

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, MARCH 9, 1944
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

Haywood Among Them

We were surprised to learn during the week, according to Chas. M. Ross, acting highway chairman, that only 26 of the 3,800 schools of the state are participating in the FDA programs.

Mr. Ross expressed his surprise at the "apathetic attitude" of the county and city school units toward taking advantage of the Food Distributing Administration's aid to school lunch rooms.

It seems since the publication of the above figures given out by Mr. Ross he has received many letters throughout the state informing him that the reason for not taking advantage of the assistance is that there is "too much red tape" and that school officials are shy of the program.

We are glad that Haywood County officials were "brave" enough to tackle the red tape and give our school children hot and appetizing lunches, which were so well run under the WPA set up, and was one of the finest projects instituted by that much abused and praised administration.

The Reading Habit

The function of books and of reading is so varied the reader can find help from books no matter what his interest or need. Whether one is looking for the lightest recreation or the most necessary information, he will find books at his service. To find satisfaction or to meet his needs, the reading habit must have been established. How may this skill be fostered?

First, occasionally someone accidentally comes in contact with a book that affords him enjoyment or helps him with his problems and this experience suggests that another book may be satisfying or useful.

Second, if one has the good fortune to be born into a home that is well stocked with good books, either through the ready access or through the skillful guidance of wise parents, he comes to possess the habit of reading. Unfortunately, too few homes in North Carolina are so equipped.

Third, if one has the good fortune to attend school where teachers know books for children and young people, these youths are taught to find enjoyment and to meet needs from the pages of books. Teachers introduce pupils to the school library where more books are available to them. The librarian, together with the teacher, imparts information on the skillful use of books and the skillful finding of materials that are needful or that satisfy and afford pleasure. This is one of the great responsibilities of public education and this is undoubtedly the greatest possible step for the fostering of the reading habit.

No one will ever be able to own all the books he wishes or all the books he needs to consult. Therefore, he will depend upon the public library and more and more communities are seeing the library as a necessary institution of a well-ordered community. If pupils are taught to love books and taught how to find information they need, they will inevitably resort to the public library to satisfy their delights and to meet their necessities. Fortunate indeed is that individual who by accident, by the guidance of parents, or by the direction of teacher and librarian, comes to possess the reading habit. The schools cannot afford to neglect to foster the reading habit.

—B. L. Smith, superintendent of the Greensboro Public Schools.

Highways

There is so much going on in the world today of vital importance and so much planning for the future that it is hard to keep track of how fast things are moving. We read with keen interest that more than 23,000 miles of post-war express highway routes are being inspected this year by a six-man, three-car expedition of four representatives from the American Automobile Association and two from the Public Roads Administration.

The expedition started from Indianapolis in January and was given unlimited gas rations and "the blessing of all government agencies involved." The routes inspected are said to include two-thirds of a 34,000 post-war inter-regional highway system recommended to Congress by President Roosevelt.

The highways are to be located so that they will serve 20 per cent of the nation's road traffic with increased speed and greater safety. Farm products would move more quickly to market and military and naval needs would be served more easily. The estimated cost, which will be of interest to us all, will be around \$750,000,000 annually over a 10 to 20 year period, with about 500,000 men employed.

Victory Tax

The Christian Science Monitor recently ran a very pertinent editorial on the subject of the Victory tax, with which we are all much concerned. The paper contends that the Victory tax is the largest obstruction to tax simplification and it should be repealed. The Monitor admits, however, that they have no practical method to offer to effect repeal without losing about \$600,000,000 in revenues and dropping more than 9,000,000 lower income bracket Americans from the Federal tax rolls.

The total Victory tax collection amounts to \$2,750,000,000, according to The Monitor. The bulk of this or \$2,100,000,000 is paid by Americans who also pay regular income taxes and a rise in the rates they would serve the same revenue end. The balance, the aforementioned \$600,000,000, is paid by those whose incomes fall below regular income-tax rates, but about the \$624 Victory exemption.

The Monitor further stated that no feasible, or at least no simple method has been proposed for a substitute tax reaching this group. But when the Administration suggested releasing this politically numerical group, the outcry in Congress was loud. It was one reason for the summary rejection of the Treasury program.

