeth and fingernails. It's called "man or Image?" It has been a popular attraction at each stop across the country.

(Dec. 9, 1950) Monterey residents were discussing an article in this week's edition detailing the nation's dependence on coal. Many in that mountain town make their living in area coal mines.

Coal, according to the article, which related the text of a recent national radio program called "America Speaks Out," is the backbone of the nation's production strength. Directly or indirectly it powers most of the nation's machinery.

And coal is especially important now that the nation is at war in Korea. Coal fuels locomotives and warships hauling troops and supplies. It powers factories and is used in steel production. By products like coal tar are used in parachutes and gas masks.

It's a natural resource that's safe from enemy air attack, too, the article notes. The nation's mines are scattered across 28 states far inland and- of course – deep underground.

America runs on coal, 650 million tons per week. Some of that is being pulled from the earth up in Monterey and shipped by train down the mountain every day.

(Dec. 12, 1950) As the Korean War continues, a record number of Putnam men volunteered this month for military service, 57.

(Dec. 14, 1950) Looking for a career? The U. S. Department of Defense ran an ad this week in the newspaper seeking young men with two years of college who can speak a foreign language, who have had schooling in law, criminology, journalism, or who can type. They're needed in the Counterintelligence Division, says Uncle Sam.

(Dec. 18, 1950) Looking for a gift for someone his holiday season? Why not shop at the "wonderland of electric servants"? That's a suggestion from Borden Electric Co. on West Broad.

The company says there are a number of “electric servants” available today that are affordable and run on cheap, plentiful electricity, the company says in an ad

Get dad an electric shaver. Get mom an electric skillet or an electric range. Get sis an electric lamp. There’s no end to the work today’s “electric servants” will do for you, says Borden.

(Dec. 20, 1950) Cookeville Mayor D.S. Mahler this week dedicated Cookeville’s new hospital, Cookeville General, a modern 50-bed medical facility he says is a big improvement over the 12-bed hospital it replaced.

(Dec. 21, 1950) Law enforcement officials are doing their best this week to make sure Christmas spirits – the illegal kind – are scarce here. Sheriff N. B. Matheny reports that his men made several arrests for illegal possession or sale of whiskey this week, including several in a raid on Club 70 here.

*Meanwhile, in another article, the newspaper quotes Texas district judge Sarah T. Hughes, who wrote in a recent issue of the Tennessee Law Review that women should be allowed to serve on Tennessee juries. It would mean fewer cases would be decide by testimony from “pretty women witnesses.” To men who argue that women are too emotional to decide court cases, Judge Hughes comments that husbands would “not have won the lady of your choice if you had not shown some emotion.”

(Dec. 25, 1950) A record number of Putnam Countians – 57 – volunteered for military service this month. Among them were Leroy Mackie, Gertis Carr, George Poteet, John H. Poteet, Van Nickens, Jr., Paul Vaden, Donald H. Grogan, and Harold E. Wilmoth.

Meanwhile in Korea, 250,000 Americans and other UN troops are looking across the lines at 1 million Chinese and North Korean troops who are expected any day now to renew their drive south towards the South Korean capital of Seoul. It’s a tense holiday season.

(Dec. 28, 1950) Headed for military service just after the Christmas holidays are several Putnam men called in the draft. Among them are Doyle Brown of Boma, Roy B. Burton of Silver Point, Edward Braddom Jr. of Monterey, Arthur Thomas Bean of Cookeville, James Floyd Eldridge of Cookeville and Howard W. Flatt of Rt. 2, Cookeville.

Some of them will be sent to Korea. This week, Lt. Gen. Matthews B. Ridgeway assumed field command of UN troops who have formed a line across the Korean peninsula. There are about 250,000 UN troops holding the line. Facing them are a million Red Chinese and North Koreans bent on pushing south to take the rest of Korea.

(Dec. 31, 1950) “Music lovers of the Upper Cumberland area” have got something exciting to look forward to next week when a young piano team - Vera Apple and Michael Field – plays at Tennessee Tech.

They are “two wizards of the keyboards who play and think as one,” according to a recent review in the New York World Telegram. They studied together at Julliard, went their own ways, and then met by chance and formed a piano duo. Their concert is the subject of a major page-one story this week here. In other entertainment news, the Central High School Cavaliers will meet Crossville in a basketball game set to be played in the school’s new gymnasium (now Prescott Middle School).

The new gym was part of a \$217,000 renovation and expansion of the school. It is larger than the old one and boasts fold-up bleachers.

1951

(Jan. 7, 1951) W. F. Dyer died this week at the age of 70 following a lengthy illness. He was a well-known retired mail carrier from Silver Point.

Born in the Bozarth community near Silver Point, Dyer attended Pleasant Hill Academy and after graduation moved to Texas for a short time. Then he returned to Tennessee and taught in DeKalb County's schools at the turn of the century.

Dyer became a mail carrier in 1905 and delivered the mail in rural Putnam county for the next 30 years before retiring. Afterwards he operated a general store in Silver Point until falling into poor health in recent years.

*WHUB is about to unleash "a rampage of roaring adventure" on its radio listeners. The Cisco Kid, that popular Western serial hero of the air waved and the Silver Screen, is coming to Cookeville's radio station. The show can be heard Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays at 5:30 p.m. Don't touch that dial.

(Jan. 20, 1951) Porch lights were burning at many homes here this week. Volunteers for the March of Dimes were only stopping at homes that signaled they were willing to gibe to help fight polio, one of the most dreaded diseases of the day. There were a lot of stops for the volunteers to make here. Many streets were brightly lit.

*Meanwhile, the Putnam County Health Department issued its annual health report this week. In 1950, it treated 13 cases of diphtheria here and seven of scarlett fever.

The county health nurse also gave 816 smallpox vaccinations and 851 shots for diphtheria. She also visited every school in the county – there are a few dozen of them – and checked the health of the students.

Finally, the department inspected and approved 10 new septic tank systems and 22 private water systems.

(Feb. 1, 1951) More than half of the money Putnam County is due from the state gasoline tax is being spent on welfare aid here, County Judge Luke Medley said in a report this week.

Medley explained that the state first sets aside the funds Putnam County is due as its share of the state gas tax. Then it takes out state welfare payments to Putnam residents. The county gets what's left.

Medley said that last year Putnam County was due \$116,418 in state gas tax. It got \$56,789 after welfare aid was deducted.

One in every 20 people here receives welfare aid, Medley said. It comes from three programs: Old Age Assistance, Aid to Dependent Children and Aid to the Blind.

Medley said that since the remainder of the gas tax funds go to repair county roads, the 800-mile rural road system here is suffering from under-funding. It's a problem he wants county officials to look at, he said this week.

(Feb. 5, 1951) Eugene Mayberry is the first Putnam Countian back from the fighting in Korea. He's a major in a field artillery battalion in the Eighth Army's Third Division. He's home on leave and his wife and son are with him. They've been at Ft. Benning, GA since he was called to duty. Mrs. Mayberry is a teacher here.

Major Mayberry told friends here this week that while it's been cold here this month, Korea is colder. It was six degrees when he left the airport in Korea. He touched down in Hawaii a few hours later before flying on to the West Coast and from there to Nashville.

In Korea, Mayberry's last operation before going on leave was with a relief column sent to help extract the Marines from a historic engagement with the Chinese and North Koreans near the Chosin Reservoir.

Surrounded by thousands of Chinese when that nation abruptly entered the war, the Marines marched their way out fighting in arctic conditions that froze oil in vehicles and made many weapons inoperable. The Marines, suffering high casualties, mauled numerous enemy units on their way out.

The column in which Mayberry served met the Marines and helped them withdraw from the battle. Mayberry is going back to Korea in a few weeks.

(Feb. 12, 1951) There won't be the usual immunization clinic at the Putnam Health Department this weekend. In fact it's been postponed until further notice. There's no one to give the shots. The county's public health nurse, Mrs. Lucille Hake, a military reservist, has been called to active duty in another war, this one in Korea.

At the Princess this week, "My Friend Irma Goes West," with Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis

(Feb. 19, 1951) Ernest "Shony" Douglas died this week. He was 56. He came here in 1937 with the 109th Cavalry, a unit of black soldiers who were temporarily stationed at Cookeville's cavalry barn when floods put their facilities in Arkansas under water.

Edwards has lived with Col. and Mrs. Hubert Crawford for the past 14 years. He was widely known and had many friends here.

He died of a heart attack in Cookeville General Hospital at noon on Feb. 19.

(March 10, 1951) Cookeville is featured in the weekly "What's Happening" segment on Nashville radio station WLAC. Show host F. C. Sowell told about Cookeville Police Chief Hubert Crawford's "employment bureau."

Crawford recently ran a notice in the newspaper urging people with odd jobs to call the police department. Crawford explained, "Not a day passes that somebody doesn't come by the station looking for work." Crawford wanted to match up job-seekers with jobs.

Sowell commended, "I thought the average American quit looking for work on the day the federal government established the WPA program."

He noted that Crawford has had a good response. So far this week he's gotten 15 to 20 calls from people with odd jobs.

(March 17, 1951) The Monterey Board of Aldermen has voted to put in parking meters in that mountain town. They've contracted with the Duncan Meter Co. of Chicago to lease 100 meters for use on Holly and Commercial Avenue for a 12-month trial period.

Monterey officials say that the town will pay \$67.50 for each meter used during the test year. They expect all the meters to bring in about \$200 a month in revenue.

(March 17, 1951) A group of Baxter Seminary students were in the All-State Festival Choir that sang for the Tennessee Education Association's members in Nashville's Ryman Auditorium this week.

They were Hilda Schmidt, Loreta Shields, Anita Cunningham, Elizabeth Locklear and Martha Verdecia.

(March 23, 1951) The Tennessee Highway Patrol regional office here began communicating with the Upper Cumberland's 11 troopers by means of a short-wave, two-way radio this week that allowed not only the dispatcher to talk to the officers but for the troopers to speak with each other and to any other officer in the state.

(March 25, 1951) The Tennessee Highway Patrol regional office here saw a leap in technology this week when it began communicating with the 11 troopers who serve the Upper Cumberland by way of a short-wave, two-way radio system.

Odell Huddleston of the THP told the newspaper that the new radio system not only puts the dispatcher in immediate touch with each officer in the field, but it also links the office with police departments all across the US.

By “patching” radio linkups through the network, an officer here can talk to an officer anywhere in the nation in a matter of just minutes, he said.

The system will have two operators. Dillard Beaty and Hargis Lee.

(April 3, 1951) A state law has gone into effect permitting women to serve on juries, and the first Putnam women chosen for jury duty were Mrs. Thomas Passons, Mrs. Dero Brown and Mrs. Walton Ward.

County Judge Luke Medley and other officials are talking this week about a huge water utility district in Putnam County served by 21 miles of water line.

Medley said the system – the boundaries of which have not been determined – could help the Algood and Baxter to the city of Cookeville’s water system.

The County Court has begun looking into the financing of such a project and Medley is to go before the Cookeville City Commission this week to see how the city feels about adding on hundreds of new water customers.

One major question to be answered is how many new customers the city can serve with its present water treatment facility at City Lake on the Falling Water River.

(April 14, 1951) Ground was broken this week on a 15,000 square-foot addition that will double the size of Cookeville’s Wilson’s Sporting Goods plant.

(April 22, 1951) A series of photos in this week’s edition shows progress made in the Cookeville Fire Department’s equipment over the years.

There’s a shot of the 1950 fire truck used this year. It can pump 750 gallons of water per minute. It replaced the city’s 1941 pumper truck, a pumper capable of shooting 500 gallons of water per minute onto a fire.

Before that, there was the city’s first motorized fire truck, an American LaFrance bought in 1925 under Mayor William Hensley. Prior to 1925, the city’s firemen just rolled their fire hoses from the firehouse to the scene on a large wheeled reel.

(July 25, 1951) The American Red Cross launched a drive this week for volunteers and contributions. A public service and in this week’s edition tells readers that the Red Cross must be prepared for all kinds of disasters, “...fires, floods, tornadoes, atomic bombs.”

“Any one of these could make thousands homeless at any moment, so we must be ready,” the ad concludes. America is at war this week in far-off Korea, the cold war is getting colder and the atom bomb is on the minds of many here these days.

1952

(Jan. 10, 1952) The body of Pfc. William D. Maynard, Putnam’s first Korean War casualty, was returned for burial this week.

(March 3, 1952) Monterey, located just 60 miles west of Oak Ridge, has been listed among likely top targets in an atomic attack and has been named by the state as one of a handful of sites in Tennessee for special emergency training.

(July 17, 1952) Pfc. James D. Frizzell, of Rt. 4, has been wounded in a action in Korea. He was injured by a mortar shell that broke his right arm and leg while he manned a machine gun on Heartbreak Ridge.

(July 30, 1952) A Gallatin minister who came through Cookeville recently wrote the regional headquarters of the Esso Oil Co. with a good report that the company shared with the newspaper this week.

The minister said that he regularly travels through with states and hasn't encountered a better service station attendant than Carlton White, who works at Cookeville's N&H Esso Service Center on East Spring. He is our ideal service station attendant, wrote the minister.

The minister explained that he hasn't found any restrooms cleaner, or any service more courteous or efficient than what White provides at the Cookeville station.

White, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Zenoni White, is a veteran OF World War II. He lost an arm in the fighting on Guadalcanal.

(Aug. 14, 1952) In local elections, Nashaw Matheney became sheriff, John Henry Denny, trustee, Dave C. Huddleston, superintendent of schools, and Frank Shirley, tax assessor.

(Aug. 22, 1952) The state has erected a marker on Highway 70 west of Baxter to memorialize the site of what may have been America's last stagecoach holdup when four bandits robbed a passenger coach driven by John Rayburn, a one-legged Civil War veteran, on what was then the Old Walton Road in 1881.

(Sept. 18, 1952) Center Hill Dam is such an engineering marvel that they're coming from all over to see how it works. This week, the National Management Council of New York hosted a tour of the facility for engineers from Belgium, Portugal, Norway, Germany, Italy and Denmark. Those nations are beefing up their hydro-electric facilities too.

(Oct. 9, 1952) There's a "gas war" going on here this week, the newspaper tells its readers. The cutthroat competition has lowered gas about four cents a gallon at stations all across town. It's now selling for about 26.9 cents a gallon. Residents hope it will be a long war.

Showing at the Strand this week, "Jungle Goddess," which the ad assures has a "special cast of stars."

(Oct. 15, 1952) It's that time of year again, the annual inspection of the Cumberland Commandry No. 26 of the Knights Templar here. All area Sir Knights are urged to attend because there'll be several important visitors for the annual rite. They include the Right Eminent Grant Commander, Paul Reams Jarrett of Nashville, and the Most Worshipful Grand Master Amzie, H. Kirkpatrick of Lebanon.

(Oct. 30, 1952) It's been a dry fall across the South. This week alone, 15,000 acres of wood and grasslands in West Virginia went up in flames and 50,000 acres in Mississippi were lost to wildfire. Closer to home, a smoky haze fills the air to Cookeville's east where forest fires in Cumberland, Morgan, Roan and Anderson Counties have taken thousands of acres and threaten several thousand more.

More than 300 National Guardsmen have turned out to try to contain the flames, and officials are urgently seeking more volunteer fire-fighters. Meanwhile, authorities say that if you go into the woods, don't smoke and don't make a fire.

(Nov. 6, 1952) Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Goff of Monterey celebrated their 49th wedding anniversary this week and told the newspaper that Monterey was still like it was when they tied the knot in 1903.

Train travel was in its heyday and steam trains brought hundreds from Nashville and Knoxville each summer to cool their heels at Monterey's resort hotels. The hotels were centers of social activity throughout the summer, and Monterey's biggest hotel was the Cumberland, which was situated on a bluff overlooking a scenic valley north of Monterey. It could accommodate up to 500.

It is now the site of W. L. Ray's home. There was also the Westcrest Hotel, which was owned by the groom's father, T. E. Goff. It was located on the site of the present day Goff Drug Store. The Dow Hotel sat where the present-day coal chute is situated by the train tracks. The Wilder Hotel still exists. The Ledbetter Hotel does not. It's now the site of Walker's Service Station.

And there was the grand old Ramsay Hotel, which is now the site of the Bill Irwin home and part of Monterey High School.

(Nov. 27, 1952) Tennessee Tech's homecoming is this weekend and the undefeated Eagles go up against the Middle Tennessee State College Teachers.

Before the big game, there'll be the annual homecoming parade around the Square to Westside, and from there up Cedar to campus. A big turnout is expected.

*Showing this week at the Princess: "The Winning Team," with Doris Day, Frank Lovejoy and Ronald Regan.

(Dec. 4, 1952) The Jaycees are sponsoring a show with a cast of 75 members this week called "Shooting Stars." It's a story about what goes on behind the scenes at a television studio.

M. N. Hargrove plays, "Mr. TV," Milton Berle, and several local teens are playing "backstage TV queens." They include Geraldine King, Glenda Ray, Patsy Smith and Levena Eubanks, Nova Hudson is portraying Kate Smith.

1953

(1953) Lost a keyring or some other item? Police Chief Hubert Crawford reminded readers this week that the city police station is a good place to come looking. It's where people bring found items.

For instance, this week the station has several sets of keyrings, a pair of eyeglasses and a bird dog. It's a white pointer.

*In other news, Cookeville has in recent weeks been one of 15 sites across Tennessee for a series of public lectures on atomic warfare. It purportedly tells what you can expect if the communists launch a nuclear strike against the United States.

The last lecture in the series is this week. It's topic: "The Role of Physicians, Dentists, Osteopaths, Druggists, Nurses, Veterinarians, and Hospital Administrators in Atomic Warfare and Radiological Defense."

*An editorial this week applauds President Dwight Eisenhower's veto of a bill that would have given federal aid to depressed areas like the northeast, where textile mills are leaving for new sites in the South.

The editorial says that such federal aid would have led to a chronic and eventually terminal case of "handoutitis" for Northern communities. It would have led to the death of community morale.

The writer reasons that such communities need to help themselves. They need to take steps to make their community more attractive to industry rather than to rely on federal handouts.

*Baxter Seminary, a Methodist sponsored school here, has paid a high honor to a Baptist this week. It made Cookeville attorney A. B. McKay an honorary member of its board of trustees.

It didn't surprise anyone. McKay is known as "Uncle Mack" to hundreds of youngsters here. At their birth he gave their parents a commemorative Silver Dollar to hold in safekeeping for them until they were older.

He's known by scores of poor families here. He bought them warm winter clothes and shoes.

He's known by merchants on the Square as that fellow who's always buying things for other people. They say he does more for more people – and has done so consistently for 25 years – than anyone else here they know.

And he's known by six graduate nurses, five practical nurses, two doctors, two students working on their medical degrees, two dentist, three lawyers, 40 pre-school teachers and 25 school teachers as the man who paid their way, or who is paying their way through school

“They are my children,” McKay said.

He's the county's most charitable individual and Baxter Seminary officials said they were honored to honor him.

(January 4, 1953) In a page one photo, city water department employees Willie Howard Thomas and John Thomas Dowell pose in front of equipment designed to inject fluoride into the city's water supply. Cookeville is the eighth Tennessee town to try fluoridization. It cost \$1,129 for the equipment.

City officials made the switch after hearing from the Putnam County Medical association and a group of area dentists last spring. Some fringe groups in America have argued that fluoridization is a communist plot. Medical authorities say it just saves teeth.

(January 8, 1953) Tennessee has a new junior senator today. Former congressman Albert Gore Sr. was sworn in as the state's new senator. He beat K. D. McKellar, who held the office for 41 years. Gore celebrated his swearing in at a luncheon in Washington at which he served a 75-pound ham raised on his farm near Carthage. From Cookeville, for the luncheon, were Mr. and Mrs. Claude Darwin and Miss Elizabeth Carlen, Gore's former secretary.

(January 7, 1953) Former Cookeville attorney and former state comptroller Jared Maddux was named without opposition this week to the second highest position in the state, Speaker of the Senate.

Meanwhile, Tennessee has a new junior US senator, Albert Gore (Sr.), who was sworn in this week after defeating K. D. McKellar this fall. McKellar is stepping down after 41 years in government.

In Washington D. C. to witness Gore's inauguration were Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Darwin and Elizabeth Carlen, Gore's former secretary.

(January 14, 1953) “It's the man-sized car that women love to drive,” says the ad for the new Chrysler Windsor. You can get one at Milligan Williams Motor Co. on Holly Street in Monterey, says an ad in this week's edition.

And no wonder women love to drive the Windsor. “It's a sanctuary of steel.” It has that “famous Spitfire engine to pull you out of tight spots in a hurry.” And with the new power steering system, women won't have to fight the wheel.

The Windsor is “beautifully styled” as well. “It's a delight to look at parked at your front door.” And its new shock absorber system “swallows up the worst road bumps.” They “wouldn't wake a baby” riding in a Windsor.

While you're on the lot looking over the Windsor take a gander at Chrysler's New Yorker Deluxe. “It's more car than you ever believed could exist,” says the ad.

“It has a beauty that is splendidly its own, splendidly right.” And the car has that “Ori-flow ride that gives you not just better control, but a new kind of control, a new sense of safety.”

