

## U. S. Is At War With Japan

### DECLARATION IS MADE FOLLOWING NIPPON ATTACK

Congress Acts Swiftly To Declare War After Treacherous Attack By Japanese On Possessions in Pacific; Toll of Lives and Property Is Great

Washington, Dec. 8.—America declared war on Japan today after that nation's air bombers had dealt the navy the severest blow in its history and inflicted losses which raised the harsh possibility that the Japanese fleet may now enjoy a temporary superiority in the Pacific.

Some details of the savage Japanese attack—which admittedly cost the navy a battleship, a destroyer, a number of smaller craft, and killed or wounded 3,000—was given to the nation last night by President Roosevelt.

His speech supplemented the brief message with which he asked congress for a declaration of war Monday—a request which both houses followed up with action that was breath-takingly swift and, save for one vote, unanimous.

In addition to the president's address, the chairman of the two naval committees, Senator Walsh of Massachusetts, and Representative Vinson of Georgia, made simultaneous speeches Tuesday revealing as much of what happened in the Pacific as the national safety would permit.

These developments came at the close of a day which saw this country not only declare war on Japan, but also accuse Germany of doing its utmost to push the Japanese into the conflict, with the purpose of impeding the program of American assistance to Great Britain.

But, a White House statement said, the program of American help to the British "will continue in full operation." The announcement caused some surprise because a short while before Winston Churchill had said a diminution of such help was to be expected.

"Obviously, Germany did all it could to push Japan into the war," a White House statement said. "It was the German hope that if the United States and Japan could be pushed into war that such a conflict would put an end to the lease-lend program. As usual the wish is father to the thought behind the broadcasts and public announcements emanating from Germany with relation to the war and the lease-lend program."

"That such German broadcasts and announcements are continuously and completely 100 per cent inaccurate is shown by the fact that the lease-lend program is in full operation."

The statement was issued soon after President Roosevelt had signed the declaration of war in a short and solemn ceremony attended by leaders of both parties from the house and senate.

Earlier, a grim-visaged congress, united by the shock of battle and aroused by startling losses to the American forces in the Pacific, approved the declaration by an all out unanimous vote and did so in record time.

President Roosevelt, forecasting "an inevitable triumph," requested the action in a brief, pointed speech solemnly delivered before a memorable joint session of the house and senate.

### Red Cross in Great Need of Buttons

The war production committee of Watauga chapter, American Red Cross, Mrs. Mae Miller, chairman, is in great need of buttons so that work may be completed on the following garments: 120 children's woolen dresses, 54 women's woolen dresses, and 40 baby's snow suits.

Large, medium or small buttons can be used, it is said, and any color. Anyone having buttons which they would be willing to donate to this worthy cause is asked to leave them at The Democrat office or the Dixie store.

### P.-T. A. Group To Hold Meeting on Tuesday

Boone Parent-Teachers Association will meet in Boone high school building Tuesday, December 16, at 7:30. The theme for the meeting will be character building agencies. Rev. John I. Rhea will have charge of the program and all ministers of the town are invited to attend and have a part in the program.

### Newsman Quiz Japan's Diplomatic Envoy



This picture was made after Japan's envoys had seen Secret of State Hull in one of the "final" peace talks. Shown leaving the department and talking to representatives of the press are, asst. Ambassador K. Nomura and at right Saburo Kurusu, special rep.

### Santa Claus Makes Merry as Yule Lights Are Turned On and Christmas Shopping Season Starts; Number Gifts Distributed

#### Wataugan Believed On Ill-Fated Ship

Louis Glenn Farthing, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ben W. Farthing of Valle Crucis, was a member of the crew of the battleship West Virginia, which is thought to have been destroyed in the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, which began Sunday, but up until Tuesday afternoon, the anxious parents have had no word as to the fate of their son.

Bern Adams of Boone, and Lee Robbins of Blowing Rock, both members of the United States navy, are at Pearl Harbor, and perhaps other local sailors and soldiers. Mr. B. G. Leake, whose family remained in Valle Crucis while visiting here this summer, only recently arrived in Manila, Philippine Islands. Relatives and friends of these people are anxiously awaiting word as to their safety.

### May Burn Jap Toys

The bitter resentment felt in this locality over the assault by Japan on United States territory, is strikingly reflected by a conversation between some merchants on the street Tuesday. They agreed to sort out all toys and trinkets from their stocks, labeled "made in Japan" and burn them in a demonstration on the square. Other merchants will likely be approached on the bonfire proposition before the date and hour is definitely set.

One large retailer stated that his firm had quit buying Nipponese goods many months ago, regardless of price consideration, not waiting for a major demonstration of Japanese infamy.

### Rominger Boys Visit Homefolks in County

Sergeant Clyde Rominger, an affiliate officer of the 51st Air Base group, West Palm Beach, Fla., visited in town last Monday. The sergeant, who is a son of Mr. and Mrs. M. C. Rominger of Matney, N. C., has five brothers in the U. S. armed forces, and while here, had the good fortune of seeing two of them, Dexter and Grady, who were enjoying leaves from the Charlotte air base.

