

THE MOUNTAINEER

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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 1946

False Impressions

Readers of newspapers throughout the country served by certain news sources would have had quite a shock could they have seen the Haywood county courthouse building and grounds with their own eyes...

The "men marching on Waynesville" from Jackson never arrived. The extra law enforcements here in Haywood county never showed up...

We like a good exciting story as much as the next one, a story that has meat in it, and gives one something to write about...

Where there is an element of mob force it seems to us the duty of the press not to fan the flame which may lead to additional crime.

Giving out news and is a serious and responsible trust and anyone who assumes such responsibility should bend every effort to get the facts and not trust to their imagination...

The turning out of such stories hurts not only the community, but also the person who is guilty of giving out such false information...

Along this same line of thought The Asheville Citizen said editorially:

"Published and radio broadcast reports of imminent mob action in and around Waynesville Monday night apparently were untrue. Sheriff R. V. Welch of Haywood county has given the lie to these rumors...

"Authors of these reports and those who spread them have done a great disservice to Western North Carolina. There had been a killing, involving race, the details of which are not yet clear...

"The easy credit given to such reports when they circulate under impassioned circumstances is not difficult to understand. That they are capable of doing great mischief, however, is beyond argument...

The wise wife never keeps her husband in hot water. That's the way to get him hard-boiled, not tender.

Some drivers on the highway today still consider the automobile a great sporting machine. The fact that most travelers are on their way to some business appointment and are not in a mood for a good competitive fling doesn't seem to occur to them.

Orchids For Home Folks

We felt very proud of the manner in which our own home folks co-operated in the entertainment of the members of the Press last Friday night. To have definite plans to stage a supper in one place and then to have to make a change in plans is likely to throw things out of gear which will be reflected in the final event.

It was interesting to hear the editors say, "Why I thought you were going to have this barbecue at the Piedmont Hotel, please tell us how did you make such a quick change?"

Then frequently heard was, "You must have a mighty fine community to have such co-operation as we have seen here tonight. It looks like the whole town is helping out. You are mighty lucky to live in such a town, for you couldn't do what you have done here tonight in a lot of North Carolina towns."

While we appreciated all the nice things that the guests had to say about the party, just between us, we got an extra big kick out of their appreciation of our own home folks. It made us proud that we lived in such a community. We like to keep some of the orchids for our own home folks.

Relief In Sight

Since 1939 the cost of food has been mounting higher and higher until it reached a peak in mid-August where it represented an increase that would have been undreamed of in the beginning of the rise. We are told by authorities that in the month of September we may look for a 6 per cent drop in food costs. This will be welcome news to all families no matter what their incomes may be.

It is said that a market basket of 15 foods that a housewife might buy on any shopping trip in mid-August of 1946, cost \$7.95, while the same quantities of the same foods back in August, 1939, on the basis of official figures, sold at \$3.95.

In the nearly seven years ending June, 1946, the food basket increase represented a 68 per cent, and after two weeks of the price-control holiday that began July 1, the basket cost \$7.61, or 92 per cent more than in 1939. By mid-August, we are told, the price was up to 101 per cent from 1939. The increase during two months, without food-price controls was one fifth, 12 times as rapid as the rise of the preceding seven years.

We have been moving fast in America along lines of the high cost of living, but it is comforting to learn that things will start downward at least on our dinner tables. This is said to be the outcome of the rollback in prices of meats and table fats, following re-control of those items. Then, the effect of record grain harvests is expected to hold down or reduce the cost of foods. Thus the post-war peak of our eating seems to have been passed.

During the rising tide of prices it has been interesting to listen to the remarks at meat and food counters here as the local customers waited their turn to part with their money for food. The higher the costs, apparently the more philosophical they became. They took it as a matter over which they had no control and if they had the money to buy they bought. If not, they left the counters for substitutes—but often returned and paid the once considered prohibitive price. They had to have a session with their own pocketbook and ideas of thrift, whetted by their appetite to hand over 90 cents for a pound of butter on first thought. We know their line of thinking and argument from sad experience.

Husbands Aplenty

We often heard it said that it was "generally believed that by the time he was discharged from the service every man in uniform would have married," but the following from the Reidsville Review would indicate that a good many of them resisted the lure of matrimony during their period in the armed forces.

"There are still more single men of marriageable age in this country than women of like situation. In the age group 20-30 alone there is a surplus of a million and a half men."