Call a salesman today at Monterey 2371.

(January 15, 1953) The University of Tennessee's famous "Pride of the South" band is going to Washington this week for the presidential inauguration of Dwight D. Eisenhower. Also going are County Judge Luke Medley, Hugh Bussell and Len K. Mahler.

(January 23, 1953) Students at Park View and Capshaw Elementary Schools got a treat this week, traffic safety lessons taught to them by a troupe of eight trained dogs. The "safety circus" came here under the direction of a former Charlotte, NC, traffic policeman who has taken his dogs to school in 20 states.

(January 29, 1953) At first this week it seemed that whether the groundhog saw his shadow or not, spring was here already. Bluebirds and robins were seen in numbers in the area and trees were budding out. Then the cold wave struck. Then, it snowed. Winter is back in full force in Cookeville today.

(February 5, 1953) The Darwin High School PTA this week is sponsoring the Rufus Lee Minstrel Show, which features comedians, a swing band and dancing girls. Admission is 50 cents for adults and 35 cents for children.

(February 12, 1953) All across the nation, Americans are reporting and are keenly interested in flying saucers, mysterious objects in the sky which the U. S. Air Force says it is studying but can't explain. This week, residents in Monterey reported an object that glowed like a fluorescent light and that was shaped like a washtub soaring over Monterey. It disappeared in a northeasterly direction from that mountain town.

(February 19, 1953) State Horticulturist A. W. Pratt warns that farmers will hear "screeching hordes" of 17-year locusts again this year. "Several years ago," he says, "the insects heavily damaged crops here one summer. Now, they're returning."

*Chuck Newman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Daily Newman of Cookeville, has been elected alternate captain of Vanderbilt University's 1953 football team, it was announced this week. He entered Vandy in 1950 and is taking pre-law courses.

(February 26, 1953) Showing at the Strand Theater here this week: "The Ghost of Crossbow Canyon," with Wild Bill Elliot and Andy Devine. Also, the third chapter of "Radar Men From Mars." Later this week, filmgoers here can watch "Drums in the Deep South," with James Craig and Guy Madison.

(March 6, 1953) The Carr and Dalton Motor Co., at Walnut and Spring advertised this week that they have the new 1953 Studebaker. It's low-slung, long and wide. It has the "sleek lined smartness of a costly foreign car" at American prices. It's less than five feet tall and has "huge expanses of safety glass all around."

(March 12, 1953) In a large ad paid for "The Railroads of Tennessee," a bill under consideration by the state legislature is opposed. The bill, in response to deaths caused by the long-standing practice of persons walking along the train tracks, would require the railroads to build walkways beside all their tracks.

This will hurt railroads financially, the ad argues, and when the railroads are hurt, the public is hurt, the ad reasons. Railroads bring in new industry, and that's good for everyone in the community, says the ad.

(March 19, 1953) Putnam agriculture officials say it's the first irrigation system in Putnam County. B. M. Lee installed it on his 70-acre farm in Martins Creek. Dividing the farm is a creek. Lee says that even though a good source of water lay just feet from his corn, it "burned up" in last year's drought for lack of water. He installed his new irrigation system with the technical help of UT agricultural officials.

(April 9, 1953) The Chattanooga Handle Co. of Cookeville has announced plans for expansion and relocation to a new facility just south of the Nashville Highway in west Cookeville.

The company said this week that it has purchased about 18 acres from H. J. Shanks near Saunders Greenhouse on Highway 70. On that site the company plans to put a sawmill and build a railroad siding.

The new operation will employ at least 20 men, company officials said.

*Got troubles? Madame Marie, a palm reader who lives a half-mile outside the city limits on the Nashville Road, says she can help you by telling you the future. "You've tried the rest. Now try the best," she says in her ad.

(April 23, 1953) Miss Betty Ruth Carr, 20, a Cookeville sales clerk, has been named queen of the Cookeville Rodeo. She was selected by the judges from a group of 70 young women.

Her court: Nancy Pyle of Jamestown, Betty Sue Huddleston of Sparta, Anita Cunningham of Baxter and Celia Fite of Lebanon.

The Jaycees are now selling tickets in a 200-mile radius of Cookeville for their rodeo, a real Wild West affair with dozens of top professional rodeo riders competing for rankings on the national rodeo circuit.

*Meanwhile, the cast of the Central High senior play this year, "We Shook the Family Tree," posed for the camera in a page one photo in this week's edition.

Pictured were Pearlina Petty, Robert Carver, Faye Bohannon, Laua Lowe, Fred Glahe, Peggy Fitzpatrick, Lucy Lowe, Rosemary Meadows, Rankin Little, Allison Ensor, Walter Derryberry and Martha Wall.

(April 30, 1953) Imagine having all the hot water you need simply by turning on the tap to your faucet. Too good to be true? Not according to an ad this week by the Cookeville Electric Department, which is trying to spread the word about "the wonders of electricity."

Ask your nearest electric appliance dealer about that modern appliance, the hot water heater. It's quick cheap and a lot easier than firing up a pail full of water on the stove to take a bath. While you're at it, why not ask your appliance dealer about the new electric ranges too, the ad suggests.

Showing this week at the Princess: "Apache War Smoke," with Gilbert Roland and Bobby (Little Beaver) Blake. Also, there's a cartoon and the first chapter of the serial; "Son of Geronimo."

(April 30, 1953) A page-one picture in this week's edition shows Mrs. Elmer Langford's 5th grad Capshaw Elementary class preparing to present a short play called "The Minuet." The children are suitably dressed in white wigs, white stockings and other 17th century garb.

Pictured are Ronnie Gentry, Wanda Mills, Jimmy Dyer, Carolyn Puckett, Joe Lenon, Harriet Sue Hooper, Bryan Dyer, Lois Boyd, Sam Vaughn, Carol Baker, Charles Huddleston, Linda Jackson and Peggy O'Neal.

Also, Jim Cox, Bobby Maddux, Carolyn Ray, Robert Williams, Kathy Fitzpatrick, Frances Eubanks and Stevie Huddleston.

The play was performed at the meeting of the Middle Tennessee District Music Club Saturday at Tennessee Tech.

(May 6, 1953) Five women competed in a pageant this week to determine who will represent Putnam County in the Livingston Strawberry Queen beauty contest.

Pictured on page one this week were Cookeville's Norma Carr, June Moore, Faye Parris, Joyce Lambert and Lavena Eubanks.

Miss Eubanks won the honor

*At the Stand Theater here this week "The Man from Thunder River," starring Wild Bill Elliot and Little Beaver. Also, the second chapter of "Dick Tracy vs. the Phantom Empire."

(May 12, 1953) State legislators have appropriated money to furnish students in grades 1 through 12 in Putnam and other Tennessee counties with free textbooks when the next school year begins. Each county will get \$6.50 per child under the new bill.

(May 14, 1953) The town is full of cowboys this week. The Jaycees Rodeo has everybody decked out in Western wear, but a lot of people in town this week wear boots and cowboy hats every day of the year. They're big-time rodeo riders.

Eighty-five of the country's foremost rodeo riders are in town this week competing for a \$3,000 purse and improved ranking on the national rodeo circuit.

The rodeo will be kicked off by a huge rodeo through town. Leading the parade will be Gov. Frank Clement and Cookeville Mayor Dero Brown. They'll be mounted on Palomino horses.

(May 21, 1953) The US Postal Service's deficit may top \$700,000 this year and Cookeville Postmaster T. P. Moore says the reason is that the cost of stamps is too low.

Since 1932, the cost of a first-class stamp has remained at three cents, he notes. But the cost of shipping the mail by train and motor carriers has risen steadily. Things will have to change or the Postal Service will become even more financially unsound, he indicated.

Patrons of the Putnam Drive-in this week were taken on "a spectacular adventure in the white jungles of the north" in the film, "the Wild North," starring Stewart Granger, Wendell Corey and Cyd Charisse.

(May 21, 1953) The Cookeville Business and Professional Women's Club has two candidates for state posts at the annual Tennessee convention in Chattanooga.

Virginia Wyatt is a candidate for state secretary and Mrs. James Buck is a candidate for state president. Mrs. Buck, a teacher of chemistry and biology at Central High, has been 2nd and 1st state vice-president for the organization already. Miss Wyatt is currently president of the local chapter. She's an assistant professor of business education at Tennessee Tech.

(June 4, 1953) Now a second member of Cookeville's Maddux family carries the title "Lieutenant Governor." Virginia Lane Maddux, the 16-year-old daughter of Tennessee's Lt. Governor Jared Maddux, won the position in Murfreesboro at Girls State this week. The Central High junior also holds the post of House speaker during the annual camp, which is the counterpart of Boys State.

*At the Princess Theater this week: Marlon Brando in James Michener's epic of the US Army's occupation of Japan, "Sayonara." It also features James Gardner, Ricardo Montalban, Red Buttons, and Japanese star Miko Taka.

(Aug. 6, 1953) Monterey got a new pastor this week, the Rev. Guard Green. He's going to be the pastor at Monterey's First Baptist Church.

Rev. Green, a Kentucky native first pastured in Donelson in 1931. In 1942, he became a US Army chaplain and traveled.

He served several months in the Middle East, and then several months more in Bombay, India. He was stationed in Iran for a period of two years. From there, he made a swing through Jerusalem on his way home.

Rev. Green has been serving in South Pittsburgh, Tennessee, since the war.

(July 16, 1953) The easy availability of cheap electricity is changing the way we live. For instance, deep freezers are in many homes here now and are packed full. So full, in fact, that it's often hard to get past the slabs of frozen meat and hoarfrosted mystery containers to find the spaghetti sauce you saved back.

The Cookeville Electric Department, in a public service ad in this week's edition, offered several tips on how to better organize your freezer space. It suggest dividing your freezer into compartments and making a diagram of what's where.

It also advised to use small square containers rather than round ones because they take less space.

*Meanwhile, over the Strand Theater on Broad, John Wayne stars this week in "Pals of the Saddle."

(July 23, 1953) Cookeville Recreation Committee chairman Bill Legge (Sr.) said this week that the new swimming pool everyone's been waiting for won't be ready to open until August. But it will be first-rate.

The new 5,000-square-foot Parkview Pool can handle up to 400 swimmers at a time, said Legge. It will have lifeguards and attendants for the bathhouse. There'll be a wading pool for the toddlers, too.

There's more. Nearby there'll be a picnic shelter with tables and a large barbecue "furnace" (a big brick grill). The shelter facilities include, gravel walkways, and sandboxes for the children. There's even an electrical outlet for you coffeemaker.

(Aug. 13, 1953) They're already calling it "The Great Old-Time Revival of 1953."

Last week, the Rev. Fowler Montgomery, a member of the Putnam County Court and pastor at Gentry's Chapel and Taylor Seminary churches here, led a revival in DeKalb County's Mt. Pisgah Freewill Baptist Church. Some are saying it was "reminiscent of the days of John Wesley."

The church recorded 52 conversions and rededications during the week. There were as many people standing outside the packed church straining to hear as there were inside, according to witnesses.

The week climaxed with 33 baptisms, the biggest mass baptism in the area in years, according to the newspaper.

(April 16, 1953) Butler Bush, a 31-year-old insurance salesman, took the oath of office this week and became Baxter's mayor. He replaces Felix Scarlett, who resigned about 10 days ago.

Bush was sworn in by county magistrate J. T. Dunavin after being elected to the post by the Baxter Board of Aldermen.

Scarlett, who served two years as mayor, was held over in office after the recent election. The two candidates for mayor, Pennock Maxwell and Albert Maxwell, got exactly the same number of votes.

In the case of a tie vote, the board of aldermen is supposed to break the tie and choose a mayor. But the board was evenly divided between the two candidates as well. So, the board turned to a third person, Butler Bush, and Scarlett stepped aside.

Bush is the son of the late W. M. Bush and Ova Bush.

(May 28, 1953) Cookeville has the only one of its kind in the state, a golf driving range that can accommodate 12 to 15 duffers at a time. And they can play until midnight if they want because the range has night lighting.

Manager Bill Terry announced this week the opening of the new facility at Belle Acres and said that the improvements don't stop here. The club house has been remodeled too.

(June 4, 1953) Susan Tinnon Barnes is retiring after teaching here for 33 years.

She came to Cookeville in 1915 shortly after her marriage to Herschel Sevier Barnes, a lawyer who graduated in 1908 from Soule College in Murfreesboro. She became a teacher when her husband died in 1920.

She taught for several years at the Cookeville City School and later went to the Seventh Street Training School where she became principal. She ended her teaching career at Park View Elementary this year.

Mrs. Barnes is a charter member of the Cookeville Music Club and a member of the Cookeville Methodist Church. She plans to remain in Cookeville where her daughter, Mrs. Ruby Goolsby, and her son, H. S. Barnes, Jr. live.

*The ceremonies will be broadcast on radio stations statewide. In the work that America is building a navy bent on retribution against the Japanese.

(June 9, 1953) President Dwight D. Eisenhower, calling the Tennessee Valley Authority "creeping socialism," recently outraged the region by cutting \$60 million in funds for the agency.

Speaking in Cookeville this week was State Senator John R. Long of Springfield, the chairman of a regional organization seeking to whip up a massive letter-writing campaign to chastise 'Ike' and persuade him to save TVA.

Long said here this week that crippling TVA's budget could pose power shortages in the region next year and could harm the South's efforts to attract industry.

To stimulate interest in letters, the Long committee has raised \$1,500 in cash prizes.

(June 18, 1953) The Cookeville Electric Department, in a weekly column, tells readers they don't have to toss and turn on these withering summer nights. A new appliance, the room air conditioner, will see to that.

They're easy to install and operate. Just mount one in your window and it draws in outside air, cleans it, cools it, and sends it flowing throughout the room. Escape the discomfort of those hot summer nights, the column urges readers.

Showing this week at the Putnam Drive-In: Johnny Weismuller as Jungle Jim in "Fury of the Congo." An ad shouts, "Beasts and Bandits! Fierce jungle warfare. Johnny and his amazon queen against marauders!" Sherry Moreland is the jungle queen.

(June 25, 1953) A free airplane ride will be won by 28 teenagers here this month when the Tennessee Air Boosters come to town.

Ed Dorman, commander of the local Civil Air Patrol, said this week that in conjunction with the Boosters' visit, the local patrol is sponsoring an essay contest.

Teens are asked to write a 300-word essay on the theme: "Air Power is Peace Power."

The 28 best essayists win airplane rides from the Boosters, who are going across the state trying to stimulate interest in aviation.

(July 9, 1953) Hurbert Bennett Jr. has become the fourth Boy Scout in Putnam County this year to receive his Eagle badge. He's leaving this week for the National Scout Jamboree at the Irvine Ranch near Santa Anna, CA. He and his Scoutmaster, Grady Holt, are among 105 Middle Tennessee Scouts headed west. The newspaper says their trip will take them along Highway 70 right through the heart of Indian Territory. Later they'll see the Petrified Forest. Then their caravan will pass through the great Painted Desert and skirt the Grand Canyon before hitting the coast.

(Aug. 20, 1953) "Snow in August!" That's the headline above a full-page ad for the Cookeville Pure Milk Co. in this week's edition.

The ad shows the company's Fred Luck operating a "flake" ice machine. In subsequent photos, dairy salesmen Norman Wilmoth, Perry Sitz, J. T. Wright and James Taylor are pictured with snow shovels scooping heaps of shaved ice onto crates of milk in the back of their trucks before they make their milk runs.

The ad proclaims that "flake ice" is "the latest and most up-to-date modern method of milk deliver. Ice in that form clings to milk bottles a lot closer than ice cubes and keeps the milk cooler, fresher and safer, says the ad.

(Aug. 21, 1953) Someone tossed a lit cigarette into a wastebasket in the Odd Fellows building on East Broad this week and set the place on fire. When firemen put it out \$500 in smoke damage had been done to the two-story, 25-year-old structure. Downstairs it houses a small restaurant, a barber shop and a pool hall. Upstairs is the meeting hall for the Woodmen of the World.

The building is owned by Nashville's Goodman Polytinsky, better-known as G-Polly.

(Aug. 27, 1953) Monterey High School has a new principal, Milton Nixon. He's replacing Frank Medley, who has resigned to become Monterey's postmaster.

Nixon is a 1937 graduate of Carson Newman College. He was principal of Monterey Elementary from 1937 to 1940.

More recently he's been teaching at Monterey High and has been the school's basketball and football coach.

At the Princess this week: "Blue Canadian Rockies," with Gene Autry, 'Champ' (Gene's horse), Pat Buttram and the Cass County Boys.

(July 1, 1953) Sgt. Billy R. Neal of Monterey is home on leave from the Korean War. He's a medical aidman with 2nd Infantry Division. The division is noted for taking Heart-break Ridge and clearing communist forces off of Old Baldy.

Meanwhile, Pfc. Roy L. Breeding of Cookeville has also made it back to the United States after seeing service in Korea. His unit recently rotated back and he's now serving at Fort Mason, CA.

(July 2, 1953) Why not go to "glamorous, romantic Florida" for this summer's vacation? A large ad in this week's edition says you can go there and stay for a week for as little as \$4 a day.

That's if you stay at the new Rivera Hotel in Daytona. A family can stay for as little as \$29.50. It boast a free freshwater swimming pool, tennis courts, billiards and six acres of palm trees and flowers.

And it's located just a short drive from the beach.

(Sept. 3, 1953) Who's that in the newspaper photo loading a .50-caliber machine gun? It's Pfc. Bob Maxwell and Pfc. Jack Dalton, and they're in National Guard training this week with the Headquarters Co. of the 3rd Battalion of the 173rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. They're in Ft. McClellan, AL, for two weeks of drills and instruction.

Meanwhile, others from here are serving in Korea this week where the fighting continues. Mentioned in the newspaper's military news column this week are Pfc. James C. Short of Monterey, Pvt. John H. Mitchell of Cookeville, Master Sgt. Lee Sadler Darwin and Pvt. William Pippin.

(Sept. 3, 1953) Putnam Sheriff N. B. Matheney and others on a state-appointed highway safety board have given Gov. Frank Clement a set of emergency traffic safety recommendations that could do a lot to cut down the numbers of vehicular fatalities on state highways.

The 40-man panel recommended a ban on all hot rods and endorsed the use of unmarked cars to catch speeders. They also urged that the THP be equipped with radar to catch speeders and that law officers sue "scientific" drunk driving tests on suspected drunks.

The panel also proposed that speed limits be lowered on state highway to 65 mph for daytime driving and 55 mph for nights.

Clement said he's looking over the recommendations and announced that there'll be a statewide driving safety 'blitz' across Tennessee for Labor Day weekend.

More than 300 Tennessee National Guardsmen are joining all other law officers in patrolling state highways to cut speeding and drunk driving.

(Sept. 10, 1953) There was a record attendance – 12,000 – at the Putnam County Fair Saturday night for the Putnam horse show when young Martin Migliore won the fine harness pony class. Mike Migliore earlier in the evening won the boy riders class.

Meanwhile in the school exhibits competition, Rock Springs school won in the one-teacher school category. Bangham was the runner-up, Dry Valley won in the two-teacher school category.

And the Holladay community boys beat all other teams in the county in the fair's volleyball tournaments.

*It's Americanism Week here. Mayor Dero Brown signed it into proclamation at the request of the General Federation of Women's Club and the Book Lovers Club here.

The GFWC here and across the country is current whipping up patriotism in an effort to raise funds to restore Philadelphia's Independence Hall.

*"The Wonders of Electricity" is the public program at Baxter Seminary this week. Students will see technological marvels like power transmission without wires.

*Showing at the Stand this week: Whip Wilson in "Wyoming Roundup." Also, the fourth chapter of "Jungle Drums of Africa."

(Sept. 10, 1953) Coming to the Baxter Seminary this week is a Southern Schools Assembly Program presentation called "The Electric Parade." It consists of a number of "Popularized" demonstrations showing what science – and electricity – can do for your home and way of living. Included are segments on "freakish frequencies," electricity at high pressures, and power transmission without wires. Admission? There's no charge.

(Sept. 17, 1953) Cookeville new \$66,000 swimming pool has been completed, but not quite in time for residents to use it this year. The L-shaped, 100-by-35 foot pool was built by the J. E. Allen Co. It's in the Park View area, and it has a bath house and a wading pool. Make plans to come early next summer, city official advise.

(Sept. 17, 1953) New officers of the Putnam County Senior 4-H Club this year are Hugh Denny, recreation leader; Fred Barlow, president; Claude Huddleston, game leader; Ann Ruth Jackson, vice president; Linda Warren, song leader; Faye Parris, secretary; and June Moore, reporter. Mrs. Steven Hale is the new adult leader.

At the Putnam Drive-in this weekend: "Million Dollar Mermaid," with Victor Mature and Esther Williams. Also, Ronald Reagan and Diana Lynn in "Bedtime for Bonzo."

(Sept. 24, 1953) Police Chief Hubert Crawford is handing out special ID cards to every students as he or she enrolls at Tennessee Tech this year. The cards, says Crawford, will be useful in the event that the student is injured or involved in other "unfortunate situations" that many college students sometimes find themselves in.

