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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 22, 1942
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

No Punishment Too Great

For the person or persons guilty of the theft of between 6,000 and 8,000 gas ration books of all denominations from the office of the Duplin county rationing board of Kenansville during the past week, no punishment could be too drastic.

How any person could do such a thing under the present conditions is past comprehension. Leaving out the matter of personal honor, how any one could fail to appreciate the significance of the necessity for the rationing book, is hard for the average loyal American citizen to understand.

Aside from the traitorous action of the theft, the unauthorized distribution of the ration books will cause a great deal of confusion.

Approach To Winter

Every fall or every season for that matter, seems to develop a new crop of weather prophets and give greater wisdom to those who have acquired the habit. We have often wondered if we combined all the dire predictions and got an average, what the result would be. At any rate, we know it would not seriously affect the weather dished out to us.

This year we seem more concerned with the winter just ahead than usual, which is easily explained. There looms the fuel problem for those back home, and the effect of the winter on the battle fronts is of vital concern.

Have you checked up on the signs? Are the husks heavy around the corn? Are the wooly worms darker than usual? Is the moss thick or thin this year? Have the squirrels been after more nuts than usual? Are the shells and hulls of the walnuts tough and heavy? Are the leaves turning earlier than usual?

Whether the winter is hard or mild, we know that the days will be chilly and the wind will blow. We know that no matter what restrictions there may be on our fuel, that our lot will be nothing compared to the men in service, who will be exposed not only to the elements of nature, but to the cruelty of man at war.

Mixing Drink and Driving

We hope it is not going to become typical. We have reference to the report of the State Highway Safety division for the first nine days in October.

During the designated period there were 229 drivers' licenses revoked in North Carolina and in that number there were 216 of the cases reported as driving while drunk, with only 13 from other causes.

There is only one bright spot in the picture, it may result in an unexpected conservation of tires and gas.

Is There Another?

According to The State, C. V. Smith, tax collector of Wadesboro, has for the last three years "collected every penny due the city." Mr. Smith is chief of police also. Does the fact that he carries a big stick account for his success? If so, other cities might follow Wadesboro's example and give the tax collecting job to the police chief.—Raleigh News and Observer.

Health Problems

With the physical educational program making such progress in our schools among the younger generations, it behooves the adults in the community to look to their health more than ever before, for it is more vital now than ever in the history of our country.

The 1940 census revealed the fact that there are around 152,000 physicians in the United States. There are now 23,000 of this number already in the armed service. By next summer it is reported that an additional 15,000 will be needed for the army and the navy. In addition, the air forces are said to need 20,000 more to be trained for aviation medicine.

At this rate in time 35 per cent of our doctors will be serving our armed forces and the civilian will have to learn to live with a reduced amount of medical attention.

For some time federal, state and local health organizations have been trying to wage war against ignorance in matters of health, and in the majority of cases we civilians have not taken them as seriously as we should have.

Education in preventative medicine is facing the civilian. We owe our health to the manpower demands of today. We cannot meet the tension of the times unless we stay well, either as private citizens, or as group workers in war production.

We are fortunate in this area, for we have a well organized health department. We have trained public health nurses. Nutrition classes are being taught in our schools as well as to the mothers of the daughters who are studying how to prepare and serve health giving meals.

On the other hand, with the number of doctors who have left Waynesville and Haywood county to serve with our armed forces we know we must give more heed to health. It is our patriotic duty.

Holidays

Governor J. M. Broughton has been asked to have the colleges and the universities in North Carolina begin their Christmas holidays at an earlier date and the North Carolina Merchants Association has been asked to support the plan through other associations in the state.

The nation-wide movement is asking that the holidays start not later than December 11, so as to give students an opportunity to work in the stores in the busy pre-Christmas season. In some places they are asking that high schools also close.

The reason is to meet the manpower shortage. Christmas may not be as festive as in other years, but merchants are optimistic over Christmas shopping, for they feel that it will reach peak heights.

The drafting, so to speak, of college and high school students to aid in the busy rush of Christmas shopping offers a solution to the manpower shortage that would relieve the situation.