This might make it somewhat difficult for Congress to do an aboutface, it was pointed out. However, the national demand for simplification is so vocal that such reversal is not beyond contemplation. Certainly it can be said that people having an annual income falling below the regular income tax exemptions are not a very vivid inflationary threat, and simplifications may be worth the \$600,000,000 price.

'I Am Making War'

When things looked black in France early in 1917 and Haig said "My back is to the wall" and Verdun was a shamble, Clemenceau was attacked in the Chamber of Deputies upon some of his policies. When challenged to define his program the "Tiger of France" made this brief and historic answer: "I am making war."

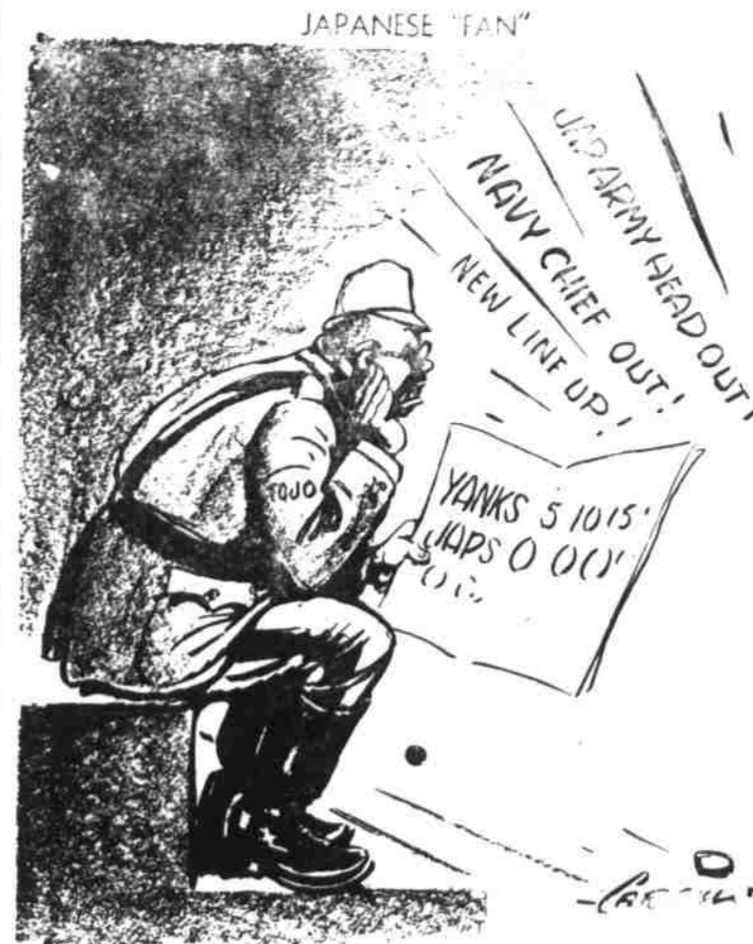
In America today when civilians are complaining at this or that restriction or ceiling, though most of them are making more money than ever; when profiteers are thinking more about money than victory; when workers threaten to strike and employers are not just; when public officials squabble and get hot and deal in crimination and in recrimination—what ought to be the answer of all patriots, in private or public life? It is the words of Clemenceau; "I am making war."

There can be no "business as usual" or anything else that stands in the way of unity of making war till victory is won. And it cannot be won except by sweat, toil, blood and sacrifice.

The only slogan for the President is: "I am making war." The only slogan for each Congressman and other official is: "I am making war."

And all must be making war—not on each other or for selfish ends—but against the Nazis and the Japanese. No diversion to other things.—Raleigh News and Observer.

Hunting season brings the only way of getting ground hog without a lot of ration points.



HERE and THERE

By
 HILDA WAY GWYN

The flowers on the altar of the Methodist Church on Sunday were in memory of Mrs. E. J. Robeson, affectionately known to many of us as "Miss Fannie". . . . They had been placed in the church by her husband, Prof. E. J. Robeson, and her daughter, Miss Frances Robeson. . . . As they brought back memories of her to us, her graciousness and goodness, the thought came, what a wonderful way to have lived. . . . So that when the living were reminded of you, they would take new hope, they would feel uplifted. . . . Those flowers in the church she loved so much . . . were a beautiful and impressive setting . . . and an inspiring prologue to the fine sermon by the pastor.

Marguerite Smethurst writes a column each Sunday for the Raleigh News and Observer. . . . We always read it with interest, for she writes well and has something to say. . . . We especially liked her comments the Sunday just past . . . when she wrote on "Uncle Sam underestimates his girl children". . . . She contends that "it hurts and insults the intelligence of the American women and girls to have the radio, posters and the news stories, and the recruiters forever pointing out first and foremost the personal advantages to be snagged by women who enlist in the service to take the places of men needed to fight". . . . We agree with her, for the type of girl who would be most easily influenced by the glamorous side of the service, in the majority of cases, not be the type the government wanted.

As Mrs. Smethurst points out American women have always responded to the call of their country. . . . Our records tell of brave deeds done by our women folks from the days of Indian fighters down to the present. . . . The girl of today has some of the pioneering spirit of her great grandmothers. . . . She is a worthy descendant. . . . The writer contends that to get the proper response from the American women, the government only needs to tell them that by the time of the invasion there will be need of 600,000 WACS and that now only 100,000 women are ready to fill the jobs that will be made vacant by the men who will be sent overseas. . . . "She doesn't have to have the glamorous lilt to the ballyhoo about sitting in a tower and directing air traffic. . . . What she needs is to know that she can save lives, if she is good enough for the job, by taking it on so that the man released may be trained to fight in the plane she directs from the tower". . . . and Mrs. Smethurst asks the question . . . "Can it be that Uncle Sam underestimates the caliber of his girl children?"

Did you read about the elderly couple in California and their unusual contribution to the war effort? . . . In case you didn't, we want to pass on the story, for to us it is about the finest honest-to-goodness bit of patriotism we have heard of. . . . The man and his wife are both over seventy. . . . They are each buying a bond a month, which is very generous and worthy, but after all buying a bond a month, if you have the money is nothing more than any American citizen should do at this time, but the final disposition of those bonds is what rates as a super form of patriotism. . . . They are going to be used to stake some returned soldier, a veteran of World War II, to a new life in peacetime America. . . . They are going to give two young men a nest egg on which to build their future. . . . As yet the couple do not know who the veterans will be, the selection

will be made later. . . . We bet those old folks are having the time of their lives dreaming of the happiness of starting life all over again by proxy.

Every year when the first tiny bud of the forsythia begins to show yellow, and the daffodils unfold their rafteron hues, we find ourselves growing not exactly poetical, but we find a song in our hearts. . . . Something seems to come to life in our souls, a sort of spiritual exhilaration. . . . So much has happened during the last few months, contrary to a happy normal state over the world, that we have not been indulging in much anticipation of the coming of Spring, not as much so as we usually do, as when the first buds appeared they had a deeper meaning. They seemed to say . . . "No matter what goes, God is still in His Heaven and all's right with the world. . . . They are a kind of landmark for us . . . and in the hectic Spring of 1944 they are giving a cheering note of normalcy that is both promising and reassuring.

It is refreshing to learn from Washington that the colors of the Confederacy may fly again. . . . Not the Stars and Bars, of course, but the battle streamers that marched with the legions of Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson and "Jeb" Stuart and Nathan Bedford Forrest. . . . They may be carried with regimental colors by regiments whose history can be traced back to service with the Southern States in the Civil War. . . . This is being made possible through a recent bill passed by Congress. . . . Regimental stand-

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
 Central Press Writer

SOUR CREAM, according to Factographs, will remove rust stains from white fabrics. It also, adds Zadok Dumkopf, will remove one's appetite for coffee. . . .

Hitler is reported suffering from foot trouble. Probably feeling a slight chill in the neighborhood of his ankles. . . .

To a pessimist the words, "breath of spring" bring visions only of green onions. . . .

Grandpappy Jenkins says he has a nephew who started his business career . . . the top

of the ladder. He is a window washer. . . .

Winter has one advantage over summer. The neighbor's snow shovel doesn't awaken you Sunday mornings as does his lawnmower. . . .

The starfish has an eye on the tip of each of its five arms and can see in any direction. What a newspaper reporter it would make! . . .

