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THE BLACK MOUNTAIN NEWS

SWANNANOVA SECTION

Beautiful Swannanoa Valley

Where Friends And Nature Meet

MOORE GENERAL

SWANNANOVA, N. C., Stories of torture and starvation and brutal mistreatment by their jailers are related by American soldiers liberated from Nip Pow camps who are arriving at Moore Hospital in a steady stream from the west coast. The majority of these men made the infamous Death March from Bataan to Camp O'Donnell; some were captured on Corregidor or Mindano; and some took to the hills only to be captured by the Japs later.

Among the western North Carolina men now at Moore General after three and a half years in Japanese prison camps are Cpl. James R. Arrington of Waynesville captured on Corregidor while a member of the 69th Coast Artillery; Sgt. Arthur R. Buchanan of Clarissa of the 27th the Bomber Group who escaped to the hills and was captured later; Staff Sgt. Houston B. Buckner of Stocks-ville, captured with other Air Force troops in Mindano; and Staff Sgt. Wayne Carringer of Staetlah, captured with 27th Bomber Group on Bataan.

Other North Carolina men include Maj. Benjamin F. Stakes of 1011 North Eugene Street, Greensboro; Major Alvah L. Hamilton, Morehead City; Major Henry J. Pierce, Durham; Cpl. Damon C. Albertia, 2314 Spruce Street, Greensboro; Staff Sgt. Raymond C. Ferrell of Woodleaf; Cpl. Ford Shelton of Runtale; and Cpl. Clyde A. Cox, Jr., of Rocky Mount.

Major Stakes was left behind by guards at Camp O'Donnell because he was dying and to weak to move to another prison camp. Only the arrival of a group of medical prisoners at the camp days later saved his life.

Cpl. Albertia started out with the Air Force on Bataan until all the planes were shot down; then he switched to the Infantry, but this arm was forced to surrender on Bataan. Albertia then escaped to Corregidor and teamed up with the Marines until the island fortress fell May 6, 1942.

Two liberated prisoners of war now receiving treatment at Moore are Colonel Hiram W. Tarkington of 1816 Enrice Avenue, Columbia, S. C., who commanded the 61st Field Artillery, last force in the Philippines to surrender, and Colonel Pembroke A. Brawner of 122 North Great Road, Chattanooga, Tenn., assistant chief of staff for Headquarters, Philippine Department.

Trankington and Brawner entered the Army over 37 years ago and met for the first time at Fort Leavenworth in 1917. They served in Hawaii in 1918 until orders separated them until they met again under less happy auspices in the Formosa prison camp in 1944.

Lt. James M. Taylor of Grand Junction, Tenn., assigned to the 14th Air Force in China, was shot down over Hengyang on November 11, 1944 while piloting a P-40. None of his squadron saw him bial out, and their reports back to the base were responsible for Taylor having been declared dead shortly after the War Department notification to his next of kin that he was missing in action.

The Japs had the American Air Force as Hate No. 1 on their list and Taylor's treatment from the time of his capture until his release bore this out. He was left tied to a tree for a whole day after he landed in a field near Hengyang. His shoes were taken from him and he was paraded through the city. In Hankow, after being cuffed around, the usual treatment meted out to captured Yanks, he was thrown into solitary confinement for two months. Every time planes raided the city, the Japs retaliated by cutting off the prisoners' rations, sometimes for three or four days at the time.

Cpl. C. Klein of La Grande, Ore., bears the scars from burns on his arm and wrist caused by ignited oil which the Japs poured on him and then lit. He was luckier than others who were burned all over their bodies, he explained. Klein served with the 194th Tank Battalion and was captured on

Bataan April 8. 1st Lt. Frank A. Forni of Carlsbad, N. M., assigned to the 515th Coast Artillery December 8, 1941 when the Japs attacked, was captured later on Bataan. When the prison ship on which he was being transported was bombed, he was forced to swim ashore.

Another officer interned with Lt. Forni who has arrived at Moore is Major Julius C. Burge, Jr., of York, S. C., captured on Bataan. All the prisoners told of such incidents as public beheadings of prisoners by the Japs for some minor misdemeanor. They were forced to stand attention in the snow without shoes until their feet froze. Others had their teeth jerked out by strings. Many of the prisoners resorted to breaking their own arms and feet to escape heavy work on them.

