

The Mountaineer

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

Heroes

We don't know whether heroes have always been the same type as they are in the current war, but from actual experience we have found out that in the majority of cases the more heroic deeds a man in service has to his credit the more modest he is about letting them be known.

Last October, nearly nine months ago, Wayne Corpening, former Haywood County farm agent, was awarded the Silver Star, and later received a French citation, but little has been known of these distinguished recognitions.

It made us realize that Wayne had not changed one bit. He is the same hard working, matter-of-fact person who left here soon after Pearl Harbor. His bravery in action under fire is recorded elsewhere in this paper. It takes little imagination to picture the dangers under which his mission was undertaken. The fact that he volunteered for this perilous duty that eventually won him the Silver Star makes it the more heroic. No wonder it was "a lasting inspiration" to the men in his outfit.

Whiskers In the White House

Somebody figured out the other day that Thomas E. Dewey, if elected, would be the first mustached president in 32 years. That is interesting as far as it goes, but it doesn't go far enough. After all, the subject of whiskers in the White House is not one to be dismissed casually.

So, without splitting hairs over the matter, we propose today to give you a somewhat fuller exploration and documentation.

In the first place, it should be noted that Mr. Dewey's mustache is quite in the tradition of his party. For the first presidential whiskers came to the White House on the chin of the first Republican president, Abraham Lincoln. Before that, the people of the United States had elected smooth-faced presidents with monotonous regularity for 72 years, from Washington to Buchanan. (Sideburns don't count in our statistics.)

Since Lincoln there have been a dozen Republican presidents, and three different Democratic incumbents. And a non-partisan total shows that the smooth-faced chief executives are in the minority 7 to 8.

In fact, until Woodrow Wilson started the clean-shaven vogue in 1912, whiskers of assorted sizes and colors had been a familiar sight at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue except in the administrations of Andrew Johnson and William McKinley.

There's no dodging the fact that whiskers are pretty much of a Republican prerogative. Grover Cleveland was the first and only Democrat of the post-Lincoln period who didn't give the barber carte blanche. He also was the first president to confine himself to a mustache. Of the 13 Republicans, eight were either strangers to the razor or had only a scraping acquaintance.

As to styles, the presidential whiskers may be classified thus—chin whiskers, Lincoln; full beards, Grant, Hayes, Garfield, Harrison; mustaches, Cleveland, Theodore Roosevelt, Taft. The mustaches might be subdivided as follows—handlebar, Cleveland and Taft; scraggly, Roosevelt.

That's all. We just thought you ought to know.—The Reidsville Review.

Teacher Shortage

We notice recently that there are several vacancies in the faculties of the schools of this county, yet when we compare them to the teacher shortages in other areas we realize that we are very fortunate in Haywood.

Dr. Frank W. Hubbard, National Education research director, recently stated that from 15,000 to 20,000 classes totaling close to 500,000 elementary and high school children will lack teachers, while thousands of more children will get inferior instruction, and curtailed courses.

We also hear that in certain areas schools will have to be closed because of lack of teachers, who have gone into war work or better paying jobs, or have joined the armed forces.

Yet it is said that at no time in the history of this country has there been such a need for well qualified teachers. The war has taught us that we must improve our educational systems. It all comes back, while we must demand a higher standard, we must be willing to make the profession of teaching more attractive in salaries.

Welcome News

We are glad to note from an announcement last week in The Mountaineer that the Boy Scouts will resume their collection of scrap paper in the community. We have had numerous calls from persons who have saved their waste paper and are wanting to donate it to the scrap drive and cannot get in touch with anyone who will take it over. We understand the Woman's Club is also asking donors of paper to add to the community collection.

The school children of America have rendered a great service in the various scrap campaigns which have been staged during the war. At a recent assemblage of some 2,000 educators, E. W. Baldof of the salvage division of the War Production Board, had this to say of their part:

"When the history of civilian effort on the home front in this war is written the part played by the school children of America will loom up as one of the most resplendent and inspiring manifestations of American patriotism in that record."

We recall with pride how the students of the schools of Haywood County responded to the drives. How they hunted over the county salvaging from debris pieces of metal and iron to add to the collections on their own school grounds.

Authorities have stated that critical shortages of tin, of scrap metal, of millions of cords of pulpwood have already been appreciably lessened by the work of these school children.

Peace

One of the finest things we have read in sometime was an editorial which appeared in the July edition of the Southern Funeral Director entitled "Peace?" Excerpts follow:

"Victory might easily come sooner than we have dared hope and much sooner than we are justified in considering in any future planning. Let us hope it does, yet make no plans based measurably on early victory.

"Peace and Victory are not synonymous. It is PEACE that we seek. Let us all have the courage to carry on the fight for however long and to whatever extent necessary to insure more complete and more lasting peace than was possible under a half-victory in 1918 and the subsequent two decades and more of political bungling.

