

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, APRIL 27, 1944
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

The Dark of the Moon

The Germans seem to have developed in recent days an "invasion fever." This is partly induced, they say, by a conviction that the "dark of the moon" affords the Allies the best time to approach the Continent unobserved.

While it is idle to speculate on the precise timing of the invasion, we suspect that the date was set with something in thought more ponderable than phases of the moon.

However, the fighter sweeps over Germany, the blasting of targets that now include relatively easily repaired railway junctions, and the massing of Russian power along the still muddy central sector all add up to good cause for German nervousness.

Once Hitler stood on the shores of the English Channel and advised the British to "keep their shirts on," that he was coming.

Well, today the advice can be megaphoned back.—Christian Science Monitor.

Double Trouble

One of the speakers at the meeting last week of the Woman's Club stressed, we have been told, the importance of not only winning the war, but of winning the peace. Unless the latter is accomplished, we will only be counting time until the sons of World War II and the grandsons of World War I have to travel the same route.

We hope that the leaders not only of America, but of the world at large will rise above any petty political policies when the time comes to formulate definitely the terms of peace. For the terms of peace will be reflected down the years. They will shape the destiny of the world to come.

In America we seem to have a national tendency to forget too quickly. It would seem that at times we are too much inclined to forgive. It is a fine trait of character both individually and collectively speaking. This time we will have to realize that the other fellow does not have our same viewpoint and we must work the peace plans out with his tendencies in mind.

V-Mail

The V-Mail may not be as long and detailed in its message to the men overseas, but when we consider what it means to the government to handle the mail to men in our armed forces we all might be willing to use this abbreviated form of writing.

If all overseas mail were sent in the V-Mail letter form, it would free 25 Liberty ships for fulltime service in carrying other supplies, according to government reports. In the place of the lengthy letters on other forms of stationery, think of the life saving drugs, food and guns that might be transported across the seas.

When we use V-Mail we also know that it has priority over all other mail except official communications. Yet there is no added cost for such service. There is also assurance of delivery that is not always true with other letters. If the carrier of the V-Mail is destroyed, a duplicate of the letter is made and sent at once.

Not long ago the government announced that it had handled its 100,000,000th V-Mail, but Uncle Sam would like some more business. He wants us to write to his nephews and nieces in the service.

Our Highway System

Rather startling figures have recently been released by the State Highway Commission as to the present condition of our roads, and the cost of restoring our highways system to its former prestige.

Our main highways, particularly those in the vicinity of army and navy bases, have during the past two years taken a terrific amount of punishment. Due to war conditions materials for upkeep have been hard, and often impossible to obtain and the result has been that our road system is deteriorating at an alarming rate. At the same time revenue has dropped due to declining automobile licenses fees and gasoline taxes.

Those who are becoming alarmed over the fact that a large surplus now exists in the state treasury would do well to consider the immense job that lies ahead of repairing and reclaiming our system of roads, which for many years has been the pride of North Carolina.

Another consideration is that at the end of the war many thousand men will return to civilian life in North Carolina and undoubtedly a great many of these will be seeking employment. We know of no finer service the state could render than to be in a position to offer these men employment in rebuilding our highways.

It's Here Again

We often think that along with the certain things in life such as death and taxes, should be added Spring cleaning, because it comes around with the same regularity that the latter does in its annual demand upon our time and effort.

So it's Spring cleaning time again. The City Fathers have recognized the same in proclaiming the week of May 8 through 13 as the annual local Clean-Up Week.

The Spring cleaning week does not mean just a lot of cleaning, dusting, and so, for the women in the home. It means also for the men to get on to some of the back breaking jobs of getting the grounds cleaned up of winter's accumulated rubbish. It does not mean alone the cleaning up the home. It means the town, all public buildings, as well as homes.

This year it will be impossible to make a lot of needed repairs, due to both shortage of manpower and materials, so the need of giving everything a jam-up good cleaning job will be greater than ever before.

