

# The Mountaineer

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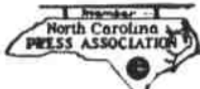
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THURSDAY, JULY 20, 1944  
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

## Sympathy

The following from the editorial page of The Pathfinder will find ready response among the group described:

"A good deal has been expressed lately for the 'white collar workers'. In view of their shrinking purchasing power and the difficulty of getting laundry done their collars are probably not so white as they used to be. In the present economic squeeze many of them have already lost their shirts."

## Looking To the Future

We read that the State Highway Department officials are starting a movement to get in touch with their scattered employes, most of whom are in the armed forces, while others have gone into war defense work. The department is trying to locate their addresses and keep in touch with them.

They want to assure the men that their jobs will be waiting for them after the war when the post-war expansion plans are put into operation by the State highway system. According to the State chairman, Charles Ross, there are around 70 per cent of the engineering division's employes out of the department at present and that the percent is equally as large in other divisions.

Plans are now underway to launch the greatest highway expansion program the State has ever seen, after the duration, and the problem will be to get the personnel to carry forward such a project. It is a wise plan to build up the prospects of the personnel along with the proposed program.

## A Master Reporter

We were glad to see the space given to Ernie Pyle, war reporter, in the copy of Time Magazine of July 17, for he has been one of the best morale builders in the present war. He has brought the actual daily lives of the men in conflict back home to their families.

We like him because he is so thoroughly American. Unknown yesterday, plodding along, and today making headlines, which is significant of the American freedom, and the opportunity of recognition, if one has outstanding ability.

His column appears six days a week in 310 newspapers with a total circulation of 12,255,000. As John Steinback has explained it: "There are really two wars and they haven't much to do with each other. There is the war of maps and logistics, of campaigns, of ballistics, armies, divisions, and regiments—and that is General Marshall's war."

"Then there is the war of homesick weary, funny violent, common men who wash their socks in their helmets, complain about the food, whistle at Arab girls, or any girls for that matter, and lug themselves through as dirty a business as the world has ever seen and do it with humor and dignity and courage—and that is Ernie Pyle's war."

His column is "as artless as a letter", but he is a great reporter, and under the human interest stories gives a true picture of affairs. It is said that the young would-be journalists could search far for a better textbook than his life and writings.

The fact that he is never very well physically, that he is terrified with war, and loves peace, yet in order to get the real inside dope, he goes right into the firing lines, places him as a number one hero, as well as a top grade reporter.

## Customer Relations

We read the following story of how a department store in Rochester, N. Y. "softened" the wrath of customers over merchandise shortages and also service provided by inexperienced clerks, that might well be copied.

A huge wall map of the various theatres of war was erected with clusters of pins indicating where former store employees are slugging it out with the Germans and the Japs. Store executives have found that most customers find their irritation melting away after a glance at the map.

## You've Heard It Before

For years we have heard the merits of a community-wide beautification program. We have heard how the general planting and growing of a certain shrub or flower could make a town distinctive throughout the nation. We have recorded one beautification committee and their "wonderful" plans, after another. They were gestures sincere, we gladly admit, but they did not materialize to any outstanding results.

Now in our post-war planning let us start right now to bring up that old thread bear subject again. Maybe it is better to term it moss covered by now, for in the stress and storm of the current times, it has been forgotten.

We have been told the effect this planting program would have on strangers passing through town. We have also had it pointed out that it would stimulate pride in the home town, which is a fine wholesome thing for a population to feed on for a civic diet.

So let's start right now. We would like to nominate Charles E. Ray to head the committee. If you think maybe we have overestimated his ability and foresight along such lines, drive around C. E. Ray's Sons department store and see what he has done in "his own backyard." Suppose every business place in town had made such plantings about his buildings at the time Charles Ray did his, the town would literally be a "thing of beauty."

Maybe as you read this you will be inclined to say, this is not time to indulge in such ideas, but it is a pleasant thing to think of the after war period and restful to dwell on shrubs and flowers, instead of war production, for a change from our daily mental diet.

We must bear in mind that we must have a substitute for the gardens of the late W. T. Shelton, that was one of the great attractions in this section.

## Unworthy Revenge

North Carolina citizens with their vast Democratic majority have always had the habit of getting keyed up over a national convention of its party. This year they are more concerned than ever before. There is a reason. They are offering a running mate for President Roosevelt. They feel that in Governor J. M. Broughton, Mr. Roosevelt, if elected, will find just the type of man he will need to help him during the coming four years—years that will bring a multitude of problems.

We regret that Governor Broughton might have been one of the keynoters of the convention in Chicago, as we learn, had it not been for a former North Carolina woman, who had a chance to strike at Broughton and pay back an old political grudge, and took advantage of the situation.

We know that in the game of politics, there is a give and take angle that develops a definite "get-even system" before the slate is cleared for the next campaign. It is often strange kind of a game, for on one election year your opponent of a former period may be your running mate.

Even recognizing the fairness of a give and take policy, and the general acceptance of the custom, for there is too much human nature in that feature of the game, not to make allowances for it, we believe that most Tar Heels feel that the lady in question overstepped all bounds of retaliation when "she stooped to conquer." It was a low form of revenge, that betrayed a type of 'disloyalty that even most politicians would condemn.

