

# GRAND JURY IN REPORT TO COURT

### Judge Alley Commends Grand Jury for Services; Report to Court Given

The grand jury for the spring term of Watauga superior court was dismissed by Judge Alley late last Wednesday after having acted upon 103 bills of indictment. Judge Alley in dismissing the jurors, commended them highly and stated that he didn't recall having worked with quite as good a jury as he found here.

The grand jury was composed of the following: C. G. Hodges, foreman; Owen Wilson, Horace Cook, W. C. South, Howard Cottrell, John Bohick, W. H. Gragg, Glenn Howell, Vester Phillips, V. D. Cook, N. G. Cook, Rutar Hollar, Don Stokes, Lynn Norris, B. H. Gross, H. F. Greer, Rom Wilson and Hamp Blackburn.

Following is the report of the grand jury as submitted to the court:

We, the grand jury, have passed on all bills and presentments that have come before us.

#### Prison Camp

We visited the prison camp as a body and upon invitation of Supt. Carter Farthing we as a body had a very sumptuous and well prepared meal there. We found since last inspection that the camp had been changed from colored to white prisoners and that there are 103 there at this time. We found by the admissions of the prisoners that we talked to, that they were well fed and kept. We found also the grounds and premises in good conditions.

#### County Home

We visited the county home in a body and found the place in an excellent state of cleanliness. However, there are some repairs that are urgent that they be made while materials are still available, namely, the porch fastened to the wall, the plaster repaired, and the building repainted inside and out. We found the inmates well clothed and in good health except for a negro named Grover, whom we recommend have more medical attention. We also recommend that Mrs. Simmons be given an increase in pay sufficient to meet rising food costs.

#### Courthouse

We found that benches recommended by the last grand jury be put in the downstairs hall had not been placed there. We recommend that this be done and that the door to the grand jury room be fixed.

#### Jail

We visited the jail in a body and found it in a good state as to repairs, clean and well kept, and the prisoners well fed. We do, however, recommend that the inside of the cells and wall be repainted, and that new mattresses be placed in the cells where needed.

The county school bus garage was visited and it was found to be kept in good order by a capable mechanic. He states that he is well supplied with tools and equipment for the maintenance of the buses.

One broken five-pound iron contains enough iron to make four hand grenades.

# Marshall and Hopkins Report to Chief



Army chief of staff, George C. Marshall and Harry L. Hopkins, chief of the munitions board, who have been on a confidential mission to London, called at the White House immediately upon their return to America. Photo shows General Marshall, John G. Winant, U. S. ambassador to Great Britain, and Harry L. Hopkins, as they arrived at the White House.

# Carelessness and Criminal Incendiarism Blamed For Disastrous Forest Fires

Raleigh—Negligence and carelessness and criminal incendiarism are the sole causes of the disastrous forest fires sweeping the mountains of Western North Carolina. W. K. Beichler, chief of forest fire control of the state department of conservation and development, declared here.

Beichler, terming the forest fire situation "critical," asserted that "99 per cent of the forest fires in this state are, and have for years, man-caused fires, and therefore preventable."

"Negligence or carelessness, or both," he said, "are almost invariably concerned when a fire escapes from the burning of brush piles or ditch banks or other litter, or from a discarded cigarette stub."

"The question today is—can North Carolina and the nation afford not to recognize that any such negligence under existing conditions is criminal negligence, should be punished as such, and soon abolished?"

The fire control officer charged that 50 per cent of the current outbreaks of blazes were of incendiary origin. During all of 1941, he said, the figure was only 23 per cent.

Beichler said his department had not yet had time to fully analyze

the incendiary aspect of the current wave of blazes. He said he could not yet estimate the state's loss during this month alone in timber resources, scenic beauty, forthcoming erosion of burned hillsides, destruction of rich forest soil and of game and fish, "to say nothing of the loss in man hours which could have been far better spent in positive defense activities."

