

R. & S. SHOWS TO OPEN MONDAY

Spring is almost here. A true harbinger of the season is the opening of the R. and S. Amusements, Wilmington's own tented amusement enterprise, which leaves its winter quarters, located on the Leland highway near the junction of Routes No. 74 and 17, today and moves to Southport where on Monday night the 1945 tour will be inaugurated. The shows' season will continue, according to the present schedule, for a total of 32 weeks ending November 11.

Showfolks have been mobilizing for the past ten days at the winter base, anxious for the season to open and awaiting the "call of the open road" and there will be approximately 300 people connected with the organization.

Since the beginning of the new year, a force of workmen has been busily engaged at winter quarters, rehabilitating the shows equipment, painting the motor vehicles and riding devices, and greatly enlarging every department so that the midway will present a beautiful appearance, spic and span, and one of the best on the road today.

The R. and S. Amusements is owned and managed by James M. Raftery, who was born in New York City, was brought to Wilmington when he was six months old by his parents and who has lived here ever since, except when traveling with various road shows. He was a former news carrier of the Star, and later went into show business, having been an actor, a minstrel man, and theatre manager. For the past twenty five years he has been a prominent outdoor showman, and general manager of various circuses and carnivals. Three years ago he started his own show here. Today it has seven big rides, two miniature rides, several shows and free acts. The lighting of the midway is generated by two huge Diesel light plants.

After the Southport engagement, which is for the benefit of the local Fire department there to raise funds to purchase a new fire truck, the shows will continue its tour. It will return to Wilmington to play a special week's engagement May 14 through 19 for the benefit of the Athletic fund of the Wilmington Fire department and later in October, will present another "Thrill Circus" engagement at the Legion stadium for the benefit of Wilmington Post No. 10 of the American Legion.

"Jimmy" Raftery has a great number of friends here and many are expected to be on hand tomorrow night to wish him and his associates godluck and a prosperous season's tour.

Raftery is optimistic regarding the coming season's tour. Carnivals are classified as an essential industry and contributes thousands of dollars in amusement taxes. Regarding the "help" problem, Raftery thinks he will be able to handle the situation as most of the trouper, and help are middle aged folks, many of whom have been with him on this and other shows for many years.

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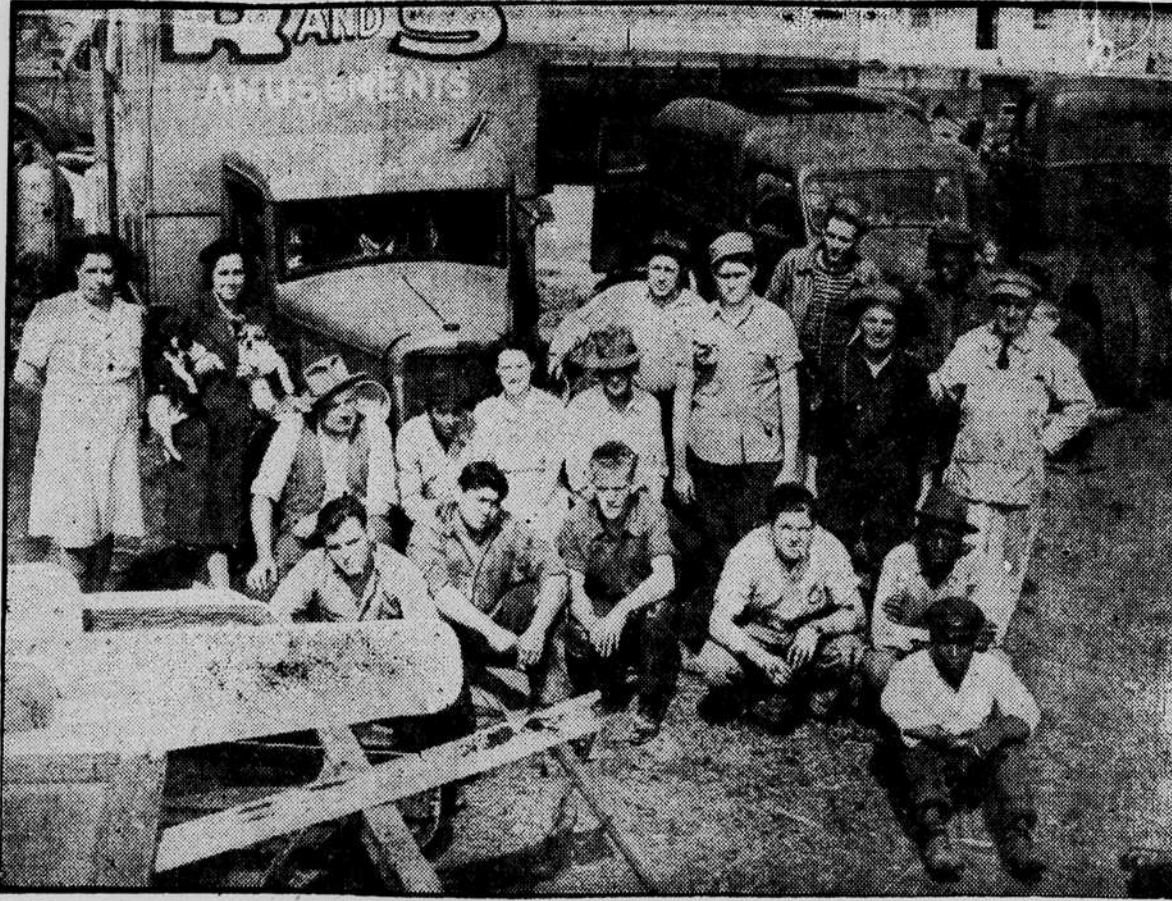
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Rafetry And Employes Of R. And S. Amusements