All North Carolina should be proud of Governor Broughton. He has all the qualities necessary for high office. He is, to begin with, a very keen lawyer. He is an excellent speaker. He can hold his own with the leaders of this nation. He may not become vice president of the United States, but if he fails to get the nomination it will in no wise reflect upon his ability to hold the office.



## HERE and THERE

By  
 HILDA WAY GWYN

Since the construction started at Fontana Dam we have wanted to see the place. Jonathan Woody suggested shortly after the First National Bank opened up offices in the village that he would take us over the area. "Now a trip to Fontana will give you plenty to write about," said Jonathan, but he never got around to setting a date. Not long ago the editor accompanied the FBI on an inspection tour over Fontana and he came back full of facts and enthusiasm over what he had seen. There seemed to be only one fly in the ointment, he had difficulty in taking the curves on the scenic drive.

A couple of weeks ago one of the public health nurses said to us, "How would you like to go to Fontana for our district public health meeting?" We accepted on the spot, but when we found out the date, we had to decline with regret. It was on a Monday, and that happens to be one of the days in our work schedule, on which only death or sickness is supposed to keep us away from the office. Monday morning came, and we had not planned to go. We happened to be in the district health office on routine coverage and the nurses were getting ready to leave in about an hour. They still had a seat for us in their car. We rushed back to The Mountaineer office and mentioned our invitation to the editor, adding, "Of course we told them we couldn't make it, since it was on Monday." Then we hopefully waited his reaction, fearing he would agree, but he did not let us down and said, "Yes, it will be alright for you to leave for the afternoon, but I am a better traveler than you and I couldn't take it and I believe you are trying to crowd in too much in a few hours."

We took the trip, but along the shores of Lake Santeetlah, we began to lose interest in the scenery, and have queer sensations in our midst. If Ruby Bryson, Haywood County Public Health nurse, is as good on her job as she is on taking curves on two wheels, the county health department should employ her for life. She is a swell driver and she inspires you with absolute confidence, but she can swing around a curve with the most nonchalant manner spilling everybody in each other's laps. The two occupants on the back seat, Mrs. Williams of Canton, and Mrs. Sells, were the first casualties. They passed out and were stretched out on the back seat. Libby Cuddeback was on the front seat with us. She started out as gray as a lark, but she grew strangely quiet. We got suspicious of her and glanced around to find her whiter than one of her spotless uniforms. But nothing bothered Ruby. We were one hour late in starting and she intended to get there on time. We were a sad lot arriving at the dam, but the sights of Fontana revived us all. This is the first intimation the editor has had that we, too, suffered internal disturbances. We said it on him though, because we were able to eat the good dinner at the cafeteria with relish and get the full benefit of the ride back home.

Have you ever seen anything that left you without words? We knew full well that the editor had not let us off on Monday afternoon for a pleasure trip. We knew he wanted a story about Fontana, but you can't write a story about Fontana. It would have to be a book. In this space one can't even scratch the edges. We wish that every person in Haywood county and every reader of this paper could see the place before the water is dammed up. It is the most stupendous undertaking that Western North Carolina has ever known. When the dam is finished this year, ahead of time, it will be the highest east of the Rocky Mountains,

rising 460 feet above the river bed. It will be 380 feet wide at the bottom and 2,330 feet long at the top. Located near Deal's Gap on the Little Tennessee River in this state, it will create a deep lake reaching 29 miles through the mountains to Bryson City.

Congress directed TVA to build Fontana Dam so as to provide electricity needed for the war industries, for farms, city homes, and to prevent the waters of the river from adding to downstream floods. The village of Fontana is a fascinating place. Six thousand workers and their families live in the scattered areas. It is a modern city and has everything to offer. There are moving picture shows, white and negro schools, barber shops, beauty parlor, food store, bank, hospital, drug store, cafeteria, library, post office, pool hall, gymnasium, softball fields, and tennis courts. The cafeteria has a seating capacity of 680, and the negro cafeteria a capacity of 250. They serve four meals a day to accommodate workers from all three shifts and pack lunches for the men to take at no extra charge.

Sitting in on the meeting of the public health nurses we got a very fine picture of life in the village, where everybody is busy, each intent on his own job, yet clicking in cooperation with the other fellow. Everything not only runs on schedule time, but is gradually being stepped up at Fontana. Every day is like "press day" on a newspaper—for deadlines must be met.

Coming suddenly on the dam construction one is almost tempted to rub one's eyes, and see if it is real. We had the sensation of looking into the future, for the building of the dam is only the beginning. It is a master feat of engineering. It shows how man can take what nature offers and bend it to his own will and use. The project excites one's imagination. There lies the idle river stretched out winding peacefully down the valleys, soon to be controlled and put to work by man, serving thousands of people, giving them a new vision and a new standard of life.

