

The Mountaineer

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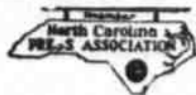
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THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1942

Notes Of Patriotism

We have had occasion to commend the Waynesville High School Band on the progress it has made since its organization less than three years ago.

We have at various times lauded their accomplishments in a musical way and have somewhat wondered at the ability of the students, most of whom never had a musical instrument in their hands until they joined the band classes, have displayed. For we recall it was less than a year before they could "get by" fairly well with a simple program.

This time we are giving them a generous slice of praise, but not for their musical attainments, but for their services and spirit of cooperation during the patriotic rallies that have been held throughout the county during the past two weeks.

They were required to meet at the courthouse around 5:30, an hour before supper in most homes. They have often gone without a hot evening meal. The weather has often been unfavorable for trips into the country, but they have not failed to keep their appointments.

When the Civilian Defense office was opened in the courthouse, they signed up one hundred per cent as a body and as individuals to give what aid within their power.

They have played at eleven of the twelve meetings, and we understand, with no disrespect to the oratorical talents of the speakers, that the band has served as a major card for drawing the crowds at each of the rallies held.

The members of the band have set their elders a fine example in the patriotic "notes" they have sounded throughout the county in the name of National Defense.

"Lest We Forget"

The rationing of tires is about the first real dent the war has brought to our community, in its application to the great majority. It is only the first of an uncertain number of items that will be rationed to us from time to time.

We admit that it is a very far reaching one, for it will bring many changes. We will have to learn to plan and think ahead and make each trip count, for the luxury of idle motoring is temporarily a thing of the past.

We have noticed a change in our local chairman of the rationing board. At first he seemed somewhat worried over how the public would take the situation, but during the week he has worn a relieved expression, and we feel sure that he has found that the people have accepted conditions as they are with a philosophic attitude.

In some of the cases of those things that will be rationed in the future we may be able to buy substitutes, for industrial research is busy developing new materials that may relieve certain conditions, but in some cases we'll just have to learn to do without.

But of one fact we must be mindful as we adapt ourselves to a new standard of living, most of the materials that we are going to do without are going into fighting equipment for our men in the armed forces, and our rationing means that industry is busy with war production that we trust will mean ultimate victory.

We hope sooner or later Japan is going to respect the old tag, "China—handle with care."

Education Expands In Haywood

The official dedication of the new Clyde school building marks another milestone in educational advantages in Haywood County along with the advancement of the county in material progress and has come greater educational opportunity.

The first statistical records in the office of the county superintendent of education, which carries the date of 1886, reveals that there were 55 schools in the county with 2,869 students enrolled. One of the 55 schools was for the negroes of the county. The average attendance was 1,500 or 52 per cent. The valuation of the school property was set at \$1,600. The school term was eleven weeks.

Today there are 28 schools, which include 26 for whites and two for negroes. There are nearly 10,000 students enrolled with an average attendance of 96 per cent.

Back in 1886 the one room schoolhouse was the order of the day. It was a necessity for there were practically no roads and little means of transportation and each small community must be served. Since that time there has been a great reorganization of school systems, with the awakening of the need for better educational opportunities and the building of the network of highways over the state and county.

Since those 55 schools served our people North Carolina has passed through that educational era when the school authorities boasted that there was a one room school being torn down every day in the state, in the consolidation system which has brought better buildings and equipment and teachers.

Those small one room schools with children trudging on foot to school are in wide contrast to our present new buildings and the busses that travel for miles between schools and homes carrying the students.

Yesterday educational advantages were limited in Haywood County, only a few who were fortunate enough to have independent means went beyond the lower grades. It took a hardy student to attend school with even its limited courses regularly in those early days of 1886.

Today the bus comes to the door, and it is an easy matter to attend school. The high schools offer the equivalent of many of the so called colleges of that period in 1886. The high schools offer opportunities for the boys and girls to fit themselves to hold jobs immediately upon graduation that bring a salary that would have been unbelievable to those students back in 1886.

Yet the vital factors of education have not changed, the principles of character and the fundamentals of right living and fair treatment of others remain the same.

The question arises, have our people kept pace mentally and spiritually with the great material progress and the intelligent opportunities that have come to them?

"Sweet Tooth"

The rationing of food is coming sooner than most of us expected, at least that of one item, sugar. We are told that it is not the result of any actual shortage, but that it has come as the result of Americans buying up more than their share.

Considering the gravity of the situation it is disappointing to learn that we would allow our "sweet tooth" to get the best of us at a time like this.

Those in a position to know state that there is really no shortage, at the present, but at the rate people are buying up sugar and hoarding it, that an actual shortage is not far away.