"Let us understand now, and not ever forget, that victory at arms alone does not bring peace, nor preserve it. Let us not relax and merely say: Again we have peace. Let us not assume that peace abroad will mean peace at home. It will not. Peace is either absolute, or it simply isn't. There are many wounds to be healed, many compromises to be made, many views to be reconciled before there can be peace. The order to cease firing will be only the beginning of a new phase of our fight to secure and maintain peace. If we take it as anything more, much blood will have been spilled for vanity's sake.

"One job we here at home will face when the firing ceases will be to attain peace at home. Many social, political and economic ideologies, subscribed to in toto by none, and in part by very few other than those who (perhaps without understanding) consider they are or will be the beneficiaries of the part they approve, must be 'compromised' or accepted, not by a few, but by a definite majority. Those who believe in and want to perpetuate individual enterprise or anything else must let it be known."



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

We have on occasions devoted this space to the men in the armed forces. This time we did not plan to do so, but in looking over our material, find that it is all related to the boys. It's not surprising that it concerns them, for they are constantly in our thoughts these days as we wait for the news from the battling lines.

First, we have an invitation for every Haywood county boy who is now stationed at Camp Cooke, Calif. In a letter from Mrs. Odin Buell, of Buellton, Calif., she is asking us to contact all Haywood boys now at the camp near her husband's ranch. Last summer Mr. and Mrs. Buell entertained all the Haywood boys at Cooke with a barbecue. They are wanting to do the same this year. If any reader of this column knows of a Haywood man now at Camp Cooke, please write at once to Mr. and Mrs. Buell and give them the man's address, so that they may get in touch with him in time to have him as their guest. Mrs. Buell is the former Miss Josephine Thomas, daughter of Mrs. James R. Thomas and the late Mr. Thomas of Waynesville. She has lived in California over 18 years, but she will always be a "Tar Heel born and a Tar Heel bred". Just say you are from Haywood county, and that is introduction enough for Mrs. Buell. She is your friend and the doors of her hospitable home are thrown wide open to you. So please help her locate some Haywood guests for her mid-summer barbecue.

The following excerpt from a letter to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh J. Sloan, from their son, Chief Warrant Officer Robert L. Sloan, will give mothers, fathers, sisters, sweethearts and wives a picture of what the 4th of July was on the front lines in the invasion in France. Bobby, who has a talent for giving things a realistic touch has done to our mind a very poignant piece of writing in his description of the reaction of the boys.

"Happy Holiday. Have just finished a half page of a letter to you, but it was too dreary (mustn't let the morale of our boys on the home front down), so I shall start again. Was writing with a great deal of feeling—and truth, as a matter of fact, of how tired I was getting of our mud and rain—being particularly provoked today because my bed got wet and I don't look forward with much pleasure to sleeping tonight. But I have since had a hot meal—with white bread, the first I have seen in a long time—since I left the States. The sun, Bless it, has come out (although it is after supper time there is sufficient sun time before darkness for everything to get dry), so I can't keep feeling down in the dumps. After all this is a holiday (fireworks included).

"It was after breakfast this morning before we realized it was the Fourth of July. We were sitting around enjoying that first morning smoke, when someone remarked, 'Say, this is the Fourth of July'—so we all got excited, and began reminiscing (which in turn, of course, made us all homesick and blue.)

"My old man used to take us to the beach'. . . 'You remember that time back in Brooklyn'. . . 'Nash, our folks always went to the Yankee Stadium, Geez, them were the days'. . . 'You remember that bottle of corn likker Ish got at Camp Forrest last Fourth of July'. . . All the voice of America making for an instant this field of mud into a 'Little America' for us. Then, of course, the inevitable 'corn of 'Well, we haven't got the holiday, but we shore have got the fireworks'. . . we jumped for our foxholes (it was a shell) and 'Little America' had disappeared. It was France, 1944."

We hear a great deal about how the soldiers are turning to prayer in these trying days. The following poem handed to us for use in this column by Mr. B. H. Blackwell gives in its humble way how close the soldier is being brought face to face with God:

Look, God, I have never spoken to You,
 But now I want to say How Do You Do,
 You see, God, they told me You didn't exist—
 And like a fool, I believed all this.

Last night from a shell-hole I saw your sky;
 I figured right then they had told me a lie;
 Had I taken time to see things You made,
 I'd have known they weren't calling a spade a spade.

I wonder, God, if You'd shake my hand—
 Somehow I feel that You will understand;
 Funny, I had to come to this hellish place
 Before I had time to see Your Face.

Well, I guess there isn't much to say,
 But I'm sure glad I met You today,
 I guess the zero hour will soon be here,
 But I'm not afraid since I know you are near.

The signal—well, God, I'll have to go,
 I like You lots, this I want You to know.
 Look now, this will be a horrible fight;
 Who knows—I may come to Your house tonight.

Though I wasn't friendly to You before,
 I wonder, God, if You'd wait at Your door;
 Look, I'm crying—me shedding tears,
 I wish I had known You these many years.

Well . . . I have to go now, God—
 Goodbye,
 Strange . . . Since I met You—I'm not afraid to die.