Shown above are "Jimmy" Raftery, owner and general manager; Mrs. Carrie Raftery, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Lera Hedgecock, cafeteria manager; Percy Sink, master of transportation; P. G. Hedgecock, chief electrician; Leonard Garrett, superintendent of rides; John Haddad, superintendent, and others of the various departments of the show which starts its 1945 tour tomorrow night at Southport. It will play Wilmington twice during this coming season.

They'll Do It Every Time

ALTHOUGH DILLDOCK ALWAYS WORE HIS BADGE TO WORK AT THE WAR PLANT, THE GUARD AT THE GATE NEVER LOOKED AT IT...



BUT TODAY HE FORGOT IT AND, FOR THE FIRST TIME IN TWO YEARS, THE GUARD STOPPED HIM.



YEH-YEH NEVER MIND—OKAY—KEEP MOVIN'—

I DON'T CARE WHERE YOU LEFT IT! YOU KNOW THE RULES! NO BADGE—NO ADMITTANCE! AN' THAT'S FINAL!



By Jimmy Hatlo

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Northern Transylvania Is Restored To Romania

By EDDY GILMORE

MOSCOW, March 10.—(AP)—Northern Transylvania, Hungary's share of Hitler's Balkan loot, has been restored to Romania.

Marshal Stalin informed Premier Petru Groza of Romania in a letter made public today that under terms of the Sept. 12 armistice the 17,400 square-mile territory was being returned.

The marshal informed Romania's new premier that it was his government's responsibility to keep order, protect minorities, and to see that war front needs imposed upon Transylvania were met.

Soviet newspapers, hailing the transfer as Soviet faith in Groza's new regime, declared that sabotage and terrorism in the province under the recent government of Premier Nicolae Radescu had made it impossible to restore the province earlier.

Groza and Foreign Minister Gheorge Tatarescu wrote Stalin that "it has been the ardent desire of the Romanian people to see themselves once again within the limits of Transylvania, part of

which was unjustly torn away from them."

"This province," their petition continued, "was liberated, thanks to the heroism of the Red army, in close co-operation with the Romanian army, and the Romanian people in northern Transylvania await impatiently the day of their return within the borders of Romania."

Groza pledged his government to "look after the rights of nationalities living there, being guided by the principles of democracy, equality and justice for the entire population" and promised to maintain order.

In reply, Stalin said: "Taking into consideration the fact that the new Romanian government, which has assumed the direction of the country, takes upon itself the responsibility for necessary order in the territory of Transylvania and guarantees the right of the nationalities and the proper functioning of all local institutions serving the needs of the front, the Soviet government has decided to satisfy the petition of the Romanian government and, in accordance with the armistice agreement of Sept. 12, 1944, to agree to the establishment of an administration of the Romanian government in Transylvania."

New Incendiary Bomb Used In Tokyo Raid
SAN FRANCISCO, March 10.—(AP)—Why flames spread so fast and leaped so high in Tokyo Saturday was made clear today when the Army's chemical warfare service released a limited description of the M-69 incendiary bomb, designed especially for use in Japan.

Col. J. W. Lyon, commanding officer of the chemical warfare procurement district, said the bomb is made up of a 500-pound aimable cluster, which looks much like any ordinary demolition bomb. At about 5,000 feet the cluster opens, releasing individual 6-pound bombs filled with jellied gasoline. Each small bomb spreads burning gasoline for some 30 yards around upon exploding.