It is said that the hoarding has progressed at an increase during the past few weeks since there was talk of a possible shortage since the declaration of war.

While no serious harm may have been done, as it is understood that under the rationing, the individual will be allowed a sufficient amount of sugar, it should be a warning to the American people how easy it is to bring about an "artificial shortage". While it may be well to look ahead in many instances we feel that such unnecessary hoarding can be called nothing short of "unpatriotic".

Boy With Bike

A boy with a bike sat waiting to be registered by the Women's Committee for Home Defense of his country. There are many such boys throughout the nation. The boy was volunteering as a messenger for blackouts.

"I'm not seventeen yet," he said, "but I can serve this way."

Boys like him know their towns well, can find their way without lights. And the cities are coming to know their boys.—Christian Science Monitor.

"ELEVATING OUR SIGHTS"



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

We have heard a number of the members of the First Baptist church speak recently of the heartfelt and appropriate prayers that their minister, the Rev. H. G. Hammett, gives . . . the kind that come so close to one's deepest emotions . . . in hours of trial and sorrow . . . and give just that divine spark of sympathy that can soften a hurt and yet give one's faith an uplift to carry on . . . it was rather singular that so soon after . . . the following should have been handed to us by a member of the First Methodist church as a contribution to this column . . . it is a prayer given by the late Dr. George R. Stuart, father of Mrs. J. Dale Stents . . . one of the leading evangelists and best loved ministers of the Southern Methodist church . . . Dr. Stuart gave the prayer at an annual meeting of conductors and railroad men many years ago . . . it appeared in a current copy of the Christian Advocate, church publication, as an example of how a preacher may help his fellowmen by knowing their lives . . . Many Haywood county folks recall Dr. Stuart . . . who was one of the founders of the Southern Assembly at Lake Junaluska . . . where he maintained a summer home . . .

"Men of the Road . . . O Lord, we meet as a body of railroad men, with our wives and daughters to consult for our interests . . . We are reminded that life itself is a train and the road to Heaven is a railroad, God's truth the rails, God's love the fire and His promises the signal lights . . . We recognize Thee as the General Manager of our road, the Superintendent of the train, and our Chief Dispatcher.

"Thou didst survey the right-of-way and Thy Son purchased it with His blood . . . Thou didst lay the track and ballast the road . . . Thou hast furnished the rolling-stock, and art the Owner and Controller of it all . . . We look to Thee for all our orders, and Thou must sign the checks for our daily bread . . . Be merciful in handling our human mistakes and do not discharge Thy unworthy servants . . .

"We are grateful for the Bible, Thy Book of Rules and Instructions . . . Be merciful in our examinations and look with charity upon our failures . . . Thy promises and warnings are our headlights and head-lanterns; help us to use them so as to save our train from wreck . . . deliver us from broken rails, blind switches, false signals and mistaken orders . . .

Be with us on every high bridge of responsibility, on every sharp curve of emergency and in every dark tunnel of doubt let the light of Thy promise shine bright . . . Grant us passes for our wives and children and let them go with us . . .

When the storms of trial and temptation come, save us from the fatal slide and washout that have wrecked so many trains on the Road of Life . . . Let our way, kept secure by Thy guardian care, always show the steel rail and the rock ballast . . . and be solid and firm and free from obstruction . . . Deliver us from the snares of our enemy . . . May the highlight of Thy truth shine bright on any thrown switch, any false signal . . . or any fatal obstruction placed for the wreckage of our train . . . May our emergency brake of strong will save us . . .

As we make our last Run . . . headed Homeward . . . if it by Thy will . . . order our train on time . . . Let every semaphore-block

along the line show the white signal . . . Let the light of Thy promises burn bright to the last dark tunnel of death . . . And as we run through it into the Grand Central Station of the Skies . . . may we have the approving smile of the General Manager and Superintendent . . . sign with joy, the pay roll . . . receive our wages . . . and have an honorable and eternal retirement with God and the Angels . . . and our beloved ones at home . . . And we will praise Thee forever . . .

Whether or not we are in the circle of conductors or other railroad employees . . . this prayer had great significance . . . and today in America . . . as we enter what will no doubt be the most critical hour in our history . . . the prayer has deeper meaning . . . for us all as we face the years ahead . . . in the greatest conflict our nation has ever been engaged . . .

Separate Cabinet Post For Aviation Is Still Possible

By CHARLES P. STEWART (Central Press Columnist)

As Senator Pat McCarran puts it, aviation today is "co-important" with armies and navies. That explains the fight the Nevada solon's waging for creation of a separate cabinet department of the air and the investigation that Chairman Robert R. Reynolds' senatorial committee on military affairs is conducting, to settle the matter.