Most persons, statistics show, do not sing while taking a bath. If that's true, then those who do certainly constitute a very noisy minority. . . .

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



Inside WASHINGTON

Finland Victim of Nazi's Fatal Blunder of the War
 Japs' Marshall Found Amazingly

Special to Central Press

● WASHINGTON—The spotlight of international attention is turned to Finland as the United States and other nations friendly to the little Scandinavian republic seek to draw from her hopeless war with the U. S. S. R. That United States warnings have struck a note obvious from editorial comment in Finnish papers is an open editorial campaign to take Finland out of the Nazi sphere of influence.

When little Finland entered the war, her cause received the sympathy of the world, as well as of the other nations against the Axis. However, subsequent events completely upheld Russia's position and her territory the sub-arctic country.

These claims included buffer territory to protect the city of Leningrad and strengthen the entire Russian front against German attack. Thus, Russian foresight, at least in the early stages, undoubtedly one of the factors which made Hitler's Baltic front of the worst military fiascos in all history—the mistake costing him the entire war.

● BLUNDERS MADE BY THE JAPANESE high command beginning to pile up as the American and Allied offensive in the Pacific gathers momentum. The latest mistake was the discovery of Marshalls where Japanese defenses were found to be of World War I vintage.

American forces landing in the Marshalls found field pillboxes that permitted the Japs to fire in only one direction, enabling opposing forces to outflank them.

The Jap high command looks particularly bad in the Pacific, cause it has spent 20 years in building defenses and forward only to lose the initiative to the Allies in eight months and gain the Marshalls in a week.

The Voice Of The People

Do you think that a simpler income tax form would bring the government more money?

Tom Rainer—"I think the government would profit by a simpler form."

James W. Killian—"Yes, the government would get more, of that I am 'doggone' certain."

Noble Garrett—"I don't know, it's too complicated for me."

Prof. W. P. Whitesides—"I don't see why the government wouldn't profit. The simpler the form the better they would serve the majority of the people."

T. J. Cathey—"I think a simpler form and one lots shorter would bring in just as much money."

Miss Helena Coffey—"I believe it would bring in just as much money and it would not mean so many headaches."

Bryan Medford—"Honestly I don't believe the man who invented them can fill them out, and I am

HOSPITAL NEWS

Miss Elizabeth Young of Canton, F. F. D. No. 3, operator is better.

Mrs. Nan Higgins, of R. F. D. No. 1, medical case, proving.

Mrs. T. A. Stamsy, of Canton, operative case, is resting comfortably.

Lewis Green, of Waynesville, operative case, is better.

Miss Edith Lowe, of Canton, case, is improving.

The condition of Lillard of Canton, operative case, is better.

Carl Bartlette, of Canton, operative case, is resting more comfortably.

Master Dewey Pruitt, of Canton, operative case, is better.

Thurman Pruitt, of Canton, operative case, is improving.

Master Paul Pruitt, of Canton, operative case is resting more comfortably.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. of Hazelwood, announce the birth of a son on February 28th.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Patten Hazelwood, announce the birth of a son on February 29th.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Anderson of Canton, announce the birth of a daughter on February 29th.

Mr. and Mrs. Ransom Burdette of Waynesville, R. F. D. No. 1, announce the birth of a daughter on March 2nd.

Mr. and Mrs. Claude Pressley of Waynesville, announce the birth of a daughter on March 3rd.

Firearm Second Class, U. S. Navy B. H. Herndon, and Herndon, of Waynesville and Canton, announce the birth of a son on March 4th.

DISCHARGED

Among those discharged from the Haywood County Hospital during the past week were: Beck, Mrs. V. V. Pannell, Tom Mull, Mrs. B. V. Brenda, Dave Flack, Sam Lee, Mrs. Lanning and baby, Master Robert Moore, Howell Taylor, L. C. Moody.

Mrs. Doyle Smith and Rev. L. F. Clark, Mrs. W. Paxton, Mrs. Foca Rogers, Lois Kirkpatrick, Mrs. James Gings, and baby, Miss Edna Nam, Mrs. Ransom Burdette, Claude Pressley and baby, L. Wyatt, and Master Joe