

The Mountaineer

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Editor
W. CURTIS RUSS
 Associate Editor
MRS. HILDA WAY GWYN
 Publishers
W. Curtis Russ and Marion T. Bridges

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THURSDAY, JULY 6, 1944
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

Proving Its Worth

The fine balanced program on July the 4th gave evidence of the wisdom and foresight of the promoters of the community recreational program. In these days of tension, which is felt by all age groups, recreational activities are needed more than ever, although at such times most people are too intent on work to realize the fact.

Without the recent organization of the recreational council and a full-time director, we doubt if there would have been a program of any consequence on the 4th this year, yet a wholesome, well balanced program of activities was just what the community needed.

Tuberculosis

A bill providing for \$10,000,000 annual appropriation for the fight against tuberculosis was sent to the White House last week for the President's signature. It is said that North Carolina can stamp out tuberculosis in another generation with the Federal aid to be given.

North Carolina is one of only 22 states which already has a public health officer working to combat this disease. It is said that our problems are more acute than many other regions, due to the high percent of TB among the Negroes. The Negro death rate is three and one half times that among white people in the State.

The problem that faces North Carolina is revealed in the statistics which show that out of every 100,000 persons in the State 45.6 die annually from tuberculosis, compared with the national average death rate of 43.1 per 100,000.

In Haywood County we recognize the splendid work done along this line by our county health department through the directors and the public health nurses.

They Must Remember

In days gone by there have been times when we got the impression that the American Legion conventions were a sort of holiday season for the boys attending, but the recent gathering in Asheville from all accounts was a very serious event, and has dispelled our former opinion.

The "boys" of 1917-18 seemed to be much concerned over what will happen to the boys of the 1940's when they come marching home. They know from experience what these boys will need to help them get back to normal living. They know what their first reactions to civilian life will be. They know how shot to pieces they will be in many cases, after months on the firing line.

They know what war can do to a man to shake his faith. They know that he cannot come back suddenly to his former civilian attitude. They know that it will take time and understanding for this period of readjustment. They are remembering the things that hurt them and the lack of understanding on the part of those at home.

We understand that during the coming year, these First American Legionnaires expect to work toward a readjustment program for the benefit of these men now in service. They plan to be sure that history is not repeated and that many of the mistakes of the post-war period of 1918 are avoided. We feel that their program will meet with the approval of the public in general because there are too many today who remember what happened twenty-five years ago.

Two Pioneers

In the passing of the late Dr. R. L. Walker and John H. Allen, Haywood County has lost two of her older and useful citizens. They came up under the order of another day and during their time of life watched great changes take place in Haywood County and the surrounding areas.

They learned things the hard way in their early days, for life in Haywood County during the period following the War Between the States did not offer the advantages of the present era. Yet both men made good and accomplished much in their respective fields.

The courage of the older citizens who forged ahead despite difficulties always offers a challenge to the present and rising generation.

New Instructions

In the new instruction manual issued by the German High Command is reported to be the following: "Every stout boy born in 1943 can become a brave soldier in 1963. The more Germans there are in the world, the more stable the new great Reich will stand and the more certain peace is in the world."

The old German spirit of militarism is being upheld for the future years, which should be significant to the Allied nations, that Germany must be crushed this time, the country taken and the people given new ideals. It is in strong contrast to the hopes of the American people, who do not want their sons of 1943 to be soldiers of 1963.

The General's Reading

A recent story tells of a visitor to General Eisenhower's offices, who reports that the Allies' supreme commander has only two books on his desk. They are "The Soldiers' and Sailors' Prayer Book" and "Hitler's General."

General Eisenhower's selection, we feel sure, will be approved not only by the American people, but also by the Allied nations. He feels the need of information about Hitler's generals and we are quite sure and glad that he feels the need of prayer. For Eisenhower holds the responsibility of a mighty task, world wide in its scope, and we back home are looking to him for his leadership as well as the men serving under him, for in leading them he serves us.

We Cannot Fail Them

The Prediction that the Fifth War Bond Campaign would be a hard fought battle is coming true, yet even the slowness does not mean that the goal assigned to Haywood County will not be met. It means that it will take work, and it will no doubt mean sacrifices, but the fact that we cannot fail our boys in service should spur us on to completion of the quota.

We liked the idea of selling the bonds by honoring the Haywood boys with stars by their names on the Hall of Honor in the First National Bank, but the fact that there are many names left hurt our pride in our folks here at home.

What would we think if a Haywood boy now in France on the march of the Great Invasion, turned back and said "I can't go on." We would hate to own him as a native of this county, for no matter how raging the fight, we would expect him to go forward.

When we fail to buy the bonds assigned us in this drive, we are saying the same thing. We are showing more cowardice than the boy facing immediate danger. What are a few dollars in comparison with facing death? We are hoping that by the end of the Fifth War Drive there will not be a name on that board without a star and that we go over the top with flying colors.

Let us remember when we buy a bond it is to keep our own Haywood boys supplied with food, and with equipment to win this war against the deadliest of enemies, the Germans and the Japs.

We read during the week the following reasons why we should buy bonds aside from our obligation to our government and to our men in service:

They will help win the peace by increasing purchasing power after the war.

They are the best, the safest investment in the world.

They return \$4 for every \$3 in 10 years.

They help keep prices down.

They provide the sinews of war and help you join the fight.

They mean education for your children, security for you—funds for retirement.

So if you do not appreciate the obligation to our fighting men think of your own interests.

"THE EMBATTLED FARMER—1944"



HERE and THERE

By
HILDA WAY GWYN

(Continued from page 1)

They are graduates of the Nursing school of the Newark City Hospital of Newark, N. J., and at the time they volunteered were on the nursing staff of the institution. The former graduated five years before the latter.

Lt. Plott entered the service in May, 1941 and wears the service ribbons of Pre-Pearl Harbor and Asiatic-Pacific war theater. She was assigned to duty at the Naval Hospital in Washington, D. C. After a few months she was transferred to the Medical Center at Bethesda, Md. From the latter she was sent to California en route to the South Pacific, and left San Francisco in December, 1942. We recall at the time the cooperation of a California newspaper in supplying upon request the mat of the attractive picture of Lt. Plott which appeared in The Mountaineer.

Lt. Plott has to her credit 17 months of overseas duty, with three months extra thrown in for travel, having been out of this country twenty months. She is a pioneer in the Nursing corps in the South Pacific.

She was first stationed in New Zealand in a mobile hospital, which was the first of its kind established in the South Pacific. The hospital was under construction when she arrived, but as the casualties came in the work on the hospital was also continued. There were no living quarters for the nurses connected with the hospital. Casualties came thick and fast from the Solomons area. Most of them recovered and were sent back to the States, according to Lt. Plott.

In speaking of these boys she said, "I was impressed with their spirit. Regardless of how badly wounded the men were, they all wanted to go back on combat duty and finish the job, as they expressed it. It was remarkable how they would come into the hospital, wounded, with all their things lost, weak and tired, but after a few weeks rest and attention they were anxious to go again."

Her job was in the ward where the casualties first came in and were very ill. She innocently told us this, but we felt we understood why she had been placed in such a responsible spot. She could take it with plenty of nerve, a cool head and a helpful hand.

"There were a lot of casualties coming in and we were kept busy. The men took it like soldiers. They came in from combat and maybe for days and weeks they had not had a bath, but with a shave, good food, a bath and 24 hours of sleep, it was simply amazing how their spirits soared. But let them find a newspaper from back home with the news of a strike and you should have heard them," she said with a dry smile.

"How the men look for mail," she said, "really if they could get mail three times a day it would make them happy."

"Yes, the men liked New Zealand. It was more like the United States back home than most places. You have plenty of fresh fruits and vegetables, and the people are congenial and hospitable to Americans. They take the boys to their homes and entertain them," she commented.

Then after six months in New Zealand, Lt. Plott was transferred to the New Hebrides Islands. This was a rough assignment, quite a contrast to the comforts of New Zealand. They lived in huts, the hospital was a series of huts, with

each ward a separate hut. There was no entertainment, except what they made for themselves. Occasionally a USO show came their way.

"We nurses did our own washing in tin buckets, and to keep white uniforms fresh is no small job under those conditions," she said with a reminiscent smile.

Then after eight months on the Islands she was sent back for duty in New Zealand for a three months period after which she was sent home. On the word home her voice field a kind of soft magic.

"I had so many different emotions when I knew that I was bound for home. When I first caught sight of the USA I thought my heart would come up in my throat. It was wonderful," she said.

After a month's leave here, Lt. Plott reports to the Navy Hospital at the Naval Air Base, Pensacola, Fla.

Lt. Plott wanted to be a nurse from the time she was a small girl, which we feel sure shows beyond doubt that in choosing her work she answered a call to service.

Then turning to the younger sister, on whose face pride, affection and admiration for the older sister had been registered since the conversation began, we asked Ensign Marjorie Plott about her career.

Ensign Plott volunteered on Jan. 4, 1943, and was first stationed at the Naval Hospital in Charleston, and then transferred to the Navy

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
 Central Press Writer

THE JAPS insisted on having a "place in the sun"—so it's no one's fault but their own if they are in for a good tanning.

India, according to Factographs, has 225 different languages. Well, that ought to give the Indians plenty of room for argument.

Peace has its terrors, too. After the war, we understand, the singing telegram will be with us again.

The Allies have captured 250 German women who were operating coastal artillery. We know

the Nazis were gangsters even before we knew they had their own "gun molls."

An orchestra leader predicts hillbilly music will stage a big come-back. Oh well, we can always turn off the radio.

