

War News

Moscow Says Soviet Army Dealt Heavy Blow To Nazis

Moscow.—The Russians reported today that air-borne tanks laden with Red army infantrymen landed deep within the German lines and dealt a slashing blow in a continuing series of counter-attacks while a similar Nazi straggler was crushed by Soviet "exterminator" squads.

Red Star, the Soviet army newspaper, said these Russian counter-attacks on the central front already had broken three German defense lines and recaptured five population centers. The flying tank troopers and foot soldiers sailing down to decide the issue at the third German line.

The Soviet information bureau, while ignoring this account said the Germans landed large parachute forces and three tankettes behind the Russian lines at an undisclosed place but that the whole party was smashed.

The communique listed the major battle areas as Novgorod, Kingisepp and Staraya Russia, all in the Leningrad defense zone from the Estonian border to the Lake Ilmen region about 140 miles south of Leningrad; Gomel, in the central zone where Red Star told of success; and around Odessa, the Biz Ukraine port on the Black Sea in the sector where the Germans have made their deepest gains.

Vichy's Envoy Tries To Mend U. S. Relations

Washington.—Contending that the Vichy government had been unjustly accused of planning to surrender the fleet and Atlantic naval bases to Germany, Gaston Henry-Haye, French ambassador sought yesterday to repair the frayed relations with the United States resulting from new evidence of Franco-German collaboration.

What success he had was not immediately apparent for Secretary of State Hull declined to make any comment on their conference. It was believed, however, that the ambassador was told that future Franco-American relations depended upon the acts of the Vichy government in carrying out its collaboration decisions.

Jones To Put Cash At Call Of Reds When They Need It

Washington.—The United States may lend Russia money to pay for war supplies purchased here "if she otherwise is unable to pay" for them, Federal Loan Administrator Jesse Jones said yesterday.

He emphasized that there had been no definite talks so far regarding a loan, but added: "If it becomes a matter of administration policy to help Russia, and if she is unable to pay for things she needs from this country, I imagine some way will be found to help her."

He doubted that Russian aid would be extended through the lend-lease act, but said it probably would be transacted as a loan on which he "guessed" a promissory note would be accepted by this country as security.

Gas Reserves For Ten Days Remain In East Coast Area

Washington.—Only a 10-day reserve of gasoline for public use was left on the Atlantic Seaboard as of last week and the "danger point" is approaching rapidly, Acting Petroleum Coordinator Ralph K. Davies revealed yesterday.

The reserve dropped 893,000 barrels last week, Davies said, warning that "this is the beginning of the sharp and serious drop in supplies that we forecast."

He said there is nothing "phony" about warnings of an impending shortage and called upon consumers to conserve carefully on present stocks if a "drastic shortage this winter" is to be avoided.

He said that persons who contend that no real shortage exists in the East are using figures on supplies which include reserves that have been set aside for defense purposes.

Four Divorces Are Granted In Court

During the August term of Wilkes superior court four divorces were granted in the following cases: Mrs. Ruby Staley versus Howard Staley; Maggie R. Johnston versus C. B. Edminston; Nettie Cardwell versus Al Cardwell; B. H. Queen versus Mary Pearl Queen.

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For mutual advantage to your buying in North Wilkesboro, the trading center of Northwestern North Carolina.

Program For Annual Moose Convention Here Is Outlined

Convention Will Open August 30; Close Sept. 1st

Largest Convention In History of North Wilkesboro Is Anticipated

Loyal Order of Moose lodge and Women of the Moose here in meetings this week laid plans for the annual conclave of Carolina Moose Association to be held here August 30, 31 and September 1.

Charles A. Kirby, regional director, met with both organizations and it was found that plans are well under way for the conclave, which is expected to be the largest convention in North Wilkesboro's history.

Women of the Moose met on Monday evening with a large delegation from Charlotte present. Among them were Mrs. Goldie Dean, the state dean, Bessie Lineberry, graduate regent, Mrs. Pearl Smith, Katherine Mines and many others. Another meeting will be held on Monday night, to which all members are invited.

W. H. Duhling, of North Wilkesboro, is president of Carolina Moose association and will preside at the conclave. Hundreds of delegates from all parts of the Carolinas and from Tennessee and Virginia are expected to attend.

An attractive 30-page program for the convention is off the press and is being distributed to lodges in the Carolinas, Virginia and Tennessee. The convention will open with registration from ten a. m. on August 30 at Hotel Wilkes. Standing committees will meet at the Moose hall on C street at one p. m.

The conclave will open at 6:30 in the city hall. After that meeting the North Wilkesboro Junior Chamber of Commerce hall for the convention delegates and others will be held.