The surface's professional warriors, ashore and afloat, rather generally opposed the separation of the flying arm from their respective forces. They don't dispute its value for offensive and defensive purposes, but they contend that it's more effective as an adjunct of their two services than it would be as an independent unit. To this Senator McCarran replies prettily that they didn't employ it very effectively over Honolulu and Pearl Harbor. There's no doubt that that initial Jap raid's success was something that the surface folk find it extremely difficult to explain satisfactorily.

They do try to make the point that the Japs surprised their aviators as much as anybody's else, but the senator's come-back is that that was because the flyers were tied by the legs under orders from surface commanders.

The airman unmistakably would like an organization of their own. The average cloudland enthusiast isn't ever prepared to agree with Senator McCarran that he's merely "co-important" with a granding or a seafarer. He be-

THE OLD HOME TOWN



"I'll Never Forget--"

HUMAN INTEREST STORIES
CONDUCTED BY UNCLE ABE

Voice OF THE People

What stands out in your memory of your early school days?

Dr. C. N. Sisk—"I would say the time when I was about eight years old and I was put on a debating team and the students laughed at me, and I have been self-conscious ever since. The subject was 'Resolved that the American Indian has suffered more at the hands of the white man than the negro. I was attending school in Morganton at the time.'

Mrs. Arthur Meade—"The thing that stands out is the game of 'Stealing Clothes' that we used to play. You had a pile of sticks on each side of the walk with teams chosen and the side that could steal the most sticks won. I was the boss runner so I remember when they picked sides how pleased I was that I was always chosen first."

O. D. Roberts—State Highway Patrolman—"The number of whippings I got stands out in my mind more than anything else, but I know I deserved them."

Mohela Moody—Dellwood road—"I remember my first day in the first grade with Miss Opal Reeves as my teacher. I was scared to death and cried nearly every day, until I got used to school and then I liked it."

Noble Ferguson—"One thing stands out with me is the fact that I got so many whippings. I couldn't keep count of them. I well remember the whipping technique of Dr. Nick Medford."

M. H. Bowles—"Having to stay in when I was in the second grade and writing the poem, 'Try, Try Again'."

G. C. Platt—"The main thing I recall and I will never forget is walking from Platt to Dellwood barefooted over three miles of frozen ground."

Mrs. Jimmy Boyd—"My brightest memory is out spelling 42 children on the word physician. Mr. R. E. Sentelle was giving out the words and the 42 had missed and he came to me and said, 'well I know you can spell that because your father is a physician,' and I did."

H. A. Hall—"I never was satisfied unless I could have a scrap with the teacher or had a prospect of having one on my way home from school with one of the students. But those were my happiest care free days."

Tom Lee, Jr.—"My very first day in school when Miss Sallie Roberts gave me a spanking."

Dr. S. P. Gay—"I remember a teacher I had in the 5th grade who whipped me because my books fell out of my desk during recess, and I well recall that the same teacher slapped a girl just because she could not understand an arithmetic lesson."

lies he's MORE important than either of the other two.

Planes' Advantage
There's considerable testimony to the purpose that, at least for certain utilities, he IS. If a belligerent power's objective is quite largely to shatter an enemy's civilian morale, it obviously can be done from overhead in the meanest way. A hostile area can't very well be occupied and held from a vertical direction. Parachutists can be landed in it, but even civilians can kill 'em off about as fast as they land. To bomb a city, from aloft, into stacks of rubble, and then scoot away, is a simple enough stunt, though, and darned hard to guard against. Some planes can be shot down, but

they'll have done their dirty work first, and what aviator who's crashing into eternity, in war?

One of Washington's suburbs the way, has an undertaker and an air raid warden. Appro-

what?

As an alternative to Senator Carran's plan, the suggestion made that consolidation of navy and aviation under a command would be better—rather than to split 'em up—ever, they already are under the president, as commander-in-chief. That's a unity the senator doesn't propose to break up. All he wants is a rather than a dual sub-division of specialists, sub-managing each triplet. Collectively, the

ident's to continue to boss 'em

Some aviatorial authorities dict that the current conflict resolve itself presently into most exclusively overhead that surface forces won't get much before its end.

Senator McCarran's nation give the three groups of service a reasonable amount of interchangeability. That is to say, general or an admiral needs a tail of flyers for his land outfit's assistance, such flyers required will be assigned temporarily. Or, if the chief wants a few ships or a of earthly troops, he'll get while the necessity exists. He be more or less flopping back forth between the war and departments, too.

Asks Three Departments But there'll be three cabinet departments, as a policy, if Pat has his way. That there's a good bit of

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