The men in the service are going to be remembered this year. Santa Claus has been on the job for them for sometime, for those who are in distant countries must have theirs mailed by November 1st. After that date the men in camps will come in for their shares of Christmas cheer.

Another item in giving a longer Christmas vacation is the fuel problem. It would be hard to estimate the conservation of fuel that would be brought about by the extra days in December and January.

The sponsors of the movement say a longer Christmas holiday will help win the war. We are for any measure or any change that will aid in a shorter cut to victory.

Some Always Grumble

A farmer who seemed to enjoy grumbling had an extra fine crop of potatoes.

"Well, for once in your life you must be happy," said a neighbor, "Everybody is talking about your wonderful potatoes this year."

"Well, they are tol-ble good," admitted the man grudgingly, "but where are the sorry ones I need fer my fat'nin' hawgs?"—The Progressive Farmer.

Why should the German people worry about food this winter? If American and British flyers have their way, they'll be fed up.

Now is a grand time to help other people in their troubles—so you won't have time to worry about your own.

THE (THREE CENTS PER) MINUTE MAN—1942



HERE and THERE
 By HILDA WAY GWYN

If any of your girls are thinking that the life of a WAAC is a bed of roses... just get the idea out of your system... but if you can hold steadfast to a purpose... and have both iron and patriotism in your soul... joy be with you... and you may head straight for a recruiting station... at least that was the writer's reaction after talking the WAAC situation over with Lt. Fannie Johnson Reynolds... former local girl, who still claims Waynesville as her home... and since she is politically minded and casts her vote here... she must mean it... though her work has taken her elsewhere for several years.

Fannie insists she's been mighty lucky... but since we don't believe in such a thing as luck... and our theory being that the prize, nine cases out of ten, goes to the best man... we disagree... For Fannie was among 1,300 girls and women selected from 375,000 (New York Times figures) who applied as volunteers for the first Woman's Army Auxiliary Corps Candidate School in the United States... (incidentally, there are to be no more officers handed commissions and then given training... they are to receive basic training from now on... and must come up from the ranks)... And you can see why we say Fannie was not just lucky... when she made the grade after all the rigid tests and interviews in competition with that many women... She was just plain smart... and has what it takes.

By way of introducing Lt. Reynolds to those of you who do not know her personally... she is the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Johnson, of Waynesville... she has been connected with the N. C. State Revenue Department for around 13 years... as a personnel supervisor and as an auditor... she is a graduate of the Royster Law School... in May, she completed a five months defense production management course, receiving a certificate from the University of North Carolina (which with Harvard University were the only colleges in the United States giving such a course)... She was the only woman to take the course in either institution... immediately after Pearl Harbor, she took Red Cross First Aid, then Advanced First Aid... then a motor mechanic course... and was a captain in the Civilian Ambulance Corps in Raleigh.

"After the first shock of changing from a civilian to a soldier... I quickly became accustomed to army life... I was proud of the opportunity to serve my country in the first woman's army... The first two weeks are the hardest... you have been pushed around so fast and furiously balled out by so many top sergeants... you feel like you haven't a friend in the world... then you suddenly become orientated... you wouldn't swap your life in the army for any other... But I will admit that to be on drill and find yourself marching off from your platoon and hear your lieutenant yell at you... 'Keep your eyes and ears open... Listen to the commands'... is about the most embarrassing moment you can imagine... You hear, 'Hut... Two... Three... Four' so much in the army during the day that you dream about it at night... it sounds in your ears like a continuous command," said Lt. Reynolds.

When the officers training school for women was opened last May she filed her application on June 4 (and that application covered an astounding amount of information)... on June 10, she was

notified that she could report to Fort Bragg for a mental alertness test... she was interviewed by hard boiled army officers... and women from civilian life (deans of women's universities)... she passed this grilling test... and was then sent to Fort MacPherson for a physical examination... which lasted two days... (you have to be about perfect in physical fitness)... then she had a stiff interview given her by the corps area examining board... and at last on the middle of July she was ordered to Fort Bragg for induction in the army. She took the oath of office and was sent to the WAAC training center at Fort Des Moines, Iowa... on September 26... was commissioned a third officer (second lieutenant) in the WAACs... after this she took a two weeks officers refresher course and has been assigned to duty in the adjutant general's department.

