

The Mountaineer

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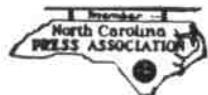
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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 1944
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

Both Good Men

We note with interest the promotion of R. B. Davenport and Fred Yearout of the Pet Dairy Products Company. Mr. Davenport has been made district supervisor and will have charge of the plant here and in Greenville.

Mr. Yearout, who was former manager of the local plant, has been made director of public relations for the entire company.

We offer our congratulations to the company in their recognition of the merits of the two men and to congratulate Mr. Davenport and Mr. Yearout on the success in their chosen fields of work.

Add Your Bit

Shopping in a local store during the past week we saw a customer hand back the paper bag and remark, "I can carry this without a bag, and maybe you will need it again."

The clerk beamed on the woman and said, "I doubt if we have any bags at all by the end of the week."

Shortly after hearing the foregoing we read where the paper shortage has become so critical that the Army is planning to salvage waste paper from North African and South Pacific combat zones and ship it home.

On the other hand the Department of Commerce claims that America has enough paper—waste paper—in the homes to meet the need. It looks like we might be falling down on our job in salvaging paper, if the army is going to have to add collecting paper to their combat duties.

There Must Be A Reason

The government has moved up the dates of mailing packages to the men in service overseas. There must be good reasons for this, some of them obvious. In view of this we should all try to cooperate and start mailing early so that the last week of the designated month will not put a burden on the mails and shipping facilities.

We have the feeling that this year we civilians should go light on our own Christmas and give it to the boys in service. We realize that they will have little use for many of the things we would give them if they were at home, but the list of articles they need and want is still large enough to make a sizeable selection from which to remember them at Christmas.

We understand the local bakery is cooperating by having a large supply of fruit cakes, (which seem to be an item planned in every box destined for Christmas cheer outside the States), on hand on the opening date, September 15 for mailing.

We are all hoping that the European situation will be in hand and Victory proclaimed before time for Santa Claus to come this year, but we need not kid ourselves, if our hopes are realized, the men will not be home for Yuletide celebrations in 1944. So let's get ready ahead of time, and feed our boxes to the post office in a steady stream instead of overloading and overworking the clerks the last minute before the deadline.

An Army survey shows that Army nurses, who number 40,000, are marrying at the rate of 19 per day.

The American Spirit

We are much interested in the government started by the Department of Commerce in enlisting the Army's aid in interesting war veterans in establishing their own enterprises. The campaign is based on instruction of the soldier in conduct of a small business. This country was founded on the very principal of small business and its independence has been the backbone of this nation.

A series of textbooks on small enterprises are ready to be distributed among the soldiers. These are being prepared by the Commerce Department in cooperation with trade papers and associations, covering 20 fields ranging from sawmills and laundries to drug stores and beauty shops.

Back To School

In 1940-41 the high school enrollment of the United States reached its all-time high record, with 7,244,000 students. Our local and county high schools also reached a record peak of enrollment at that time. Then the tide of students started flowing out of school between 1941 and 1942 in the United States. What happened throughout the nation happened right here at home.

Each year of the war has seen fewer boys and girls in high school. We are back now to the high school enrollment we had in 1934. There is danger ahead for them and the country if this drop in high school enrollment continues.

During the past summer it is reported that more than five million of these teen-age young people had jobs. That is more than half of all our 14- through 17-year-old youths. The question now comes: How many of these boys and girls will return to school?

The teen-agers have done a magnificent job in the emergency. They have sold millions of war stamps and bonds. They have been eager and ready to help. They have gathered millions of pounds of scrap. They have taken on home duties so mothers and fathers could fight and work for Victory.

Now the time has come when all of us must look facts in the face. We adults need to realize ourselves and make the boys and girls see the immense importance to them, their community and to the nations of school.

Formal schooling is not to be sure, the only avenue to education. But it is the one instrument which we, as a society, have established to give our maturing citizens some familiarity with our history, with the meaning of the democratic process. In grade school they are generally too young to learn things well. Without high school education they are very likely indeed to be deficient in any true understanding of what we call the American way of life, recently wrote one of the editors of the Washington Post.

This war will end, as all wars must, and the coming of peace will confront the American people with a staggering task of rebuilding. From every part of the globe will come a cry for help, and we here in America will be leaders not only at home but abroad in working out our own and world problems.

When there are jobs for everyone we realize that it is a temptation for the boys and girls to quit school and make some money and have a good time, while they have a chance. It is a very human impulse, but that does not mean it is a wise policy.

General H. H. Arnold, commander of the Army Air Forces, recently gave out this message to the young people of America: "We of the armed forces urge every young man and woman of preliminary age who has been filling a summer war job to return to school this autumn. Such war work is important, but your education has top priority. You will serve your country best by making the most of your educational opportunities, for this is not only a brave man's war—it is also a smart man's war."

"If you plan to enter military service you will find that a good education, offers the best assurance of progress and recognition. In all branches of service we need trained leaders, engineers, scientists, and specialists. And in the years to follow Victory, we will need them even more as our nation charts its progress in the post-war world."

Young people should stop to realize that the army has taken the best we had to offer. Many of them will not come home. Who will take their place in rebuilding back this country?

