

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 26, 1944
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

State Record

North Carolina had the second lowest death rate in the nation last year, according to figures recently released by the Census Bureau, and stood fifth highest in the birth rate of the nation.

The birth rate in North Carolina last year was 26.1 per 1,000 persons. Nationally the birth rate was the highest since 1933:

The death rate in North Carolina was only 8.3 per 1,000 persons. Only Arkansas with a rate of 8.2 had a lower death rate than this state in 1943, a year when the nation's death rate was reported to be the highest since 1937.

Waiting

We doubt if there is a home in America today where the family is not living in a kind of tension. These are waiting and anxious days for us all. Great events are taking place hour upon hour, and the most momentous pages of history are being recorded.

We seem to be passing through that period of "blood and tears" that Winston Churchill told us about sometime ago. Our leaders tell us that our casualties are smaller than anticipated, and we heard from the wounded returning home that the boys could not have better attention.

While we all realize that the defeat of Germany over in Europe will not end the fight, we do know that it will bring the end much nearer, for the entire world seems to be of the opinion that the fall in Europe will shake the morale of the Japs.

Yet while we wait we scan the newspapers daily and listen to our radios, and guess and hope for the end. The whole world is tired of war.

Changes

We take this occasion to say goodbye to Rev. W. Hutchins, who leaves Waynesville after serving six years as superintendent of the Waynesville district of the Methodist Church. Mr. Hutchins has done a splendid piece of work in this district, organizing it under the new order created with the union of the Northern and Southern Methodist Church.

We likewise extend our best wishes to Dr. Lambeth, pastor of Central Church, Asheville, and manager of the Methodist Assembly, Lake Junaluska. Dr. Lambeth will leave this area for Greensboro where he will serve as district superintendent. His interest in the development of the Methodist Assembly and his friendliness to the Haywood county folk will make his leaving regretted by many.

A welcome is hereby extended to Rev. J. Clay Madison, who returns here for the third year as pastor of the First Methodist Church. Both the congregation and the community at large hoped that those responsible for making the changes in the district would allow Mr. Madison to return.

A welcome is also extended to Rev. Walter B. West, as the new district superintendent. Rev. West is a former pastor of the First Methodist Church and is well remembered in the community. Since leaving here he has served many larger fields and his work in the church outstanding.

Growing Program

The schedule of E. W. Tenney, recreational director under the Community Council, grows fuller each week. This is proof that there is an increasing appreciation on the part of the public of the services offered under the program.

We have needed here for sometime a wholesome community-wide program of recreation and the Community Council has done much to develop such a service.

It is recognized by all medical authorities that everyone needs relaxation and recreation which gives a complete change from their work. A program of this type not only serves this purpose, but tends to create a fine fellowship that makes for better citizenship.

A Good Remedy

Whether there will be a postwar crime wave in the United States depends on whether economic dislocations and a depression follow the peace in the opinion recently expressed by Lewis E. Lawes, prison consultant on the War Production Board and former warden of Sing Sing Prison.

"There must be jobs," he has stressed, "by jobs I don't mean jobs that pay wages reduced to abnormally low levels. I mean jobs that will enable Americans to maintain a decent standard of living."

Mr. Lawes further points out that to eliminate crime in the future it is necessary to eliminate crime breeders, stating that the slums and depressed areas could develop another crop of potential criminals, today's delinquents.

Having heard a great many people make the statement that they feared the prolonged war would make criminals of our men in service and cause them to hold life very cheaply, we were interested in his scoffing at the fear of a murder wave being started by veterans of the war, "because they have been so thoroughly trained in the art of slaughter." He holds that "the urge to kill will disappear with the goal to kill—war."

We believe that the nation and the communities are thinking along the same lines, judging from the many plans we hear regarding employment. It is said that there will have to be 15,000,000 jobs more than were available before the war in order to give employment when peace is declared.

We have only to look about in our own community to know that idleness is the finest breeder of crime that exists, and that work is the finest antidote.

How Many Will Vote?

This seems to be a burning question these days, with only a short time until the deadline of voting is past. The following resume of the situation which appeared recently in the Raleigh News and Observer gives a prettily fair idea of the situation.

The politicians are agreed that if the vote is large this year, Roosevelt will be elected. His supporters fear that many in the armed forces and migrant workers will find it so difficult they may not be able to vote. That is the reason why President Roosevelt went on the air to urge all eligible voters at home to register and vote so as to offset any loss because Dewey in New York and Bricker in Ohio have refused to take steps needed to make absentee voting easier.

It is estimated by the Census Bureau that 75 per cent of the people vote this year in the same ratio as in 1940 the turnout in November will be 55,300,000 with the overseas servicemen included. If they are excluded in the calculation 50,300,000 voters will turn out.

The Gallup poll estimates that the civilian vote this year will be around 39,500,000 and says this is made on the voting registration in Philadelphia which closed on September 18, and the turnout in the September election. This would be phenomenally low and is undoubtedly based on the belief that there will be a small vote by men in the armed forces and the migratory workers.