Another brother, Johnny Rominger, is stationed at Fort Bragg, Charlie, who has seen eleven years' service with the U. S. army, is at present in Denver, Colorado, with Company H, 22nd infantry, while Howard is at the Augusta, Ga., air base.

### JAP EFFORTS TO LAND IN ISLANDS REPULSED

The war department Wednesday gave out the information that all Japanese efforts to land troops in the Philippine Islands had been repulsed.

#### Opening of Shopping Season Finds Merchants Well Served With Goods at Old Prices; Early Buying Particularly Urged at This Time

Santa Claus came to town last Wednesday afternoon at four o'clock distributed gifts to about six hundred children and provided a high spot in the most largely attended opening of the Christmas shopping season Boone has ever known.

The exercises took place at the city hall, and the street was jammed with men, women and children, all anxious to see Santa Claus, and to witness the initial illumination of the lavish decorations parallel with and across the streets of the town.

At the same time the Merchants Association members gave away a number of prizes during the exercises as follows:

Mrs. Gerd Henson, \$25; Betty Newton \$15; Arthur Smathers \$5; E. N. Hahn, \$5 repair credit at Dacus Radio Shop; Mrs. Tom Beach, blanket from Belk's store; Mrs. S. H. Yelton lamp from the New River Light & Power Co., A. L. Jones, end table, compliments Boone Tire & Bargain Store; Mrs. Lee Gross, rocking chair from Qualls Furniture Store; Amos Dotson, necktie from Elite Shop; Mrs. Clarence Cook, shampoo with compliments of the Artistic Beauty Shop; Mary Doris Hodges, facial given by Artistic Beauty Shop; Mrs. Lucy Davis, percolator from Farmers Hardware & Supply Co.; Mrs. Joe Norris, bottle perfume, Boone Drug Co.; Reeves Eden, lamp, a gift from the W. W. Mac Co.

**Gift Stocks Complete**  
A careful survey of the stores of the city, and conversations with the merchants, reveal that never in the history of the city has there been offered the buying public a more comprehensive line of gift merchandise. The great majority of the merchandise, through the foresight of the buyers, is being sold at the same price as a year ago, and a heavy turnover of merchandise is expected.

**Early Buying Urged**  
Those who have been accustomed to waiting until the last minute to do their Christmas shopping should take notice that due to the defense demands on raw materials, many items which are now in stock, cannot be replaced, and some merchants say they expect a complete sell out of certain lines. There is plenty for all, but at the last minute some articles may be gone. Do your shopping now, while stocks are complete, and while you stand no chance of disappointment.

### Dr. Ratchford to Address Forum Here

Dr. B. U. Ratchford, professor of economics at Duke University, will address the public forum Thursday evening at 8 o'clock, in Appalachian high school library.

Dr. Ratchford will use for his topic: "Defense Finance and Inflation." The public is cordially invited to be present for this informative address.

### COMMERCE BODY CONDEMNS JAPS FOR OUTLAWRY

Resolution of Chamber Commerce Pledges to Government Everything in Prosecution of War; Many Make Brief Talks at Meeting

The Chamber of Commerce in an enthusiastic and well attended meeting held Tuesday evening, passed resolutions vigorously condemning the unprovoked attack of the Nipponese government on the United States and pledged to the government "everything at our command in the prosecution of this war to the end that this threat to civilization shall be removed from the earth."

The resolutions follow: "Whereas, an unprovoked and dastardly attack was made upon the United States of America by the Japanese member of the trio of international outlaws who are now trying to subjugate the free peoples of the entire world, and

"Whereas, the United States of America by request of her President and through the act of the congress has declared that a state of war does now exist between the United States and Japan, and

"Whereas, wars are won by the united efforts of a united nation whose citizens are willing to make whatever sacrifices are necessary to win, now, therefore, be it resolved by the Chamber of Commerce of Boone, N. C.:

"First, that we recognize the gravity of our position and our responsibility as a nation in view of our natural resources and wealth.

"Second, that we pledge to our government anything and everything at our command in her prosecution of this war to the end that this threat to civilization shall be removed from the earth.

"Third, that a copy of these resolutions be sent to Congressman Doughton, Senators Bailey and Reynolds and a copy be given to the Watauga Democrat for publication.

"Boone, N. C., December 9, 1941."

About 50 business men, tobacco warehousemen and buyers were present at the meeting which was presided over by H. W. Wilcox. Mr. Roxie Coleman, operator of the Mountain Burley warehouses, and a number of the buyers made brief talks. An interesting feature of the meeting was the presentation of a film, "North Carolina, Variety Vacatland," by Dr. Southard, through the courtesy of the State Department of Conservation and Development.

### Tobacco Sales Approach 700,000 Pounds As Sales Go Into 6th Day; Season Average Beyond 30 Cents; Farmers Well Pleased

#### What's the News?



Laurence A. Steinhardt, U. S. ambassador to Russia, is pictured as he arrived at the White House to report to his chief, President Roosevelt. He returned to the U. S. on the first west-bound flight of a Pan-American clipper from Africa.