So when the town trucks start rolling in their tour over the town collecting debris, have yours ready to ride. Remember there is a gas shortage and they will want to make every trip count.

We would also like to suggest some Spring-time resolutions along with the campaign to clean up. Let us resolve after the ordeal is over to stay cleaned up. The next time we start to throw even a scrap of waste paper let us stop and think how it will detract from the looks of the home-town in which we all should have as much pride as we do in our homes.

God Planted A Garden

Some people have hobbies of one kind and another. But the one who has gardening for a hobby is working with the Creator. In the early days of the world God Himself "planted a garden" and set man to tend it for Him. Men and women who must work in offices and factories have the touch of the earth in growing things.

In the crowded life of today, the man who goes home to dig in a quiet garden where plants thrive under the sunshine and rain sent by the Almighty is working with the Lord who supplies everything necessary to make the garden grow.

Gardening is constructive. A man doesn't think mean things while he gardens. He is working hand in hand with and depending on the Owner of heaven and earth for his harvest. He feels humble. He knows unless God sends the "seasons" his own efforts will fail.

The farmer toiling to raise vegetables, grain and cattle is working at the tasks God Himself set mankind to do in the childhood of the race He created in His own image.

Working with God is the man who lives close to the soil. In the wide, sun-drenched fields, splashed with cloud shadows one may look up and fancy he sees the smiling face of His whose hands made all the earth. One may rejoice if he returns to Him His share of the earth's produce, and knows He still sees that "it is good."—Baptist Record.

When parrots repeat what they hear, unlike people, they do not add to it.

The leader the country most needs right now is one to lead it in prayer.

GONE, BUT NOT FORGOTTEN!



HERE and THERE

By
HILDA WAY GWYN

We dropped in at the magistrate's court the other afternoon... when there is a crowd gathered it is usually the reporter's business to see and learn the cause. We never relish the magistrate's court, or any other court for that matter. One rarely gets a very pretty story out of a trial. They are not apt to restore one's faith in people. They usually reveal a side of life that is in the raw, to which we like to turn aside. Four men and two girls were involved. It had been a Sunday afternoon get-together, riding and stopping for something to drink at various places... but it ended in a courtroom. None of the men looked to be over 25 and we deduced to be in their teens. The party broke up rather early, mainly it was brought out in the trial, because the gas ran out, which shows that even the dark cloud of gas rationing has a silver lining. The girls offered to continue the party and ride to another town, but it was found that the purse of one had been stolen... so the money gave out too, no doubt a lucky break for all of them at that stage... and the trial involved the theft of the purse, but it also revealed the story of the afternoon.

We left with a sigh... The deputy who had been called to arrest the party must have read our thought for he said, "Mrs. Gwyn, you know our stories here are never especially pretty ones, if they were we would be out of business." We can't get the case out of our minds. Those two girls are married to men in the service... two boys who are sending their money home. What account can those girls give of themselves?

Just after listening to the trial we were talking to a mother of a boy overseas... and our faith in folks was boosted. In conversation, she told us that she wrote to her son every day, no matter what happened that letter must be written. She was following his request she said... he had asked that she "keep a letter always on the way." We wish we had the power to put in words the expression on that mother's face... as she said those words. It showed courage, not that mild kind of passive courage, but the flashing type. It gave one a feeling that she might be standing by his side on the fighting front, handing her son ammunition to fire at the enemy. She was giving him all her support. She was keeping the courage rolling on the way with those letter from home. We decided it was a fine motto to keep before us for our men in service. "Keep a letter always on the way."

We often wonder about the English schools... how they could keep going as in normal times, we understand they do both from news stories and from returned soldiers. We read during the week that they have made changes in their teaching of history and that now they are giving a great deal of time and study to American history. New textbooks have been published on American history and the board of education has organized several courses for teachers on U. S. history, geography and social life. In one town recently they observed "American Week," in which the school gave American plays, quiz programs were held and the entire activity of the school centered on America.

We naturally approve the idea. We would like to do a little eavesdropping when they study about the American Revolution and how they taxed the new country to pay for their wars with other nations. We wonder how the teachers present the Revolution and the episode of how the wayward children across the Atlantic rebelled against the mother country and cut loose

from her apron strings. Maybe in recognition of the way the American stock can fight today, they are giving the American pioneer full credit... and are viewing our early history with more sympathy than in the past. For they will have to admit that the same spirit that kept Washington and his men fighting against the Redcoats is still going strong in our American armed forces today.

Voice OF THE People

Who do you think will be the Republican nominee for President?

Sheriff R. V. Welch—"Dewey."

John L. Davis—"Right now I would say Dewey, but I would not say who will be elected president."

Jonathan Woody—"I would say Dewey for first and Stassen would be my second choice, as far as chances go for nomination."

Bryan Medford—"I guess he will be Dewey."

J. J. Ferguson—"I believe it will be a Dewey-Warren combination."

T. J. Cathey—"Dewey will be the choice of his party, if he wants it."

Walter Crawford—"I guess it will be Dewey."

J. R. Boyd—"Right now it looks like Dewey will be."

Dr. C. N. Sisk—"It will probably be Dewey, but I think that Stassen would be more liberal."

Horace Sentelle—"It looks now like it will be Dewey. In fact he has it in his lap and will certainly have the refusal of it."

The fire engine went clanging up the street, its bell making a terrific clanging.

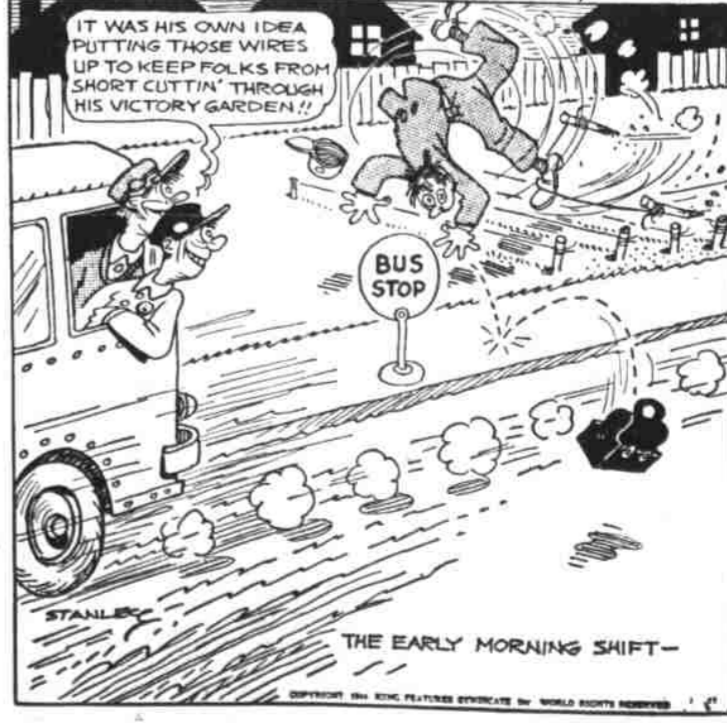
Visitor—Are those bells ringing for fire?

Small boy (who was puffing along after engine)—Nope! There's plenty of fire now. What they want is water.

Private—Why does Miss Scream-it always close her eyes when she sings?

Corporal—Well you know she is so tender-hearted that she cannot bear to see anyone suffer.

THE OLD HOME TOWN



YOU'RE TELLING ME

By **WILLIAM RITT**
 Central Press Writer

THE NAZIS have ordered Hitler's picture prominently displayed in every German school-room. That's enough to scare any kid into doing his home work.

!!!

Hailstones, said to be as big as baseballs, fell on a Tennessee city. What's this—a bit of pre-season publicity?

!!!

Admiral Horthy, like so many of Hitler's pals, seems to have wound up by becoming one of Adolf's permanent "guests."

!!!

One rubber substitute, we're told, is made of sweet potatoes, peanuts and sugar cane. That should make tires, says pappy Jenkins, that look enough to eat.

!!!

The Jap drive into Iloilo called a "taken" invasion that ain't the way the Tokyo will hear of it.

!!!

A diet of carrots has been recommended as a cold preventive. Might work—for who saw a rabbit sneeze?

!!!

Post-war passenger plans is predicted, may be 100 miles, non-stop. That will give people a chance to travel around in circles and there at the same time.

Inside WASHINGTON

Increase in Fire Bombs Budes Ill for the Japs | Nazi's Western Defense Weakened by Balkan

Special to Central Press

● WASHINGTON, D. C.—America's plans to use fire bombs in greater numbers than explosive missiles indicates that Tokyo "for a hot time" in more ways than one.

The next time Yank flyers raid Tokyo the city will be shrouded with thousands of devastating fire bombs which may put a big dent in the Pacific enemy's ability to check Allied operations.

Don't look sive sweeps. However, military experts warn that this does mean the so-called "paper" buildings of Japan will be wiped out in one great raid. Tokyo and other cities undoubtedly have been taking precautions to check the spread of flames in event of an incendiary raid.

Credit for the fire bombs used by the Allies goes to experts in the Army's chemical warfare service. The devices are clever counterparts of one of the oldest and most effective weapons of war—crude fire balls used by ancient armies.

● THE STEAMROLLER ADVANCE OF THE Russian Armies into the Balkans presents Hitler with one of his greatest military problems. It has become militarily necessary for the Germans to occupy Hungary, Rumania and Slovakia with troops, but some of them undoubtedly have had to be withdrawn from numbers held in readiness to face the Allied invasion from the west.

In addition, as German troops march into the Balkans, under attack from the west, the Nazi position towards Nazism doubtlessly becomes more intense among occupied populations.

Thus, every move made by the German high command to bolster their eastern front creates new unrest and uses up more needed troops with which to face the western invasion.

● ALTHOUGH LIEUT. COMDR. HAROLD STASSEN, now serving on Admiral William F. Halsey's staff in the South Pacific, has announced himself as "available" for the G. O. P. presidential nomination, political observers figure that he has slight chance of success.

The veteran party leaders consider Stassen, who is in his thirties, as too young and feel that he could not carry the pivotal states, that he is not yet "ripe" as a White House hopeful.

Letters To The Editor

us workers. Couldn't you be asking the... but we are asking you to look at her own case... see if some way couldn't be found that would enable her to work in this respect. We know you are, and we know you are a month behind us now. Couldn't you help us up — and then help us caught up? We're trying our part toward winning the war, but it's impossible for us to keep our part and yours... part is your responsibility. IZIE IT and START COMING DAY!!

Hoping to see you soon. Red Cross Surgical Dressing Workers.

P. S. It's too bad that our boys in service... this letter; but if it gets results, we won't be writing it.

Waynesville, N. C.
 April 21, 1944.

HAYWOOD IS BEHIND WAR BOND PURCHASE

Editor The Mountaineer:

As the American Forces move forward in Italy and against the Second Front attack on many, it appears that our Haywood County is... treat.

During the month of April 1944, for the first time, our County failed to meet its war bond quota. During that month we bought only 82% of the assigned quota.

Now the figures for the half of April are available. During this period our purchases short of the half month (\$52,065) by \$16,000. Should purchases continue to fall at the same rate, we will make the total April quota approximately \$32,000.

We don't believe that this situation results from any lack of patriotism or intentional failure on anyone's part, but rather from a tendency to let John do it.

This is a message from the War Bond Committee to help the quota for Haywood County this month.

Sincerely yours,
 Haywood County War Bond Committee

By: Chas. E. Ray, Jr., Chairman, Sam M. Ineson, vice Chairman, Norman Freeman, Norman Area, Massie chairman, Waynesville Area.

April 24, 1944.

Apologizing for his report little Bobby put it this way: promised me \$10 if I brought a good report card, but when me you couldn't afford it.