At 8:30 Saturday evening will be class initiation of Moose at Hotel Wilkes and Women of the Moose at the lodge hall.

Ritualistic contests will feature the Sunday morning program from nine a. m. to 12. At 12:30 the Moose luncheon will be at Hotel Wilkes and Women of the Moose at the Legion clubhouse with Mrs. Mary Hooper, of Baltimore, third grand dean representing the chancellor, presiding.

At two p. m. will be a motorcade to Bluff Park on the Blue Ridge Parkway, where a watermelon picnic will be enjoyed on the picnic grounds. At five o'clock will be Legion of the Moose initiation, followed by a fellowship dinner at Hotel Wilkes and frolic at the lodge hall.

Monday morning programs will be featured by addresses by Past President Robert L. Collingsworth, of Baltimore, and George Eulanks, deputy supreme governor, of Mooseheart, Illinois.

Monday afternoon will have several activities, including a street parade, baseball game, banquet and at night a farewell ball.

Charles A. Kirby, regional director with A. Jack Mount, membership director, in charge of convention plans, will attend the national convention and return in time for the conclave here.

Stafford Is Head District Project

Frank Stafford Supervisor of WPA Defense Efforts In District 33 Counties

Frank Stafford, well known young man of North Wilkesboro, has been appointed supervisor of a district of 33 counties in a new division of the WPA.

The new division of the agency was formed as a part of the national defense program. Mr. Stafford has 33 counties in his district.

He was formerly connected with the district WPA office in this city before it was combined with the Winston-Salem district office.

Mr. J. B. Snipes, Wilkes county agent, was a visitor in Concord Tuesday afternoon.

New U. S. Fighter in Flight



Shown here in flight for the first time is the newly developed Curtiss Hawk P-40 pursuit plane, now being produced in quantity at the Buffalo plant of the Curtiss-Wright corporation. The new ship is more streamlined than the original Curtiss Hawk P-40 model. Details concerning design are withheld.

Grand Jury Says Cricket Is In Need of School Building

Says Present Building Dangerous; Tubercular Patient Makes Complaint

Grand jury at the August term of Wilkes court described the Cricket school building as "condemned" and "dangerous" and recommended that a new school building there be erected at the earliest possible moment.

The report, as filed by M. J. Beardslee, foreman, said that Cricket building, badly in need of repair, is not large enough to adequately house half the enrollment.

Crowded conditions were also reported at Ronda school, where a number of minor improvements were asked and it was recommended that the state building inspector inspect the building because of settling in some parts.

Few recommendations were made relative to the courthouse, jail, county home, prison camp or school bus garage. A new cook stove for the jail, inside painting for the county tubercular hospital and painting the downstairs part of the jail were recommended.

Attached to the report of the grand jury was a letter of complaint handed a member of the jury by a patient at the tubercular hospital. The patient, Mildred Gilbert, said that the patients were not receiving sufficient food and alleged that the superintendent was not giving the patients the care and attention they should have. The grand jury recommended that the conditions described in the complaint be investigated.

The grand jury examined 120 bills, found 98 true bills, eight not true and four were continued for lack of evidence.

Many Will Attend Boone Short Course

J. B. Snipes, Wilkes farm agent, said today that several farm men and women in Wilkes county are planning to attend the two-day short course to be held at A. S. T. C. in Boone August 26 and 27.

Meals and lodging may be obtained for the two days for \$1.75, Mr. Snipes said, and a program covering practically all phases of agriculture has been planned for the two days. A cattle sale will be held on Wednesday afternoon as a supplement to the regular activities.

81st Division To Have Reunion Soon

National reunion of the famous 81st (Wildcat) division, which won fame in the World War, will be held at Carolina Hotel in Raleigh October 4, 5 and 6.

Many World War veterans in Wilkes were members of the 81st and it is expected that a number of them will attend the reunion. Many interesting features are planned for the occasion.

Mr. John A. Cashion has a position in Dumfries, Scotland.

Kills Rattler In Front Yard Home Near Union Grove

Reports of killing rattlesnakes in the mountains this year have been more numerous than ever before but this week the unusual happened when a rattler was found in the Union Grove community.

E. H. McCarter found a rattler in his front yard at noon Wednesday at his home in the Union Grove community some distance from the nearest mountains. The snake was about three and one-half feet in length and had eight rattles and a button.

Children Must Be Vaccinated To Attend Schools

Health and school authorities have called attention to the laws which require that children be immunized against diphtheria and vaccinated to prevent smallpox.

The law requires that babies when they reach the age of six months be immunized against diphtheria and that those who have not been immunized have the immunization before they reach school age.