The liquor shortage means that there is not as much pull in Washington these days—with cork screws.

THE OLD HOME TOWN



Inside WASHINGTON

Predict Drive by Allies Toward Le Havre, Paris | Mariana Invasion Still "Futile Hopping" Charge

Special to Central Press

● WASHINGTON—With Cherbourg in American hands, the forces in Washington are looking for an immediate drive by forces deeper and deeper into France in the general direction of Paris. It was pointed out that the elimination of resistance on the Cotentin peninsula has freed many Allied divisions for action against the bulk of the German troops in the Caen-Tilly area, and the next Allied move undoubtedly is planned in this direction.

Le Havre While the port of Cherbourg is a highly important Allied prize, Washington sources here are convinced that the drive began that the Allied invasion is so great that more than one major port is required to keep it supplied. With this thought in mind, strategists are now looking toward the huge port of Le Havre, less than 50 miles from the eastern end of the Allied beachhead. This, however, will be a tougher nut to crack.

● HIGH RANKING ARMY AND NAVY OFFICIALS are meanwhile, that the invasion of the Marianas is well under way because now they cannot be accused of conducting a costly "to-island" offensive in the Pacific.

Even during the Marshall Islands invasion, "arm-chair strategists" charged the Army and Navy was committed to hopping from island to another in a campaign that might take years.

All the War and Navy departments could say to the account was that they never intended to fight such a war in the Pacific couldn't give any more specific answers because it would have revealed the master plan to the enemy.

But when Marines and Army troops invaded Saipan, thus the powerful Jap bases in the Carolinas, it was evident the plan called for long, daring hops to the Philippines and Japan.

It will reconvene Aug. 1, but it is doubtful a quorum will be present in either house at that time. There already is talk of a recess until after Labor Day. It is generally acknowledged that major business will be transacted until then.

But that is not all. The fact is Congress will be largely a board for campaign speeches in September and October. The result, therefore, is that it will do a minimum of work from now on barring some unusual turn in the course of the war.

Post-war reconversion bills, despite pressure for their passage will be put over until autumn. There is very little chance the legislature will enact a bill granting insurance companies exemption from the anti-trust laws.

● WHILE ACTION ON RECONVERSION MEASURES will be delayed, release of a report by an advisory committee of business highlights the fact that the Foreign Economic Administration is well aware of the immensity of the task of disposing of millions of dollars worth of government property which will be left over when the war ends.

The goods will include hundreds of consumer items and scattered from England and northwestern Europe to the far reaches of the south Pacific. The report emphasizes these items should be considered a valuable asset, should be sold to the highest bidder in competitive sale and should be let go for cash, or for credit only where the credit possibilities are good.

The report does not tackle the problem of surpluses in this country or what to do with plants, ships, aircraft, etc., abroad. That's another problem to be dealt with later.

● VISITORS AT THE MASS SEDITION TRIAL may not be getting a pretty careful looking-over by deputy marshals at the courtroom doors. Chief Justice Edward C. Eicher ordered brief cases and parcels in the hands of spectators to be banned order came after a woman, jailed for 10 days for contempt of court, whisked out of a bundle a crude, incoherent oilcloth paper began shouting at the prosecutor.

Voice OF THE People

Are you in favor of women being represented at the conferences dealing with the peace terms?

Jonathan Woody—"No, I think it is a fighting man's job."

Grover C. Davis—"Yes, they should be represented on account of their ability."

Ben Sloan—"I think it will have to be a military peace, and it will be better for women not to have to listen in."

Mrs. Walter Crawford—"No, I don't think that the women should be in on the setting of the peace terms. They have other things to do."

Capt. W. F. Swift—"I see no objections, but I feel they will not add much as it must be a hard boiled deal."

Francis Massie—"Yes, I think they should have as much say as the men."

Mrs. S. P. Gay—"Of course, because women are as much concerned as the men."

Letters To Ed

A PLEA FROM FRANK Editor The Mountaineer: Please declare a closed season on groundhogs.

We, who are here, can appreciate how the groundhogs are rash enough to raise their heads above the ground.

We like the groundhogs. They low the earth's surface all the time and for much reason—self preservation. We have the German SS' attack mortars to cope with, and myriads of trigger happy while the groundhog only peep with a weapon to the person with the fact that neither of us can view the world without endangering very existence.

If any of you have ever dug a naked hole in the ground your home and castle, you questionably lend a sympathetic ear to our plea. For those who have been fortunate, who have experienced an existence this, please take our word. Permit us to reiterate and declare a closed season on hogs.

Sincerely,
 Cpl. Willy Williams,
 James Knight, Pvt. Kerney,
 ray, Cpl. Felton H. Haffner,
 William L. Morrow, Cpl. Truitt, S/Sgt. Charles C. S/Sgt. David Edwards, Sgt. Alfred Gene Carver, Sgt. Alfred 1st Sgt. Jack Carswell, Pfc. Robinson and T Sgt. Williams.

In France.