Most of the former prisoners have not seen their families in four five or six years and will head for their hometowns as soon as they are in physical condition for sick leaves or furloughs. Some of them have children they have never seen. A few of them have a girl waiting back home who have stayed with them in spirit through their long and terrifying ordeals, and it will be wedding bells for these as soon as possible.

Included among the liberated men are the following:

Sgt. James R. Marcus, Avendale Savannah, Ga.; T-Sgt. Grover Windham of Knoxville, Tenn.; 1st Sgt. John P. K. Phillips, Greenville S. C.; Walter A. Dansby, Memphis Tenn.; S-Sgt. Lawrence W. Hinkle Crement, Texas; Cpl. Thomas E. Richards, Knoxville, Tenn.; Sgt. Odie E. Vinesett, Gaffney, S. C.; Sgt. Bunyan A. Courson, Hamburg, Ark.; Cpl. Charles H. Smith, Cowan, Tenn.; Sgt. Jesse C. Strickland, Greenville, S. C.; S-Sgt. Isaac B. Piercy, Unicoi, Tenn.; Cpl. Grover C. Brummett, Harrodsburg, Ky.; Cpl. Wade W. Waldrop, Chosnoe, S. C.; Cpl. Pete J. Dino, Memphis, Tenn.; Cpl. Jesse J. Driggers, Harrisburg, Pa.; and Sgt. Leon Healey, Pickens, S. C.

Beacon Basketball Team Enters W.N.C. League

The Beacon Mfg. Co. have organized a basketball team and have entered the W. N. C. League. Some of the teams to play in the league are: Waynesville, Asheville, Marion, Sylvia, Canton, Enka and Beacon Mfg. Co. of Swannanoa.

Each team is to play two games a week, one at home and one away from home. All of Beacon's games at home will be played in the gym of the Swannanoa High School.

Coach J. D. Hardin has been drilling his boys for the past two weeks.

Good prospects for the team are: Kenny Rudeen, Dwight Patterson, Charles Talent, Ted Folsom, Ned Strahela, Buggie Sides, Fred Powals, and Joy Lynn Burgess.

This coming Saturday the team will meet the team from Ben Lippen School at the Asheville Auditorium.

Swannanoa P. T. A. Sponsored Hallowe'en Carnival Wednesday

A costumed parade featured the Hallowe'en carnival held Wednesday night at 7:30 o'clock at the Swannanoa School under the sponsorship of the Parent-Teachers Association. Mrs. Fred Davidson judged the costumes.

Some of the other features they had were fortune telling booths, fishing ponds, the house of horrors, Benebeards den, bingo games and apple bobbing contests.

A small admission charge was made. Mrs. Mary Brothers was general chairman of the event. Mrs. Mary Powell is president of the Parent-Teacher's Association, Mr. E. N. Howell is principal.

Now is the time for all good people to come to the aid of the Black Mountain News. Let us put your name on our list.

The Swannanoa Camp

By David Hall

Besides all other amusements and occupation, Beacon Manufacturing Co., etc. there are other things for our enjoyment in Swannanoa. Up in the mountains about a mile and a half from Beacon, a gang of boys have built a log cabin and is getting to be a very popular place to camp despite the coming winter. The cabin was built early this summer and there has hardly been a night that which there wasn't at least four or five boys.

It is located in the place which was formerly the Scout Camp of Troop 28. Boys go camping regular and take their blankets and food and eat up there.

We have a swell place for cooking and the cabin contains nine bunks for sleeping in case of rain or a cool night. We are making improvements so we can stay some in the winter. We have just bought a new stove and it will heat up the place in a giffy. There has been up to 16 or 20 boys in one night but there is always plenty of room.

It has been said that there is a panther loose roaming in this section and there has been a number of reports concerning the presence of it. Some people have claimed something has killed some of their cattle and now usually we carry at least one gun when we go to the mountains to camp and ramble.

Athletic's Committee Gives Dance Friday

Friday night a dance sponsored by the Athletic's Committee was given in honor of the football team. Decorations were in blue and gold and music was furnished by a group of tenth grade boys. Drinks and ice cream were sold for refreshments.

Admission was ten cents to students (except the football team, which was admitted free) and twenty-five cents to adults or students not of this school. A large crowd was there and everyone had a good time.