Beichler declared that an incendiary forest fire is a form of sabotage as sure, if not as spectacular, as the blowing up of a bridge or the wrecking of a freight train.

He urged as preventative measures against all forest fires:

1. Neighborhood co-operation—reporting of persons consistently negligent with fire.

2. Making forest fire incendiarism a felony, instead of its present interpretation as a misdemeanor.

3. An increase in the state's appropriation of \$59,000 for forest fire control, which provides one-third of the North Carolina forests with no protection and two-thirds with protection estimated at about one and three-quarters cents per acre.

Beichler said the present fires were aided by a widespread drought and a shortage of manpower to fight the blazes.

# WAR BOND CAMPAIGN TO BE LAUNCHED

(Continued from page one) more dollars voluntarily pledged for the purchase of bonds, the less will be the tax load.

The money invested in these war savings securities—the safest investment in the world—will be taken out of competition for consumer goods, thereby preventing inflation and building up a cushion of savings for the individual when the war ends.

These securities also make every citizen buying them a share-holder in the future of America.

Following up Secretary of the Treasury Morgenthau's recent announcement that North Carolina's quota of war bonds and stamps for

May had been set at \$5,888,500, State Administrator Charles H. Robertson and State Chairman Julian Price of Greensboro, said in a joint statement that "we are confident North Carolinians can be counted upon to exceed the quota set for our state."

"North Carolina's average monthly purchases of these war savings securities in the seven-month period in January was \$4,207,031," they said, "and if we did that well before Pearl Harbor we certainly ought to be able to go ahead of that record now."

Ashe county's 4-H clubs are 100 per cent behind 4-H mobilization-for-victory program, reports R. H. Crouse, farm agent of the N. C. State College extension service.

# REPORT OF WATAUGA HEALTH DEPARTMENT

(Continued from page one)

taxpayer, and by preventing the spread of the disease, it would be of incalculable value. We have, in our county, at the present time, cases who are unable to pay for their sanatorium care, and for whom we can find no funds to gain them admission, though the charity rate is only 50c per day. Each case on an average will infect some eight to ten other individuals, so we can see the real necessity of segregating and training these people so as to protect others.

Home maternity service has admitted 28 expectant mothers during the first three months with 39 medical conferences, six visits to private physicians, 12 visits to their homes, and 36 office nursing visits. Five of these cases have returned for examination following the birth of their baby, with 14 nursing visits to this same group. We are conducting two clinics: one in the Bethel neighborhood and one in the Clark's Creek vicinity, as well as the work done at our main office. This is a work which is growing in favor and prevents much trouble through proper guidance during this period of the mother's life.

Twenty-one infants and 34 children of the pre-school age received medical service and 61 nursing visits; 30 visits being made to homes and 39 office visits.

School hygiene covers all of the work done for the school children, and there have been in the period from January through March: 425 inspections, 21 more complete examinations, 439 inspections by the dentist; each of these having their teeth cleaned as well, and 445 fillings and extractions done. Two hundred and one children were referred to the local dentist for further work. Forty-two classroom talks were made with an estimated attendance of 1,299. Six school children had their eyes corrected during this same period. Medical examinations totaling 100 have been made on teachers, midwives, milk and food-handlers.

We have had seven admissions to medical service in the older age group and four admitted to nursing service; these have a total of 15 field and office visits. One of these cases was that of a young mother who was brought in and delivered at the hospital where she stayed for a total of 14 days. The case was brought in from a home where conditions were so poor that her feet were badly frostbitten, and her expenses were taken care of by several of the local organizations and individuals.

Under general sanitation, 12 food-handling establishments have been registered for supervision, and 38 visits were made to them. Three dairy farms are under supervision and nine visits have been paid to

three places. Approved water installations have been made at two premises, one public water supply has been visited and two visits to sewerage plants, with five visits made to private premises. Eight specimens of water have been examined, 194 tests for syphilis made, six for gonorrhea, one for intestinal parasites, and 34 urinalysis.