In many places certificates from a physician or health officer giving the date of vaccination and immunization are required before entering school. In practically all cases, smallpox vaccination is required before beginning work on a job where others are employed.

Many From Wilkes Can Be Enrolled In C. C. Camps

Wilkes youths will be enrolled in the C. C. Camps early next week, Charles McNeill, welfare officer and who is in charge of selection of enrollees, said today.

The welfare officer said that several applications are on file but the quota is unlimited and others interested are asked to make application at the welfare office not later than Monday, August 25.

Three Bound Over On Liquor Charges

Federal alcohol tax unit investigators on Saturday arrested three in connection with a still raid in the Call community. Those arrested and placed under bond for appearance at the November term of federal court were Charlie Love, Noah Shatley and Daniel Shatley.

Federal officers taking part in the raid and arrests were Roy Reese, C. S. Felts, J. H. Whitesides, Charlie Steelman, G. H. Gilbertson and Walter M. Irwin. Preliminary hearing was held before J. W. Duka, United States commissioner.

Mrs. Huff Will Sing At Methodist Church

A special feature of the Sunday morning service at the North Wilkesboro Methodist church will be a song by Mrs. W. N. Huff, widely known singer. Mrs. Huff is a sister of Mrs. Genie Cardwell.

Defense Board For Agriculture In This County

Board Named By Chairman of State Board Will Meet Monday Evening

G. T. Scott, head of the United States Department of Agriculture State Defense Board, has appointed a board for Wilkes county, according to information received today from J. B. Snipes, Wilkes county agent.

The Wilkes board is composed of the following: J. M. German, representing the Triple A; J. B. Snipes, extension service; Paul J. Vestal, Farm Credit administration; J. B. Highsmith, Farm Security administration; Sanford Prevette, Rural Electrification administration; J. H. Johnes, Emergency Crop and Feed Loans; P. W. Edwards, soil conservation service.

First meeting of the committee will be held on Monday, August 25, 7:30 p. m. Subject for discussion will be "making the best possible use of available seed for winter legumes and increased acreage of cover crops."

Man With Hole In Skull Recovering

Commie Hayes On Road To Recovery Following Serious Brain Injury

Commie Hayes has returned to his home on the Brushies, apparently well on the road toward a miraculous recovery from a brain injury received on the night of August 1 when he was hit on the head by a hoe in the hands of Ray Davis, of Congo.

Surgeons at the Wilkes hospital found Hayes in a desperate condition with a hole in his skull and complete paralysis of his right arm and leg. A piece of skull fragment was removed from his injured brain tissue.

Hayes did not die. Instead he began early to improve slowly and now his head injury has healed and he has recovered partial use of his right arm and leg. Complete recovery is anticipated.

Davis was jailed for assault with intent to kill. Officers were unable to learn details of the cause of the assault. Hayes, with Warren Hendren, were carrying Davis to his home at Congo.

When they arrived there they discovered the car had a flat tire. Davis, Hendren said, volunteered to go for a light in order that they might see how to repair the tire. He returned with a hoe and began using it on Hayes.

Davis told officers that Hayes and Hendren were trying to "run something over him."

Cotton Stamps Being Used Here

J. B. Snipes, Wilkes county agent, said today that his office has received \$1,800 in cotton stamps, which are being distributed to the cotton farmers.

The cotton stamps may be used same as money for the purchase of American manufactured cotton merchandise.

Farmers are warned not to lose or destroy their stamps because no duplicates will be issued. The county agent said he had reports that some merchants who have not signed the proper blanks for handling the stamps are accepting them and that only those who sign the blanks and receive their supplies are allowed to accept them. He said that merchants who have not signed may yet do so if they desire.

Many Pay Taxes To Avoid Costs

Additional Costs To Be Added To 1940 County Taxes Not Paid Before 1st

Those who have not paid their 1940 taxes due Wilkes county can realize substantial savings by paying before September 1.

Wilkes Schools To Open Wednesday

Leader Passes



W. R. Absher, for almost half a century a prominent citizen of this city, died Tuesday.

W. R. Absher, A Pioneer Citizen Here, Succumbs

Died Tuesday In Charlotte; Funeral Service Held Wednesday

William Rowan Absher, 76, pioneer citizen of North Wilkesboro whose life contributed much to the business, church and educational progress of the city, died Tuesday morning, eight o'clock, at Mercy hospital in Charlotte.

Mr. Absher had undergone an operation there several days previously but was apparently well on the road to recovery and had planned to return home yesterday. He was suddenly stricken on Monday and never rallied.