Barker Avenue News

The happenings on the one and only Barker Avenue this week are great and exciting. Our secretary was fired because she was caught setting in the president's (Billy Robinson) lap. Ed Padgett, our watch dog, was badly beaten up for biting the vice president (Norman Agers). Howard Edwards has really been kept busy this past week because the leaves are falling and his job is keeping the streets clean. This great avenue that you will hear about from now on is located just off Plum St. (Plum through town) up Richmond to the right of the Rainwater Residence.

By Howard Edwards, (Street Cleaner)

CPL. THAD GREEN IS HOME AGAIN

Cpl. Thad Green, brother of Helen Green of the eleventh grade is now home after serving three years and eight months in the Pacific. He has seen action on Luzon, Bougainville and the Fiji Islands. He holds the American Defense Ribbon, the Good Conduct Award, Asiatic Pacific Theatre ribbon with two battle stars. He contracted malaria while serving in the Philippines. He brought home many souvenirs which were very interesting. S. Sgt. Jack, another brother, landed in New Jersey City Friday. He is expected home this week.

BLANKENSHIP BROS. IN ARMED SERVICE

Pfe. Earl Blankenship of U. S. Army has returned from the European Area and has been overseas for 8 months. He entered service two years ago and during this time seen action most of the time he was overseas.

James Blankenship, S. 2-c, has just left for overseas after entering service two years ago. He was stationed at Miami, Fla. They are the sons of Mr. and Mrs. Zeb Blankenship of Swannanoa.

HERMAN GOERING'S BULLET-PROOF CAR WILL BE ON EXHIBIT

Former Reichsmarschall Hermann Goering's much publicized bullet-proof car will be on exhibit at Moore General Hospital next Monday in connection with the Victory Loan Drive which started Monday, Lt. Marvin L. Golden, post war bond officer, announced Tuesday.

The car will be seen in front of post headquarters and at other convenient spots on the Post, Lt. Golden said.

The Victory Loan drive was officially underway Tuesday at the post with the kick-off featured by a meeting of minutemen from all departments of the hospital.

The minutemen were addressed by Colonel Frank W. Wilson, commanding officer of the hospital, who urged that all civilian and military personnel increase their pay deduction allotment for bonds and then if possible buy an extra war bond for cash during the drive which ends December 7.

Colonel Wilson stressed the need of hospital personnel continuing to support the government during the period of occupation and reconversion. He pointed out that it will cost millions to maintain police forces in occupied defeated enemy countries and to bring them home from overseas.

Regular meetings of the minute men were announced for regular intervals during the course of the drive.

SWANNANOVA SCHOOL NEWS

Ruby Adkins

I would like to express my appreciation toward a certain teacher in Swannanoa School. She is Mrs. Sidney Croy, teacher of the seventh grade. She is really my ideal of a teacher.

I happened to be in her room in the sixth grade and she liked our class so well, she taught us in the seventh grade.

I made good grade during my two years in her room. I took a great interest in my work and each subject meant a lot to me. Mrs. Croy fully explained all of our lessons and it wasn't at all complicated.

There was always some kind of entertainment, such as parties, picnics, games, each week or so. We had very nice times in our entertaining hours and also in our working hours.

"Outstanding Needs For Swannanoa School"

Emma Ballard

Since this is near the beginning of a new school year, I think we should try to put every extra thing into our school that we possibly can.

Books are valuable, so we want to learn to read them the way we should to get the most out of them. We should love them and take the best possible care of them. Our vocabularies seem quite limited and a good way to increase them is by reading.

We all need more way to provide this would be to organize a debating club. Personally, I should be very much interested in one and I think many others would be also.

Besides having a debating club, we should be able to buy some amount of time and give programs, representing Swannanoa School over W. W. N. C. Broadcasting station. This might be to prove to be very good experience at low cost.

On the inhole if we could "ge our heads together," we might improve Swannanoa School a great deal.

Mable Likes The News

We, the people of Swannanoa School, wish you to know how much we appreciate your interest in the news from this section. We also appreciate the other news and items of interest from the other sections. We think you are doing a grand job with the paper.

—Mabel.

Interesting People Of Our Section

The most interesting person of our section of Swannanoa is Mrs. T. J. Jones of Jones Cove, Swannanoa, Route 1, better known to most people as Grandma. She moved to this section when every-one was living in log houses. She, too, lived in one until the other part was added some years later.