The card identifies the bearer as a TTU student and states: "Any courtesy extended the holder of this card will be greatly appreciated and will be repaid by us if possible. In case of accident, notify us. If appearance bond should ever become necessary, please call us. Cookeville is 100% for Tennessee Tech."

(Sept. 24, 1953) Tennessee Tech's freshmen enrollment leapt this week when 631 newcomers showed up to register. The all-time high for freshmen just after the war when 815 signed up, many of them veterans using the GI bill to pay for school. Total enrollment stands at 1,675 students this week.

They begin their first day of classes tomorrow, but it will be an abbreviated schedule. President Everett Derryberry will welcome the students in a late-morning assembly, and then all freshmen will take their English exams in the afternoon.

At the Princess: "Cat People," with Simone Simone.

(Oct. 1, 1953) Isadore Pepper is back at Tennessee Tech after a three-year detour through North Korea.

The WWII vet from New Jersey enrolled at Tennessee Tech after the war, majoring in math. In 1950, he was called back to active duty when the Korean conflict erupted. He was just 21 hours sort of getting his degree.

During an engagement with a North Korean unit, Peppe was captured. He was a prisoner of the communist Koreans for 37 months.

Now, he's been exchanged, he arrived in the U. S. on Sept. 15, and this week he's back at the books again to get his degree from Tennessee Tech.

*Gene Rogers is the new funeral director at Whitson Funeral Home. He replaced Ed Hooper, who has purchased an interest in the Ligon-Bobo & Hooper Funeral Home in Lebanon.

Rogers grew up in the funeral business. Morticians have been in his family for 133 years in Marshall County. He worked for six years at Whitson and has been selling cars for the past four years. He's the husband of the former Mary Hill of Cookeville.

(Oct. 8, 1953) The stars of the movie "Chained for Life" will make a personal appearance at the Putnam Drive-in this week prior to the showing of their film.

Daisy and Violet Hilton are famous Siamese twins, joined at the hip since birth. The San Antonio natives were raised by "show people" and spent much of their lives performing in Europe.

They've been dancers since the age of two and sing well too. They've been entertainers on radio, in night clubs and in vaudeville for 30 years.

Herman R. Julian and Claude E. Maynard of Rt. 1, Baxter, sailed into harbor at San Diego this week aboard the USS John Thomason after eight months sailing the waters off Korea.

They saw action. Their destroyer got into a duel with shore batteries while escorting a UN minesweeper in Wonsan Harbor. Several shell fragments hit their ship. The destroyer in turn wiped out two of the shore batteries and an ammo dump nearby.

(Oct. 15, 1953) A young Putnam man has won a national honor.

Clarence M. Richards, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. V. Richards of the Algood Road here, has been picked to attend the Fifth Junior Management Intern program in Washington.

Competition was stiff. Richards, who works for the Soil Conservation Service, was one of the 156 federal employees nominated. Of that group, only 56 passed the preliminary examination.

Officials then trimmed the list of 56 down to 22 who were finally selected for the elite training program.

Richards, a 1948 graduate of Tennessee Tech, is a WWII veteran and the husband of the former Miss Marylou Johnson of Trenton, Tennessee. They have a daughter, Melinda.

Richards will be away in Washington D. C. until next April.

(Oct. 19, 1953) Looking for a real bargain? Why not install a telephone, suggest the Southern Continental Telephone Company in a public service advertisement in this week's edition. Phones are one of the best bargains around, it says.

A telephone on your wall will let grandmother call to wish the kids a happy birthday, you can call your druggist and ask him to rush your order, and you can run errands by phone rain or shine.

And – here's the really exciting part – every day more and more people here are getting telephones, so there are more and more people and places you can call.

Showing this week at the Princess: Tony Curtis and Janet Leigh in "Houdini," also, Gordon McCrae in "Desert Song."

(Oct. 22, 1953) A Bloomington Springs girl has won a national honor.

Claude Ann Huddleston, the 15-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Huddleston, has been selected as Tennessee's winner in the National 4-H leadership contest.

Miss Huddleston won the contest on the basis of records she submitted of her 4-H activities and projects. She's been in 4-H for two years.

Voters go to the polls Saturday to elect Cookeville's mayor. Candidates include incumbent Dero Brown, attorney Estel Capshaw, and businessman Powell Bilyeu.

At the Putnam Drive-in this weekend: "The Road to Bali," with Bob Hope, Bing Crosby and Dorothy Lamour.

(Oct. 29, 1953) Carson T. Moss, son of Mr. and Mrs. John L. Moss and husband of the former Roberta Alcorn of Silver Point, is serving on the USS Gurke, one of two ships hit earlier in the war by North Korean shore batteries while on escort duty.

And Billy Vaughn of Rt. 1 Cookeville recently joined the 25th Infantry Division in Korea. That unit is currently undergoing intensive retraining to retain its fighting edge, according to a press release from the military. The unit was in some of the heaviest fighting on the peninsula not long ago.

(Oct 29, 1953) Services were held this week for a veteran Putnam railroader, Jasper H. "Jap" Holladay, who died in St. Thomas Hospital in Nashville at the age of 76 following a heart attack.

He was the son of the late J. C. (Calvin) Holladay, and spent his life with the railroad. He was a well-known passenger train conductor for the Tennessee Central. He just recently retired.

His wife is the former Anna Belle Gollithan. Her father, J. R. Gollithan, had the distinction of being the first passenger train conductor on the Nashville and Knoxville Railroad, which preceded the Tennessee Central here.

(Nov. 5, 1953) The county has lost another one-teacher school. Bohannon School, the fourth to close this year when enrollment dropped below the 20-student level required by the state. It's happening all over the state too.

The newspaper reported that most of the students from Bohannon will now go to Capshaw. The school's teacher, Lorell Cooper Kirby, is out of work until an opening comes up at another school here.

Bohannon School went the way of other schools here, that closed in the last few weeks. They were Shipley, Free Union, and Bussell.

It's happening across Tennessee and in much of the south. Small rural communities are being abandoned as people head north to find work in larger industrial areas. It's a trend that has many here alarmed.

(Nov. 8, 1953) They've widened it into a broad avenue, they've resurfaced it, and now this week they dedicated it too. A group of local officials was on hand when the ribbon was cut on Washington Avenue this week.

On hand when the photo was snapped were County Judge Luke Medley, Mayor Dero Brown and Lt. Governor Jared Maddux.

(Nov. 13, 1953) An article in the newspaper this week gives thumbnail sketches of top manufacturers here, including the Atlas Boot Co., which turns out 3,000 pairs of boots daily; the Coca Cola Bottling Co., which has machinery capable of producing 164 bottles of soft drink per minute; Wilsons Sporting Goods, where 220 people are employed making uniforms seen on most professional baseball and football teams; and the Cookeville Shirt Co., which turns out 650 dozen shirts each production day.

(Nov. 26, 1953) James Luton of Bloomington Springs and Alex Nichols of Cookeville, members of Tennessee Polytech's affirmative debate team, beat 11 other teams in the Carolina Forensics Tournament at the University of South Carolina this week and brought home a trophy.

And royalty was crowned at Park View Elementary this week by Lt. Gov. Jared Maddux of Cookeville.

Dubbed king of Park View was Charles Lee Nash, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Nash. The school's new queen is Patricia Alderson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Billy Alderson.

Mrs. Tillman Phillips played the procession, "Pomp and Circumstance."

(Dec. 3, 1953) Police Chief Hubert Crawford was called to the scene when a deaf, mute man asking for handouts created a disturbance on Westside when he failed to get what he asked for.

Crawford said the man was carrying cards which read: "I am deaf and dumb and will appreciate your help." In his pocket was more than \$500 in bills. The chief's investigation around town revealed that the man had been staying in the city's best hotel and that he'd been dining there too. He even drove up in a nice car, merchants reported.

The man, speaking to the chief in writing, confessed that he was working for his "boss" in Knoxville, a man who'd given him the cards and the car and told him ask for handouts all over the state. The boss got 70 percent of whatever the man was given.

Chief Crawford gave the man an escort to the city limits.

The city electric department this week put up modern Christmas decorations, 50-foot garlands of polished aluminum foil. There were strings of colored lights too.

(Dec. 6, 1953) Cookeville is one of 15 sites across Tennessee for a lecture series by the Tennessee State Medical Association. The series is entitled "Standard Emergency Treatment of Atomic Bomb Injuries." This week's installment: "The Biological and Psychological Effects of Atomic Warfare."

(Dec. 13, 1953) In a page one picture in this week's edition, John Stites (Sr.) and Duncan Fulton are looking over one of the new boat trailers being turned out by their Algood manufacturing plant, Ful-Sti.

The two manufacturers report that the State Game and Fish Commission has already ordered 44 of the trailers, and business prospects look good.

Meanwhile, excavation work has begun on a site west of town for the new Chattanooga Handle Co. plant. Hurbert Bussell's construction company is building the new 40-by-140-foot building.

The company already has a small facility in town and moving to the new building will boost employment from eight to 35 workers.

(Dec. 17, 1953) The Harding photography studio here says that this week it is offering free demonstrations of the new Polaroid camera. "You've heard about it. You've read about it. Now here's your chance to try this exciting camera!" says the ad. It promises sharp, "brilliant black and white" photos that develop right in the camera itself.

(Dec. 21, 1953) Putnam men and other US troops fighting in Korea have a better chance of survival if they are wounded than troops did in WWII thanks to quicker emergency medical military transportation and medical advances. An article quoting Department of Defense officials says that in today's Korean war, 97 percent of wounded soldiers who can be reached by medical aid in a reasonable amount of time live. That compares with 95.5 percent of the wounded who survived in WWII and 95.1 percent in WWI, they say. Meanwhile, the officials say that of the 94,863 US troops hurt in combat in Korea since March, 85 percent are back on duty now.

(Dec. 25, 1953) "Has Christmas become too commercial?" asks the writer of an editorial for the newspaper. Many are saying that these days. But consider this, the writer suggests. Millions are employed now to prepare gifts and goods for Christmas. The season is for giving is giving a livelihood to many Americans, it is noted.

(Dec. 31, 1953) The Vagabond Kings are coming to Cookeville. They're coming to play ball. Razzle-dazzle basketball.

The group is similar to the Harlem Globetrotters in on-the-court showmanship, but all the members of the 'Kings' are white.

One member of the team is known here. He's Doug Atkins, a former University of Tennessee All-American. Several other former college stars are on the team as well.

Going up against the Vagabond Kings will be a team of former TTU players yet to be announced.

*Meanwhile, there's a wave of babies being born these days and Cookeville has a new "baby furniture" store to help them-and their parents - get off to a good start.

Joe Gibson announced this week that he is the new dealer of safety Server baby furniture for this area. His store is stocked with bathinettes, formula utensils, car seats, and other items new parents will need. He's located on North Washington.

1954

(Jan. 23, 1954) TTU has enrolled its first full-time black student, Mrs. Leona Lusk Officer, a teacher at Sparta's black city school, Wallace Smith Elementary.

(Feb. 20, 1954) Cookeville is celebrating its 100th year and special postal cancellations are getting attention from collectors from all over the country, Cookeville Postmaster L.K. Mahler says. The cancellation, which will be used on every piece of mail that comes through the Cookeville's Post Office through Dec. 31, reads, "1854 — Centennial — 1954, Cookeville, Tennessee, 100 Years of Progress."

(March 13, 1954) Cookeville, with a property tax rate of 90 cents, has been listed by the state as the city with Tennessee's lowest tax rate.

(July 29, 1954) Judge Raulston Schoolfield is a candidate for governor. He spoke here this week and shared his feelings about a recent US Supreme Court ruling in favor of desegregation.

The judge says he does favor equal facilities for both blacks and whites, but they should be separate, he stressed.

He has "nothing but contempt" for members of the Supreme Court, who in their landmark ruling, violated "the natural laws of our way of life." Mingling the races is "racial suicide," said the judge.

Raulston concluded, "No one but a fool or a coward would have been a party to a decision like this."

(Aug. 7, 1954) There's a new student on his way to Tennessee Tech this week who went to a place a little out of this way to get here and who found some useful friends once he was there.

Kiyohito "Mike" Tustsi, 24, was a cook for a unit of American soldiers not long ago when a North Korean sweep overtook their positions and they were all captured.

Of some 500 soldiers and staffers like Mike who were captured, only 150 survived a death march to a prisoner of war compound in North Korea.

There, Mike met Capt. Isadore Peppe of Putnam County, a TTU graduate who promised the young Japanese man that if they survived the war, he and his buddies would help him attend college at TTU.

They made it. Now Mike's on his way by train to Cookeville this week.

(Aug. 5, 1954) Cookeville has been named "the Nicest Town in the USA" in the July issue of Tennessee Progress magazine, a publication of the Tennessee Motor Transport Association.

Cookeville is known as being unusually courteous to overnight truckers, the magazine notes.

Mayor Dero Brown and Police Chief Hubert Crawford encourage them to nap with their trucks parked on the Square at night for safety. Crawford is shown waking up the drivers the next morning.

*At the Princess Theater this week: Victor Mature in "The Veils of Bagdad," and John Derek and Walter Brennan in "Sea of Lost Ships."

(Aug. 14, 1954) Assistant Electric Superintendent Don Mitchell said this week that the use of electric power in Cookeville homes continues to increase rapidly.

In the last 12 months, 23,124,000 kilowatt hours of power was sold by the city, up from the 21,674,000 kilowatt hours sold the previous year.

Mitchell said that the city's rates remain some of the lowest in the state and that he is persuading customers to try more of today's modern, labor saving appliances.

The Princess Theater announced this week that it's new giant panoramic screen is now installed. Showing on the big screen there this week are "East of Sumatra," with Jeff Chandler, and "She Couldn't Say No," with Robert Mitchum and Jean Simmons.

Putnam native May hawks is a big star in Detroit.

She got her start signing folk music in WHUB ten years ago and soon went on to WSM's Grand Ol' Opry, where she became Miss Marta White.

Now she has her own music show on a Detroit radio station, WJR, and has an active fan club of more than 200 members.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Gibson of Rt. 2 Cookeville just got back this week from a cruise to the Bahamas entertaining the Shriners and their wives on a cruise ship.

(Aug. 25, 1954) Putnam's newly-elected sheriff, Ernest Webster, this week announced the men who'll serve under him as deputies.

They include Roy Julian, Floyd Littrell, Robert Hawkins, Austin Thompson, Paul Nash, Dow Williams, Zeb Warren, Henry Cumby and Logan Vernon.

Cookeville schools are reporting record enrollment this year and hospital officials report that births are still booming.

At Central High School, 620 students this year from 260 last year, and the Tech Training school held about even, with 280 students.

The Putnam County Colored Fair began a three-day run this week at the county fairgrounds. Chairman T. B. Maddux says there are more agricultural entries and more events planned than ever before in the fair's eight-year history.

Besides a popular horse show and a carnival midway, events include a Fat Man's Race for men 200 pounds and over, a hog calling contest and a husband calling contest.

(Sept. 14, 1954) The Tennessee Central Railroad has petitioned the State Public Utility Commission to discontinue passenger service through Cookeville, and the newspaper prints an article looking at what might be the effects.

Cookeville Postmaster L.K. Mahler says that it could cause trouble for the mail service here, which primarily uses trains to bring in the mail, although it does have one night truck going to Nashville each day, he said.

But what about times of ice and snow when roads are closed here, he asks. Also, at least two rural communities that are not served by commercial bus lines — Brotherton and Buffalo Valley — could be in trouble too. Their residents have come to rely on the railroad to get to Cookeville. Now they'll have to find neighbors or relatives with cars to take them.

(Sept. 18, 1954) More than 100 attended the funeral this week of Robinson Crusoe Buck, 110. The ex-slave was widely known here. He died at his home in Livingston on Sept. 17. Services were held in Burton's chapel in Algood.

(Oct. 5, 1954) Putnam Trustee John Henry Denny said this week that an assessment of property values has been completed in Putnam County. The total assessed value of taxable property here now stands at \$9.5 million.

With the present property tax rate of \$2.90, county officials can expect to see \$278,350 generated in property tax revenue, Denny says.

(Nov. 10, 1954) Postmaster L.K. Mahler announces that the Cookeville area is slated to soon receive the US Post Department's new "highway service," or mail delivered by vans. The timing is good. The Tennessee Central Railroad is continuing to press for the end of passenger service here.

(Nov. 28, 1954) F.E. Collier, the city's electric department superintendent is still on the job after 50 years. In an interview, he says he began working in the city electric department in 1903 or 1094. He recalls the day a flood washed away the city's generating plant below Burgess Falls, leaving the city without electricity for ten days in 1928. He also remembers when the city's water supply was the Old Town Spring, where two large beer vats were used as reservoirs to catch the water.

(Dec. 23, 1954) Three local businesses will start the new year in new locations after transactions were completed here this week.

The Trailways Bus Station is moving, possibly to the site of the Cookeville Depot. The Tennessee Central Railroad is in the process of discontinuing passenger service and the depot will soon be closed.

The Royal Tire Service store is moving into the old bus station, and Woodbine's Dry Good Store, an old Cookeville business, is moving into a commercial building owned by the Carlen Family.

The state is 6,000 miles closer this month towards the completion of a network of 'all-weather' roads within reach of every farm in Tennessee, state officials say.

Since 1949 when the state began an intense effort to repair its aging 'farm-to-market' road system, Tennessee has spent \$33.3 million dollars in road repairs.

In all, the system stretches for 60,000 miles from East to West Tennessee. Another 6,00 miles were rebuilt this year.

1955

(Jan. 2, 1955) An air crash has cost the life of a serviceman from Monterey and nearly cost the life of another Putnam man.

Lt. Jerry Hall of Monterey was among nine killed when a USAFC-119 "flying boxcar" crashed into a mountainside near New Hope, Alabama en route from Ft. Stewart to Brookley Air Force Base in Mobile.

Air turbulence is being blamed for the tragedy.

Lt. Hall nearly missed the ill-fated flight.

On leave with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jeff Hall of Monterey, he agreed to return to his base in California with an uncle who was making the drive to the West Coast.

But a half-hour before the flight left he decided driving would not get him back to his base in time to report to duty so he took the cargo flight instead.

His father is an engineer with the Tennessee Central Railroad.

Meanwhile, Baxter Key Jr., a naval midshipman and son of Putnam's District Attorney General, had booked passage on the same C-119 to the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans. His father, learning of inclement weather on the way, talked him into taking the train instead.

(Jan. 4, 1955) Funeral services were held this week for Frank Collier, 74. For 50 years he was the city's utility superintendent. He died in his home on East Broad of a heart attack. He became head of the city's water and electric departments in 1904 when the city first had electricity and running water.

In 1948, the city separated the two departments, and he ran the electric department after that. He suffered a stroke four years ago, but recovered and went back to work full-time.

(Jan. 8, 1955) Dry Valley School was officially opened in ceremonies this week by Putnam School Supt. Dave Huddleston, County Judge Luke Medley, pastors of the two churches in Dry Valley and the contractor.

The brick building cost the county \$36,000 and is considered to be the most modern rural school-house in Tennessee.

It includes three classrooms, a kitchen, a clinic, two storage rooms and a furnace room.

The Dry Valley Community Club's fundraising efforts will put a modern freezer, cooking equipment, trays and a milk dispenser in the new school's cafeteria.

Phy Gibson, Cookeville's night patrolman for the last 27 years, has retired.

When he first moved to town from the farm in 1927 he had no idea he would soon have a career in law enforcement. He arrived with a team of mules and a wagon, intending to be a hauler. His team was the one that hauled the dirt away under a building on the Square to create space for the Old Herald offices.

But when the town's night watchman, Uncle 'Bood' Choate retired, Mayor Jere Whitson turned to Gibson with a job offer.

Gibson in an interview this week measured Cookeville's growth by its number of street-lights. When he first began his lonely profession there were only four streetlights, one at each corner of the square. Dark alleys and backstreets gave burglars and rowdies plenty of places to hide, he said.

Now, all of Broad is lit and so are some other sections of town, making Cookeville "a pretty good little city," said Choate.

He's 76 this year.

(Jan 12, 1955) The Tennessee Central Railroad has received permission from regulators to discontinue passenger rail service along its line from Harriman to Nashville.

(March 6, 1955) Gov. Frank Clement has signed into law a bill that sets new speed limits for Tennessee highways. Cars are limited to only 65 miles per hour now in daytime driving, and 55 miles per hour at night. And the Tennessee Highway Patrol promises that it will set up no speed traps once the new law becomes effective. Speed limits were set in an effort to reduce highway fatalities, state officials explain.

(March 17, 1955) Baxter Seminary announced its honor students this week. Class valedictorian was Paul Scarlett, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Scarlett of Rt. 1, Baxter. Marie Dilldine, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Winton Dilldine of Rt. 2, Baxter, has been named the class salutatorian. Norma Ann Hill, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Hill of Baxter, has been named the third honor student.