"The reporter who obtained this information from the Census Bureau must have been a man. In his presentation it is easy to detect a feeling that he is bringing good news to the nation's maidenhood which, he assumes, has been worrying over a presumed shortage of husband material."

"Maybe he's right. If so, we ought to move (says the Reidsville writer). No one of the gals for whom we'd make a play (conditions permitting) have seemed to have trouble finding plenty of substitutes."

If a woman had to live with an "ideal husband" for a week she'd get a divorce and marry a human being.

The reason why so many milkmen are bachelors is that they see too many women early in the morning.



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

We have always enjoyed meeting Josh Horn at the N. C. Press gatherings, for he is the life of the party in any group, lucky enough to have him in their midst. Mr. Horn, publisher and editor of the Rocky Mount Telegram, has served as chairman of the North Carolina Advertising Bureau since it was established ten years ago. He is a director of the Associated Press and served for many years as a member of the State Board of Development and Conservation. He is always on hand at the N. C. Press meetings, ready with his wit and wisdom. In other words, Mr. Horn has an ear and eye for what makes news in the big, broad sense of the word and he knows North Carolina like your grandmother knew her old blue speller. He has the assets of every section at his finger tips.

"Now that was a fine program we had from the Indians," he said to us following the barbecue last week in the armory, "what you need up here is a presentation of the story of the Cherokees, just as they have done in Manteo about 'The Lost Colony,'" he continued. Having touched one of our pet projects about which from time to time we have to let off steam in this column, we listened with the keenest interest to what he had to say.

"Now take that small community... Why there are not over ten thousand people living in the county, and yet this summer, 54,000 persons visited Manteo and saw 'The Lost Colony.' That play down there is doing more than preserving North Carolina history, it is giving the present generation a break. Think of how rich in color and drama the Cherokee story is and what its portrayal could mean to you people right here. You have something, but I am afraid that you lack vision. Why don't you folks get behind this and start it going?"

Then we told him of Miss Margaret Stringfield's operetta and he was much impressed. We told him that we had understood that Paul Green had been up here with the idea of doing something on the Cherokees, but we had heard he felt that our climate was not adapted to an outdoor theater—too much rain. Mr. Horn rode down that obstacle in a hurry. He said we could have a tent affair and when it rained open it up like an umbrella. We suggest that we invite Mr. Horn up and let him tell us just how to go about getting the Indians dramatized for the full benefit of them and our section.

We were not surprised when our phone rang this week and we

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Do you think that Secretary of State Byrnes' policy of attempting to make Russia live up to the Potsdam treaty terms, or Secretary of Commerce Wallace's idea that we should not interfere with Russia's domination of its neighboring countries is the best long-range foreign policy?

Fred Campbell—"I think the Russians ought to live up to Byrnes' proposition. Seems like they want to go too far."

J. W. Patton—"I think Wallace is going too far in getting along with the Russians."

Sam L. Inman—"I'd rather hold the line against the Russians than give in to them."

V. G. Moody—"I look for the biggest war yet to start, with Russia and Germany together."

W. C. Medford—"I think Byrnes' idea is absolutely right. We've conceded to Russia too much already."

heard a voice saying... "Mrs. Gwyn, I think I have one of those old beds you wrote about Hiram McCracken having made for his daughters-in-law back in the 1880's..."

"It is one of my prized possessions, just as you suggested, and is a spool bed, with the slats made of walnut, and put together with pegs. It was given to me when I started housekeeping in 1919 by my father, the late M. J. McCracken and had been given to his mother by her father-in-law," said Mrs. Frank Williams.

We don't mean to worry you, but we read the following startling information yesterday, "Christmas may be remind you is only 14 weeks away. Plenty of time, you sniff. Not if you want to send packages overseas to military personnel. Christmas packages should be mailed for these destinations between Oct. 15 and Nov. 15, according to army announcements."

He left Raleigh Wednesday morning at 8:33, stopped for six minutes in Greensboro, arrived at Asheville at 10:29—or in a little less than two hours. The fare, tax free, was for the round-trip \$20.90.

By train, he would have left Raleigh by pullman Wednesday night at 11:05, slept as best he could, arriving at Asheville the next morning at 9:15—some 10 hours later. The round-trip cost, minus tax, would have been \$20.95 if he had taken lower berth—if he could have got it—plus the cost of breakfast, plus red cap tips.

By bus, he would have left here at 6 o'clock, arriving in Asheville the next morning at 4 o'clock—10 hours. The round-trip cost, tax free, would have been \$7.40.