He was born in Ashe county and received his higher education at the University of North Carolina. He came to North Wilkesboro in 1893 and accepted the position as principal of North Wilkesboro school. He served in that capacity for a number of years.

His first business venture in the mercantile field was with the late John Horton. Later he joined W. M. Absher in the clothing business. Then he, with E. M. Blackburn and Joe Hayes, formed Absher, Hayes and Blackburn firm. Hayes withdrew from the firm, leaving it Absher and Blackburn, which for decades was one of the best known stores in this part of the state.

The business was divided several years ago and Mr. Absher, with his son, W. F. Absher, operated Abshers store for a number of years. More recently Mr. Absher had been engaged in the real estate business.

He was a member of the North Wilkesboro Methodist church and was a leader in church activity. He was a member of the boards of stewards for many years and he held that position at the time of his death. He was also a Sunday school teacher over a long period of time.

He had taken an active interest in public life, supporting every movement which he deemed to be in the interest of progress and welfare of his community. He served for a period of time as member of the city council and had often been called upon to fill positions of public trust.

He married Miss Kate Fletcher, of Ashe county, daughter of Rev. J. F. Fletcher, and sister of Major A. L. Fletcher, head of the Unemployment Compensation Commission, and A. J. Fletcher, of Raleigh.

Surviving are Mrs. Absher, one son, William F. Absher, and one daughter, Mrs. Kathryn Lott, all of North Wilkesboro. Also surviving are three grandchildren, Bill and Michael Absher and Anne Lott.

An impressive funeral service was conducted Wednesday afternoon at the North Wilkesboro Methodist church with the pastor, Rev. A. L. Aycock, in charge. Business houses in the city closed during the hour of the funeral.

Pall bearers were Eugene Tripp and others. (Continued on page 4)

One Change Made In Principals For District Schools

Zeb Dickson Replaces Ralph Miller As Principal Of Mountain View

With but few exceptions schools of Wilkes county system will open on Wednesday, August 27. C. B. Eller, county superintendent, said today.

Mulberry and four small schools will not open until Monday, September 1. The schools to open on September 1 are Mulberry, Rock Springs, Burke, Friendship and Shepherd.

There will be only one change of district principals this year, Supt. Eller said. Zeb Dickson, formerly a member of the Wilkesboro high school faculty, replaces Ralph Miller as Mountain View principal. Other district principals are as follows: Wilkesboro, Wm. T. Long; Ferguson, Mack Profit; Mount Pleasant, P. W. Greer; Millers Creek, R. V. Day; Trapp, W. V. Nix; Ronda, E. R. Spruill; Roaring River, C. P. Farmer; Mulberry, Grady Miller. J. R. Edelin is principal of Lincoln Heights, colored high school.

Schools will operate during the first four weeks on daylight savings time and will open each morning at 8:30. This will enable the children to reach their homes in the afternoon in time to accomplish some work, Supt. Eller said.

School equipment has been placed in good condition. This week a school bus drivers school was held with drivers of public and contract buses participating.

Some increase is expected in school enrollment, which passed 10,000 in the county system last year.

9 Polio Cases In Wilkes This Year

Health Officer Reports All In Eastern Part County; Take Precautions

Nine cases of infantile paralysis have occurred during the past several weeks in the eastern part of Wilkes county, Dr. A. J. Eller, health officer, said today.

However, practically all the cases were discovered during the severe hot weather and there have been no new cases in the past two weeks, the health officer said.

He described the cases as being in mild form and hopes are held for complete or near complete recovery of all of them. All were quarantined and the usual precautions have been taken to prevent infection to others, the health officer said.

Cases listed on his report were as follows: Ruby Jean Mastin, daughter of Eugene Mastin, of Elkin; Edna Key, daughter of Garfield Key, Imogene Crabb, daughter of William Crabb, Nancy Lee Hudler, daughter of Mrs. Geneva Hudler, Donald Billings, daughter of Chester Billings, all of Roaring River; Jacky Von Carter, son of M. L. Carter, of State Road; Marion Frank Hinson, son of J. D. Hinson, of State Road; Cothren Johnson, son of J. O. Johnson, of Thurmond; Tyre Sidden, son of C. C. Sidden, of Joynes.

Cooler weather and the fact that there have been no new cases lead health authorities to believe that the danger of spread of the disease has greatly diminished.

Rifle And Pistol Club To Be Formed On Friday Evening

Plans for organization of a rifle and pistol club will be taken up in a meeting to be held at the city hall here on Friday evening, seven o'clock.

Interested parties today made announcement of the meeting and asked all who are interested in rifle and pistol shooting, regardless of their respective abilities for accuracy, to attend the meeting.