(March 24, 1955) A 23-year-old Nashville man was arrested here this week by Tennessee Highway Patrol officer Clyde Gibson. Gibson chased the man along Highway 70 from nine miles east of Cookeville into Mayland in Cumberland County. Inside the man's 1955 Ford were 37 cases of illegal whiskey.

(April 7, 1955) The Darwin School in Cookeville is having its annual talent show this week. Students from black schools here as well as in Jackson, Clay and White counties will sing, dance, put on skits and perform

“stunts” for the show. Proceeds from the show go towards paying the traveling expenses of the out-of-county students.

(April 12, 1955) The Tennessee Central’s tracks were blocked here this week for 16 1/2 hours when a “triple-header” train — one with three locomotives — pulling 76 cars derailed just outside of Baxter. Eleven cars left the tracks and destroyed some 200 feet of rail. It was the first major derailment here in the six years since the TC switched from steam locomotives to diesels.

(April 18, 1955) Pictured on page one of this week’s edition are the men who held the position of superintendent of Putnam County schools in the years since 1903. Gathered for the occasion were Ernest H. Boyd, who held office from 1903-1911; Jim Hatfield, 1911-1921; Beecher Gentry, 1921-1927; Leonard Dunavin, 1927-1933; Wesley P. Flatt, 1933-1935; Tillman Phillips, 1935-1936; Frank R. Adams, 1936-1943; Oliver T. Bohannon, 1943-1952, and Dave C. Huddleston, the present superintendent of schools here.

(May 1, 1955) Services were held in Little Rock, Ark., this week for Griffin Smith, 70, a Silver Point native and Chief Justice of the Arkansas State Supreme Court. Born to pioneers Mr. and Mrs. Napoleon Smith, he was educated in Putnam schools and had connections with the old newspaper, the Cookeville Press. He later owned the Putnam County Herald for a time. He earned his law degree from Cumberland University and went to practice law in Arkansas, where in 1936 he was elected Chief Justice of that state’s highest court. He died of a heart attack this week.

(May 26, 1955) Another landmark is razed here. The old home of Dr. Henry Martin, built in 1895 on Broad Street near the post office, was used after WWII to house the Putnam County Veteran's Association. Now its being torn down to build a more modern structure

(June 9, 1955) A group of concerned civic leaders this week organized to work with the Putnam Health Dept., the Putnam County Court and the County Tuberculosis Association to find “uncooperative” TB carriers and quarantine them.

The group was launched with Charles Wilmoth as chairman and Mrs. Eugene Johns as secretary. They plan to work with local officials to find suitable quarters to quarantine people with tuberculosis, they say.

In the first meeting, participants related several cases in which persons in TB sanatoriums checked themselves out and returned home where they might easily spread what has become one of the most feared diseases of the day.

But the organization notes that state law allows local authorities to confine persons diagnosed with tuberculosis to quarantine facilities indefinitely. But there presently are no such facilities designed here.

Tennessee is listed by public health officials as one of the states with the highest number of TB cases and Putnam is highly on the list of cases in the state, they said.

The Putnam Health Dept. currently lists 150 “active” cases of TB here and another 350 “arrested” cases. There are an average of 38 new cases reported across the state per year.

(July 7, 1955) Dr. J. A. Barksdale, the former state commissioner of education, was named this week by state higher education officials as the new dean at Tennessee Polytechnic.

He’s replacing TPI Dean Austin Wheeler Smith, the dean at the college since 1922. He’s retiring Sept. 5 at the age of 70.

Smith is the last member of the original TPI faculty still working at the college.

*There’s a hot new device that could replace those secretaries who’s sole job is to answer the telephone, says Floyd Cooper, district manager of the Southern Continental Telephone Co.

The new machine automatically answers your phone and plays a recorded message saying no one is free to speak at the moment and asking if the caller wants to leave a message, which the machine then records for later playback.

Cooper says his office is being flooded with calls from people wanting to test out the new automatic answering systems.

*Cookeville this week hosted a delegation of 34 high school students from 18 other nations.

The group stayed overnight in TPI's dormitories and were led by town officials on a tour of Cookeville's notable sites: the Tech football stadium, the new City Hospital, the local milk plant where the students were treated to ice cream sandwiches fresh off the line. Capshaw Elementary and the Putnam fairgrounds.

(July 12, 1955) The Southern Continental Telephone Co. here this week demonstrated a new device, the 'electronic secretary,' which greets callers with a record message, and asks them to leave their name, telephone number and a message after the sound of a beep. Phone company officials say they expect the device to altogether replace office secretaries one day.

(Aug. 20, 1955) Anne Cox of Cookeville is among thousands stranded by flooding in the northeast after Hurricane Connie slammed into the coast with a fury and dumped intensive rains far inland.

Miss Cox has spent the summer with a summer stock company performing in the Mountainhome, PA Pocono Playhouse, and was due to stay until the theater closed for the season on Sept. 1.

The hurricane changed those plans. Her parents finally reached her after telephone lines were down for 15 hours and learned that while she is safe herself because of the town's elevation, surrounding valleys are under water from the floods.

The theatre has decided to close now that the tourist season has been swept away.

Hurricane Connie did billions in damage along the coast and the death toll from the storm has topped 200 so far.

*Tents and the metal framework of carnival arrivals are rising at the Putnam fairgrounds this week for the annual fair, and one of the more unusual features this year will be performances by 64-year old Ella Carver, a world famous high diver.

The mother of two grown children, she sets herself afire each performance and dives from a 90 foot tower into a six-foot tank of water. She's been seen on numerous television shows and has been heard on popular radio shows. In June she stumped the celebrity experts in an appearance on the TV game show, "What's My Line."

Her father, Dr. W. F. Carter, was the veterinarian from Buffalo Bill and his traveling troupe of Indians, cowboys, and Wild West livestock.

It was Dr. Carver who originated the diving horse act and his daughter performed it for 17 years, coaxing a horse off a 40-foot tower with her in the saddle for the plunge into a 12-foot tank of water.

(Aug, 22, 1955) The Strand Theater has show its last motion picture after 40 years of operation across from the Post Office on Broad Street.

(Aug. 29, 1955) Jaycees President Noble Cody reported this week that the Ford Motor Company is "very much interested" in sand deposits near Monterey to supply its new auto glass plant in Nashville.

Cody and club members have been out this week gathering sand samples from several sites in the Monterey area for testing at Ford laboratories.

Cookeville this week was visited by a four-car caravan of "goodwill ambassadors" from Argentina.

The flock of Argentinians represent the South American sports Association, which flew the delegation to Washington recently to bestow an honor on Dr. Jonas Salk, developer of the polio vaccine which has saved the lives of millions.

Once in the US, the businessmen decided to buy four cars and embark on a tour of the US and 21 other countries on their way back to Argentina along the famous Pan American Highway.

In all, their journey will take them 64,000 miles by car, and Cookeville was one of the hundreds of stops they will make, telling residents about Argentina.

(Sept. 2, 1955) Baxter's State Theater has been bought by Billy Dalton and Ben Austin, who said they plan to turn it into a roller rink.

(Sept. 5, 1955) Putnam Countians paid a total of \$311,121 in state sales tax during fiscal year 1955, which just ended, the newspaper reports this week.

That figure amounts to \$10.07 for every man, woman in Putnam County.

The alarming news is that this is less than was collected last year, .05 percent less, says the newspaper. The out migration of Putnam residents looking for jobs in northern factories continues.

At the Princess Theater this week, where, according to an advertisement, "Friendliness is a habit and courtesy a watchword." You can see Randolph Scott and Forrest Tucker in "Rage at Dawn," a horse opera. Or, catch Gordon Scott and Vera Miles in the latest Lord-of-the-Apes saga, "Tarzan's Hidden Jungle."

(Sept. 12, 1955) The Cookeville Cavaliers clobbered Gallatin High School 21-6 this weekend, with quarterback Jim Ragland accounting for 20 of the 21 points with touchdown passes to Ray McDonald and Harold Jackson.

Guard Bob Carter and tackle Paul Matheney were also credited by the newspaper's sports writer for their effort, having been in on most of the key tackles of the game.

Wade Bussell has retired after 32 years as custodian of the Cookeville Post Office.

He began his career in 1923 after serving in Europe for a year and a half in WWI before a leg wound send him home. He farmed for a brief time, and then joined the staff of the Post Office here.

Bussell has served under five postmasters: H. T. Whitson, Norman Massa, Pennock Moore, Mrs. Pennock Moore (who served while her husband was away in the military in WWII) and now, L. K. Mahler.

The newspaper notes that Bussell was widely known for his courtesy and helpfulness to area postal patrons.

School Supt. Dave Huddleston said this week that school enrollment figures are now in and the county's rural population continues to decline, city schools saw slight increase, and Jere Whitson saw the biggest increase, up to 317 students, Huddleston reported.

Showing at the Princess Theater this week: Tony Curtis and Gloria DeHaven in "So This Is Paris," a tale of sailors on leave. It boasts "Nine hit tunes," and is filmed in Technicolor.

(Sept. 17, 1955) Algood is still without a town policeman this week.

Last week, the city council there fired City Recorder W. G. Bracey and policeman Sam McCulley. The named Herman Garrison the new recorder, but adjourned without filling the police post.

Since then, the Algood council hasn't been able to gain a quorum to hire an officer to patrol the town.

Fred Bullock is expected to get the job, says the newspaper, but he can't begin until he's officially hired. The 25-year-old is a former Navy Seabee from WWII and has served as a deputy sheriff.

(Sept. 17, 1955) Tennessee Tech has 835 freshmen signed up so far and a total of 1,000 new students are expected by the time registration wraps up, says Dean of students Dr. Charles N. Sharpe.

The good news is that even through the college's enrollment is up by about 100 students, the supply of available housing has held up well so far, unlike many years in the past when college officials desperately appealed to residents to rent rooms to their students.

(Sept. 17, 1955) A skeleton unearthed in the Mt. Herman community by Emmett Mitchell is now believed to be that of an early pioneer here who was killed by Indians.

Mitchell found the remains while plowing for alfalfa. His plow hit a large rock, and when he dug it up to remove it, he found the bones in a three-foot-deep grave.

Dr. Jack Clark examined the bones and says he thinks they belonged to a young man. The Indian arrowhead lodged deeply in the rib cage is an indication of what killed the young pioneer, he said.

The farm has been in the Mitchell family for the last 150 years so he believes the grave was dug before his family moved to Mt. Herman from North Carolina and settled in what was the midst of the cane brakes near a spring.

(Sept. 22, 1955) Cookeville's first coin operated telephone booth has been installed at the corner of Jefferson and Spring Street.

(Sept. 25, 1955) The newspaper this week takes a look at three highly unusual grave markers in the 8th District. They're made of cookery ware, which once flourished in the county's lower end but is now a lost art.

In the Pleasant View Cemetery, the graves of W. C. and Nancie Hedgecough and Rebecca Elrod are marked with gracefully, curved, highly decorative markers made of the same kiln-fired material once used widely here for farm urns, crocks, pitchers and jugs.

The stones were fired by George Hedgecough, one of the Western end's most highly skilled and last crockery makers, says Eli Lafever, 75, himself once a crockery maker before a stroke left him partially paralyzed.

Lafever says the lower end's style of crockery making originated in France and came here with pioneer families, like Lafever's.

He says around the turn of the century, crockery was made from clay dug from banks in the 8th District, fired in kilns there, and loaded on wagons for sale as far away as Nashville and Knoxville.

The craft died out in the mid-1930's, he says.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: Jeff Chandler and Jack Palance in "Signs of the Pagan," the colorful story of Attila the Hun.

(Oct. 3, 1955) Efforts to promote Girl Scouting in the region took a giant step forward here this week when a ceremony was held in Tennessee Tech's gymnasium to officially charter the Highland Rim Girl Scout Council.

The council will oversee and coordinate Girl Scouting in a 14-county region, including Putnam.

Local funeral home director Gene Rogers was recently named the chairman of this year's fund raising drive in Putnam County for Girl Scouting.

Meanwhile, Faye Gentry of Cookeville was picked in a pageant here this week to represent Cookeville in the Warren County Sorghum Festival.

She's presently a freshman at Tennessee Tech and already has one crown under her belt as she sets her sights on the Sorghum Queen title. Last year she was named Livingston's Strawberry Queen in that town's harvest festival.

Showing this week at the Princess: Stewart Granger and Elizabeth Taylor in "Beau Brummell."

(Oct. 5, 1955) State highway officials have sent out crews to begin staking out the right of way for Tennessee's portion of a new superhighway, which is expected to pass just south of Cookeville and generally follow the route of two-lane Highway 70.

(Oct. 9, 1955) Charlie Coleman of Silver Point is one of the last of Middle Tennessee's old time blacksmiths, the newspaper writes this week in a profile of the 78-year-old craftsman.

People needing blacksmith services come from 30 and 40 miles away to Coleman's shop. He's given up shoeing horses because of his health, but he still makes harnesses and wagon accessories the old way, with hammer and tongs over a bed of hot coals.

Born at the head of Indian Creek in Buffalo Valley, his father lost an arm fighting for the Confederacy in the battle of Lookout Mountain at Chattanooga.

Ironically, his mother was also one-armed, he says. She lost an arm in a sorghum mill accident as a young woman.

Coleman learned his trade as a young man and has practiced it all his life.

Mayor Dero Brown this week announced plans for a new park beside the new industrial site on the Sparta Highway.

The park is already a roadside picnic area with a couple of tables, but the city plans to place several dozen concrete picnic tables there with a winding stone walkway and a small waterfall.

It's to be called Eagle Heights and will be handy for workers at the new millery, says the mayor.

(Oct. 20, 1955) Services were held today for the son of Mr. and Mrs. George Farmer, Cpl. Joseph Fred Farmer.

The 19-year-old died in the fighting in the Korean Conflict. No details were given in this week's edition.

Meanwhile, State Highway Dept. officials in Knoxville say they are sending out surveying crews to begin staking out the right-of-way for the state's new super expressway.

They are currently focusing on a section of the new four-lane route between Kingston and Knox County, but the new road is expected to pass just south of Cookeville as it cuts across the state's hilltops and valleys.

It will generally parallel the route of crooked Highway 70, state officials say.

(Oct. 24, 1955) In the city election this week, Jesse Owen was reelected to a three-year term on the three-man Cookeville City Commission.

The soft drink bottler defeated real estate salesman Joe F. Dyer with a vote of 649 to 393.

(Oct. 24, 1955) Tennessee is now classified as an industrial rather than an agricultural state, the newspaper reports.

Since the end of WWII, more than 1,350 new factories have been constructed in Tennessee and now, more than 20 percent of its gross income comes from manufacturing and less than 10 percent comes from agriculture.

(Oct. 24, 1955) Johnnie Reba Smellage leaves next week for two years as a librarian with the US Army in either France or Germany.

She graduated from Baxter Seminary and Tennessee Tech before teaching at both and then teaching in Illinois for two years.

Now, she's signed up as a librarian for the military and is headed overseas.

(Oct. 24, 1955) Member's of Central High's Homemakers of America are pictured on page one this week planning a UN Day celebration.

They are Gail Phillips, Linda Johnson, Sue Lynn, Pat Haste, Fay Mayberry, Shirley Riddle, Maxine Vaughn, Betty Ford and Jo Ann Gentry.

(Oct. 31, 1955) A "new-style" Halloween is in store for some Cookeville youngsters this week. Instead of lugging around hefty bags of candy door to door, they'll be collecting donations for the world's needy children.

Capshaw Elementary, Tech Training School and Park View students are participating in drive for UNICEF, the UN's agency for children's relief.

Serving on the local UNICEF planning committee are Eugene Johns, Henry Grimes, Earnest Mabey, Earl Nash, Henry Ferrell, and Oliver Bohannon.

Showing at the Princess Theater this week: a "midnight Halloween show" with Richard Green, Boris Karloff and Lon Chaney. It's the Universal-International film, "The Black Castle." The ad for the film warns, "Danger lurks in every darkened corner."

(Nov. 10, 1955) Services will be held this week for Clyde Preston Stebbins, an Illinois native who's lived here for the past several years.

The newspaper comments that he was "one of the few combat pilots during World War One."

Stebbins died in his sleep at his home on East Spring Street.

*Southern Continental Telephone Co. district manager Floyd Cooper says there's good news and bad news on that new rural telephone line between Cookeville and Monterey.

The good news is that the line, which is to bring telephone service to Dry Valley and several communities between Cookeville and Monterey, is now 95 percent complete.

The bad news is that materials have once again run short across the nation and no one knows when the rest of the wire needed to complete the job will arrive, said Cooper.

*At the Putnam Drive-In this weekend: John Wayne stars as an Indian-fighter in "She Wore A Yellow Ribbon."

(Nov. 12, 1955) Baxter is getting on the industrial band wagon as voters there this week approved the issuance of \$50,000 in industrial revenue bonds the town plans to hold in reserve while it looks for an industrial prospect.

One group of Baxter investors already has one. The Baxter Industrial Development Corp. is in talks with the R. S. Rogan Co. of New York, which wants to build a shirt factory in Baxter that will employ 140.

The group plans to raise \$35,000 through the sale of public stock to construct a building to house the new factory.

The Cavaliers, led by quarterback Jim Ragland, came from behind last weekend to ruin Nashville's Tennessee prep School's homecoming game.

The final score was 24-13, with the Cavs making 21 points in the 4th quarter.

Showing at the Princess this week: John Wayne in "The Sands of Iwo Jima."

(Nov. 19, 1955) Putnam Sheriff Ernest Webster and a group of deputies seized a still being operated under a bluff of the Clarkrange Road near Monterey this week.

A Cookeville man was arrested at the scene. Deputies destroyed the 45-gallon copper kettle and poured 400 gallons of sour mash on the ground.

(Nov. 19, 1955) A page one picture this week shows the new officers of the Putnam County 4-H A. Q. McDonald are the adult supervisors.

The new county 4-H leaders are Glenda Ray, president; Helen Jean Mott, vice president; Claude Ann Huddleston; secretary and James Moore, reporter.

The Federal Civil Defense Administration this week reported that a new innovation was used in the recent Operation Albert national civilian defense drills, an "electrical brain."

The "electrical brain," or computer, was used to quickly count the number of dead in the exercise area and determine what medical aid was still available after a simulated atomic attack.

"the sooner we know how hard we've been hit, the faster we can begin to recover," said a federal official.

(Dec 5, 1955) It was the biggest seizure of bootleg whiskey in the state, \$7,000 worth of liquor weighing down three cars stopped by the Tennessee Highway Patrol near Celina this week after troopers received a tipoff.

Bootleggers are using more circuitous routes following a series of highly publicized seizures along Highway 70, including a number of hauls in or near Putnam County.

Three Knoxville men were charged by the THP in the Celina incident. Troopers say they were headed back to Knoxville from Nashville with a load of liquor in special transport cars when stopped.

When the THP moved the load to its Cookeville headquarters, it took six patrol cars to move the load. The bootleggers' cars were rigged with special suspension systems, troopers said.

The day after the three were jailed and released on bond, two of the same men were stopped near Spencer headed towards Knoxville with yet another load.

In a speech here this week, the University of Tennessee's Dean of Engineering, N. W. Dougherty, said this week that the US is "a rich and prosperous nation about to undertake suicide by allowing something to slip from her schools which is the key to prosperity."

He cited a decline in the number of students now taking math and science courses, and said such knowledge is vital to America's ever-increasing dependence on new technology.

Dougherty urged the nation's school officials to emphasize science and math as it will become more and more crucial to students' success in getting jobs, he said.

(Dec. 10, 1955) The newspaper says National Civil Defense officials are working on a new system to warn citizens of impending atomic attacks.

Called the 'Big Voice in the Sky,' it would use airplanes with loud speakers to give people across the country timely and precise instructions about where bombs have been dropped and the direction fallout is traveling.

(Dec. 11, 1955) If you drove to the Cookeville Post Office on Broad (the city's only post office) this week you noticed a few changes when you went to feed the parking meter.

First of all, you probably found it easier to find a place to park. The time limit has been changed from two hours to 15 minutes. Police Chief Hubert Crawford said some people have been monopolizing the two-hour time limit and others have been complaining.

Enforcing the new time limits are new parking meters. They're red like all the other 15-minute meters in town, said Crawford. And they only "eat" a penny at a time.

(Dec. 15, 1955) Cookeville Police Chief Hubert Crawford says motorists are monopolizing the heavily-used parking spaces in front of the Cookeville Post Office, so the city is installing new parking meters there to control the situation.

You can't miss them, the chief says. The parking meters will be bright red. And the time limit on each is 12 minutes. The cost to turn the switch is a penny.

There were promotions this week at First National Bank.

The board of directors has elected Tommy Lynn as assistant cashier of the bank and has named him its farm agent as well. Board chairman W. L. Whitson also announced that William B. Carlen, Jr., has been named the executive vice-president and cashier of the bank.

(Dec. 22, 1955) The newspaper this week took a look at the history of licensed funeral directors or embalmers, in Cookeville.

Whitson's Funeral Home, operated out of the old Whitson home on Dixie Avenue, was the first commercial funeral home in Cookeville, and Jack Carver opened its doors on July 1, 1926, the town's first licensed funeral director.

