

The Echo

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY AND FOR EMPLOYEES OF ECUSTA PAPER CORPORATION, CHAMPAGNE PAPER CORPORATION AND ENDLESS BELT CORPORATION AT PISGAH FOREST, NORTH CAROLINA.

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(Hope to carry list of department reporters later.)

CIRCULATION MANAGER—Kathleen Ricker.

Victorious New Year!

Our military leaders have assured us that 1944 will witness the defeat of our enemies in Europe and that we will go forward on the road towards Victory in the Pacific, but at the same time they have cautioned that in order for '44 to be a Victorious Year, a heavy responsibility rests upon every individual at home, as well as upon every man and woman in the armed forces.

Therefore, the most important duty of every person is to hasten rather than to prolong ultimate Victory. We can do this by continuing to invest every penny possible in war bonds; by co-operating fully with salvage and all other wartime campaigns, including rationing and price ceilings; by producing and conserving as much food as possible; by working harder and more efficiently; by boosting our boys in service and by working for betterment in our own communities.

Ecustans are loyal, patriotic Americans and we know they are going to continue to do their part to help win the war.

We Salute Mr. Straus!

The publication of this "Sixteenth Birthday Anniversary" edition of The Echo has been a real labor of love because it concerns and is dedicated to a man whom we all greatly admire and respect and for whom we have profound appreciation and gratitude.

This man is not only "Our Boss", but he is also more or less like a father. He is indeed the father of our industry and he always takes a genuine "fatherly" interest in all of his employees and in their welfare.

Many are the times that we have written about what he has done for us and now we are delighted to have the opportunity of writing about how the employees are honoring him on his sixtieth birthday.

It has been aptly stated that Mr. Harry H. Straus is one of America's greatest industrial geniuses. He did something that everybody said could not be done, but before he succeeded there were many heart-breaks that would have caused most men to give up. He had the vision, the courage and the determination, however, to make his dream come true.

American cigarette manufacturers were dependent upon cigarette paper from Europe and dark war clouds were gathering over there. This paper in Europe was made from linen rags and linen was made from flax. Flax was grown in this country, but not the right kind. Many experiments were tried and failed, until finally the problem was solved and the most modern of all paper mills was erected here on the Davidson River at Pisgah Forest.

On the very day Hitler marched into Poland, quality cigarette paper was made in our plant, thus establishing a new industry in the United States that made our cigarette manufacturers independent of one more foreign source of supply and assuring them of being able to continue production throughout the war. In addition to that, this new industry created a market for seed flax fibre that the farmers of two large western states had been paying money to get rid of.

So on his sixtieth anniversary, we salute a real industrial genius. We salute also an outstanding executive, a dynamic personality, and a real man—a man who has not lost the common touch. We salute a man young in mind and spirit; a man full of energy and enthusiasm and a man who is a great American and who believes in progress and in the American way of life.

Happy birthday, to you, Mr. Straus and many, many more of them!

The Poet's Corner Beneath The Pisgah

Prayer For Home

BY PFC. HOWARD HALLAHAN
I want to go back home again,
To all the things I love;
The cool green hills in springtime,
A star-flecked sky above.

I want to see the ball park,
The church, the city hall;
And roses red in summer,
Against a garden wall.

I want to walk on Main Street,
And chat with those I know.
I want to see the farm lands,
And watch the apples grow.

I want to go back home, God,
And pray some day I will
Again see new sun rising
On home's familiar hill.

Thanks A Million

BY SGT. MARY RICKMAN
The Christmas parcels were piled
high

As voices called in glee,
When lo, amongst the many
There was a gift for me.

It surely makes a soldier's heart
Feel good way down inside
When folks at home remember
him

So nicely at Yuletide.

You do not know how very much
This paper means to me
It is my contact with the world
I now so seldom see.

On these white pages I will write
My daily way of life
When happiness is all my own
Or sorrow be my strife.

Word pictures they'll be canvas for
The folks I cannot see—
They'll be the bond that links us
Till we again are free.

I hope before the final page
Is taken from this stack
We'll know a glorious freedom
And I'll write—I'm coming
back!—

But till I can come home again,
Please don't forget I'm here—
Let's pray there'll be no postage
spent
For 'service gift' next year.

Prayer Of A Navy Wife

BY THEDA M. ECKMAN

Please let him come home
From the war, I pray;
It's my uppermost thought
Both night and day.

For he's so young
And his love is so true.
I pray he'll return
To the life he knew.

I don't even think
That he might not return,
For faith, like a flame,
Continues to burn
And kindles my hopes
'Mid a life so drear,
And I know in my heart,
It can't happen here.

He's got to come back—
It just must be
That he can come home
To the kids and me.
Along life's highway,
Hand in hand
We'll reach the ripe
Old age we planned.

His life for his country
He's willing to give,
And I'd give mine
That he might live,
May God, in His mercy
Give again to me
The one I love,
When the world is free.



Our Book Corner

"The end of complete reading is to acquire more knowledge of human nature. . . . Get yourself a comfortable chair, a good book and a good light—and have confidence in your own mind."
—John Erskine.

Martha Norburn Mead, a native of Asheville, knew the book that all Western Carolinians would enjoy, so she wrote "ASHEVILLE IN THE LAND OF THE SKY," a beautifully descriptive and informative book full of human interest, and your librarian now proudly announces that we have this human document of the Smoky Mountains and their jewel city from the days of the brave explorers and scientists to the present colorful mountain folk and the citizens who have made Asheville a cultured modern city. "Flatrock" and "St. John-In-The-Wilderness," "Riverside" and "Pisgah and the Rat" become more than picturesque names to lovers of the beautiful.

How often, in reading the great works of the past, we have assumed that the scenes and places mentioned were legendary, or at least figments of the author's imagination. Not at all; in LITERARY ENGLAND, one of the most recent additions to our library, through the photographs by D. B. Scherman and the descriptive text by Richard Wilcox, we can actually see the remains of Tintagel castle by the Cornish Sea where King Arthur was born. Here is the lake where Sir Bedivere threw the King's sword, Excalibur, after the battle of Camelford. Here also is the cathedral celebrated in Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales," still standing in all its glory; the country churchyard that inspired Grey's "Elegy". Here is Sherwood Forest where Robin Hood and his merry men hid out; the farmhouse on the Yorkshire moors where Heathcliff lived in Emily Bronte's "Wuthering Heights"; the actual rock where Augustus Toplady sought shelter from a summer storm and was inspired to compose "Rock of Ages"; and many, many other pictures of the many places made famous in English literature with the well-loved passages which make them forever memorable. This is the book to make your reading of the past more complete.

Now you want a tender and moving love story? THE SIGNPOST, the new novel by the witty, passionate, and honest author of "Four Frightened People" and "Three Came Unarmed", is the book you will want to read. It is the story of a convalescent RAF pilot and a young Frenchwoman whom he meets on the boat en route to Ireland, where he plans
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