She is 83 years young, moves about as good as a woman of thirty and even better than most of us young folks. She does her own work, raises chickens, plans the garden before it is planted, and even works in it after it is planted. She can cook some of the most delicious foods some of which are her teacakes and applebutter that will just melt in your mouth they are so delicious. But greatest of all speaking of this wonderful person is her flower bed, cultivated by herself, of chrysanthemums of all colors and even mixed colors. She has many more different kinds of flowers during the four seasons such as poppies, zenias, marigolds, cosmos, flags, gladiolas, and many others. She, also, has many beautiful bushes growing in her yard, such as lilacs, white ash and snowballs.

MRS. T. J. JONES

Doris Jones

I will tell you about the most interesting person in our community. She is Mrs. T. J. Jones of Jones Cove, Swannanoa Route 1. She is eighty three years old young, and as active as a woman of thirty-five.

She plans the garden before it is planted, raises chicken, mends clothes and always makes her stitches nice and neat. She can cook some of the most delicious foods especially teacakes and apple butter that will just melt in your mouth they are so delicious.

But greatest of all speaking of this wonderful person is her beautiful flower bed of all colors and even mixed chrysanthemums. She will reply, "One came up from the seed and I tended it in a bucket and then transplanted it to the ground again, when you ask her where she got such beautiful flowers. She has many more beautiful flowers through the seasons such as dahlias, poppies, marigolds, zenias, larkspuis, cosmos, lilies, flags and many others. She tends her flowers herself.

She has some pretty bushes in her yard, also such as lilacs and white ash.

MAJ. CLAPP RETURNS

Major Hubert L. Clapp has opened his office again at Swannanoa. He has been in service the past four years with thirty-one months of this overseas. He entered the service as First Lieutenant in the Medical Division and promoted to Captain in the same year, then to Major in April of 1942. Major Clapp was stationed in the Fiji Islands for 26 months and later sent to India near the Burma border where he joined services with the General Hospital there.

He was there for the remaining five months and in December of 1944 he flew back to this country landing at Miami, Fla. Major Clapp came home on a furlough immediately upon arrival but returned to the redistribution station to be assigned to a hospital in Ft. Sill Okla. He received his discharge in September and he and his family reside near Swannanoa.

Many of his friends will welcome him home again and have missed his care and advise over the past four years.

Pfc. Wilson On Luzon

James L. Wilson is with the 35th Hospital Unit that is now stationed on Luzon. He has been overseas twenty months and in service three years. James has the Bronze Star and Good Conduct Medal. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. James L. Wilson of Swannanoa.

BUY VICTORY BONDS

COL. STUART WOOD ARRIVES AT MOORE GENERAL HOSPITAL

Col. Stuart Wood of Southern Pines, intelligence officer to General Jonathan Wainwright, has arrived at Moore General Hospital for recuperation from the hardships of Japanese prison camps. One-time assistant military attache to Japan and later to China, Colonel Wood saw United States soil for the first time in over nine years when he landed in San Francisco October 20.

Other liberated prisoners of war who arrived at Moore General with the Colonel are Major Eugene B. Conrad of Charlotte, Maj. Eugene S. Horney of Greensboro, and Capt. Frank H. Burwell, Jr., of Spartanburg, S. C.

Colonel Wood, a native of Elizabeth City, left the States with his wife, Mrs. Mary Sutton Wood, in October of 1936, and served in the Philippines with the 24th Field Artillery until July of 1938 when he was assigned to the American embassy in Tokyo to learn the Japanese language. The two and a half years study which enabled Wood to speak the difficult language fluently was later responsible for his assignment as intelligence officer to Wainwright and served him well during his long imprisonment.

In March of 1941 Colonel Wood was appointed assistant military attache to Japan and served in this post until his assignment as assistant military attache to China. Wood took over his new post in Hong Kong in August of 1941 and would have been serving in this capacity, when war struck the Pacific if the need for an operation had not necessitated his leaving for the Philippines in November.

Colonel Wood was recuperating from his operation in Baguio when the Japs bombed the Islands. He was immediately assigned to G-2 in the Philippine department and then made a member of General Wainwright's staff as intelligence officer.

