

Watauga's Last Confederate Veteran Celebrates Ninety-Eighth Birthday

J. E. Luther of Deep Gap Recites Interesting Stories of War Between the States; Carried Local Mails in Pre-War Period

By WHEELER FARTHING (Staff Writer)

Mr. J. E. Luther of Deep Gap, Watauga county's last survivor of the Confederate armies, was in town the other day and was planning to observe his ninety-eighth birthday anniversary, which occurred last Wednesday.

Mr. Luther talked considerably of the changes in Watauga county's metropolis in the past eighty years, recalling that as a lad in the year 1861, he carried the mail into Boone, which at that time consisted of only three or four houses. Jordan Council was the postmaster at the time, and Mr. Luther brought the mail on horseback from Wilkesboro each Monday, spent the night and returned to Wilkesboro Tuesday. On Wednesday he carried mail to Olin, Fredell county, and returned to Wilkesboro Thursday, where he rested until work time the following Monday.

Mr. Luther has enjoyed unusually good health until this summer when he was slightly ill, and since his recovery his vision is sufficiently impaired that he has foregone the reading of his daily newspaper for the first time in nearly fifty years.

Mr. Luther enlisted in the Confederate army on March 10, 1862, and throughout the war until his capture by the Union forces served in the 37th North Carolina regiment, Lance's brigade, A. P. Hill's division of General Stonewall Jackson's corps.

Soon after his enlistment, he was made a sharpshooter and it was in this capacity that he was captured in July of 1864. In describing his capture, he explained that he was sent out early on the morning of July 13 to a position known as Veddette post located several yards in front of the main Confederate lines, and upon arrival at the post, his commanding officer told him to keep watch down a road which led to the Union lines. This was at Chafin's farm in Virginia, and Luther noticed that the road was cluttered up with tracks and wondered if his officers realized its proximity to the Union lines.

After waiting for about two hours, he suddenly noticed a Yankee approach and jump behind a tree. Soon a captain pushed his head above a thicket 30 feet in front of Luther, who threw his rifle on him and commanded him to surrender. The Union officer's reply was, "Forward, men." Twenty-five Yankees rose out of the brush, surrounded Luther and took him prisoner.

The captain took Luther to General Forester, who later transferred him to Point Lookout where he was treated kindly and later paroled and sent home to Wilkes county where he arrived the day before General Stoneman, Union raiding officer, appeared with a considerable force. He was again taken prisoner, but Gen. Stoneman released him when he presented his parole papers.

Mr. Luther, who has an unusually good memory despite his age, recalled that he had often seen General Stonewall Jackson, whom he described as "a fine-looking, black-bearded man of dignified bearing. Belonging to the brigade that shot General Jackson, Luther remembers the day that his own men killed him

Is 98 Years Old



J. E. LUTHER

at Chancellorsville. He said that "orders had been given to fire on anything seen in front of the Confederate lines. Jackson and his staff rode out in front of their lines and met some Union men and hurriedly rode back. Jackson was shot in the arm and died soon afterwards in the hospital."

In speaking of the fighting around Spotsylvania Courthouse, Luther described it as his "hardest battle. We went down into the Union lines and took a battery from them. I had a man killed on each side of me before we lost the battery back to the Yankees. We found that we could not hold it and retreated."

Mr. Luther was wounded three times while in the Confederate army. He related that he received a serious cut under his right arm by shrapnel. He and others were lying in the line of battle supporting an artillery battery, and the shrapnel tore through his canteen and a pocket testament. A wound resulted which did not, however, necessitate his going to the hospital. On other occasions he was wounded in the left arm and right leg.

When asked if he knew of killing a Yankee, Mr. Luther replied: "At Manassas we were fighting a double line of pickets on a steep hill covered with pine trees. I saw a Yankee lay his gun up in a little pine and fire. The ball burnt my face and hit a man just behind me in the shoulder. While he was reloading, I took deliberate aim at him and fired. I am sure that I killed him. At Spotsylvania I fired just as carefully at another Yankee, but he kept on running."

The old warrior is still hale and hearty, and in spite of failing eyesight, keeps right up with the news of World War II. "It is my opinion," he said, "that when Hitler struck Russia he bit off more than he can swallow. It may be a good while, maybe two years or more, but I believe that Russia, because of superior numbers, will win in the end."

INOCULATE

Inoculation of all legume seed at seeding time is vitally important to the success of the crop, says E. C. Blair, extension agronomist of State College.

Anticipating Rationing!



This intensive study of a spark plug is being made by Joan Leslie, youthful star of the motion picture, "Sergeant York," who has joined the millions of motorists who are learning how best to save gasoline now that rationing is threatened. The five "do's" which the petroleum industry advocates are explained to Miss Leslie as she has her car tuned up and prepares to do her bit to conserve gasoline and aid national defense.

Check the ignition system and spark plugs regularly, the service station attendant explains. Have the carburetor checked by an expert for

efficient adjustment, lubricate the transmission and differential, change the oil regularly and lubricate the chassis, he urges, pointing out that care saves wear and increases mileage. Keep the cooling system clean and filled to the proper level. Keep the tires properly inflated and adjust the brakes to eliminate drag.

On the negative side, he cautions against speed, jackrabbit starts, driving unduly in first and second, idling the engine, racing it when starting, and urges her to plan drives, group her errands and share her car with others—all to save gasoline.