According to the census, there are 88,000,000 potential voters this year. Here is the vote that was cast in the last four presidential elections:

1928	36,800,000
1932	39,800,000
1936	45,600,000
1940	49,800,000

Don't let too much money go to your head. A better place for it is in War Bonds.

The watch on the Rhine is about to run down because the Germans are all wound up.

Politicians are doing a lot of blowing these days—enough in many cases to blow the election.

"SOMETHING ON OUR CHEST"



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

We would like to pay our last respects to the late Weaver H. McCracken, Haywood county citizen, who possessed to a high degree the great gift of making friends. Weaver always had a smile for everyone. He had been in politics practically all his life of one kind or another. He was a good vote getter, yet he never made any great show of "going after 'em." He was always cordial, so when he ran for office a campaign was not any special effort on his part. As a public servant he stood high. He had the ability to run the posts to which he was elected with credit to himself and to Haywood county. He was a fine type of citizen and will be greatly missed. He knew everybody in the county and his friendliness to others came back to him in the good will of all who knew him.

We have heard many stories about men in service from far flung corners getting together, but not quite so many of old friends meeting. One incident of the latter is the case of Col. Mint Reed and Capt. Sam C. Welch, boyhood friends who grew up in Waynesville and later attended Duke University together. They are now serving in the Caribbean area. Col. Reed is in the air corps and Capt. Welch, U. S. Infantry, is in charge of the Antilles Exchange system. Their areas of operation cover almost the same territory. For several years after leaving college their paths separated and were often far apart. Col. Reed went into the Air Corps, then a struggling branch of the U. S. Army, and Capt. Welch entered the field of banking. Col. Reed has been stationed at many posts and Capt. Welch has worked as a bank examiner in many parts of the country, East, South, Middle West, and Pacific Coast, before he volunteered in the service soon after the attack on Pearl Harbor. They kept up their friendship, but rarely met. Capt. Welch, who was in Topeka, Kan., at the time he entered the service has not run into many men from his home town. Now he is seeing quite a bit of his friend of such long standing. They go fishing together when they can get time off, just as they did back in Haywood when they were boys. They still seem to have a lot in common, especially one burning ambition. They both want to come back to Waynesville to live. It is home as no other place can ever be.

We read that in the restaurants in Paris that the menus will soon be printed in English as well as French so that the American and British G. I.'s can read them. This should be a great step toward better international relations in our opinion. We guess that most of us who are not fluent in our reading and speaking of French have at some time been overcome in a restaurant or hotel dining room over a menu in French with a haughty waiter standing beside our table patiently waiting for us to decide what we wanted to eat. One is so apt to order the last thing they really want on the menu in the game of guessing. Displaying our ignorance in front of His Majesty, the waiter, could certainly drag one's morale in the dust. Then the amazing thing was, how darned simple the mysterious sounding dishes were when they appeared on the table. It's been so long since we ate in such a place that we would gladly forego the dignity of any prewar waiter just to find ourselves there once again.

Contributed to us this week is the following which was sent by a soldier serving in the Burma.

India, China war theatre:
 "It ain'ts the heat nor the blistered feet
 Nor the meals of Spam in place of meat,
 Nor the butter like lard, nor our turn at guard,
 None of these is one-half as hard
 As the jolt we get, after all the sweat
 And a cherry voice says, 'No mail yet!'"

And it ain't the breeze, like a dragon's sneeze,
 That peels the hide and weakens the knees
 Nor the dirt in your gun nor the broiling sun
 These are forgotten when day is done,
 But our voices fail and our faces pale
 If we draw a blank when it's time for mail.

We can stand the flies, and the sand in our eyes,
 The orders, the rumors, the truth and the lies,
 The mosquitoes, swarm and the water warm,
 And the wards that reek of chloroform.
 What takes our fight and makes throats tight
 Are the letters somebody didn't write."

We have always like to read Shakespeare's Seven ages of man, and his famous description of each age, but we believe that the following which we are borrowing from the column of Miss Beatrice Cobb in her Morganton News-Herald perhaps is more easily understood today:

At five, the youngster says: "The stork brought us a new baby sister."

At ten: "My Dad can lick any man twice his size."

At fifteen: "Girls are Blah."

At twenty: "Just give me a chance, I'll show 'em."

At twenty-five: "The system is all wrong. There should be some reform."

At thirty: "In a few years people will wake up and demand their rights."

At thirty-five: "I'd be rich if I had stayed single."

At forty: "Give me another bottle of that hair tonic."

At fifty-five: "Thank God I've got a good bed."

At sixty: "I was mighty lucky to pick such a fine woman."

At sixty-five: "I feel as young as I did 20 years ago."

At seventy: "I don't know what these modern young people are coming to."