The business and educational leaders of Waynesville, of Haywood county are up in arms and should be over this serious problem. Let each of us appoint ourselves a truant officer and make it our business to use all our influence to see that every high school boy and girl in our section goes back to school this fall.



HERE and THERE

By
 HILDA WAY GWYN

We have nothing against the Clyde high school—In fact on the contrary we are great boosters for education in general and Haywood county in particular. We want to see our schools have the best teachers possible. We want every child of school age in Haywood county to be there next Monday morning when their schools open. But we do wish that Clyde high school had not chosen Mrs. Lillian Allen Hart for their Home Economics teacher. Our reasons are not entirely selfish. We wish that Mrs. Hart had not accepted the position, but had continued her work here for the sake of our own community. Mrs. Hart has had excellent training for the post at Clyde. She is a graduate of Meredith college, has done special work at both Cornell and Columbia Universities. She has taught in the Wilmington high school, Hood College, Fredericksburg, Md., the University of Tennessee and other places.

On the other hand Mrs. Hart has been training in crafts and is an exceptionally expert weaver of mountain arts and a worker of crafts of various kinds. She has the only shop in town where you may watch the arts of hand weaving in the process of weaving. This form of handicraft is becoming more and more recognized and appreciated. If you doubt our word take a trip to Gatlinburg. Home crafts have helped make Gatlinburg what it is today. This week we contacted some visitors from Florida and Georgia, who had just come from this popular Tennessee village and they had trouble in getting a room, while over on this side of the ridge the season is having its last fling and we are on the verge of settling down to our winter routine.

If we are to continue to deserve to use the triangle of "Industry, Agriculture and Tourists," adopted a few years ago as a kind of motto or insignia, we are going to have to step up and make a few changes and additions. The development of weaving and home crafts is more important than might appear. We heard Mrs. Hart say not long ago that everything she wove this summer was sold before she could get it off the loom. People like to buy things when they go away from home. Shopping is part of a trip. They like to take something back with them that is typical of the section they visited. They like native gifts. So we want to think of Mrs. Hart as being merely a loan to the Clyde school, and that when the summer vacation comes around next year, we will find her back in her shop, with three or four good helpers weaving to meet the tourist trade—and that she remains on the job in her shop—and is not tempted to return to the school room.

D. D. Stine of St. Petersburg, who sang for the Masons at their Oxford Orphanage program at their meeting recently, made quite a hit, according to all reports. Mr. Stine, Waynesville visitor, native of Pennsylvania, resident of Asheville for 15 years, who has made his home in St. Petersburg for the past several years, claims to be eighty-one years of age. He looks ten years younger. He is a popular member of the Three Quarter Century Club of St. Petersburg, which is composed of members from most of the States in the U. S. and from Canada. All members are over 75 years of age. They have 12 members between 90 and 100 years old, and last year they celebrated the 100th birthday anniversary of a member. The 100-year-old member is a graceful dancer and when there is a waltz played cannot resist joining the throng of dancers.

The club holds weekly meetings

with an average attendance of 150. From their group they have organized a chorus of 50 mixed voices, all between the ages of 75 and 97. It is said to be the only chorus of its kind in the world, and is directed by John B. Shively, composer of "My Country's Flag." Last winter the chorus gave 18 concerts in St. Petersburg. Mr. Stine is one of the soloists of the chorus. No wonder St. Petersburg is called a paradise for those who have counted many pages of the calendar. The invitation to come to St. Petersburg and grow young is a fact, not a fancy. Mr. Stine incidentally was at Wayside Lodge this summer, which his daughter operated.

Did you ever stop to think how the headlines describing the war sound so much alike, day in and day out. We did not until one night last week. An Eastern Carolinian dropped by to call and we have a secret notion that they wanted to read our Raleigh News and Observer as much as to see the family. At any rate there was a big batch of papers piled up and he picked up one of a Sunday issue. He said he wanted to check on his home news. We were talking about the war, and when he was scanning the front page he contributed headlines to the group, which sounded most encouraging. "138 Jap Planes downed," etc. We were all properly impressed and encouraged. Then he turned the papers and read to himself. He began to have a funny look on his face. He had just read where Prof. Kotch was going to read Dickens "Christmas Carol" in Raleigh, and he well knew that the Prof. he had known at Chapel Hill had passed away, and then he took time out to observe the date—Yes, it was Sunday, but not one in September, 1944, but in December, 1943. As we recall the war news he read, no wonder there were so many people last year who thought the war would be over by Christmas. For that news in 1943 sounded so good as he read it that we all took heart, even a year later.

Briefs . . . Our loss will be Durham's gain when Rev. and Mrs. Hammett take up their residence there. We hate to see them leave us, for they have made a place for themselves in our community. Charles Ray certainly made a home run with the REA superintendents and officials at their gathering here last week. He told them a joke in his welcoming speech in the morning session and that night at the social meeting which followed the barbecue at the Country Club, they made him tell the story again. If you haven't heard it, you might get Charles to tell you—but we warn you ahead of time.