Six-Inch Sermon

By Rev. Robert H. Harper

OVERCOMING THE ADVERSARY

Lesson for September 21. Revelation 12:17-21; 2:4; Golden Text. Revelation 12:11

War in heaven—what a headline that would make for a present communique! "There was war in heaven" in the long ages past and it would depress us to read of it now had the issue been different. Michael and his host of angels prevailed over Satan, represented as a dragon with seven heads, and the evil angels. Page the pacifist—if the angels made war in heaven against evil, we can do the same here on earth. The pacifist finds in Revelation no support for his contention that it is wrong to fight those who are drenching the earth with human gore.

The place of Satan and his angels, after Michael had finished with them, was not "found any more in heaven." Never since have they set foot there and they will not again, for the reign of Satan has been broken—by the cross on earth and by war in heaven, and Satan knows "that he hath but a short time."

Let us echo the rejoicing heard in heaven over Michael's victory. The outcome of that war in heaven has a direct bearing upon the present world situation. Tidings of Napoleon in the ashes of Moscow brought depression to Paris but jubilation to London. Tidings of events in the Capital of God's kingdom strengthened the suffering saints of John's time. And those tidings should now strengthen the distressed everywhere. In the long view the righteous have nothing to fear. The power of evil has been broken. The good will prevail. Renew your faith in the Eternal Goodness and the moral government of the world, knowing that the adversary will be overcome.

WORKERS NEEDED

This column will carry a list of local, intra-state and inter-state openings. For further information concerning these openings, apply at your local office of the North Carolina Unemployment Commission between the hours of 8:30 and 12:30, which is located over the Duke Power Company, North Wilkesboro.

Local openings—Stenographer-bookkeeper, \$12.00 per week; 7 maids, general, \$3.00 to \$5.00 per week (white and colored); 1 automobile mechanic, 35% commission; 1 soda jerker, \$15.00 per week; 1 warehouse record clerk, 50c per hour; 10 sales clerks, \$9.00 to \$10.00 per week.

Intra-state openings—75 trainees, machine shop, 1 automobile body repairman, \$30 week; 1 cost accountant, \$150 month; 1 male stenographer, \$1,440 year; several stock clerks, \$19 week; 2 stenographers, \$1,620 year; millwright, \$25 week.

Inter-state openings—25 mechanical engineers or draftsmen, up to \$300 month; 20 architects, building, \$200 and up month; 500 electrical and civil engineers, \$2000 and up year; 2 tree surgeons, 70c to 80c hour; street car and bus operators, 66c hour up.

British civilian technical corps of the British government is engaged in a program of recruiting workers in the following occupations for work in England as paid members of a non-combatant body of civilian craftsmen enrolled on a voluntary basis by the British government: Automobile mechanics (marine); electrical artificers (marine); electrician, airplane; aircraft mechanics; instrument makers; machinists; metal workers; coppersmiths; sheet metal workers, ordnancemen; radio repairman.

McGEE REUNION

The annual McGee reunion will be held at Beaver Creek Baptist church in Wilkes county, on Sunday, September 21. There will be an all-day program. Everybody is invited to come, bring dinner and enjoy the day.

A. J. FOSTER, President.

"MY BATTLE AGAINST THE DOPE RACKET"

First of two thrilling articles by Dr. Arthur La Roe, who presents a heart-touching and profound picture of the traffic in drugs carried on by the devil's own peddlers. A story every American will want to read. Starts September 21st in

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HEALTH

GRADE "A" MILK

New River Dairy

TO INTERVIEW YOUTHS FOR N.Y.A. EMPLOYMENT

Mrs. Clara P. Simpson, NYA area youth personnel interviewer, announces that she will be in her office at the courthouse every Monday and Friday to interview youths, who would like NYA employment.

EDMISTENS HAVE REUNION

A large number of the Edmisten clan met at Beaver Creek church in Wilkes county last Sunday for their annual reunion. This proved to be one of the most pleasant of all the meetings since this custom was started five years ago. In the forenoon a most inspiring sermon was delivered by Rev. Dwight Edmisten of Sugar Grove. A bountiful dinner was served on the picnic tables in the grove behind the church.

After dinner a business session was held during which Mr. W. T. Gragg of Boone, spoke briefly on the Edmisten generation. Mr. Eugene E. Edmisten and Mrs. Virginia Cobb, both of Mooresville, were elected chairman and secretary of the organization for the following year.—Reported.

IN MEMORY OF MANLY GREENE

Manly Greene, son of Squire and Annie Greene, was born October 4, 1853. Died August 9, 1941, aged 87 years, 10 months and 5 days. He professed faith in Christ and joined Meat Camp Baptist church October 27, 1871. He was a great lover of the Lord and often talked of his heavenly home. He was a deacon in the church and a great lover of God's cause and kingdom work. Truly a great servant of the Lord has fallen. He was married to Eliza Brown in 1876, and to this union were born two children, Linnie Greene and Mrs. Emma Setzer. His companion departed this life in 1930 and Linnie in the year 1936, going on to be with Jesus to await the coming of husband and father. Mrs. Setzer and seven grandchildren with a host of friends and loved ones still survive to mourn his departure. Therefore, be it resolved:

First, in behalf of Meat Camp church, that we extend our sympathy to the daughter, the grandchildren and all the bereaved ones, praying that God's richest blessings attend them.

Second, that a copy of these resolutions be spread on our church record and a copy sent to the Watauga Democrat with the request to be published, and a copy sent to the bereaved family.

COMMITTEE.

Argentina industries controlled by Nazis are listed as worth \$455,000,000.

The most effective help which a buy Defense Savings Bonds and civilian can give to Uncle Sam is to Stamps as often as possible.

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