



50 NEWSPAPERS LAUNCH DRIVE FOR WAR METAL

\$3,000 Be Given in Prizes by Newspapers of Carolina in an Effort to Avert Decline in Steel Production; Details of Contest

Raleigh, Sept. 28.—North Carolinians are urged to shed their coats and really get into the scrap!

Over fifty newspapers, covering the length and breadth of the state, today announced plans for a state-wide contest with \$3,300 worth of war bonds as prizes for collectors turning in the most scrap metal during the three-week drive beginning October 1.

The mighty scrap crusade, inspired by the lagging production of war vital steel because of lack of scrap metal, is being sponsored by the newspapers as a means of adding impetus to the salvage drive now underway.

Their goal is a roundup of every piece of scrap metal that can be found.

It's going to take hard work—and plenty of it! It's going to take aching backs and blistered hands! And it's going to require loyal, patriotic co-operation!

But participating newspapers know it can be done and with the help of every North Carolinian—young and old, rich and poor, big and little—the job will be done.

In a message to participating newspapers, WPB Chief Donald Nelson said increased scrap collections are necessary "to avert a serious decline in steel production."

Steel mills in the United States—industrial giant of the world—have facilities to produce 90 million tons of steel annually, but this year they will produce only about 85 million tons.

They need scrap!

It's every citizen's duty to help—

to gather all the scrap metal he or she can find and hurl it smack into the faces of Adolf Hitler and associates. During the three weeks beginning October 1, North Carolinians will have ample opportunity to show how far they are willing to go in backing up the boys at the front.

Give or Sell—But Get

Special arrangements for handling the scrap are being made. As far as the prize contest goes, it makes no difference whether the scrap metal is donated or sold. Sponsoring newspapers are interested only in getting the scrap—now.

Citizens of Nebraska, which recently concluded a similar campaign, collected 136,171,012 pounds of scrap metal in just three weeks—104 pounds per capita.

North Carolina should do better. Newspapers enrolled in the campaign.

Hal Farthing Named Rent Control Head Of Portsmouth, Va.

Appointment of Hal B. Farthing of Boone, N. C., as rent control administrator for Portsmouth, Va., was announced last week by C. P. Brownley, Jr., director of the Hampton Roads rent control area, at the main office of the organization at Norfolk, according to the Norfolk Ledger-Dispatch. Concomitant with the appointment of Mr. Farthing was the announcement that a rent control office would be established in the city at 105 High street.

The new administrator has been serving as inspector of the rent control organization since it was first set up. He was educated in the public schools at Boone and at Appalachian State College where he received a bachelor of science degree.

After graduating from Appalachian he taught in the schools at Leaksville, N. C., where he officiated as athletic coach and co-ordinator of diversified occupations. While at college he was a member of the International Relations Club, a Carnegie Foundation honorary society, and a member of the Varsity Letter Club and the North Carolina College Press Association, being editor of The Appalachian, the college weekly.

Eggers Again Named As U. S. Commissioner

Mr. S. C. Eggers has received notification from Judge Johnson J. Hayes of the middle district federal court, of his reappointment as United States commissioner.

Mr. Eggers has served in this capacity for twelve years.

Holds Meeting



Dr. Arthur Fox, widely known evangelist, who is conducting revival services at the First Baptist church in Boone this week.

THOMAS IS GIVEN 5 TO 7 YEARS IN DEATH OF COUSIN

Jury Finds North Fork Man Guilty of Manslaughter; Defendant Says He Fired Fatal Shots in Defense of Life; Gives Notice of Appeal

A Watauga county superior court jury last Thursday evening at 10 o'clock found Adolphus Thomas, well-known resident of North Fork township, guilty of manslaughter in connection with the shooting of a cousin, Bon Thomas, the homicide having occurred in December, 1941.

The jury, which deliberated for about two hours, recommended mercy for the defendant, and Judge Zeb V. Nettles on Friday morning sentenced him to from five to seven years in the state prison. Defense attorneys filed notice of appeal, and appearance bond of \$5,000 was filed.

Thomas took the stand during the course of the trial and testified that he killed his kinsman in defense of his own life. He stated that he and Bon Thomas had engaged in an affray, that he (the defendant) had taken a beating, and that he returned to the scene of the trouble to look for a pocketbook which he had lost. Further testimony revealed that the fatal shots were fired after Bon Thomas advanced upon him and cast a large stone through the windshield of the vehicle in which he was traveling.

Mr. Thomas had gone on trial at the spring term, but the jury failed to reach an agreement on a verdict.

ROBERT AUTON KILLED BY TAXI

Fatal Accident Termed Unavoidable; Funeral Services Are Held Monday

Robert Auton, aged 34 years, who resided near Blowing Rock, was instantly killed about 9 o'clock Saturday evening near Vilas, when he was struck by a taxicab driven by John Parlier of Boone. Parlier, it was stated, was passing another automobile, going in the opposite direction, when Auton stepped into the path of his vehicle. It was impossible to stop the car before he was struck, and Parlier was not held responsible.

Funeral services were conducted from the Cool Springs Baptist church Monday by Rev. Robert Shore and Rev. Tipton Greene, and interment was in the Winkler cemetery near Boone.

Surviving is the mother, Mrs. Alex Auton; one brother, Oscar, and three sisters: Mrs. Fred Teague, Mrs. Paul Shore and Mrs. Alice Daniels, all of the home neighborhood.

Singing Convention to Be Held at Oak Grove

The Watauga county singing convention will be held at Oak Grove Baptist church next Sunday, beginning at 1 o'clock.

A great day is expected, and everyone is invited to attend. All singing groups are urged to be present.

The more than 800,000 workers in the war-converted automobile industry are producing one-sixth of the total value of war goods.

PENAL CAMP PROBE TAKES ATTENTION OF SUPERIOR COURT

Twenty-one Witnesses Appear Before Judge Nettles to Testify Concerning Conduct of Local Camp; Superintendent Takes Stand

Twenty-one witnesses appeared before Judge Z. V. Nettles in Watauga county superior court last Friday and gave testimony concerning the escape of prisoners from the state prison camp here. Ten convicts escaped from the camp Sunday night, September 13, and two others escaped two weeks prior to that time.

After hearing the witnesses, Judge Nettles ordered that a transcript of the testimony be sent to the state penal director, Oscar Pitts, in Raleigh, and to L. Ben Prince, chairman of the state highway and public works commission for whatever action they deem necessary.

A copy was also ordered given to Solicitor L. S. Spurling for possible presentation to the Watauga grand jury at the next term of superior court.

Farthing Testifies
The witnesses included Carter J. Farthing, who has tendered his resignation as superintendent of the prison camp; guards at the camp, and citizens of the community.

Mr. Farthing, in his testimony, said he had not allowed the prisoners to roam the countryside when they wished, as had been rumored, and that, to his knowledge, no prisoner had spent the night at a hotel in Boone.

Mr. Farthing stated further that on the occasion referred to he brought a convict into town to see a visitor, the wife of a prison official, a woman about 60 years of age, who was trying to obtain his parole. He said the highway official had highly recommended the prisoner to him, and for that reason he allowed him certain privileges. Mr. Farthing said he took the prisoner back to camp about 10 o'clock that night.

Other witnesses testified they had seen a trusty walking on the highway in the direction of Boone. Mr. Farthing said the man slipped through the gates of the camp and that he knew nothing about it until the next morning when a guard told him the man came back to the camp at 11 o'clock the same night.

With reference to the prison break (Continued on page eight)

GRAND JURY IN REPORT TO COURT

Judge Nettles Hears Recommendations of Jurors; Highway Hazard is Cited

The grand jury last week submitted the usual report to Judge Zeb V. Nettles, touching the condition of county property and institutions. The report which was signed by J. M. Sherwood, foreman, is as follows:

To Hon. Zeb V. Nettles, judge holding court for Watauga county, fall term, 1942:

We have passed on all bills sent from the court after examining the witnesses.

We have visited the county home by committee and find it in very good condition, except the porch. We recommend that this be repaired. We also recommend further that three of the rooms be painted in order to get rid of bed bugs. We visited the county schools and found them in good condition, except the grounds of Bethel high school; we recommend that the grounds around the gymnasium be cleaned off at once in order to protect the health of the students. We also examined the school buses and found them in good condition, with good brakes.

We found the county jail in very good condition except the two toilets on the ground floor. We recommend that they be put in a more sanitary condition.

The register of deeds' office, the clerk's office and other offices in the courthouse are all well kept and the guardians, administrators and executors have made their reports except G. F. Critcher has failed to report. We recommend that he be notified to make his report at once.

We examined all witnesses that came before us in regard to the prison camp, and find that Guards Bart Norris and Raymond Warren were on duty September 2, 1942, when and at which time Frank Byrd made his escape from the camp. We find that the superintendent's orders have not been carried (Continued on page eight)

Preview of New Nickel-less Nickel



From the Philadelphia mint comes this new nickel-less nickel, cast as a preview of the new five-cent piece which will soon replace those containing the war-necessary nickel. That metal will go into the war effort. The new coin is made up of silver, copper and manganese alloy—an alloy that will click subway turnstiles as well as the old, and buy the same package of gum.

President



Dr. William M. Matheson of Boone, president of the First District Dental Society, which holds its annual meeting in Lenoir Monday.