Inside WASHINGTON

Washington Observers See American Pacific Strategy
 Four Power Rule a Reality Has Proven Very Wise
 Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—Most Washington observers, despite the contrary, look for something very much along the lines of the Dumbarton Oaks conference in historic old Georgetown. The form of the post-war organization, it is believed, will be dictated by the realities of the world situation, and not in accordance with some idealistic programs which have been suggested, wherein the smaller nations would have equal voice in determining "aggressors."

The outcome probably will be disguised and a coated, but authority to invoke military power will rest primarily in the hands of the United States, Great Britain, Russia and China. And a coalition of smaller powers will not be able to block the decisions of the "big four."

In the case of Russia, she is opposed to any plan where small republics in Latin America will be able to veto the proposals of the large powers at a conference table. Russia, fighting for peace in the old league, saw all her work go for naught at the inertia and lack of forceful direction on the part of the mass of the league delegates.

The smaller "peace-loving" nations will have a place at the conference table, and will have ample machinery for submission of proposals of an international character, but suppression of aggression by force will be the domain of the "big four" powers.

THE WISDOM of American strategy in the Pacific is becoming more evident daily with hundreds of thousands of Japs eliminated as fighting units at little or no cost in American lives.

So far, at least 250,000 Nipponese warriors have been cut off their supplies and left to starve on unproductive islands through the Pacific.

Eventually, it is expected that a handful of Marines will be ashore at such bases as Wotje and Mille in the Marshalls and ably Truk, to mop up the remnants of once-powerful garrisons.

By taking key islands and then cutting off nearby Jap-held islands from their source of supply, American forces have been able to tremendous victories without risking the lives of many U. S. fighting men.

The isolated Jap garrisons will never have the opportunity to fight gloriously in battle for the Emperor.

WORLD WAR II is following almost identically the 1918-1919 table in France. But the Allied military high command is making every effort to avoid one pitfall which cost the British, Americans, Canadians and France dearly 20 years ago.

This is the massive, attritional battles east of Paris which such a heavy toll of men and materiel. Among these, as World War veterans recall, were the Meuse-Argonne, the Somme, the Marston and Belleau Wood.

General Eisenhower has overwhelming air supremacy, fast units and superior artillery to keep the Germans on the run. Allies hope to keep the offensive in France as fluid as possible to avoid World War I's stand-up-and-fight battles.

Military experts compare the fluidity of General Eisenhower's strategy in France with the same movement in the U. S. Civil War when sharp, decisive encounters took the place of prolonged trench warfare.

THE ARMY-NAVY INVESTIGATION into the Pearl Harbor disaster, which began in Washington about a month ago, is expected to be completed in about a week.

Information to this effect has been given Senator Homer Ferguson (R., Mich.), who is withholding introduction of a resolution for a congressional investigation pending completion of the current probe.

Ferguson says he doesn't know whether the Army and Navy hold sessions outside Washington when they have completed work here, but contends that this is unnecessary.

YOU MAY LOOK for WPB to start downhill soon in the matter of importance and rank among Washington war agencies.

WPB probably will sink from a first-line organization to a subordinate place under a demobilization setup co-ordinating all necessary activities incident to converting to peace.

Do you think that generally speaking people are too optimistic about the European situation, and that there will be more hard fighting before Germany falls than we realize from the rapidity of the campaign in France?

John M. Queen — "There is no doubt about people being too optimistic. In fact, most of us do not understand what it is all about."

Tom Blalock — "Absolutely. Time will tell that the people are too optimistic."

Tom Rainer — "I believe that we are a bit too optimistic and that it may be Spring before Germany finally falls."

W. A. Bradley — "I think people are too optimistic at present. A lot of them seem to think that the war will be over in a day or two. I feel that Germany will not fall so soon."

W. L. Lampton — "Yes, I believe that people are too optimistic. I think that we will have a long war before we have a long way to go."

A man walked into a restaurant and left the door open. A man called out: "Fat Man: 'Shut that door you brought up in a barn.' The man closed the door, sat at a table, sat down, and began to cry. At which the fat man was uncomfortable and went over to comfort him." Fat Man: "I'm sorry, I intend to hurt your feelings, but just wanted you to close the door." Man: "I'm not crying, but you hurt my feelings, but you brought up in a barn, and time I hear a jackass brag, I feel homesick."

The other day an old man had lived all his life in a small town and was puzzled by his friends by moving to a big city. They asked him why he bothered. "Eh," he told them, "I reckon it's the gipsy in me."

until at least the first of the year.

Jerry Liver — "I believe that people are too optimistic, for in my opinion we have a long way to go."

Henry Davis — "I certainly believe that people are too optimistic."

Chris George — "In my opinion, Germany might blow up at any time, and yet on the other hand there is a chance that it will not out longer. I feel that as Hitler is in power the German will fight, yet I think it will be over in Europe this year."

Mrs. William Harnish — "I think there is too much optimism among people generally, judge by the statements of the generals in charge and the columnists who write about the war."

J. D. Frady, Jr. — "I think there is not going to be much fighting in Europe, and I would be over by Thanksgiving with Germany."

W. L. Lampton — "Yes, I believe that people are too optimistic. I think that we will have a long war before we have a long way to go."