Late in April of 1942 when American resistance on Corregidor was drawing to a close, Colonel Wood and a handful of key men on Wainwright's staff were ordered to USAFFI in Australia. Two Navy bombers slipped into a spot off shore between Corregidor and Fort Hughes just before midnight on April 29 and picked them up. They were flown to Lake Lanao on Mindanao to load additional passengers bound for Australia,

Swannanoa Valley Is Visited By Panther

News of a panther being loose in the Swannanoa Valley section has thrilled us very much. In fact, it gives this section an honor for a thing like that to visit our valley.

A guard at Moore General, Post No. 3, stated that he saw the panther and had shot it three times. He must have been a bum shot or he would have killed it.

Two families, Mr. Ray Tipton and Mr. L. E. Carrol also stated that several of their chickens were missing and that they saw tracks of what resembled a panther. They both live in the Grovemont section.

Mr. Carrol's son, Junior, claimed that he saw the panther one night going home from the show in a T-Model Ford. He said that when he saw it, he stripped the transmission by feeding it too much gas in low gear. He was home in double time. My pal and I never go out at night unarmed or without a flashlight since we heard the news. This is supposed to all be true but some of it could possibly be rumors. Any way, it's news of Swannanoa Valley, the place we love.

Thank you, Ray W. Milton, George T. Dunlap.

Girl Scouts Take Notice

Saturday, November 3rd is National Girl Scout Out-door Day. Troops I will meet with Troop II for a day hike. Start 10:45 at the Presbyterian Church. We will hike to the Mount Mitchell Motor Road.

and the following night the motors again were reved for takeoff. Plane No. 2 skimmed over the water and turned its nose toward Australia. Following in its wake plane No. 1 with Colonel Wood aboard roared to the take-off and just before lifting out of the lake struck a hidden reef. The underside of the huge Navy ship was ripped and torn.

A quick reconnaissance by the crew revealed that the plane could never get its nose out of the bay with the extra weight of the passengers adding to the load. Slightly the men and nurses who came so close to safety climbed out of the bomber and watched it take off without them. Ten days later Colonel Wood surrendered with the forces on Mindanao.

Held prisoner at Malay Bala the Colonel used his Japanese to secure food and a few supplies for those imprisoned with him. On June 23 he and other members of Wainwright's staff were whisked to Manila for interrogation, and then he was sent to Tarlac where he was imprisoned with the General. The entire group was shipped to Formosa in August of 1942, and finally in October of 1944 Colonel Wood was transferred to the prison camp at Mudken in Manchuria.

He last saw Wainwright when the general and other high ranking officers were flown through the airfield at Mudket. Hearing that his chief would be passing through, Wood confiscated an automobile and was waiting at the airfield when the plane landed carrying its load of prisoners.

Colonel Wood was liberated August 20 when Russian forces reached his prison camp. Back in the States he was joined by his wife whom he last saw when she left Japan in February of 1941. Mrs. Wood is now residing in Black Mountain awaiting the Colonel's discharge from the hospital.

Among the other officers who reached Moore General with Colonel Wood, Major Conrad and Captain Burwell are survivors of the Death March. Conrad who served with the 31st Infantry and Burwell who was with the 71st Infantry surrendered on Bataan in April of 1942. Major Horney served with the 63rd Infantry which was among the last forces to surrender on Panay May 25 of 1942.

PEARSON RIDDLE TAKEN PRISONER

Pearson Riddle, Jr. was taken prisoner at Wake Island at the time it fell to the Japanese. Pearson was working for the Pacific Naval Airbase Co. at the time and their heroic efforts to stave off the attack will never be forgotten.

He was then taken to Shanghai, China where he was put to work and later transferred to Tokyo. He is back again in the States after being absent for the past three years with no word of his whereabouts during this time.

PENLAND—ALLEN

Mrs. Emmitt Allen, Swannanoa announces the engagement of her daughter, Miss Vivoleen Allen to Mr. William Penland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Penland of Buckeye Section.

The marriage will take place in the very near future. Happy adventure to you both.

RIDGELY, Md., Oct. 27 — A fifty-six-year-old filling station operator was burned to death early today as he was carrying a box of trash to a nearby dump.

Louis Hammer, whose gasoline station is on the Greensboro road near here, died before medical aid could be given him after flames destroyed his clothing. Sheriff Saulsbury sparks said.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 27 — The Army Air Forces said today that 7,233 officers were eligible for discharge under the new A.A.F. point plan permitting the release of certain officers in this country with 44 or more points and two years' service.

Some of these already have been separated. The A.A.F. said.