Tojo has publicly expressed confidence in Hitler. This easily wins the 1944 prize for wishful thinking.

The adjutant stork, a nature item tells us, can swallow a cat in one gulp. Wholesale murder, we call it—snuffing out nine lives like that.

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



Inside WASHINGTON

Predict Early Conference Between F. D. R., Churchill | Baruch Resignation May Speed Post-War Planning

● WASHINGTON—Now that the European invasion is under time should run fast toward the next meeting between Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill.

An early conference is in the cards, observers believe, on the of the history of the Allied leaders' program of long-range planning.

The time of the liberation assault on "Festung Europa" (Europe) was set at the Tehran meeting last winter, they plan.

● THE RECENT NEWS STORIES, quickly refuted by the House, to the effect that Bernard M. Baruch had resigned his war planning post because of inaction on the part of the War Relocation Authority and other agencies were viewed as a "test expedition on the part of the elder statesman."

The stories caused a flurry of excitement in capital and undoubtedly will stimulate post-war activity aimed at preventing such incidents as the cancellation of the firm's war contracts when thousands went on strike.

The Office of War Mobilization explained that Baruch had resigned as adviser to the president, simply that the post-war unit he headed was disbanded because its work was done, namely, the voluminous Baruch-Hancock report charting the transition from war to peace.

However, the reports of Baruch's resignation in a huff will have salutary effect. The elderly financier gets results in a hurry in such news.

WPB has been moving much too slowly to suit him, although last the agency has set up its reconversion unit under Executive Vice Chairman Charles E. Wilson, former General Electric

● AMERICAN RECOGNITION of the five-month-old Bolivian game of Maj Gualberto Villarroel may come soon.

A report by Avra Warren, United States ambassador to La Paz, after a special mission to La Paz, capital of Bolivia, for Secretary of State Cordell Hull, has been sent by courier to the foreign office of the other American republics.

The report is understood to recommend consideration of the that Bolivia has recently expelled Axis agents and removed the Axis members of the National revolutionary movement from cabinet.

● THE WAR DEPARTMENT'S BUREAU OF PUBLIC RELATIONS did not have to notify Washington newsmen to be on the night the story broke on the European invasion.

That night representatives of the major wire services, newspapers and radio networks were in the press room at least two hours before the news was released officially.

Reporters began to dash into the press room within a half hour after the German radio flashed the news that the invasion had begun.

Radio carried the German report about 12:30 a. m. It was finally confirmed at 3:32 a. m.

Washington newsmen had waited so long for the "break" they didn't take any chances that the enemy broadcast might only a "feeler."

Dispensary in Williamstown, Mass., which serves the college students in the V-5 and the V-12 courses. From the latter she was transferred to her present post at the Brooklyn Naval Hospital.

"Yes, I would like overseas duty, but I don't know when or whether or not I will get it," she said.

Lt. Plott spoke up. "Yes, we want to go together."

And the thought came—what a team they would make in emergencies, with the wounded coming in. They are the kind of nurses one would like to feel were taking care of one's own family. You can imagine their steady nerve under fire. When we left we felt like saluting them both in the name of women in general in appreciation of their deep sincerity of purpose.

Woman—I want to buy a new summer hat for my husband. Salesman—Slouch? Woman—I'll say he is.

Voice OF THE People

What disposition do you think the Allied Nations should take toward Hitler when Germany falls?

Sr. R. Stuart Roberts—you are a lady, you should know me what I think on this.

J. Yates Bailey—"As any human being can do to cause him sorrow and pain."

J. C. Brown—"I think he should be executed, for what he has done and for the example to others."

Otis Burgin—"I think he should be taken out and hung to the gallows."

Mrs. I. J. Brown—"I don't think what should be done with Hitler, though I have thought a great deal of thought on that. We need not worry, I believe that the Lord will take care of him. 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay.'" saith the Lord, I will repay."

Mrs. W. T. Hannah—"I think you would not do to put him to death."

Dr. I. B. Funke—"I think that can be found."

Dr. Tom Stringfield—"I think he should be tried and executed."

V. C. Nobeck—"I think that he will be tried and executed, and I think if he should be punished like any criminal."

J. C. Patrick—"That is a question. I do not think that the question would be answered enough, but I do not think it would be sufficient punishment for Hitler."

A MESSAGE FOR THE PEOPLE
 I think that I shall never see another cup of good green tea. I'd like to have the dog back, To pour down Hottel's neck, Ten gallons of this foul green tea. All boiling hot!—Now you? —Carmen V. D.

Woman to pup shop proprietor— I want a good, sensible dog thoroughly housebroken who will obey me implicitly, promptly when he is called, that can be trained to carry things. I want one that will walk quietly at my side, in his place while we are on the street and that will stay in the house while I am away. Proprietor (interrupting)— you don't want a dog, you want a husband.