This was a year when most families were still preparing their loved ones for burial at home and bought what few funeral supplies they needed from a storage shed on the side of Whitson's Hardware store on the square.

Before Carver, Bill Sewell of Baxter and Mrs. Jesse Barnes of Cookeville were also licensed embalmers here, but Sewell retired shortly before Carver opened Whitson's new business and Mrs. Barnes had retired some time before that.

(Dec. 22, 1955) Fire this week destroyed the Silver Point Church of Christ, doing an estimated \$20,000 in damage. The congregation had insurance to cover about half of that.

The Cookeville Fire Department received several calls about the blaze but explained to each caller that city policy prohibited the volunteer firemen from responding to blazes outside city limits.

(Dec. 24, 1955) It's believed to be the first sewing machine ever used in the Upper Cumberland, a tiny machine of unknown make owned by Miss Nell Gilliland and Mrs. Otto Grimsey of Cookeville. It's their gift to Tennessee Tech's home economics department and it's on display there this week.

The machine was owned by their grandmother, who used it at her home in Overton County's Oak Hill community. It uses a chain stitch, has no bobbin, and uses only one thread. The wheel is turned by hand. The little machine is decorated with ornately painted red roses and golden leaves.

(Dec. 30, 1955) Mr. and Mrs. Billy M. Starnes of Baxter were among 62 commissioned as missionaries by the Methodist Board in Cincinnati, Ohio, this week. The former Baxter Seminary student and his wife are now bound for the Belgian Congo.

Meanwhile, the last of 500 babies born here this year in Cookeville General Hospital was Marjorie Hyun Sook Cho, the new daughter of Nak Won Cho and his wife, Hy Sun Hahan Cho.

The new parents are from Seoul, Korea, and are students at Tennessee Tech.

1956

(8 January 1956) J. M. Roundtree, district director of the Internal Revenue, announced this week that taxpayers will soon be receiving their federal income tax "blanks" and instructions on how to fill them out. He cautioned taxpayers not to lose the instructions. Supplies are limited, he said.

(16 January 1956) Services were held in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Baxter this week for Nancy Grace, 33, a feature writer for the Louisville Courier Journal who collapsed in the news room recently while finalizing a story. She died a short time later undergoing cancer surgery.

The TPI graduate was described by colleagues at the newspaper as being an expert, talented news-woman.

Her father is Lawrence Grace of Baxter.

(16 Jan. 1956) Frances Eubanks of Girl scout Troop 141 is pictured on page one of this week's edition being congratulated by Cookeville Mayor Dero Brown as she receives her Curved Bar Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, the equivalent of the rank of Eagle in Boy Scouts.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Eubanks, she is believed to be the first girl in Cookeville to earn the award.

(19 January 1956) It's time to think about your federal income taxes, says IRS Cookeville office chief Carlos Herren. He was featured in an article this week trying to keep people straight on tax laws.

Herren explained that you must file a return if you are under 65 years of age and had an annual gross income of \$600 or more. You also have to file if you are 65 or older and have a gross income of more than \$1,200.

You also have to file if you're self-employed and made more than \$400 in the last calendar year, said the tax collector.

* Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "The Prodigal," the lurid ad for which reads, "He left his father's house for the fleshpots of sin-ridden Damascus."

(23 January 1956) It's the "Buick of Buicks," the all-new Roadmaster, and it's advertised in this week's edition by the Martin Buick Co. down on the New Sparta Highway.

"You've probably noticed that more and more people seem to be stepping up into the upper circle of fine cars," says the ad. "And there can be no doubt that good times have a lot to do with it."

Now that prosperity has hit America, the Roadmaster may be in your price range too. It's the one with the "variable pick dynaflo" transmission for smoother shifting, and it's got "the obedient might of the biggest power V-8 engine in Buick history."

And for those hot summer days, the Roadmaster will cool you off. It's got a Frigidaire air conditioner.

(26 January 1956) Frances Beaty Slenderizing Shop advertise the latest means of slenderizing, the "Gyrodizing" treatment. "Actually, an individual may be underweight and still have a figure that is out of proportion. Too much in some spots. Too little in others," says the ad. The process will put your body back in line and help "streamline" you, it says.

(26 January 1956) It was the biggest in recent years, three inches of wet snow that glazed roads, shut down schools and send a number of motorists across the country sliding into ditches.

The newspaper printed a page one picture this week of Cookeville realtor Cooper Loftis scraping snow off the windshield of his car in front of his home on Washington Avenue.

Jimmy Carlen, an assistant coach and teacher at Central High, has left the school for a tour of duty with the US Air Force, it was announced this week by school officials.

The Georgia Tech graduate, who was active in local sports this summer and fall, is honoring his ROTC obligation, going into the service as a second lieutenant.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater here: Paulette Goddard and Jean Pierre in "Charge of the Lancers."

(30 January 1956) Central High principal Lester King this week announced the honor students for the school's graduating senior class.

They are Sue Haste, daughter of Prof. and Mrs. Maurice Haste; Bill Holland, son of Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Holland; Betty Sue McBroom, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. William F. McBroom; and Ronella Goolsby, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Goolsby.

*Meanwhile, a former Central student who is now a senior at Tennessee Tech has been accepted by the US Air Force Academy for its 1956 team.

Harvie Lee Stringer, a civil engineering major at TTU, got the news this week.

*Showing at the Princess Theater this week: It's Jack Webb in the "roaring, blazing twenties jazz story," "Pete Kelly Blues."

(31 January 1956) Fire alarms will be sounding all across town Tuesday night for five minutes, beginning at 7 p.m., but there won't be any fire. It's the signal for 1955 Mothers March on Polio to begin.

When the alarms stop, dozens of mothers here will set off going door-to-door collecting donations for the fight against infantile paralysis, one of today's most dreaded diseases.

Mothers are so concerned about their children contracting polio that many playgrounds and swimming pools now are vacant in the summer months when they're customarily overrun with kids.

* Showing at the Princess this week: "Sea Chase," with John Wayne and Lana Turner.

(6 February 1956) Noble Cody, the basketball coach at Monterey High School for the past four years, waited until the end of his team's game with Baxter to tell the news. He's resigning to go work for the Atlantic Life Insurance Co. His team won the game 41-39, by the way.

By the time he and the players got back to Monterey, the school's students had already put together a surprise party for him.

MHS principal Milton Nixon announced today that Mrs. Robert Cate, the all-state guard on Monterey High's 1935 championship team, will be the new girl's coach.

Gertis Carr, who is presently the school's football coach, will coach the boy's basketball team through the rest of the season.

* Showing at the Princess this week, Jack Webb as jazz trumpeter Pete Kelly in the film that recreates the Roaring '20s and the Jazz era, "Pete Kelly's Blues." Janet Leigh and Edmond O'Brien also star.

(Feb. 6, 1956) An explosion that broke glass in windows up to eight miles away ruined a Lowe Manufacturing warehouse this week and fire swept through in its wake, doing some \$15,000 in damages, according to Morrison Lowe, Jr., of the company.

The blaze destroyed 5,000 unfinished children's wagons and 1,000 finished wagons stored in the large woodframe building.

The building was next to Lea's Butane Gas Co. and a tank that was being filled at the time of the fire also erupted in flames, but firemen were able to contain that fire and keep the tank from exploding with spray from their fire hoses.

The American Legion Post 46 hit an all-time membership high this week, it was announced in a District Legion meeting held at Capshaw School.

Post 46 now has 614 members on its rolls, district officials announced in praising the Cookeville unit for recent membership drives.

Howard C. Vaughn, son of Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Vaughn, pulled into port at Long Beach, California aboard the USS Manchester, a US Navy light cruiser, ending a six month tour of the Far East.

The cruiser was attached to the Carrier striking Force 77, which conducted shore bombardment and landing exercise in the region where three years earlier, the Korean War ended but where hostilities still simmer.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "The Shepherd of the Hills," with John Wayne, Betty Field, and Harry Carey.

(Feb. 11, 1956) TPI's Dean Austin Wheeler is seen in a page one photo this week using a pen with a history as he compiles a history of the college.

The pen was used by Tennessee Gov. Thomas C. Rye in 1915 to sign the bill that established TPI as a state college.

Dean Wheeler got the pen from the Rye family for the college's archives.

Wheeler has been at TPI since 1916 and is compiling a history of the college as he wraps up his final year there.

Tom S. Sewell, co-manager of W. T. Sewell & Co. in Baxter, died in his home this week of a heart attack. He was 39.

A Baxter native, he attended Baxter Seminary and the University of Tennessee before going to work for the well-known grocery wholesaler.

He will be buried this week in the Odd Fellows Cemetery in Baxter.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: Claudette Colbert and Barry Sullivan in "Texas Lady," and Randolph Scott is "long, and lethal, and he's riding for revenge" in "Tall in Saddle."

(Feb. 13, 1956) A crowd of more than 500 people jammed into the courthouse this week to a public meeting on a controversial new bill introduced by Cookeville State Rep. Joe Dyer calling on voters to elect their county school boards, which are presently appointed.

Participants at the mass meeting voted 286-204 to send a resolution to legislators in Nashville urging that the bill be defeated.

(Feb. 14, 1956) Fire broke out at a Lowe Manufacturing Co. warehouse this week and spread to a nearby butane storage tank. The blast was felt eight miles away by Earl Chaffin at his home on the Gainesboro Grade.

It was more than just felt in town. Homes and businesses on Broad and Spring reported broken windows.

The blaze was fought for two hours by city firemen, who kept it from getting to bigger butane tanks at the adjacent Lea's Butane Gas Co.

Morrison Lowe, Jr., said the warehouse was full of thousands of children's wooden wagons. He put the total loss at between \$12,000 and \$15,000.

(Feb. 19, 1956) Putnam County Judge Luke Medley this week announced that right of way is being purchased for a new federal secondary road designed to take some of the local traffic between Cookeville and Baxter off congested Highway 70, the major east-west route through this section of the state.

Medley said the new road will follow the course of the Old Buffalo Valley Road, minus some of the present hills, and curves.

Monterey High students this week moved into their new \$500,000 high school building, says MHS principal Milton Nixon.

The new school has 350 students presently in grades 7 through 12. Monterey students now in grades 1 through 6 will now go to school in the old high school building.

Showing this week at the Princess: "A woman upholds the tradition of freedom of the press" in "Taxes Lady," with Claudette Colbert and Barry Sullivan.

(Feb. 20, 1956) If you see Hunter Hill sitting on the right side of his vehicle driving down the street, don't get alarmed. The controls of his mail car are built that way, on the right side.

Hill has the distinction of being the first mailman in Cookeville assigned to one of those new "mounted mail carrier trucks."

Cookeville Postmaster Len K. Mahler says postal officials estimate the new vehicles will allow postmen to squeeze in another 30 minutes worth of work each work day because they'll be able to make their rounds faster.

* Monterey students moved into their new \$500,000 high school this week, reports principal Milton Nixon.

In the new building are the town's 7th and 8th graders as well as high school students. Monterey's elementary students are now in the old high school.

(27 February 1956) Cookeville's newest manufacturing plant, Putnam Manufacturing, is giving tours this week, says company president Joe Rader.

Rader said that women who work in the plant will supervise the tours. Residents will be shown through the 22,000-square-foot facility, which manufactures cotton work pants.

Rader said that there are 46 separate steps to making each pair of pants. The facility turns out 6,000 pairs of finished work pants each work day.

The pants are shipped from here to the Red Kap Garment Co. in Nashville, where they are distributed through the nation.

* Showing this week at the Princess: "Battle Taxi," which focuses on the exploits of the Korean War's helicopter pilots. It stars Sterling Hayden. The ad says it's a "roaring salute to the pinwheel pilots."

(Feb. 28, 1956) Monterey High School principal Milton Nixon says the impressive new steel and brick school is now open and is serving 350 students from nine rural communities in the county's eastern end.

Students are coming to the new school from Walnut Grove, Columbia Hill, Thorn Hill, Rocky Point, Sand Springs, Mineral Springs, Calfkiller and Shady Grove.

The new 50,000-square-foot, \$500,000 school opened for classes last week.

The number of students taking Army ROTC at TTU is expected to triple to 850 students next fall when new requirements kick in for all freshmen and sophomore males at the college, said Col. Holmes Eubanks of TTU this week.

This quarter at the college only 332 are in ROTC, said the colonel.

Showing this week at the Princess: "Abbott and Costello Meet the Mummy."

(5 March 1956) A crowd of 500 to 600 turned out this weekend at the open house at Putnam Manufacturing.

Cookeville Mayor Dero Brown showed up in a pair of multi-colored pants made for him by the plant's staff for the ribbon-cutting ceremony that kicked off the open house.

In a page-one picture with the mayor are plant receptionist Loretta Smith, production manager Frank Evans, plant president B. Rader and other dignitaries.

Are moving sidewalks in Cookeville's future? The newspaper this week writes that several major US cities are installing "endless conveyor belt" sidewalks in experiments at highly trafficked facilities.

The first one was recently installed in the underground station of the Hudson and Manhattan Railroad to replace a long incline known as "coronary alley."

Houston is also using one to move up to 15,000 people per hour from parking lots to the Sam Houston Center.

(11 March 1956) The Twin Lakes Telephone Co. has purchased two area telephone exchanges from Southern Continental for \$15,000 as part of its move to create a larger telephone system in western Putnam and eastern Smith Counties.

Southern sold its Baxter and Chestnut Mound exchanges, which it has operated since 1930.

The purchase boosts Twin Lakes to a total of 800 customers now, all of which are expected to have the benefits of dial service later this year under Twin Lakes' expansion.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "One of the most talked about films of the year," says the ad for "Trial," with Glenn Ford and Dorothy McGuire.

(18 March 1956) Over at Tennessee Polytech, Dean A.W. Smith is ending 40 years of service to the college.

Smith arrived in Cookeville by train on Sept. 1, 1916, one of a handful of new faculty for the new college here. He headed the History Department until 1922 when he became Dean Registrar, a post he's held until now.

Smith has served under four presidents at TPI: Thomas Early, Q.M. Smith, J.M. Smith, and Everett Derryberry.

Smith saw the school grow from 25 to 2,300 students. When he retires in June, he'll be the last of the original 13 faculty members and administrators who came here in 1916 to organize the school.

(19 March 1956) Clues are still being sought into two suspicious fires here Saturday night that occurred just minutes and a few miles apart.

The Macedonia Baptist Church was completely destroyed by flames Saturday night. Authorities are investigating reports from residents who say they saw a car parked near the church just before the fire.

Meanwhile, shortly after the church went up in smoke, a tobacco barn belonging to Marlow Bohannon two miles south of the church. Witnesses said they also saw a car parked near there shortly before the blaze.

* Showing this week at the Princess: "Tennessee's Partner," starring John Payne, Rhonda Fleming and Ronald Reagan.

(19 March 1956) It started as a joke but then it got out of hand, so WHUB let Jimmy Mosier get on the air for 15 minutes this week to try to straighten out the situation.

Mosier's Beacon Restaurant was closed during Tennessee Tech's spring break this week. It's something he usually does, but when a customer found the doors locked, he asked the building's owner, Walter Phillips, what the story was.

Phillips, joking, said offhandedly that the place was closed because "Mosier's been arrested for bootlegging." Things went downhill from there.

Soon, the story was that Mosier was not only a bootlegger, but that he'd been taken in for selling narcotics too. He reopened his restaurant this week, but few came. Then he found out about the rumors flying around town and went on radio to explain that, no, he was not up on bootlegging charges. Or on narcotics charges either.

(20 March 1956) Authorities say there are no new leads into two fires here that are believed to be the work of arsonists.

The Macedonia Baptist Church burned to the ground one night this week, and minutes later, a tobacco barn just down the road from the church went up in flames as well.

Residents of that community say they saw a car parked in the vicinity of the church just before the blaze was spotted.

The church was built 65 years ago and presently has a congregation of 38.

Lost in the blaze were the building, pews, a piano and other contents worth of \$2,000.

The tobacco barn belonged to Marlow Bohannon, who'd converted a former dwelling into a storage building for burley. He placed the loss at about \$400.

*Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "Bad for Each Other," with Charleton Heston and Lizbeth Scott. The ad says, "The startling truth of the unknown knifer behind the surgeon's mask."

(28 March 1956) A minister from England, the Rev. Gordon Maland, and Cookeville First Methodist pastor, Dr. Bruce Strother will temporarily exchange pulpits on April 15 after they and their families pass in Atlanta en route to each other's churches.

Mr. Strother was born and raised in Kirkham, England, seven miles from the Preston Methodist Church where Rev. Maland preaches.

Rev. Maland is a native Canadian who began his ministry in Saskatchewan before moving to England several years ago.

*Showing at the Putnam Drive-In this week: It's "The greatest motion picture of all time," "Quo Vadis," a film of ancient Rome with Robert Taylor, Deborah Kerr and Peter Ustinov.

(2 April 1956) Fire this week did an estimated \$30,000 to the Osia Williams women's clothing store on the Square. Fire started in an air conditioning unit while workers were taking a supper break.

They'd been staying late to prepare for a sale and while they were eating, fire erupted and swept through the store. Mrs. Williams says the store will reopen as soon as the damage is cleaned up and the store restocks.

*Tennessee Tech President Everett Derryberry this week unveiled plans for a new \$1.1 million women's dormitory complex on Dixie to replace the Dixie Courts temporary housing complex, which hasn't been used lately.

Dixie Courts was tossed up just after the war as the college was flooded with new students coming home from the war and going to school on the GI Bill.

Showing this week at the Putnam Drive-IN: Dale Robertson, Sally Forest, Lili St. Cyr and Vincent Price in "The Son of Sinbad."

(8 April 1956) For the second year, a Central High student has won first place in the Cumberland Plateau Regional Science Fair, which is its second year too.

Bill Holland spent 1,500 hours building an electronic organ from scratch to take home the first place honor.

*The new Southern Continental Telephone directories are out and they are full of information about Cookeville besides just phone numbers.

The newspaper, in an article this week, went through the phone book and determined that Brown is the most popular last name in Putnam County, followed closely by Smith, Gentry and Johnson.

Other names frequently found in the county director are Phillips, Huddleston, Williams, Moore, Judd, Loftis, Gaw, Davis, Clark and Terry.

In all, the new directory has 3,000 listings, up 300 from last year's, says general manger F. M. Cooper.

The most frequently listed business is the service station, with 40 entries. Next were grocery stores, with 32 listings.

*Showing this week at the Princess: "Gentlemen Marry Brunettes," with Jane Russell and Jeanne Carr.

(16 April 1956) The late Cordell Hull, a former US Secretary of State called the "father" of the United Nations by many, is being honored here in a music festival this week featuring original music compositions by a number of Putnam teachers.

"One World Through Music" is the theme of the upcoming Putnam County Music Festival.

Students in exotic costumes from more than 45 foreign lands will sing and dance to "Cordell," a ballad composed by Central High band director Warren Lustre. He's also composed a special arrangement of "Green Coffee" for area high school choruses.

W.C. Moore of Central High's staff has written a narration for the show.

Showing this week at the Princess: John Wayne and Veda Ralston in "The Fighting Kentuckian."

(26 April 1956) Dedication ceremonies are this week for the new education building at First Baptist. An all-day program is planned.

The highlight of the day will be the handing over of the keys to the new \$235,000 facility to Wendell "Cotton" Johnson, chairman of the board of trustees.

The first floor of the new facility went up in 1949. Construction was launched on the second and third floors in 1954.

Dr. John Sykes, has been the minister at First Baptist for the past six years.

* Meanwhile over at Central High School, the school newspaper, the Charger, has won another top award for excellence in the annual UT journalism department's competition.

(29 April 1956) Noble Cody, president of the Monterey Jaycees for the past year, has been named vice-president of the Jaycees Region 4.

During his year's reign, the Monterey Jaycees sponsored a Junior League baseball team and a Cub Scout pack, numbered all houses and businesses in town, sponsored an elementary school football program, and made improvements to the city park and playgrounds.

The job picture for Putnam County is picking up at a time when officials all across Tennessee are voicing concerns about the out migration of residents here to employment in the North.

The new Baxter shirt factory this week began taking applications for 60 workers who will start on the plant production line sometime next month.

Meanwhile, Cookeville's big new plant, Delman, is taking applications beginning this week at the Cookeville Chamber of Commerce building. Initially, 200 will be hired and eventually, the plant, which makes automobile windshield wiper assemblies, will employ 500 or more.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "The Lost Command," the story on Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett at the Alamo, starring Sterling Hayden.

(30 April 1956) Cookeville High's senior class is rehearsing this week for the annual senior class play. This year it's "Who Wouldn't Be Crazy?"

The cast includes Ronny Fitzpatrick, Carol Hudson, Harry Haquess, Hugh Ford, Judy Pennebaker and Nancy Black.

* And up in Monterey, high school seniors are preparing for their class play, "The Hoax of Hogan's Holler."

The cast of the comedy includes Arvin Vaughn, Betty Ford, June South, Linda Presley, Jimmy Reese, Mary Beaty, Paul Holloway, Mary Whitaker, Jimmy Rankin, Bernie Forester, Dormy Rankin, Bernie Forester, Doris Bohannon, Carl Stringer, and Ralph Blaylock.