It is interesting to hear Fannie tell of the purposes of the WAACs... They are to release men for active combat duty... They are to be sent to practically every army post in the United States and also given overseas duty... It is said that even at an average size camp, women can release as many as 6,000 men, not including the number engaged in clerical work... In the officers candidate training school, the regular army officers course, with the exception of training with arms, is given the WAACs. The course includes: map reading, military customs and courtesies, defense against chemical attack; defense against air attacks; company administration, and articles of war.

The WAACs live in barracks and undergo rigid physical training... fifty-two women live in one large room... They are given the same military equipment as that of the men... they are trained to become proficient in close order drill and to move in small groups quickly... They get out of their beds promptly at 5:30... and stand at reveilly at 6:00 o'clock. They march in formation to breakfast and other meals, as well as all classes... from breakfast until 7:30 they police the barracks area... and from 7:30 to 9:00 are in close order drill.

Now don't get the impression that you spend your time merely drilling... you study and you have to study hard to pass... there are eight classes of 45 minutes each... daily... the last period before supper which is at 6 o'clock, is devoted to physical training... after supper at 6:30



Rambling Around
 By W. CURTIS RUSS
 Bits of this, that and the other picked up here, there and yonder.

Voice OF THE People

Do you think Willkie's mission abroad has served any useful military purpose?

Howard R. Clapp—"Yes, I think it has given us a better understanding of conditions in other countries and he has brought back a lot of information to the President."

D. D. Cogdill—"Yes, I do. He was enabled to get first hand information that could not otherwise have been gotten."

W. C. Allen—"His remarks about the second front have aroused not only the people, but also our armed forces, but whether or not it will result in anything is up to our military heads."

T. L. Green—"It may have, but never the less I think he has talked too much. I believe in more action and less talking about such affairs."

Hub Burnett—"Yes, I do. He has seen a lot and knows more than we do about conditions in other countries. We should profit by such information."

Chrest George—"I think he has first hand information that should help our armed forces."

Mrs. Joe N. Tate—"Yes, I feel that a great deal of valuable information has been gathered by Mr. Willkie."

O. L. Yates—"Yes, I think there is much to be gained. It has given our allies the idea that we are a united nation, and that we are not politically minded at this time, since Willkie is a Republican."

H. B. Atkins—"I think he has had an opportunity to glean first hand information of the military affairs of our allies. Being a man of clear insight and preception his opinion and the facts he brought back to President Roosevelt will be of benefit to our war effort."

Mrs. Chas. Miller—"Yes, I think it has been. Mr. Willkie has gained an understanding of affairs, and I think he was looking at things from the standpoint of the public in general."

The barracks are comfortable... recreational facilities are adequate... the food of the very best that can be bought... Meals are served cafeteria style... and if you have anything on your plate... it will be noticed... you will be asked why you took too much... if you happen to leave some butter you may not have any next time... you are taught to conserve food.

The first officers of the Woman's Auxiliary Army Corps were trained by regular army officers... but now the women, who have been through training are taking over... The old veterans in the regular army are amazed at how the women are taking on their new duties, according to Lt. Reynolds... and their efficiency in giving command drills (funny thing, isn't it that men should be surprised that a woman could give an order?)... At the first training center at Des Moines... even the bugler has been replaced by a woman...

"It's no spot for a girl for glamor," says Fannie... she admits there is many a and untold satisfaction over accomplishments and master the hard lessons to be learned the army... but unless is willing and anxious to harder than she has ever done she could do and... is will sacrifice for her country better not try her luck with WAACs... she continues

"I am sure that the spirit comradeship could never be great anywhere as that one in the army... there is a unified intensity of purpose every recruit is trying her best to do what the army her to do... and everything more or less competitive... realize that to be a soldier even though a woman, take best you have to give"... Lt. Reynolds.

It was very refreshing hearing about all the hard to talk about the army with Fannie... who looking in her uniform... bet the WAACs who have been blessed with a natural perm wave, all envy Fannie... hair is just right for the ration hats... with no worry making up, but it must be made... Hair must be cut all times and above the collar and when off duty from the