# DOLPHUS THOMAS CASE MUST BE TRIED AGAIN

(Continued from page one)

continued advancing on him, and he admitted striking deceased with his revolver when he had hold of him.

The state failed in its efforts to prove that Dolphus Thomas returned home for his pistol, which it was proven had been carried in the car from time to time, and the principal contention of the prosecution rested on the premise that the defendant used excessive force.

Solicitor L. S. Spurling was assisted in the prosecution by Messrs. Burke & Burke of Taylorsville, while defense attorneys were Messrs. Trivette & Holsouser and W. R. Lovell.

#### Other Court News

Court reconvened Monday morning, and a number of divorce decrees were granted, prior to the resumption of the criminal docket. Other judgments of the court are:

Floss Eggers, driving drunk, \$50 and the costs.

Odus Watson, violation prohibition laws, four cases; fined \$300 and the costs; sentenced to two years on the roads, capias to place the sentence into effect to issue in ten days.

Oscar Pitts, driving drunk, \$50 and costs.

Mrs. Emma Mast and Grover Brown, prostitution. Mrs. Mast, 4 months in jail, suspended for five years during good behavior. Grover Brown, prayer for judgment continued on payment of costs. Capias to issue within five years if found in 16th district, for passing of sentence.

B. F. Williams, driving drunk, \$50 and the costs.

The cotton that goes into a medium-priced auto would make four uniforms for soldiers.

# SUGAR RATIONING REGISTRATION TO START ON MONDAY

(Continued from page one)

ed, issuance of the book will be withheld until later.

A family unit has been defined by the office of price administration as "a group of two or more individuals consisting of all persons who are living together in the same household who are related by blood or marriage."

Since forms were late in arriving, the local rationing board says that those required to register on April 28-29, and who failed to do so, may register with the high school principals on Monday through Thursday of next week.

Teachers of all county elementary schools will register applicants for buying sugar starting Monday and continuing through Thursday, if that much time is required. All applicants should go to the school in their district between the hours of 9:30 a. m. and 3:30 p. m., and one member of the family will register. No person can buy sugar until he has received purchasing stamps through registration.

# TEACHERS TO GATHER TO GET RATIONING FORMS

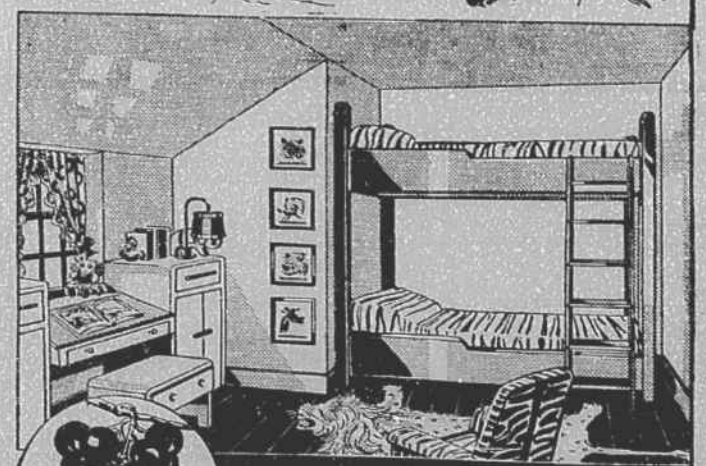
The elementary school principals of Watauga county are asked by Superintendent Howard Walker to meet in the auditorium of the county office building Saturday at 3 o'clock for the purpose of getting instructions and forms for registering consumers of sugar, which begins Monday.

# "I MET A ZOMBIE"—TRUE STORY OF ADVENTURE

Thrilling account of a noted writer who went to Haiti to find out if the voodoo doctors were actually able to resurrect human robots from the grave. What the author discovered presents a thrilling tale. Look for this feature in the May 3rd issue of

THE AMERICAN WEEKLY  
The Big Magazine Distributed with the BALTIMORE SUNDAY AMERICAN  
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