'Hillbilly' music for the play is being provided by the musical trio of Dewite Sampley, Ray King and Bob King.

(May 7, 1956) A new candidate for the city's oldest newspaper cropped up this week.

Dr. Kenneth Haile gave the state archives a laminated copy of a May 22, 1858, edition of the Cookeville Times given to him by his aunt, Ella Morgan of Gainesboro, some years ago.

The newspaper was examined by Guy Stewart, director of publications at Tennessee Tech, who is working on a Ph.D. dissertation on early newspapers of Middle Tennessee.

Stewart says that as far as he knows, the previously oldest known newspaper in Cookeville was the Middle Tennessee, which was published here briefly in 1876.

The only known copy of that newspaper is in the library of the Chicago Historical Society, says Stewart.

*Showing this week at the Princess: "Teen Age Crime Wave" and "Three Bad Sisters."

(May 12, 1956) The new Delman plant, which will hire about 200 to make windshield wipers, began taking applications this week and more than 1,000 people lined the street to apply.

(May 14, 1956) Operation CuPuFu is in full swing in Cookeville this week.

It's Clean-up, Paint-up, Fix-up Week in Cookeville, and city trucks will be running special routes and schedules to pick up debris and trash from residents' spring cleaning.

*Some 250 workers at the Cookeville Shirt Co. will be without work for a few weeks as the textile plant this week announced a work stoppage. The plant will reopen when work orders rise sufficiently, said plant manager William Mayes.

Plant officials are blaming Japanese imports for taking a bite out of their business.

In the last two years since tariff rates were lowered, imports of cheaper Japanese goods has risen from 1,800 dozen shirts and blouses to 500,000 dozen.

*Showing this week at the Princess Theater: Alfred Hitchcock's dark comedy, "The Trouble With Harry," starring Ed Gwynne, John Forsythe and Shirley McLaine.

(May 15, 1956) The Cookeville Shirt Company joined others in the US textile industry this week in their fight against "cheap Japanese imports." The plants completely shut down for a few days.

The work stoppage idled 250 workers in Cookeville and 250,000 workers across the United States.

Textile plant official says the work stoppage is due to a decrease in demand for US-made goods. They say cheap Japanese imports are taking an ever-growing bite out of their sales.

They cite recent figures. In 1953, 1,800 dozen women's blouses were imported from the Far East. In February of 1956 alone, 500,000 dozen women's blouses came from there.

The work stoppage came shortly after the US lowered its tariff rates on Japanese goods. Textile officials say the stoppage will probably last a couple of weeks.

(May 21, 1956) The newspaper this week in banner headlines announced that beginning in 1958, the city will have dial telephone service.

W. K. Shell, state manager of the Southern Continental Telephone Co., which serves Putnam County, says the phone company has bought a lot between Dixie and Madison on Freeze Street and plans to move all its services to a new building it plans to erect there.

Presently to place a call you have to talk to an operator and ask her to connect you to the person you're calling.

*The Central High FFA has won district honors for its performance this year in several categories of FFA work.

(May 26, 1956) The Chamber of Commerce has put out an appeal for anyone with houses to sell or rent to call chamber officials. With all the new factory workers coming here, they are running out of places to live.

The Baxter Shirt Co. is opening in June, with 60 on the payroll right now and total of 90 expected on it soon.

And over at the huge new Delan plant, equipment is rolling every day as the plant gears up to make automotive windshield wipers.

*Showing this week at the Putnam Drive-in: Walt Disney's "Davy Crockett, King of the Wild Frontier." It stars Fess Parker and Buddy Ebsen.

An ad in this week's edition tells readers that scenes from the movie might look familiar. It was shot in Middle Tennessee, in the foothills of the Upper Cumberland and at the Hermitage in Nashville.

(June 2, 1956) Tennessee Tech is as vital to America's defenses as its arsenal of atomic weapons, Congressman M. G. Burnside told some 700 graduates at the annual Tech Alumni Banquet this week.

"We can't underestimate the Russian threat and run the risk of a kayo," he said. Technical colleges like Tennessee Tech train those who will help America keep up its guard through new technology, he said.

Burnside said that while there is much debate today on how many bombs and warplanes Russia has, he said the real issue is whether America is staying ahead in the technology race.

*Showing this week at the Princess: the musical Navy comedy, "Hit the Deck," with Jane Powell, Walter Pidgeon, Tony Martin, Vic Damore, Ann Miller and Debbie Reynolds.

(June 4, 1956) The first windshield wipers made at Cookeville's new Delman plant are about to roll off the assembly line this week.

Training is continuing. Each day, plant officials are adding about 20 new workers to the line and are hiring 20 more for training.

A team of trainers from the main plant in Des Moines has been here for the past several weeks assembling the line and getting workers ready to run it.

(June 11, 1956) Southern Continental is beefing up its long-distance telephone service for the Cookeville area, it reported this week.

The company is adding four new toll switchboards, doubling the number of operators here handling long-distance calls.

In all, 14 operators work here.

In a page one photo this week, chief operator Elise Presley is seen training Sallie Hunter and Bettie Sue Rodgers on the new equipment.

Miss Hunter has been a Southern Continental operator since 1920.

*Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "Ransom," with Glenn Ford, Donna Reed and Leslie Nielsen.

(June 21, 1956) The 126th General Assembly of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church is meeting here this week and the town is packed.

The assembly has not only drawn participants from all across the nation, but from other countries too, the newspaper reports this week.

All hotel and motel rooms are long gone and many private homes are also hosting visitors. Restaurants are also pressed to capacity at three times a day here.

Cars are lining the streets all around the Cumberland Presbyterian Church here and the Methodist Church as well where meetings are also being held.

*The Cookeville Rotary Club elected new officers this week. They are:

Guy Stewart, director; Miser Richmond, vice president; Tommy Lynn, director; Frazier Harris, president; Raymond Case, secretary-treasurer; and Dr. Bruce Strother, director. J. M. Henderson is the outgoing president.

(June 28, 1956) The newspaper published a letter this week from D. W. Bensed, an Ames, Iowa businessman, who writes about being stopped by a police car in Monterey and what happened next.

Bensed writes that he was returning home along Highway 70 from a convention and was enjoying the cooler weather of late afternoon cool and the Plateau when he heard a police siren behind him. He didn't think he'd been speeding, but pulled over.

Instead of a being given a ticket, he was greeted by George Brown of the Monterey Jaycees who told him that he'd been selected as Tourist or A day by the Club.

Bensed was escorted to his free lodgings for the evening, the "tourist home" of W. B. Uffelman.

That evening he was the guest of honor at a banquet given by the Jaycees in Monterey's Cup and Saucer Restaurant.

There, Mayor Julian Walker and the Jaycees presented Bensed with numerous gifts donated by Monterey merchants.

Before he resumed his trip the next morning, the Jaycees also washed his car and filled the tank with gas.

Bensed writes, "This was one of the most pleasant stops I ever made."

*Showing this week at the Princess Theater: Robert Taylor as "Billy The Kid."

Pictured on page one this week were Billy Rippetoe, chapter sentinel; Maxie Farmer, president; David Allen, treasurer; Carlen Pippin, vice president; Roger Williams, secretary; Dale Chaffin, reporter; and chapter advisor David R. Terry.

*Showing this week at the Princess Theater: It's "terror and mystery in the Berlin underground" with Gregory Peck and Rita Gam in "Night People."

(June 10, 1956) The Tech Preschool summer program got under way this week, preparing young boys and girls for their first year in public school in the fall.

In a page one picture this week, preschoolers learning about how school works included Fulton Johns, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene Johns of Dixie Heights; Billy Legge, son of Mrs. and Mrs. Bill Legge of North Walnut; Mike Quillen, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. P. Quillen of Cookeville; Charles Ramsey, son of Mrs. Joyce Ramsey of Livingston; and Robert Linnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Robert S. Sinnell.

*Internal Revenue officers reported this week that they only seized 43 stills in the 11-county district that includes Putnam and surrounding counties. That's down considerably from recent past years, they say.

In raids in the region's hills and hollows, they seized 22,275 gallons of mash and poured it out on the ground.

(June 16, 1956) Some 500 people are expected in town this week for a national convention of the Cumberland Presbyterian Church and its world missionary branch.

There's a new place to eat in town, Oscar's Drive-In. It's located on the new Sparta Highway down by the pants factory, which supplies it with a lot of its lunch business. Showing at the Princess this week, William Holden and Kim Novak in the film based on the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, "Picnic."

(June 18, 1956) D. W. Bensed of Ames, Iowa, this week wrote Noble Cody, vice president of the Tennessee Jaycees, to tell him of an incident that happened to him on his recent vacation.

"While driving through the high, pleasantly cool country of central Tennessee, we were stopped by the wail of a police car in the little city of Monterey."

Bensed, wondering if he'd been speeding or had otherwise violated a traffic law, pulled over and waited for the officer and a ticket. Instead, he was greeted by George Brown of the Monterey Jaycees. Bensed, it seemed, had been chosen as the town's Tourist for a Day.

He and his family were given a package of gifts from Monterey merchants, a free tank of gas and a car wash.

As Tourist for a Day, the family also got a free night's stay in a local motel, dinner at the Cup and Saucer, and a tour of the town that included a trip to the scenic overlook, Bee Rock, and a tour of a coal mine.

The Bensed family was impressed, and Bensed wrote Cody to say thanks and to give a little recognition to what Jaycees in Monterey were doing for tourism and their community.

(June 27, 1956) Eugene Johns of Putnam County Auto Parts is the new president of the Cookeville Junior Chamber of Commerce. He's on page one this week with Wesley Flatt, Jr., the out-going president.

Dean A. W. Smith, the last one who was there at the very beginning, retired from Tennessee Tech this week after 40 years of service to the University.

He came here from Bean Creek near Winchester in 1916 to be dean of the new college's history department.

He describes Tennessee Tech as "The college which was born in a cyclone, nourished by a tornado and harassed in its early stages by a hurricane, but rose above those obstacles to become one of the outstanding technical schools in the South."

At the Princess Theater this week: "Battle Stations," which the ad says is "the flattop story that tops them all." It stars John Lund, Richard Boone and William Bendix and was filmed aboard the wooden-decked USS Princeton, a WWII-vintage aircraft carrier.

(July 5, 1956) More than 100 people have signed a petition protesting plans to extend the Putnam Airport runway.

County officials are planning to add on to the southern end of the strip. That would bring it closer to their homes, say the residents of Jere Whitson and Bradley subdivisions.

They point out that already this year, an aircraft from the Putnam airport, crashed near them and barely missed one of their homes. Once in enough, they say.

At the Princess this week, it's Steve Allen, Donna Reed and Gene Krupa in "The Benny Goodman Story."

(July 12, 1956) White County Judge Edd Knowles and Putnam Judge Luke Medley this week met to talk about building a jointly owned airport in the edge of White County.

(July 15, 1956) The cost of living continues to rise.

The newspaper this week reported that the latest price hike leaves the Coca Cola plant here as the only local bottling company this week still selling its product for a nickel a bottle.

Royal Crown, Double Cola, Pepsi Cola, Dr. Pepper and Seven-Up plants in Cookeville and Livingston all have raised their prices to six cents a bottle this week.

*Susan Harris, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Luther Harris, is the first member of the Cookeville Methodist Church or the Cookeville Methodist District to be assigned as a foreign missionary.

She's been a synchronized swimmer with the Elliot Murphy Aquashow based in St. Petersburg, FL for a year and her talents have landed her her own act during the troupe's upcoming tour of the islands.

The act will conclude with a high divide through a hoop of fire.

(July 15, 1956) Virginia Plummer, an assistant professor of business administration at Tennessee Tech, won a new 1956 two-door Chevrolet sedan this week in a subscription contest sponsored by the newspaper.

She never expected to win the contest, she told the newspaper, because her duties at the college took up most of her time. But she was spurred on when she learned midway through the contest that she was nevertheless doing as well as the other 20 contestants.

In the end, she turned in 428 new subscriptions.

Civil Defense officials here will take part in the latest Civil Defense exercise slated later this month across the United States, Operation Alert.

The operation will seek to train workers in how to deal with the drift of deadly, windborne radiation following a series of simulated atomic strikes.

Civil defense workers will learn how to use wind reports to track the deadly radiation clouds, how to evacuate civilians downwind of atomic blasts, and even how to erect temporary shelters for livestock to get them under cellars into atomic fallout shelters.

(Jul. 20, 1956) Putnam County Court Clerk Douglas Bush is seen on page one this week displaying the new vehicle license plates for Tennessee.

He's also holding an old plate, which was black with white letters and cut in the shape of Tennessee. The tag number reached from rim to rim.

The new ones conform to new national standards. They're 6 inches high and a foot long and have smaller numbers and letters.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "Anything Goes," with Bing Crosby, hooper Donald O'Connor and Misty Gaynor. The ad says it's the "go-go-go musical of the year."

(Aug. 6, 1956) J. J. Fields of Brotherton is pictured on page one of this week's edition marking his 93rd birthday. He's shown looking down the barrel of the shotgun he recently took when he went rabbit hunting by himself one day.

He's known in the community for being unusually spry for his age.

*For the third month in a row, the Putnam County Court has rejected a proposal that the county match the city in funding a major expansion of the county airport north of town.

Again, the magistrates said they could not support the airport's plans to extend its runway south closer to neighborhoods who strenuously object to planes flying any lower over their homes.

State aviation officials have told the airport that expanding the airport in any other direction is "impractical."

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: Cornell Wilde and Jane Russell in "Hot Blood."

(Aug. 16, 1956) A group of students were photographed by the

(Aug. 16, 1956) Not only has traffic become a problem here, but parking has too. The merchants on Westside have built a parking lot behind the stores on the north side of Broad and have installed a booth where drivers pay the attendant 10 cents to park for an hour. But the merchants advertised this week that if you buy \$3 in goods at Westside, you can park for free for half an hour. If you buy \$4 in merchandise, you park free for an hour.

(Aug. 16, 1956) A group of students were photographed by the newspaper one night this week burning a cross on the main quad at Tennessee Tech, but they said it wasn't what it looked like.

They were letting off steam at the end of summer quarter, they said, not protesting or making a racially-oriented statement.

*Central High football coach Eddie Watson told the newspaper's sportswriters this week that the team he'll field this fall is lighter than usual – so he's focusing on speed to put points on the board.

Shown sprinting in full gear in the August heat on Page 1 this week are 178-pound senior center Lowell Smith and 170-pound junior Harlon Jackson.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "The Bottom of the Bottle," which the ad says is a look at "The West of today...ranch society and border towns." It stars Van Johnson, Joseph Cotton and Ruth Roman.

(Aug. 23, 1956) A spectacular blaze on the last night of the Putnam County Fair did \$50,000 in damages, destroying the south grandstand and exhibit hall. (The fairgrounds at the time was located between Freeze and 4th Streets.)

(Aug. 30, 1956) Sam Denton Poteet broke the record here this week when he was sworn in for a third term as a sheriff here. Others had served two terms, but never three. He's the 26th man to hold the office of sheriff in Putnam County's history.

(Sept. 14, 1956) Schools opened here this week. When heads were counted, school officials and that Cookeville's city schools gained enrollment, and rural schools lost again for another year.

This year, rural schools were down by 119 students. City schools gained 127 students. The total county enrollment stands at 6,063.

(Nov. 3, 1956) The Cookeville Police Dept. and the Putnam Sheriffs Dept. have pooled funds to buy a \$250 lie detector. It costs the departments \$25 each time officers have to travel to use the nearest machines in Lebanon or Nashville.

(Nov. 26, 1956) An outstanding member of Putnam County's 4-H Club has won national recognition this week. Fred Brown was one of eight 4-H members in the nation recognized in this week's national 4-H convention in Chicago.

Brown, son of Mr. and Mrs. Johnnie Brown of Bloomington Springs, was judged the most outstanding 4-H member in the United States this year in his use of innovative soil conservation techniques on his family's farm.

Brown says he became interested in soil conservation during a visit with his father to a county soil conservation field day last year.

What he saw inspired him to create contours on 45 acres of his father's 160-acre farm to stop water from washing away valuable topsoil.

He later built a series of checkdams and sodded waterways to improve drainage and runoff on the farm, and created a wildlife garden on the edge of fields to benefit wildlife.

His skillful use of advanced soil-saving and conservation techniques made him the first member of the Putnam County 4-H Club to win national recognition.

The award give Brown \$3,000 towards college next year.

(Dec. 6, 1956) A local group called Citizens for a Youth Center plans to give the three-man Cookeville City Commission a petition this week calling for the creation of a city-operated recreational facility for young people here. Nationally, concern is rising about juvenile delinquents and what is perceived to be signs of a growing disrespect towards parents and authority by many of today's young people. Locally, the group says young people need wholesome recreational activities to steer them away from trouble.

The group is chaired by Fred Foss. Mrs. Frank Britnell is vice-chairman. Mrs. George Webb is also in the group.

(Dec. 14, 1956) Police Chief N. K. Matthews this week arrested a man hauling 131 cases of bonded whiskey from Knoxville. Matthews told the newspaper that something just didn't look right about the truck used by the whiskey runners.

*Vernon Neal is among 287 students slated to receive their bachelor of law degree this week from the University of Tennessee, according to UT officials.

(Dec. 20, 1956) What are the community's greatest needs today? The newspaper surveyed readers and this week printed their response. Readers said that the greatest need here is for more classroom facilities.

Existing schools are "bursting at the seams" and enrollment has begun to suddenly skyrocket in recent years. The Putnam County Court in January is to hear a proposal from school officials on how to relieve school overcrowding here.

Meanwhile, other top problems cited by readers included the lack of a youth center here, unsightly lots and buildings, the lack of parking spaces in the city's business district, and low pay now earned by teachers.

(Dec. 27, 1956) Can a child catch a serious disease from one of the free textbooks the state is now giving out to children? What if the previous owner had an ailment? That's the question many are asking, and the newspaper quotes public health officials who say there is only a minute chance of a child catching an illness of any sort from a textbook.

Miss Clara Starnes, librarian at the Clara Cox Epperson Library here, said it is a question officials have heard every year for the past few years since textbooks have been given to school children by the state.

1957

(April 23, 1957) A UT study shows that Putnam County is continuing to lose residents to jobs up north. An average of 300 residents have left the county each year since 1950.

(May 12, 1957) The Cookeville Rotary Club board of directors met with its president by telephone and conducted business this week in what is believed to be the first telephone conference call for any organization in the state.

(May 30, 1957) M.N. Hargove was the auctioneer when the county sells the old Putnam Fairgrounds north of town for \$28,755 this week. The property was subdivided into 25 lots for the sale. Meanwhile, new buildings are going up at the new fairgrounds south of town on the Sparta Road. They're expected to be ready for use this summer.

(July 18, 1957) Looking for a car with real power? An ad in this week's newspaper promises you'll find it in the new Studebaker-Packard Golden Hawk. It has a four-barrel carburetor and a V-8 engine that pulls the Golden Hawk up hills effortlessly, even if the entire family is aboard.

1958

(Jan. 5, 1958) Cookevillians will hear this week from a man who can tell them first-hand what it was like in China when the communist took over there.

Dr. James Belote, a Southern Baptist missionary, was first sent to China in 1940 as a missionary and remained there until the Japanese Army invaded during WWII. He pastured a church in Hawaii during the war.

In 1947, Dr. Belote returned to China and was able to remain there until the 'Bamboo Curtain' fell in 1949 when the communists consolidated their control of the vast nation under Mao Zedong. He's been in Hong Kong ever since trying to maintain ties with his former flocks.

And Miss Mary Edith Adkins, who was crowned Miss Putnam County last fall at the annual county fair here, will be in Nashville this week vying for the title of Miss Tennessee County Fair. The 17-year-old is from Algood.

(Jan. 8, 1958) The City of Cookeville is looking into a request that it take over and operate a 12-year-old bus line owned by Clarence Carrington and J. L. Medley.

The line presently runs from Cookeville to Silver Point and from Cookeville to Celina.

A hitch has come up in the city's study of the question. City attorney Wesley Flatt, Jr., told the City Commission this week that it will take a private act by the state legislature before the city can take over the line. The present city charter doesn't give the commission the authority to run a transit service, he explained.

The city is still looking into the idea this week.

(Jan. 10, 1958) Local coal miners have appealed to TVA to give them work. Because TVA failed to renew its contract to buy coal from the Fentress Coal & Coke Co. more than 475 coal miners and more than 200 Tennessee Central Railroad workers have been without a job since Dec. 31, 1957.

(Jan. 14, 1958) Police Chief Hubert Crawford this week reported a rash of crime here in recent days. Several cars have been taken and a spate of home burglaries are being investigated.

He says it's the work of a gang of teenagers. One has been caught and has confessed. But the youth has refused to identify the others involved. So, the chief says the city's 10 p.m. curfew will be enforced with particular vigor in the coming nights.

Chief Crawford adds that people who want to report crime can now use the police department's new number. It's 200. There is now someone on duty around the clock to answer the phone, he says.