Dentists To Gather In Annual Convention

Lenoir, Sept. 29.—Dr. John Russell Mitchell of Atlanta, will make one of the principal talks at the 22nd annual meeting of the First District Dental Society at the Carleheim hotel here October 5.

The meeting will be preceded by a golf tournament, to be held next Sunday afternoon. An organ recital will take place at the First Baptist church Sunday night.

The meeting will be called to order at 8:45 a. m., Monday, October 5, by Dr. William M. Matheson of Boone, president. The invocation will be by Dr. O. R. Mangum of the First Baptist church, the address of welcome by Mayor Earl Tate and the response by Dr. S. E. Moser of Gastonia. Dr. Matheson's presidential address will follow.

Those making talks, all on technical subjects, during the morning meeting include Dr. S. P. Gay of Waynesville, Dr. H. O. Lineberger of Raleigh, and Dr. Mitchell.

At the luncheon meeting, Lieut. David Abernethy will be toastmaster and the principal address will be by Dr. Willis S. Parker of Asheville.

Cannons Are Removed From Courthouse Lawn

The large cannons, relics of the World War, which were placed on the courthouse green several years ago by Watauga Post, American Legion, have been moved from the premises, and sold to a Bristol junk dealer for use in fabricating improved war machinery. The larger of the two weapons, a British-made field gun, weighed 9,000 pounds, while the other artillery piece weighs 7,500 pounds. The Legion received 45 cents per hundred for the metal.

BANNER ELK SCHOOL HAS GOOD ENROLLMENT

Banner Elk, Sept. 28.—Banner Elk school now has 306 pupils enrolled, according to Principal W. R. Fields, which is only slightly under last year's enrollment. The decrease can be accounted for by the fact that some families have gone to defense areas to live, and a large number of pupils have transferred into the high school department which is located at Cranberry.

The diamond is the hardest and most imperishable of minerals.

BLACKOUT TEST VERY SUCCESSFUL IN THIS REGION

100 Per Cent Co-operation in First State-Wide Blackout; Boone and Blowing Rock and Area Roundabout Douse Lights; No More Pre-Arranged Blackouts

The state-wide blackout test conducted Tuesday evening, arranged on the 25th anniversary of the breaking of the Hindenburg line in the other World War by North Carolina troops of the 30th division, met with enthusiastic response by the people of Watauga county.

In Boone all lights were quickly extinguished when the alarm was sounded, very few residents had to be asked to co-operate by the wardens, and within a few minutes the blackout was 100 per cent. Word comes from Blowing Rock to the effect that the people of that town likewise extinguished every ray of light promptly, country people responded well and automobile traffic was stopped.

Civilian Defense Chairman Wade E. Brown, takes occasion to express appreciation to all wardens and the people generally for their fine patriotic spirit in enforcing the blackout, which incidentally will be the last to be pre-arranged in this state. In the future there will be no notification of a blackout other than the usual alarm.

Tells How Men In Service May Vote Absentee

Matter Is Causing Much Confusion in State, Eure Reports

Raleigh, Sept. 29.—Secretary of State Thad Eure today endeavored to clear up "much confusion" that has arisen over arrangements being made for members of the armed services to vote in November's general election by absentee ballot.

The confusion has arisen, Eure said, because there are two laws under which soldiers, sailors, marines or coast guardsmen can vote absentee. One is the state law and the other is the recently enacted federal law.

Members of the armed services generally can vote under either—but not both—laws. But if they choose to vote under the federal law they can vote only for U. S. senator and members of congress. If they decide to vote under the state law, they can vote for senator, members of congress and state and local officials.

Another difference between the state and federal law is that the federal act does not require members of the armed service to be registered before they are permitted to vote, and the state law does require them to be registered.

The federal law is being administered in this state by Eure and the state law is being administered by the regular election officials. Under the federal law members of the armed services will get cards informing them that if they are qualified voters they can vote in the general election by absentee ballot. Those who want to vote will send this card to the secretary of state and he will send them ballots and instructions on how to vote. The ballots will be returned to the secretary of state and he in turn will send them to the chairman of the board of elections in the voters' home counties.

These instructions will call attention to the fact that members of the armed services can "elect to vote an absentee ballot in this election under our state law for all national, state, county and local officers." The instructions will advise members of the armed services that if they want to vote under the state law they should write to the chairman of their county elections board requesting an official absentee ballot application or have some member of their families apply for the ballot. The federal act provides that if both federal and state ballots are sent in by the same voter, the federal ballot is to be disregarded.

Jack Frost Pays His Initial Visit

Tuesday morning a heavy frost visited the region, and mercury dropped to slightly below the freezing point, in the first grim reminder of approaching winter. The frost followed closely on the heels of a general rain.

Wednesday morning an even heavier frost blanketed the countryside.