PRISONERS RELEASED

ROME, March 10.—(AP)—The Italian government disclosed today that 30,000 Italian troops held in American and British prisoner of war camps in the southern part of the peninsula had been released and absorbed into the new Italian army, some units of which were fighting alongside the Allies against the Germans.

BUY WAR BONDS AND STAMPS

NEXT FEW WEEKS SET WAR'S LENGTH

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following dispatch is written by a United Press War Correspondent recently returned to London after spending four months along the western and Italian front, at supreme headquarters, and Army Air Force advanced headquarters.

By VIRGIL PINKLEY
United Press War Correspondent
LONDON, March 10.—(AP)—The next three weeks probably will tell whether Germany will collapse this spring or hold out until early summer, military authorities have informed the United Press.

These forecasts are based on the following factors:

First, the ability of the Russians, despite long lines of communications and Polish mud, to mount and keep rolling the all-out offensives.

Second, whether the Allies can extend the bridgehead or bridgeheads on the eastern banks of the Rhine into large areas enabling them to keep a free flow of men and material, especially ammunition, tanks, self-propelled guns and gasoline, moving toward Berlin.

Third, the weather and whether it is the kind which permits the full use of the greatly superior Anglo-American air forces.

Fourth, the ability of the Germans to rally for a last stand on tight interior defensive lines, making the Allied and Russian advances either slow or over-casualties.

Two weeks ago the general opinion was that the most likely date for the end of the war in Europe was sometime between July 15 and August 15.

Now, following the sensational advances by the American First and Third armies and valuable gains by the Canadian First army in the face of heavy fighting, coupled with the amazing Russian victories, some military authorities believe the present situation may enable the final blow to be struck before the month ends.

If this fails to materialize, then it will require late spring or early summer offensives to finish Germany, except perhaps for isolated guerrilla warfare.

Allied officials know that some of Germany's crack troops, which were not encountered in the past fortnight, are east of the Rhine.

Likewise, the Russians realize that the ace Sixth Panzer army and part of the 11th Panzer army are somewhere east or north and south of Berlin and must be met and crushed before a junction of the United Nations armies can occur somewhere in Germany.

The most likely place for such a union appears to be northwestern Germany.

If the Germans can inflict heavy casualties, the Anglo-American command will likely recast plans which may result in the final defeat of Germany, even if that defeat is delayed a few weeks.

During this period allied troops can be rested and re-equipped and new units can be moved into position for the last all-out drive.

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CORRECTED

SPOKANE, Wash., March 10.—(AP)—The German girl propagandist who broadcast the news that the "old Hickory" division was on the western front had the right division but the wrong label until the Yanks corrected her error.

Staff Sgt. G. A. Rockhold wrote to his wife in Spokane that "Sally," the broadcaster, had called his division "F. D. R.'s SS troops."

The idea appealed to the men in the division, Rockhold wrote, so they designed an insignia superimposing President Roosevelt's initials on two flashes of lightning representing the SS designation.

Stettinius Explains San Francisco Choice

WASHINGTON, March 10.—(AP)—Secretary of State Stettinius returned from the Mexico City inter-American meeting today and had this to say about why San Francisco was chosen for next month's United Nations gathering:

"It is symbolically appropriate that we should meet at San Francisco for this purpose, for our pioneering has always been westward and San Francisco is at the crossroads of the eastern and western world."

Stettinius went to Mexico City from the Big Three conference at Yalta.

When a wool garment gets a rest after a day or two of wear, the wool springs back and some wrinkles drop out so less pressing is needed.

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WAR LOAN MEETING PLANNED MONDAY

A regional meeting of representatives of War bond committees from seven southeastern North Carolina counties will be held Monday night at 7:15 o'clock in the American Legion hall at Whiteville to make plans for the Seventh War Loan campaign.

Prior to the business session, a barbecue dinner will be given by Lee Braxton who is committee chairman of Columbus County.

Expected to attend from New Hanover county are E. A. Laney and J. G. Thornton, co-chairman of the War Bond committee; Mrs. L. W. Preston, county chairman; Paul Wilson of the North Carolina

Shipbuilding company; H. M. Roland, county school superintendent; R. W. Galphin, county agent; J. L. Allegood, publicity committee; Ralph Hubbard, Security National Bank, Henry Gerdes, Peoples Bank, and Richard S. Rogers, area manager for the War Bond campaign.

The bond leaders will be shown a movie during the business session.

NEWSPAPER BANNED

STOCKHOLM, March 10.—(AP)—The Danish newspaper, Bornholms Avis, has been banned by the Nazis. It printed King's line, "Come ye back you British soldier, come ye back to Mandelay," over a DNE announcement of the British entry into Italy.

Metals in use are said to suffer from "fatigue."

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