(Jan. 18, 1958) Putnam Sheriff Bill Bilyeu is recovering from surgery on a broken pelvis and vertebrae after he was struck by a car on Highway 70 as he arrested a mail carrier for drunken driving.

(Jan. 19, 1958) "Four" is big with music groups these days. There are the Four Tops, the Four Freshmen, the Four Aces, the Four Seasons, the Four Lads...and now, there are Tennessee Tech's Four Teens.

The guys started singing together four years ago when they were freshmen and decided to enter a freshman talent contest. They won. The Four Teens went on to local rock 'n' roll fame, performing at sock hops and other youth functions regularly ever since.

The four are Pierce Lefevre of Chattanooga, Jimmy Garrett of McMinnville, Henry Hughes of Nashville and Wayne Manning. They're featured in an article in this week's edition.

Showing at the Princess this week: "April Love," with Pat Boone and Shirley Jones.

(Jan. 22, 1958) The US Atomic Energy commission's "Atoms for Peace" mobile exhibit rolled into town this week to tell everyone about the bright future that's ahead for America because of plans in the works for atomic energy.

Most of us knew that atoms can be split to blow up things and even to propel massive submarines through the water, but the exhibit spreads the word that atomic energy has civilian applications too. It can help make electricity too. In fact, there are atomic power plants in the planning stages all across the country.

(Feb. 3, 1958) The county has applied to receive federal surplus foods to help feed 4,000 miners in the Monterey area left jobless since the closing of the Blue Diamond and Clinchfield Mines.

The Age of Television is here, and television sets are becoming commonplace in homes in Cookeville and across the nation. You can pick one up over at Bethel Newport's Western Auto store for as low as \$169.

That's according to an ad for the new line of Admiral TV's now on sale. They have easy-to-reach controls on top of the screen and feature two speakers for that "talking picture effect," says the ad.

They come in an attractive wood-veneer and metal cabinet. There's a generous trade-in allowance too.

In other entertainment this week, the Princess Theater is showing "The Brains from Planet Arous," with John Agar, Robert Fuller and Joyce Meadows. The ad says it's "science fiction's most astounding story."

Not astounded yet? There's more. Also at the Princess this week is "Teenage Monster," with Anne Gwynne and Stuart Wade. The ad warns: "Man, beast or demon? He is wild, wanton and weird."

(Feb. 4, 1958) Members of the Cookeville City Commission are talking about requesting a new census of Cookeville, one predicted to bring the city's official population up to the 10,000 mark.

A page one editorial in this week's edition urges the city to do that and more. It suggests that Cookeville follow the example of McMinnville, Tullahoma, Crossville, Shelbyville and several other Tennessee cities and annex areas lying on its fringe.

There are some 4,000 residents living in the "fringe" areas the newspaper is referring to. Since state aid to cities and towns is in many cases based on population, adding more residents will mean more state aid.

And that will allow the city to do a better job serving residents with better streets, utilities and services, the editorial suggest.

(Feb. 6, 1958) Evans Garage at 36 South Cedar advertises that it has an advantage over the competition in fine-tuning your engine. It has "an electronic device" to do the work better. It's called an "Enginscope." It looks like a portable television set, says the ad, and it "can detect and diagnose auto engine trouble in a matter of seconds." Call 952 for more information.

(Feb. 11, 1958) Boy Scout Troop 196 of the Tennessee Tech Training School held a Court of Honor this week to recognize achievements of its members.

Merit badges were formally awarded to Jim Brown, Bill Cameron and Phil Bertram.

There were promotions. Bruce Plummer was named a First Class Scout and Bertrm became a Life Scout, one step away from an Eagle.

The meeting climaxed with a slide show by Walter Keith Crawford of his trips to the national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

(Feb. 13, 1958) The Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Cookeville announces that for a quarter and a coupon found in every carton of Coca-Cola, you can get an autographed album by Tony Bennett that normally sells for \$1.29. It's a collection of his greatest hits: "Come Next Spring," "Rags to Riches," "Cold Cold Heart," "Because of You," "In the Middle of an Island," and "Can You Find It In Your Heart?"

(Feb. 18, 1958) The Stockton and Benson Hardware Store in Algood was destroyed by fire this week for a \$70,000-loss. Firemen say they had no water for an hour while fighting the blaze, and think that had something to do with their losing the battle.

Leo Prichard, Algood's water superintendent, said that the town's water storage tank dried up during the fire because too many residents had left their water running all day to keep pipes from freezing.

Firemen say the seven-degree temperatures also hampered their efforts to save the store.

(Feb. 20, 1958) The state is changing license plates again beginning with those which drivers here will purchase in March. It will have black letters on a white background and will feature larger numbers this year. Police have been complaining that the numbers on the present tags are too small to easily identify. Again, Putnam County's prefix will be "34."

*The Tennessee Tech Aquatic Club is putting on an 11-act water show this week in the TTU pool entitled, "Come to the Madi Gras." It includes synchronized swimming and comedy diving.

(Feb. 24, 1958) More male students at Tennessee Tech will be able to live on campus soon now that the university wrapped up a \$375,000 funding package this week on a new men's dormitory wing.

TTU officials told the newspaper that they've secured a \$150,000 loan, which will be combined with \$225,000 of the university's own funds to build the new housing units. Bids will be let soon, says TTU President Everett Derryberry.

(Mar. 3, 1958) County Judge Luke Medley said this week that there's help on the way for all the miners and their families in the Monterey area that are facing hard times as a result of large-scale coal mine shutdowns.

Medley has requested federal aid and the government says it will send surplus food here soon. A rail car full of rice, meal, cheese and powdered milk should be here within a week, says Medley.

(Mar. 6, 1958) The new Rotary Club officers for 1958 are Tommy Lynn, president; James Carlen, J. A. Barksdale, directors; and James Seay Brown, vice president. M. R. Richmond is the outgoing president.

*John Poteet, chairman of a special committee here, says that efforts to combine fundraising efforts in Putnam County into one joint campaign have died for lack of interest. Only 23 persons showed up a recent meeting to discuss the idea. When 50 request another meeting, the committee may reconvene, Poteet said.

(Mar. 11, 1958) Tennessee Methodist Bishop Roy Short of Nashville has sworn in Dr. Paul A. Barker as the fifth president of Baxter Seminary after the retirement of Dr. Harry Upperman, the school's longtime leader.

(Mar. 12, 1958) Central High has begun releasing an honor roll again after some time without doing so. Making the all-A's list for the most recent period were students David Holman, Rebecca Paris, Maxine Vaughn and Fred Brown.

Listed in the second honors list – those who made mostly A's – were Buddy Gaw, David Sliger, Jimmy Snelgrove, Jack McCormick and Holda Brewer.

(Mar. 17, 1958) Dr. Paul A. Barker became the fifth president of Baxter Seminary in a grand inauguration ceremony at the school this week. He succeeds Dr. Harry Upperman, who is retiring after leading the school for many years.

The keynote speaker was Dr. John Gross, the executive secretary of the Methodist Church Board of Education, which oversees the school.

Gross praised Tennessee law saying, "In Tennessee, we can teach the Bible, which is the backbone of our Democratic way of life."

Over at Clarence Stewart Auto Sales you can buy a 1953 Chevy wagon for \$790; a 1955 Mercury for \$1,290; a 1956 Chevy wagon for \$1,375; a two-door 1957 Mercury for \$1,945; and a 1956 Olds 88 for \$1,760.

(Mar. 20, 1958) Jaysons on West Broad will have its grand reopening this week. Store owner Arnold Leftovitz has remodeled and expanded Jaysons again. Since opening eight years ago, he added two new departments and enlarged the store once before prior to the latest changes.

(Mar. 24, 1958) The addition of a new water line is expanding the city's water system, city officials said this week. They approved the purchase of \$21,000 in water pipe.

New line will be laid to serve the new Perry Morgan Holmes development at Franklin and 7th.

Another new line will stretch from Maple north across 12th, the railroad tracks and on to the new Delman plant at 15th Street.

Work on the new lines is to begin immediately, city officials say.

(March 27, 1958) Those here who have television sets will likely see some of these shows on Nashville's WSIX Channel 8 this week: "Cheyenne" with Clint Walker, "The Real McCoys" with Walter Brenna, "Wyatt Earp" with Hugh O'Brien and "The Frank Sinatra Show."

(March 29, 1958) The Tennessee Central Railroad this week asked the federal Interstate Commerce Commission for permission to end service on its Crawford branch line, a 20.6-mile section of track that runs north from Monterey into the heart of the region's coal country. Railroads and coal have fallen on hard times.

*The first pair of boots is due to roll off the assembly line at the new Georgia Shoe Company in Baxter this week, according to plant manager Clyde Dabbs.

Workers have completed the installation of a 60-ton rubber mill in the plant. It's reputed to be the largest piece of manufacturing equipment in the region.

When the plant is up to full speed, it is expected to crank out 1,200 pairs of shoes and boots each day.

(April 7, 1958) A 16th birthday ball for Marcia Whitaker, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Whitaker Jr. of Cookeville, earned Cookeville national publicity in recent nights. Entertaining the more than 2,000 guests expected in TTU's Memorial Gymnasium for the ball will be Jan Garber and his nationally-known orchestra. Garber has been mentioning the special Cookeville engagement each night for the last week on his CBS radio show. Mayor Dero Brown is to give Garber a plaque welcoming him to the city when he arrives.

(April 8, 1958) The Cookeville Business and Professional Women's Club has honored Mrs. Frazier Jaquess with the "Woman of Achievement" award for 1958-59.

Mrs. Jaquess has been a member of the professional organization since 1941 and has served two terms as its president.

A Tennessee Tech graduate, she taught school for a number of years and currently works with her husband in Ideal Cleaners and Men's Shop here in Cookeville.

They have two sons, Harry, a student at TTU, and Joe, a Central High student. Both are Eagle Scouts.

(April 12, 1958) Pat Doughty, and 8th grader at Park View, will represent Putnam County in the upcoming Southern Appalachian Spelling Competition in Knoxville later this month.

The 14-year-old daughter of Mrs. Otis Phillips of 440 West Stevens Street, Cookeville recently outspelled her four opponents from across the county. She's been the champion county speller for the past two years and her spelling coach, teacher Earl Nichols, says she's even better this year.

Her principal, Henry Ferrell, played a part in that. He loaned her a copy of his old Hunts speller. He used it when he was a boy in school. He says it's a good bit harder than today's grade school spelling books.

*A large package arrived here this week from Norway. The crate, pictured on page one of this week's edition, had instructions written in German. It came from Norway. It's a special kind of granite that's being used to build the doorway of the new First National Bank here on Jefferson Avenue.

(April 19, 1958) The population on Tennessee's farms is declining, and those remaining on the farm are increasingly older. That's the news from University of Tennessee agriculture economist Dr. Joe A. Mark. He said that between 1950 and 1955, the state lost 122,000 farmers. In the decade of 1940-1950, the loss totaled 254,000 farmers. They are going to the cities to find jobs, and 75 percent of those who are leaving are in the 17-28-year group. People over 57, on the other hand, seldom leave the farm, he commented.

(April 24, 1958) If you have a set, you've seen it advertised on TV for \$4.98 but a special ad in this week's edition tells you how to get one for only \$3.98.

Or, there's the Mouli Chop-O-Matic vegetable processor. On TV it's advertised for \$2.98 but the newspaper ad lists it for a dollar less. But wait, there's more. What about the Wax-O-Matic sponge mop. It comes with a built-in applicator (a sort of pot stuck on top of a conventional sponge mop) and it too is only \$1.98. Buy now while they last.

(April 24, 1958) Area Boy Scouts and their leaders are checking their gear and preparing for the upcoming Scout Circus in Nashville. In page-one photo this week are members of Explorer Post 108: Bob Roberson, Bob Maddux, Charles Craighead, Walter Keith Crawford Jr. and Bill Roberson.

The Scout Circus will be attended by other Putnam Scout units and their Scoutmasters. They include Algood Troop 170, led by Raymond Rodgers; Capshaw Post 156 led by Will Glenn Crawford and John Stites; Methodist Troop 108 led by Bill Arnold; Park View Troop 186, led by Eddie Olson; Monterey Troop 134; led by J. C. Allen; and Baxter 134; led by Harold Bartlett.

Also going are Tennessee Tech Training School's Club Scout pack, led by Bill Frey, and Capshaw Elementary's pack, led by J. B. Robbins.

(April 28, 1958) A whopping quarter-page ad in this week's edition tells about the movie everyone in Cookeville has seen or is about to. "Peyton Place" is here.

It stars Lana Turner as "Constance MacKenzie," Diane Varis as daughter "Allison MacKenzie," Lee Philips as "Michael Rossi" and Lloyd Nolan as "Doc Swain." Tickets are 75 cents for adults and 25 cents for children. No one will be admitted on free passes for this one.

*For those with other movie tastes, Peter Cushing stars in "Curse of Frankenstein" at the Putnam Crive-IN. Its' in color.

(May 1, 1958) Decked out in their "See Rock City" sailor caps, eight graders from Park View Elementary are pictured in this week's edition after their recent class trip to the popular Chattanooga attraction.

Among those in the group are Jimmie Loftis, Jerry Robinson, James Lynn, Faye McBride, Rebecca Maynard, Hulon Fox, Linda Dixon, Jerry Robinson, Joe Hix and Beth Judd.

At the Princess this week: "The Deep Six," about which the theater ad says, "Here it is. The men, the mission, the picture that rocks the theater with glory." Faced with living up to that description are actors Alan Ladd, Kennan Wynn and James Whitmore.

(May 5, 1958) Tennessee Tech will have a special guest speaker for this year's ROTC Armed Forces Day – Gen. William C. Westmoreland. He's the commander of the 101st Airborne Division at Ft. Campbell.

Military officials preparing for Armed Forces Day said, "We urge Americans and our free world friends to see the new concepts and weapons which have so radically altered techniques of military operations."

(May 15, 1958) This week over at Baxter Seminary – the high school for the county's western section – the senior class is practicing for its class play, "Seventeen's Terrific."

The cast, pictured in this week's edition, include Aaron Dyer, Sally McArthur, Robert Gerard, Nancy Maddux, David DeLozier, Polly Ferrell, Robert Williams, Mary Jane Gill, Clay Keith and Carolyn Wallace.

Meanwhile, high school seniors are getting decked out for graduation this week. Some of them are shopping at McMurry – Roberson, which ran an ad in this week's edition listing items like sports shirts for \$2.98, dress shirts for \$2.95 and sports coats for \$14.95.

(May 20, 1958) Lawrence Bartlett, a Cookeville native, has been named supervisor of the state's school lunch program.

Bartlett, a Tennessee Polytech graduate who's done graduate work at Peabody College, has been supervisor of the state farm training for veterans program since 1953. Before WWII Bartlett was a supervisor in the state Farm Security Administration.

He began his working life as a vocational agriculture teacher at Baxter Seminary, where he taught from 1942 until 1944. He served a year of active duty in WWII and later in the Korean War.

He and his wife, the former Virginia Lea Chapin of Cookeville, now live in Nashville.

(May 21, 1958) The US Postal Service's deficit may top \$700,000 this year and Cookeville Postmaster T. P. Moore says the reason is that the cost of stamps is too low.

Since 1932, the cost of shipping the mail by train and motor carriers has risen steadily. Things will have to change or the Postal Service will become even more financially unsound, he indicated.

*Patrons of the Putnam Drive-in this week were taken on "a spectacular adventure in the white jungles of the north" in the film, "The Wild North," starring Stewart Granger, Wendell Corey and Cyd Charisse.

(May 21, 1958) It may be spring here, but it's winter where one Cookevillian is going.

Fowler Clark has reported for duty as a construction equipment operator with the 933rd Aircraft Control and Warning Squadron on the southeast of Iceland.

The radar station here serves as a link in the early warning system America depends on in case of a surprise attack by the Russians.

The station is located near Hofn, Iceland, which is known for its large annual catch of herring and cod. Clark previously was stationed at Shaw Air Force base in South Carolina.

(May 26, 1958) TTU is launching its first graduate program, President Everett Derryberry announced this week.

The program includes 21 courses in education, biology, chemistry, English, history and mathematics.

Dean J. A. Barksdale is director of the program. Its faculty include Dr. Paul Hollister, Dr. J. T. Skinner, Dr. L. V. Bruner, and Dr. C. L. Eyer.

(May 29, 1958) Students enrolled in TTU's school of Engineering, five are women: Shirley Burt, Ladye Lou Gregory, Mary Jean Morris, Alice Boyd, and Betty Jean Hager, who say, "There are some who feel women have no place in engineering... people must have time to adjust to the new."

Work by women in WWII in jobs traditionally held by men helped open the door for women to enter previously male-dominated fields. TTU's first female engineering graduate, Barbara Elizabeth Strife, received her diploma in 1951.

(June 2, 1958) The Algood Jaycees and Jayettes have new officers this week, and the organizations' new leaders are getting off to a quick start with the raffling off of a new 1958 Ford to raise funds to promote and benefit Algood.

New officers for the Algood Jaycees this year are Joe Maxwell, president; Howard Cooper, internal vice president; Charles C. Vaughn, external vice president; Jack McGee, treasurer; Guy Wilmoth, secretary; and Bill Adams, director.

New officers for the Algood Jayettes this year are Mrs. Gaskel Jones, president; Mrs. Guy Wilmoth, secretary; Mrs. Billy M. Adams, vice president; and Mrs. Billy Benson, state director.

(June 17, 1958) Dairy farming is a \$500,000 industry in Putnam County this year. There are 40 Grade A dairy farms here now, up from only four a decade ago. The growth was influenced by the public school lunch program.

(June 18, 1958) Noble Cody has been named chairman of the Cookeville Jaycees Youth Fitness Testing Program. It aims to counter the recent finding by the President's commission on youth that young people today are not physically fit. The Jaycees hope to encourage and recognize participation in organized sports and will promote good eating habits among young people.

*The US is in the midst of an American history craze, the newspaper notes. There are dozens of books being snatched up by the public on every possible aspect of the Civil War. There are magazine articles, newspaper columns, clubs and radio shows devoted to it. America is wild about America's past.

Meanwhile, teenagers have other things on their minds, like the new movie showing this week at the Princess: "I Was A Teenage Frankenstein."

(June 19, 1958) Jimmy Earle, 24, former McMinnville Central High and Middle Tennessee State basketball player, will now coach the sport at Algood

He was appointed this week to that coaching position by Algood principal Nobel Cody. Earle replaces Ralph Pritchard, who is retiring from coaching, but who still teach.

(June 24, 1958) An area youth will be seen this week dancing on Dick Clark's "American Bandstand," a popular Philadelphia show.

Larry E. Brown of Rt. 1, Crawford, a recent graduate of Livingston Academy, has already appeared three times on "5 O'Clock Hop," a Nashville dance show on WSM. One time he took Sandra Crawford of Cookeville along as his dance partner.

He can be seen this Saturday afternoon from 2:30 - 3; and from 3:30 until 4 dancing with the gang and hearing teens till Dick Clark which songs they'd rate the highest because, well, they're just good to dance to.

(July 1, 1958) H. J. Childress, a long-time county farm agent in Putnam County, announced this week that he's a candidate for the office of State Senator in the upcoming Democratic primary.

A veteran of WWII, Childress said that if elected he'll work to improve education, roads, and safety for all Tennesseans.

At the Princess Theater, Paul Newman stars as "the strange teenage desperado known as Billy the Kid" in "The Left-Handed Gun."

(July 2, 1958) Mechanized farming equipment helped double the level of farm production here since 1940, only 18 years. Previously, it took more than 100 years, from 1820 until 1940, for farm production to double.

(July 3, 1958) Mr. and Mrs. Roy White signed the deed this week selling property to the Putnam County airport to build a new runway.

The old runway runs southwest to northeast. The new 3,800-foot runway will run southeast to northwest.

The new runway will be able to handle DC-3s. The county hopes that Cookeville will find itself on the route of an airline by undertaking the project.

(July 5, 1958) The new national president of the Jaycees was in town this week. Bob Cox and his wife, Catherine, were on their way to the national Jaycees headquarters in Tulsa when they decided to drop in. Catherine was already a familiar face around town. She's the daughter of Algood Carlen of Cookeville.

*At the Princess this week: "The Invisible Boy." It stars Richard Eyer and "Robbie the Robot." It's the story of 'science monsters who are against mankind.

(July 7, 1958) Kathy Pointer, 16, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joe Pointer, is this year's Queen of the Fourth in Algood. Mrs. Betty Jones, president of the Algood Jaycettes, crowned her in Algood park to kick off that town's Fourth of July celebration.

Meanwhile, in Cookeville this July 4th, many attended the water ballet put on in Park View Pool.

And in Monterey, Cookeville's Jared Maddux, Tennessee's Lieutenant Governor, gave a patriotic talk during the town's festival.

(July 17, 1958) It's an election year and this week's edition was full of campaign advertising.

On the state level, Edmund Orgill, a candidate for governor, says he's "The man who can bring factories to Tennessee."

Luke Medley, seeking reelection to the county judge's seat here, is campaigning on the slogan, "Make sure the progress continues."