Taxi fares to and from the airports ran the cost up a little—but there is no comparison in comfort and time saved.

FM STATIONS—An outstanding

ALONG BROAD By Walter Winch

John Boles, ex-screen star, has come back—as a floorshow singer. His click at the Arrowhead Inn brought him a string of cabaret offers... Lew Lehr, the comical clown, bought the 68-acre Colonial mansion of the late Col. E. R. Bradley a New Canaan, Conn., June...

Have it in again for a plastic—her third, or is it fourth? This one is a dilly, I hear—to remove rings from under her eyes!... Three months ago, James Barry, baritone, at the Havana-Madrid, ran an elevator in the Paramount Bldg... Bee Palmer, All Siegel's first wife and first star, after a 20-year chill, came to him to say she would stand by him in any threatened litigation... The Tommy Farrells—the Glenda's actor son—have their final decree.

Jerome Wildberg, producer, has never tasted liquor in his life. He had to make a phonecall and had nothing smaller than a \$5 bill. He went into a cheap grocery, ordered whiskey which he didn't touch handed over the bill. As he waited for the change, a lush put his arm on his shoulder and hoarsed "You know, we're a couple o' damned fools!" (And with that he passed out.)

Sen. James Mead is in for a de-

Capital Letter

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

AIR vs RAIL vs BUS—Your old side-kick decided to go to Asheville last week to attend the annual convention of the N. C. Press Association. It cost a little more to fly, but he flew—and saved time. Here is why:

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Inside WASHINGTON

No Ceilings Expected On Tobacco, Eggs, Etc. Decontrol Board Will Act Only if OPA Insists

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—The Price Decontrol Board plans "no action" to restore ceilings on tobacco, tobacco products, petroleum products, poultry and eggs unless the OPA demands that controls go back on these commodities.

Under the new price control law these commodities remain free of ceilings unless the board rules that they should be recontrolled. A spokesman for the board revealed that the group will act only if Price Administrator Porter asks for restoration of controls.

In such event the board probably will hold public hearings on the question and listen to arguments in favor of continued decontrol.

Porter recently stated that OPA would watch the prices of those commodities and if it noted any "unreasonable" price rise would request the reimposition of ceilings.

He said that already there had been some slight jump in fuel oil prices, but that other petroleum prices were remaining stabilized at their present level.

As for tobacco, tobacco products, poultry and eggs, the OPA chief reported that to date there had been no substantial gain in prices that would justify recontrol of these commodities.

Unless there is a change in present price and supply conditions, there is little chance that any of these commodities will go back under ceilings.

WHILE WASHINGTON WORRIES about what the Soviet "master plan" may be, nothing in current circulation is more serenely suggestive of peace than the "Soviet Information Bulletin."

During the war it carried the writings of some of the best of the Russian authors. Often it gave hints of the Soviet political views on current questions in a warring world.

Material for the bulletin is supplied through short wave transmitter which in war-time carried in code special instructions of a technical nature for its supply and military missions in the United States.

Now it deals primarily in cultural relations with the United States and developments in the Soviet Union of a strictly non-political nature.

A recent issue, for example, devotes itself largely to a forthcoming international chess match between a Soviet team of champions and some American experts. The bulletin recalls that the Russians beat the Americans last year and invited them to come to a return match.

No implication that Foreign Secretary Vyacheslav Molotov and his team has beaten other powers or been beaten by them at the international chess board of diplomacy is mentioned—nor is there any suggestion of return matches to come.

For the rest of the recent issue, it discusses collective farming, the five-year plan for power plants, restoration of health resorts, many of which were closed during the war, and the development of river transportation.

Of possible political significance were two articles on the oil fields of Baku and the Soviet Republic of Azerbaïdjan, both possible centers of friction with the British.

Our Membership In The F. D. I. C.

What does that now-familiar phrase "Member of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation" mean to you? It means that your bank is one of 13,000 of the country's 15,000 banks which have qualified for F.D.I.C. membership. Each depositor in an insured bank is protected against loss to a maximum of \$5,000 of his total deposits.

The federal government itself does not guarantee bank deposits. The government contributed \$150,000,000 to the capital of the F.D.I.C., but is not under agreement or obligation to contribute anything further. The banks themselves pay the entire cost of deposit insurance, being assessed one-twelfth of one per cent of their average total deposits each year.

Deposit insurance does not make all banks equally safe. Sound management will always be a vitally important factor.

"The Friendly Bank" THE First National Bank ORGANIZED 1902 Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation