

### ON THIS DAY IN WEST VIRGINIA HISTORY AUGUST 26



Governor Homer Holt at the first Spud and Splinter Festival

The first Spud and Splinter Festival was held in Richwood on August 26, 1937.

**CSO: SS.8.26**

**Investigate the Document:** (*Nicholas Republican*, August 19, 1937)

1. The Spud and Splinter Festival pays homage to the fine potatoes of the region as well as *this* industry.
2. The Governor from what border state joined Governor Holt in the festivities at the Spud and Splinter Festival?
3. Men recognized for their civic contributions were commissioned admirals of what navy?

**Think Critically:** Why do we have festivals? What festivals have you attended?

Richwood is in gala attire as decorators complete their big task of placing colors, decorating business houses, streets and street-lighting fixtures with Spud and Splinter Festival festooning. Everywhere the festival insignia, the plank of lumber piercing the potato, may be seen in profusion. By Saturday night this task will have been completed.

Richwood is ready for its first great Homecoming and Spud and Splinter Festival. Announcement of this event and the reason for this celebration has been read from coast to coast as writers like Damon Runyan have caught the spirit of Nicholas county pioneers and told the story everywhere. Men of parts, recognized for their civic contributions throughout the United States have commissions as Admirals of the Cherry River Navy, an organization of vigorous, successful men in their lines, whether important public officials or mechanics in garages, so long as they demonstrated good citizenship and have brought their "ships" into port. These have sensed the spirit of good fellowship carried by these commissions and with fine sense of humor and understanding have joined in to celebrate Richwood's first declaration that it has conquered a wilderness and is coming forth as an American City not asking for help, but offering to share opportunity with the rest of the land in developing its resources.

The call has been heard.

Two Governors, Nice of Maryland as a guest of the State, and Holt of West Virginia will be here next Thursday taking their part in the celebration, not as Governors particularly, more as good fellows interested in any community determined to go forward and with traditional American spirit, overcome obstacles rivaling those of the days of the frontier of the nation.

Representatives of 19 of West Vir-

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## RICHWOOD IS READY

Virginia's Rotary Clubs will come to Richwood on Tuesday evening to be guests of the Richwood Club, an organization of less than thirty men who have planted and kept alive the spirit of Rotary. "He profits most who serves best," in a small city in a vast wilderness forces many needed readjustments, socially and industrially, to drive forward in these days of rapidly changing conditions, social and economic.

William R. Lunk, Industrial Counsellor for the Monongahela System, of Fairmont, and Judge H. Roy Waugh, West Virginia's Rotarian Governor will be speakers at this event on Tuesday evening to be followed by a Rotary Ball, one of the high spots in social events planned for the festival.

Wednesday of next week is Nicholas County Day.

For the first time in history the Nicholas County farmers through their courageous efforts and work of years have won for them national recognition. Nicholas county farms have produced something unusual in an unusual potato. True, the soil has helped, being peculiarly adaptable, but it has been the enterprising Nicholas county farmer and the leadership and scientific knowledge he has gained for himself that in the main has been the contributing factor.

Next Wednesday afternoon in Richwood, "Queen Majorie I" of Potato Land will be crowned amid festival 4-H Club celebration of the coronation event. Richwood and Nicholas County has long delayed recognizing the substantial contribution being made, daily, weekly and monthly by the County Farm Bureau, its members, and the county 4-H clubs. This recognition has, at last, come. Its importance cannot, at this time, be fully estimated. From Main to California, from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, Damon Runyan has told the world of the "Nicholas County Spud." Admirals of the Cherry River Navy in Washington, Maine, Florida and California will be asking, for months to come, when they sit down for dinner "Have you the Nicholas County, West Virginia, potato on your menu?"

It is the Cherry River Navy dish!

Next Wednesday comes the first celebration of this national recognition. The future holds opportunity for Nicholas county farmers under the able leadership of William E. Simpson, their able leader. The start given this movement is tremendous and is filled with OP-