Prentice Cooper, meanwhile, has this slogan in his campaign ads: "Is your pay envelope being Gored?" He charges that Senator Albert Gore (Sr.) has done little to stop the flow of foreign fabrics and cheap foreign goods into the U. S. They're taking jobs from Tennessee, says Cooper.

And over in Cookeville General Hospital, Sam Denton Poteet is campaigning for the office of sheriff. His ad this week apologizes to voters for not getting around and seeing each of them. He says he's been slowed down by a broken leg.

(July 21, 1958) Television is still a new marvel to many here, but TV commercials are a bor. Those are the finding in a report detailed in this week's edition.

The Burke Market Research Inc. study found that only 23 percent of today's audience stays seated and watches TV commercials during breaks between shows.

When commercials come on, 28 percent leave the room altogether. Twenty-five percent read, make phone calls or do something else. Sixteen percent leave the house. Eight percent in the survey owned televisions but weren't watching them at the time of the survey.

(Aug. 5, 1958) A Baxter man was pictured on page one in this week's edition posing with friends in New York City's Yankee Stadium.

Gardner Stout, a member of the Baxter congregation of the Jehovah's Witnesses, was in New York for an international convention.

Posing with him were friends from McMinnville and Murfreesboro, and Pratojo Hardjopranto of Iran.

(Aug. 19, 1958) There's another war on, this one against an unseen enemy called polio. The weapon in this war is the Salk vaccine and everyone in the nation from age six months to 40 is being called upon to 'enlist.'

The drive is on the get American immunized with the new Salk vaccine. It takes a series of three shots to protect you from the dreaded disease.

The enemy struck in outbreaks of polio recently in Virginia, West Virginia, Florida, New Jersey, Montana, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. There were new cases in Tennessee too.

Officials here this week released that information to persuade Putnam residents to get the shots, and to get all three of the shots.

*War, westerns and teenagers were the themes at the movies this week here. At the Princess you could watch "Jet Attack" or "Suicide Battalion," or see today's troubled teens in "Carnival Rock" and "Teenage Thunder," or you could see bad guys get their due in "Badlands of Montana" or "The Law and Jake Wade."

(Aug. 25, 1958) They've announced cheerleaders for the coming school year at Central High. The squad includes senior Helen Mott, senior Marsha Lee, junior Judy Whitson, sophomore Winkie Harris, junior Mary Ramsey, and junior Gaylia Booker.

A 10-year-old Putnam County girl showed the top Angus in the District cattle show at the Putnam Fairgrounds this week.

Bennie Phillips, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Conley Phillips of Rt. 1, Cookeville, took the top prize with her six-month-old heifer.

Showing at the Princess this week: "Rockabilly Baby," starring Virginia Field and Douglas Kennedy.

(Sept. 2, 1958) A Cookevillian was paraded down the streets of Atlantic City this week representing Tennessee in the Miss American pageant.

At press time, Patricia Arden Eaves of Cookeville was among the finalists and had narrowly lost the swimsuit competition to Miss California by 1.8 points.

A local delegation was in Atlantic City with Miss Eaves to cheer her on. It included Mr. and Mrs. Hackie Newman, Mr. and Mrs. Bob McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Flatt, Mrs. and Mrs. J. J. Foutch, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Thompson and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Crawford.

(Sept. 4, 1958) It's time for more blockbuster summer movies at the local theaters. Among the film classics this week in store for those who enjoy moves are "The Astounding She Monster" and "Viking Women vs. the Sea Serpent" with Abby Dalton. Besides science and oceanography, there's a Westerns, "Saddle the Wind," with Robert Taylor, and there's another motion picture about today's troubled teens, "Reform School Girl." It's a story of "caged boy-hungry wildcats gone mad," screams the ad.

Or, for the music lover, there's "Rock Around the Clock" with Tommy Steele. Step right up.

(Sept. 11, 1958) The big Baxter-Hartsville football game is this weekend and the meet is Baxter Seminary's homecoming. Baxter's team co-captains are Charles Pardue and Steve Sanders.

The Football Queen is Judy Maxwell. Her attendants are cheerleaders Geraldine Stewart, Bobbie June Carr, Judy Hardin, Dian Pullum and Jaynie Hill.

Barbara Billings is Homecoming Queen. Her court features sophomore Rita Lowe, freshman Collen Bruce, senior Ernestine Austin and junior Dowlene Maxwell.

Meanwhile over at Tennessee Tech, Malcom Quillen, assistant professor of health and physical education at TTU since 1954, is the college's new Dean of Men.

(Sept. 11, 1958) The nation is in a recession, officials say, but Putnam County has seen business soar in the last eight years, the newspaper reports this week. Sales tax collections have gained 99.3 percent from 1950 to 1958, rising from a total of \$268,673 collected in 1950 to \$535,450 collected in 1958. Statewide this year, sales tax collections dipped slightly, but in Putnam County, collections were up a little over last year's figure. Showing at the Princess this week: Tab Hunter stars as "the young rebel who didn't fit, and didn't try...a kid who couldn't wait for his war." The film is called, "Lafayette Escadrille," Hollywood's account of American fliers who fought for France before the US entered WWI. It also stars "that scorching new beauty from France, Etchika Choureau."

(Sept. 17, 1958) Mr. and Mrs. H. G. Tweed of St. Petersburg, FL, were passing through Cookeville the other day enroute home from a trip to Pennsylvania when they were pulled over here – by the Jaycees.

It was Tourist Day in Cookeville. Instead of the speeding ticket they may have expected, they were given a free night's lodging at the Shank's Hotel, free dinner and breakfast, and a free tank of gas from Gertis Carr and Charles Gentry at the C & C Service Station. They said it was the nicest night they'd spent on their trip.

(Sept. 18, 1958) Putnam County schools are spending more per child than the state average, according to a state report released this week. On the average, schools in Tennessee spend a dime an hour on each student to provide an education.

Putnam schools spend 12-cents per hour per student. Some schools in smaller, poorer counties like Trousdale or Van Buren County spend as little as 8 1/2 cents per hour, the report notes.

(Sept. 18, 1958) The newspaper's editorial writer said this week that America is obviously in the grip of moral decay.

American prisoners of war have been brainwashed and demoralized by the North Koreans. Teenage crime and hot-rodding is epidemic and the nation's sexual standards are low, according to the findings of the Kinsey study.

Everyone must do his or her part to reverse the rot, but it is up to the American businessman to lead the way, says the newspaper.

"The businessman is the leading citizen in an industrial society and must put high moral values above profit or economic security."

(Sept. 25, 1958) Winners in the talent show for freshmen at TTU this week were Jackie Williams of Chattanooga and Gail Weddington of Tullahoma. He strummed his guitar and sang, "Red Red Robin." She twirled flaming batons.

*An editorial this week notes that it was just a few years ago that mothers in a major US city picketed the mayor's office demanding that more Salk vaccine be released for polio shots in that city. The new vaccine couldn't be produced fast enough to fight the dreaded disease.

Today, there are playgrounds full of healthy children all over the country and many polio wards in hospitals are being converted to other uses.

But, there are 45 million people in the US this year without polio shots who are in the age group that is susceptible to polio – those below 40 years of age. An outbreak could happen again.

(Oct. 2, 1958) Marine Pfc. Sam H. Hooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fletcher Looper of Monterey, was recently aboard the USS Essex when it spearheaded a group of carriers that was rushed through the Suez Canal to support a UN peace force in Formosa. The troops were sent to calm civil unrest there.

(Oct. 2, 1958) Juvenile delinquency is considered such a problem these days that Putnam County Judge Jimmy Mosier says he's going to ask the Putnam County Court to fund a full-time probation officer.

Right now the county doesn't even have a part-time probation officer. The post has remained vacant since Bill Bilyeu left to become police chief in McMinnville earlier this year.

Mosier says that there are so many teens getting into trouble with the law here now that a part-time position isn't enough anymore. A part-time officer doesn't have time to check up on all his charges, says Mosier.

(Oct. 6, 1958) Cookeville's Masons celebrated the 100th birthday of their organization here this week with a dinner banquet and oration.

J. P. Buck, a past master in the local lodge, began the evening with a history of Lodge No. 266 of the F&AM. Senior past master Dr. W. A. Howard gave the principal address.

There were also lively talks by Arch E. McClanahan, Past Most Worshipful Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Tennessee; Russell Ballou Tandy, Past Right Emminent Grand Commander of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee; and Coy Zachery, Generalissimo of the Grand Commandery of Tennessee.

Among the more than 100 at the banquet were several past masters of the lodge, including H. J. Davis, E. C. Warner, J. J. Foutch, Dero Brown, Joe F. Hudgens, L. E. Terry, George N. Ford, H. H. Livesay and L. G. Massa.

Tennessee Tech's ROTC military ball is this weekend and cadets say they've got the best entertainment available. Harry James and his 15-piece orchestra. James says he's sorry, but his wife, actress Betty Grable, probably won't be able to make it.

(Oct. 9, 1958) Creed Black, executives editor of the Nashville Tennessean, just go back from a six-week tour of the Middle East and says that the removal of American troops from the region would go a long way towards settling Arab problems there.

He also said that all the anti-communist talk coming from the US is driving the Arabs into the hands of the Russians and should be toned down. He's pictured on page one of this week's edition. With him are TTU president Everett Derryberry and two students from Iraq.

(Oct. 13, 1958) There'll be a total of 22 high school bands in the Tennessee Tech Homecoming Parade this weekend. They're coming from all over, including Chattanooga, Lebanon and Sunbright. There'll also be several floats and military units. And providing the musical entertainment at the Homecoming Dance this year will be the popular group, the Four freshmen.

Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "No Time for Sergeants," starring Andy Griffin and Nick Adams.

(Oct. 16, 1958) Editor Earl E. Neiberger, in his weekly page-one column, writes that today's teens are not only learning to drive, they're learning a new language as well. Slang in use by today's teens when talking about their cars include terms like "fireplace" for the auto's front grill, "goodies" for accessories like metal flying swan ornaments, and "skins" for tires.

There's also "spaghetti" for cars with an excessive amount of chrome, "moons" for hubcaps, and "Uncle Daniel," an older car that's souped up but still seems a little tame. A "slush car" is one with automatic transmission. A "nerfbar" is a car's bumper and "strides" are old clothes you wear when you work on your car, he writes.

(Oct. 20, 1958) Anne E. Eyler, the daughter of Dr. and Mrs. Clement Eyler, will entertain music lovers here in a piano recital at Tennessee Tech this Saturday night. She studied piano in New York City this summer.

Annice Parsons, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy E. Parson, took top state honors in the 4-H "beautification of home grounds" competition this week.

And the students in Mrs. Herman Pinkerton's class at Central High are preparing to present a three-act comedy at the school in a couple of weeks.

The cast of "Star Dust" includes Joe Powers, Betty Malone, Carole Wright, Barbara Miller, Phyllis Adams, Donna Jared, Lynn Mullins, Bobby Whittaker, Earl Bowman, Sandra Crawford, George Forman, Sue Delaney, Wanda Hurt, Patricia Stout, and Susanne Bacon.

(Oct. 27, 1958) Bethel Newport, operator of the Western Auto Supply Store here, has won a seat on the Cookeville City Commission. He's the new commissioner of accounts, finance and revenue.

Newport got 726 votes to incumbent Jess Owen's 631 in this week's city election.

*Showing at the Putnam Drive-in this weekend, "This Island Earth," another flying saucers-accosts-the-earth movie. It ad proclaims, "Now on the screen after 2 ½ years in the filming."

It shares the screen with "Curucu, Beast of the Amazon," which the ad assures has "Never been brought before to the screen."

Finally, ending the evening of thrills and chills is "The Mole People." The ad remains silent on that one.

(Oct. 30, 1958) County Judge Jimmy Mosier this week appointed Donald Ferrell to head a special committee that will look into the country's need for a mental health clinic here. The committee comes after the recent creation of the Upper Cumberland Mental Health Association, which was formed to study the feasibility of a mental health clinic to serve the entire 14-county region. It would provide therapy, treatment and counseling for in-patients and out-patients as well.

*At the Putnam Drive-In this week, "Crime in the Streets," the film which tells "the shocking truth about today's switch-blade youth." It stars Sal Mineo, John Cassavettes and Mark Rydell.

(Nov. 5, 1958) Tennessee Tech's Golden Eagles came from behind to defeat Eastern Kentucky University this week, 20-19. That puts TTU in a tie with ETSU for the OVC championship.

It was the third game in a row in which excited fans saw TTU come from behind in the closing minutes of the game to win by a single point.

(Nov. 5, 1958) Monterey officials this week had hoped to improve the town's sewage and waste treatment plants with a \$550,000 bond issue. But Monterey voters decided otherwise. On a vote of 129 for and 234 against, they rejected the bond sale.

*Meanwhile, the county this week sold \$50,000 in bonds for the county school system. The funds will go towards a variety of construction projects and for the purchase of school equipment.

*Showing this week at the Princess Theater: "The fiery drama that shook the world" It's Eugene O'Neill's "Desire Under the Elms," with Sophia Loren, Anthony Perkins and Burl Ives. Also showing, John Wayne in "Jet Pilot."

(Nov, 6, 1958) Putnam voters helped Buford Ellington as Tennessee's new governor this week. Voters here also heavily favored Albert Gore (Sr.) in his effort to get reelected to his seat in the Senate. In all, 2,359 voters went to the polls in Putnam County.

Ellington, a former state commissioner of agriculture, defeated former governor Jim Nance McCord. Gore beat Hobart Atkinson and Chester Mason.

*Showing at the Putnam Drive-in this weekend, "White Squaw," starring Mary Wynn and David Brian. Also, "Don't Go Near the Water," with Glenn Ford, Earl Holliman and Anne Francis

(Nov. 13, 1958) County Judge Jimmy Mosier appointed a committee this week to devise a plan to replace the county's 50-year-old jail. It's overcrowded, it has no storage space and it has faulty wiring and an antiquated heating system. The county has \$100,000 set aside in reserved funds right now to spend on the project, says Mosier.

Meanwhile, in what is believed to be a first for the Putnam jail, Sheriff Ernest Webster is using prisoners for labor for county projects. Right now jail inmates are repairing sidewalks around the courthouse and Webster says he has a list of other projects for the prisoners when that project is done.

(Nov. 17, 1958) Putnam County has the state's top 4-H Poultry Judging Team. Recently winning that title were team members Geraldine Nash, Linda Dietz, James Paris, and Dallas Fox. The team's coach is Robert Waddell.

At the Princess this week: "The Fly," with Al Heison and Vincent Price, also, "Space Master X-7."

(Nov. 24, 1958) More than 100 local people make up the cast of this week's "Boast of the Town" variety show scheduled in the Tennessee Tech Memorial Gymnasium.

It's been organized by the Central High Band Boosters to raise money for the band. Dillard Billings is the emcee.

An expected highlight of the variety show will be a display of native dancing by two TTU students, Loli and Dora Lantiqua of Cuba.

At the annual Soil Conservation Service banquet this week, Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Wright took home the Master Farmer title for the work they've done on their Bunker Hill Road farm. Mrs. Ruby Hill of the Monterey Road won the Tree Farmer title.

(Nov. 27, 1958) There'll be a special election here Saturday in which residents in 371 households north of the present Cookeville city limits will decide whether they want to be annexed by the city.

The newspaper, in a cost analysis, tells them that on the average they will pay \$54 per year in new city property taxes, but will see about \$72 in savings from lower insurance rates, and lower electric, water, and garbage collections bills.

There are some 13,000 residents living in the affected area.

(Dec. 3, 1958) TTU this week remodeled its College of Business Administration building for \$80,000. The university has renamed it Kittrell Hall after the college's first business graduate, T. W. Kittrell.

Built as a men's dorm in 1916, it was known for most of its years as "East Hall."

(Dec. 4, 1958) Residents said it was like being back in the war again when TVA blacked out the city to make changes in its substation so it could handle more power this week. Power was off for 15 minutes during the switchover.

The town's merchants this week announced special new store hours for the holiday season. They'll be open all day Wednesday and will keep their doors open until 9 p.m. on Sunday to accommodate shoppers.

(Dec. 4, 1958) Tennessee Central Railroad officials were showing off new railroad equipment this week. They passed through with a device that can mechanically renew a railroad bed, raise and level the tracks, and do it in place of a crew of 35 men.

The company plans to spend the next three years renovating the 300 miles of TC track from Hopkinsville, KY to Harriman.

(Dec. 5, 1958) The first child born to residents of the city's new Perry Morgan Homes subsidized housing complex arrived this week at Cookeville General Hospital. Lori Jean Oswald was born on Dec. 2 to Mr. and Mrs. Handley C. Oswald. He's a Tennessee Tech student and is employed at the Princess Theater. Lori brings the population of Perry Morgan Homes to more than 200.

(Dec. 12, 1958) J. S. Woodford resigned this week as president of the Bank of Monterey due to ill health. He's suffered two heart attacks in the last decade and has never fully recovered.

He's ending his career as the bank ends another successful year. It issued a 10 percent dividend to stockholders this month.

Woodford was born in 1884 in Bedford County, VA, and attended college in Louisville, KY. He taught school in Kentucky for two years before coming to Tennessee in 1905 as an agent-telegrapher for the Tennessee Central Railroad serving Wilder and Crawford.

He came to Monterey in 1907 as the TC's agent there. In the spring of 1924, Woodford became cashier for the Bank of Monterey, and in 1947 he became the bank's president. Throughout his years in Monterey, Woodford has been active in church and civic affairs.

(Dec. 15, 1958) The Portland Cement Association says in an ad that voters ought to insist that their elected officials use concrete in new roads, particularly in the new Federal Interstate and National Defense Highway System that is now under construction in Tennessee. Concrete roads last longer and cost about 60 percent less to maintain, the association claims.

(Dec. 22, 1958) TTU basketball star Jimmy Hagan broke the Eagles' record for the most points scored in a game by a single player when he sunk a ball and hit the 48-point mark playing East Tennessee State. Kenny Sidwell held the previous record from the Eagle's 1955-56 season.

The crowd gave Hagan a long standing ovation after he made the free throw shot that broke the record.

TTU is the only school in its conference that will go to the Holiday Invitational Tournament in Evansville, Indiana with a perfect 7-0 record.

(Dec. 25, 1958) The Detroit Times tells this week of an ex-Putnam man, Wade Farris, 70, who surprised a gunman chiseling through the wall of the bank where Farris worked as a caretaker. Farris fought with the man and got shot in the leg. The gunman locked Farris in a storeroom and fled. Farris used a crowbar to free himself and walked to a nearby bar where he telephoned police. He is formerly of Rt., 4, Cookeville.

(Dec. 30, 1958) The first baby of the new year arrived in Cookeville at 12:09 p.m. on Jan. 1. She was Belinda Elois Mashburn, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Merlin Mashburn, live on Rt. 5, Cookeville.

Little Belinda weighed in at six pounds and eight ounces when she was delivered by Dr. Kenneth Haile.

1959

(January 19, 1956) Retail sales in Putnam County for 1954 totaled \$16 million, according to the latest report. That's up 29.4 percent since the last report in 1948. There were 298 stores and businesses in the newest report, down from 331 that were here in 1948.

*Cookeville Police Chief Hubert Crawford issued an appeal this week for living quarters for Tennessee Tech students. There just aren't enough apartments and rooms available for them all, he said. Anyone with two and three-room apartments, or quarters of any kind, is urged to contact him or authorities over at the college.

(March 5, 1959) The Putnam School Board has voted to purchase the buildings and grounds of Baxter Seminary for use as a school site in Baxter.

(April 27, 1959) The runway at the Putnam County Airport has been lengthened to 3,800 feet and widened to 75 feet, making it safe for all aircraft currently flying in Tennessee, airport officials say.

(May 16, 1959) After serving the county's western end for 50 years and fondly remembered by scores of residents, Baxter Seminary winds down its final year as a semi-private high school.

(May 24, 1959) The Cookeville Post Office has the latest innovation in postal service — an automatic stamp machine that takes dimes and quarters and makes change for the four-cent stamp.

(May 27, 1959) Railroad freight service is threatened by trucking, which has become Putnam County's leading industry, employing more than 1,000 residents and drawing an annual payroll of \$3.4 million.

(June 2, 1959) Dial telephone service has been implemented here, eliminating the need for operator assistance to complete a call.

(July 10, 1959) A pair of Western-style boots made at Acme Boot in Cookeville went on display this week in the Old West section of the American National Exhibition in Moscow.

(Aug. 7, 1959) Clarence Stewart Auto Sales here has been selected to operate the first foreign car import franchise here and plans to sell the French Renaults on its lot this fall.

(Aug. 10, 1959) Citizens Bank has installed a new electronic banking system that allows customers making deposits to insert a deposit slip and a special plastic card into a machine in the lobby to make time-saving money transactions.

(Sept. 18, 1959) For the first time in Cookeville's history, a woman, Maggie Mott Terry, is running for the office of Cookeville Mayor.

(Oct. 24, 1959) The Putnam County Commission has recommended replacing the privately-owned school bus fleet here with county-owned and operated buses because some students are having to wait at least two hours after school for a bus to take them home and teachers must be present to supervise.

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