

WHUB's 50th ANNIVERSARY
Special to the Herald Citizen and Plus: 17 July 1990
Herald Citizen Newspaper, Cookeville, TN

1940 Pivotal For Putnam



The year 1940 was a pivotal year for the United States, and for some of the very same reasons, it was one also for Putnam County. But for totally different reasons, Putnam County's history was changed due to some of the dramatic events that were unfolding.

The year WHUB radio went on the air was a year of census taking. And figures showed the consistent, if not dramatic, growth in the county's population. In 1930, Putnam County counted slightly less than 24,000 residents. By 1940, the county had reached better than 26,000. Cookeville's population had gone from 3,700 in 1930 to 4,361 in 1940. Monterey's population was 1,731, while Algood and Baxter were slightly over 500.

Pictured is: Music Director - - Mike Dyer is a jack-of-all-trades at WHUB. In addition to serving as music director, he is also an announcer during the day and, in season, handles sports broadcasts for Cookeville High School athletic contests.

Less than six weeks before WHUB went airborne, a 14-year-old Putnam County girl, Laurel Kuykendall, who walked a mile each day to her 8th grade class at Pippin School, won the National Spelling Bee in Washington.

Agriculture specialists around the state and nation recognized Cookeville as one of the largest poultry centers of the world, trucking eggs and live and dressed poultry to markets in New York, Chicago, Baltimore, Philadelphia and Atlanta.

In the spring of 1940 as workmen put the finishing touches on the WHUB transmitter, Tennessee Tech President J. M. Smith awarded degrees to the largest graduating class in the school's history. A total of 99 seniors passed through the commencement line.

As it turned out, that would be the last commencement for President Smith, for in November of 1940, Dr. Everett Derryberry, a Columbia native, former University of Tennessee football star and Rhodes Scholar, would be named president of Tennessee Tech, a position he would hold for more than 30 years.

And, as the fair closed, the Tennessee Tech football season opened with Coach P. V. "Putty" Overall operating at the helm of the Golden Eagles for his 18th season.

And, at Baxter, Charles Hughes, dubbed the Human Alarm Clock, had been climbing a 20-foot pole regularly each morning for 15 years tooting his mail-order bugle.

<http://www.ajlambert.com>