We thought of President Roosevelt, of his dreams for this country. He has made mistakes and his dreams have created critics, but we of this generation cannot judge what the future estimate will be of the various projects that have been launched for the benefit of the forgotten man. True they have cost money, but the spending of money, we are told, constructively, in the end, makes money.

The Fontana development is so



# Inside WASHINGTON

Germans Unable to Mass Strong Counter Forces? | Non-Stop Attacks By U. S. Navy

Special to Central Press

● WASHINGTON—Military sources in Washington are convinced the Germans have not counter-attacked in Normandy since D-Day, they have been simply unable to amass the amounts of men and materials.

This opinion is in sharp contrast to published statements allied leaders when the invasion was launched—that a general counter-attack must be expected at any time. In the early days of the invasion, it was expected that the Germans could have checked the Allied advance with comparative small numbers of men and materiel, however, a large army would be required to have any chances of success would be much more slim.

One competent military source—who declined to be identified so far as to say that with the capture of Cherbourg, the Germans have been forced to abandon any plans or hopes they have had to sweep the Cotentin peninsula free of Allied troops, they can do now is to prevent them from spilling over into France.

● WHEN VICE PRESIDENT HENRY A. WALLACE led a mission to China, it is now disclosed, he took with him a large number of gifts. These included numerous packages of scientific instruments, books, educational films and agricultural seed.

The materials were assembled in Washington by the state department as part of a program of cultural relations with China, and technical centers.

● LOOK FOR VIRTUAL NON-STOP OPERATIONS by sections of America's mighty Pacific fleet against Japanese shipping from now on. Especially since our Navy's smashing blow at the Japanese fleet on June 19 off the Philippines, the fact that it has been broken up into separate fleets as well as some task forces.

First on the list is the Fifth fleet, which spearheaded the invasion. Next is the Third fleet, under Admiral William H. P. Blandy. In the southwest Pacific there is the Seventh fleet, commanded by Vice Admiral Thomas C. Kincaid, hero of the sweeps against the Japanese in the Aleutians. The Ninth fleet, under north Pacific now is under Vice Admiral Frank J. Fletcher.

Apparently any one of these can operate alone, or they can be teamed up for a really powerful thrust. Thus, one fleet can carry out repairs, refitting or a rest while the other three carry on against the Jap's first team.

It was Admiral Raymond A. Spruance's Fifth fleet which tackled the powerful Jap fleet off the Philippines in one of America's greatest naval victories of the war.

● THERE IS NO LONGER ANY CROWDING at the mass sedition trial courtroom in the capital. When the trial started several weeks ago more than 500 and special writers elbowed each other for better position.

Since then most of the special correspondents have been apparently because their editors thought they could be of some interest.

Now many seats at the press table are empty, despite the fact that only one principal witness "has been heard, and say there are at least 200 to be heard."

impressive that it is hard to realize that it is only part of a larger project with river system that has 21 dams, 16 of which are new, several among the largest in America. Five were already existing, but have been improved and modified to fit into the gigantic project. The TVA system represents the largest job of engineering and construction ever carried out by one single organization in all our national history, and covers seven Southern States.

The dam is being made literally "a piece at a time," by building blocks of concrete 770 cubic yards, one on top of the other until the project is completed. Nearly 3,000,000 cubic yards will go into the dam. One could watch for hours the bucket hooker riding on flat cars as they fill the buckets from the hopper and the dinky switches on to a track and scoots back out on the bridge to the placing "Rigs." The "Rigs" are three revolving cranes and two giant "hammerhead cranes," all electrically operated. The crane operator, seated in a cab with a lever in each hand and his foot on another, takes concrete buckets off of the cars and sets them on the exact spot they are needed in block 100 to 200 feet below. The buckets hold ten tons.

A signalman stands in the block and guides the bucket into the right spot by a phone that relays his voice into a loud speaker in the crane operator's cab. As the operator lifts the bucket off of the car and over the edge of the bridge he calls "coming in." The signalman's voice comes back, "Rack Out," then the bucket swings out farther from the bridge and comes back, and is in place. The crew empties the bucket and the bucket

swiftly goes out of the back to the bridge. All in two minutes, from left to right, the bridge is full of concrete.

As one observes this operation one is filled with admiration for the workmen know that caution has been taken. The system tested and perfect buckets are examined, the steel cable which with 19 strands is checked each day. The cable carries more than its maximum load.

The quarry is full.

(Continued on page 3)

# Voice OF THE People

With the recent stories, do you think the possibility that the Russians get to Berlin before the forces from the West?

W. C. Allen—"I think they will get there before they are on their way. They are just started."

Mrs. Jimmy Boyd—"If they keep up their progress."

Thad O. Clark—"I am surprised if they get there if they keep up their progress."

H. R. Clepp—"I think they will."

Mrs. S. R. Crockett—"There is a possibility will."

Dr. S. P. Gay—"I think it is likely that the Russians get there first if they get there first and it might be that the understanding among about who will occur."

Ernest K. Herman—"I think they will."

Ernest J. Hyatt—"I think they will according to things are going and men put more pressure."

Guy Mason—"The British and the Americans are ing now. I think the possibility that the Russians to Berlin first."

Herbert Brannen—"I think so."