### BART R. BRYAN DIES SUDDENLY

Well Known Citizen of Boone Dies From Heart Attack; Rites Conducted Tuesday

Bart R. Bryan, age 57, member of one of the town's oldest families, died suddenly at his home early Sunday morning from what was believed to have been a heart attack. Mr. Bryan had been in ill health for a long time, but recently had been considerably improved.

Funeral services were conducted from the home Tuesday at 2 o'clock by the Rev. J. C. Canipe, pastor of the Boone Baptist church, and interment was in the family cemetery in the Green Heights section, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home being in charge of the arrangements.

Active pallbearers were: W. H. Gragg, Clyde R. Greene, G. K. Moose, Paul A. Coffey, Kenneth Linney and Rob Rivers, Honorary.

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### Local Red Cross Chapter is Asked For \$1,500 of Emergency War Relief Fund

#### Stores To Remain Open Until 9 O'clock

Member stores of the Boone Merchants Association will begin staying open until 9 o'clock each evening starting Friday, December 19, for the benefit of the Christmas shoppers of the area, many of whom find it impossible to do trading until after their regular hours. The announcement was made Tuesday by Russell D. Hodges, president of the Boone Merchants Association.

#### Legionnaires to Hold Meeting Friday

A joint meeting of the American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary is to be held Friday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Legion hut. It is urgently requested that all Auxiliary members and Legionnaires be present at this time. The announcement of the meeting states: "We want to demonstrate to the county, state and nation that we are 100 per cent for God and country and against the outrages perpetrated by Japan."

Other very important business is to be transacted at the same time, it is said.

### XMAS SEAL SALE ENDS THIS WEEK

Due to the emergency requirements of the American Red Cross, the local committee on the sale of tuberculosis Christmas seals, decided Wednesday morning to wind up the sales of the stickers this week, so as not to conflict with the war relief activity.

The committee requests that all reports on Christmas seal sales be turned in this week if possible.

Prices Continue Strong Today as Floors Are Again Filled With Weed; Ashe county Man Makes High Record Wednesday Morning; Other Sales

The Mountain Burley tobacco warehouses went into their sixth sale this (Wednesday) morning, with the prospect that by the close of the auction this afternoon, an additional 125,000 to 150,000 pounds of the weed would be sold, bringing the grand total of sales since the market opened to more than 700,000 pounds.

The market at noon today continues strong, the weed is consistently good, and the prices are maintaining the average of the season, which is well above 30 cents per pound. Numbers of farmers from Watauga and adjacent counties were contacted today, and expressed themselves as being highly pleased with the prices they are receiving for their tobacco, and the courteous treatment being accorded them by the warehouse force, and the business men of the town, scores of whom mix and mingle daily with the growers on the warehouse floors.

Monday was the banner day for the market, when 175,000 pounds of tobacco was sold, and throughout the day, warehouse driveways were jammed with trucks loaded with the weed, and the vehicles crowded North Depot street to Main, many of them seeking parking space on Queen street. On Tuesday almost the same condition existed, but the splendid organization at the warehouses clicked smoothly, and the weed was placed on the floor with no appreciable delay. Today many trucks have to wait for brief periods outside the driveways while the baskets are being filled, but the farmers speak highly of the splendid service they are receiving.

Last week's three days' sales amounted to 235,000 pounds, making the total 574,000 up to closing time Tuesday evening.

Mr. Luther Powers of Lansing, Ashe county, established something of a record this morning when he sold his entire crop of 450 pounds for an average of 38 2-7 cents per pound. Mr. Powers states that he has been a patron of the Boone market since its establishment, and that he has found that the local warehouse always pays the farmers more money than any other house he has ever patronized. Mr. Powers states that his fine crop of tobacco was grown on 2-10 of an acre of land, only half of which was fertilized.

#### Beech Creek Men Do Well

Spencer Phillips of Beech Creek, made one of the best of the recent sales, getting an average of 36 cents for his 688 pounds of tobacco. W. M. Harman, also of Beech Creek, sold 860 pounds for an average of 32 1/2 cents.

### Ashe County Man Learns of Death Of Son in Hawaii

Winifred Hart of Lansing, Ashe county, member of the United States coast guard, was reported to have been killed in action during the Japanese raids on Pearl Harbor, T. H.

The young man's father, Mr. Ira Hart, well known Ashe county farmer, was in the Mountain Burley warehouses here selling his tobacco, when the word of his son's death reached him. Mr. Hart stated that he had been informed also that his late son's life-long friend, Scott Gamble, also of Lansing, had been killed at the same time. The two young men, he said, grew up together, went into the service together and were side by side in the defense of their country, when the dastardly attack was made by the Japs.

### Father of Mrs. J. M. Gaither Dies in Ga.

Mrs. J. M. Gaither returned home Friday from Newman, Ga., where she had been called on account of the death of her father, Mr. X. H. Bagley, 63, prominent citizen of that town, which occurred on November 28th, after an illness of several weeks.

Funeral services were conducted from the Methodist church in Newman on the 29th, and interment was in the cemetery there.

Three daughters survive: Mrs. J. M. Gaither, Boone; Miss Kathryn Bagley, Newman, Ga., and Mrs. Richard Lester, Mobile, Ala.

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