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



Inside WASHINGTON

U. S. Navy Files Hide Thrilling War Sagas

Russia Soon May Siberian

Special to Central Press

● **WASHINGTON**—Some of the most thrilling stories of warfare are buried in the official files of the Navy and never to be told. They are tales of exploits of daring American sea raiders in their forays against Japanese shipping.

Logs and reports of sub commanders are among the Navy secrets. The Navy obscured the fact that there were survivors announced tersely that the submarine Flier was lost in recent operations against the enemy. Alert newsmen of the peculiar wording of the communique and the statement that at least the skipper was alive.

● **Submarine** The Navy's communique said that the names of officers and crew have been informed. The Navy's official wording when all hands are missing is that "the next of kin of the missing have been informed."

However, the Navy stood firm on declining to comment as to the skipper was saved or whether any members of the crew were rescued.

The Navy high command contends that any stories about may give the enemy some idea of our undersea technique. Men contend that by clever writing thrilling stories can be told out giving the enemy any valuable data. However, the Navy has won the battle.

● **FEELING GROWS IN WASHINGTON** that Russia soon grant air bases in eastern Siberia to United States for the aerial assault on the Japanese homeland.

The Soviet government repeatedly has pointed out that it is ready to do as peace with Japan whenever the subject of bases is broached.

But Allied officials never have taken too serious the Soviet despite Moscow's hard-headed, realistic and oft-times tight-lipped diplomacy.

Experts recall Premier Josef Stalin's indicated desire to fight war at a time. Hence, they think when the time is propitious Russia to review terms of her neutrality with Japan she will do so.

That time, Washington feels, is when Germany no longer danger on the Western front.

Russian air bases bordering Manchuria would give American fire-rate jumping-off point against the Japanese homeland. The 20th Air Force out of its presently tight spots regards bases in China.

● **RADIOS ARE EXPECTED** to be the first major home front hit the market once Germany is defeated and controls virtually lifted from American industry.

According to experts in Washington it will take about six weeks to turn out radios once industry is given the go-ahead sign.

Production of new automobiles is expected to take about six months or perhaps longer.

● **WITH THE WAR NEARING ITS END** in Europe, the feeling that Washington might get a token bombing seems disappearing completely, especially in the Senate.

The upper legislative branch has taken down its blackout curtains.

The Voice Of The People

Do you have any special post-war plans that you hope some day to realize?

Mrs. Paul McElroy—"I hope to remodel my house and have my husband retire from the Navy and settle in a permanent home here in Waynesville."

Grover Clark—"Yes, I do, both in business and in home."

Mrs. R. L. Cobb—"I am planning for the day when my two sons come home. Then I would like a little warm postwar house like we read about for my old age."

Lee Reiger—"Yes, I do. I would like to repair things and get them in good condition back to normal. I think we look to a great future when the war is over."

Mrs. Charlie Woodard—"Yes, I have plans galore, which include a farm with a big house and a big barn and plenty of room."

Hugh Frazier—"Really I don't. I just take life as it comes. There will be plenty of time to make plans when the war is over."

Frank W. Kinsey—"Yes, I look forward someday to utilizing my transportation experience by permanently locating in some form of transportation business."

W. F. Strange—"Well I am so busy I haven't given it much thought. Of course, there will be changes, but I don't know whether

or not there will be many line."

George W. Hendrix—"I don't right now I am just tired in the war being over."

Dan Watkins—"Yes, I hope they will materialize the war is over. I think we have lots of community plans, too, including more an airport, and residential extension."

TRANSACTIONS In Real Estate

(Re Recorded This Week)

Beavertown Township

T. H. Powell, et ux to Powell to A. L. Taylor, et ux
 J. L. Henson, et ux to Pion Paper and Fibre Co., et ux
 Ellie R. Smathers, et ux to P. Medford.

L. W. Nash, et ux to J. L. et ux.

Addie Plimmons to Gordon, et ux.

Oscar Layman, et ux to J. H. Hall, et ux.

J. H. Hunter, et ux to A. Broyles, et ux.

W. P. Swafford, et ux to E. Swafford, et ux.

Canton Building and Loan Association and S. M. Robinson to W. R. Palmer, et ux.

Canton Building and Loan Association and S. M. Robinson to G. W. Wise, et ux.

Clyde Township

Bon-A-Venture, Inc. to Hips, et ux.

Clyde Building and Loan Association and A. T. Ward to George H. Jones, et ux.

Bon-A-Venture, Inc. to Davis, et ux.

Waynesville Township

J. R. Morgan, Com. to Coffey, Mabel Coffey, et ux.

Lake Junaluska Methodist Church Assembly to Alton Lackey.

David Stillwell to J. C. Ward.

Fred A. Carter, et ux to Paul Worley, et ux.

J. C. Blanchard, et ux to A. G. Davey, et ux.

James A. G. Davey, et ux to Davey Tree Expert Company, et ux.

James A. G. Davey, et ux to Davey Tree Expert Company, et ux.

E. P. Stillwell, Com. to Blanchard.

Paul Green to L. E. Sims.