



DISTRICT FARM MEETING TO BE HELD SATURDAY

Plans For Increased Production Of Food to Come Up For Discussion at Gathering; Community Meetings Are Scheduled To Be Held Later.

Various agencies, county and city groups from this area, will be represented in a meeting to be held in Boone Saturday, to discuss the problem of food production in North Carolina for the year 1943.

District meetings are being held throughout the state to discuss the food problem with farm leaders, after which meetings will be held in the various communities and counties to plan with individual farmers.

These district meetings are an outgrowth of the Southern regional meeting held in Tennessee recently when the importance of increased food production on the farms of the South was stressed. Following the meeting in Boone representatives will meet with Caldwell farmers to explain their part in the nation's food production program.

Russians Threaten The Extermination of One Million German Troops

Moscow.—The Red Army has captured Kotelnikovski, key railroad town 90 miles southwest of Stalingrad, scoring one of the greatest triumphs of the winter offensive, and threatening the extermination of 1,000,000 German troops in South Russia.

The announcement said merely, "our troops took possession of the town and railway station of Kotelnikovski," giving no detail.

The absence of reports on fighting and casualties raised the possibility that the German Garrison, virtually encircled 24 hours earlier, might have fled through a narrow lane of Soviet assault troops, yielding the rich prize without a struggle.

The special bulletin said that with Kotelnikovski, stronghold anchoring a 200 mile stretch of the Stalingrad-Caucasus railway, the Russians took big stores of booty. It included 17 undamaged German planes, one train loaded with tents, and quantities of aviation and tank equipment.

No Increase in Gasoline Ration Seen By Byrnes

Economic stabilization director, James F. Byrnes, said Tuesday that continually increasing military petroleum needs made it impossible to predict any increase in civilian supplies along the eastern shortage area.

He met for several hours with presidents of six railroads called to Washington to explore possible methods of relieving the shortage of both gasoline and fuel oils but said later that nothing discussed "offered any hope that we are going to be able to increase the supply" for civilian use beyond figures already in effect.

The office of defense transportation, meantime, moved to alleviate the shortage by ordering nearly one-half of the nation's 143,000 tank cars frozen in petroleum service for the Atlantic shortage area.

Byrnes said that military needs abroad are more likely to increase than decrease, and that the hope of increasing deliveries to the east are not bright. Ocean tankers cannot be diverted because they now are devoted almost primarily to serving military needs and delays have been encountered in construction of an oil pipeline from Texas and it probably will not be in operation until February 1.

President Roosevelt to Confer With DeGaulle

President Roosevelt has confirmed reports that he expects to confer soon with Fighting French leader, General Charles DeGaulle—a move calculated to hasten unification of French factions for the common fight to liberate France and conquer Germany.

The disclosure came a few hours after the president—in the role of No. 1 peacemaker among the various French elements—conferred with two representatives of Gen. Henri Honore Giraud, new French high commissioner in Africa.

He said no date had been set for DeGaulle's visit, but other sources understood the fighting French leader would come here in three or four weeks.

Junior Order Leader



REV. J. C. CANIPE

CANIPE IS ELECTED JUNIOR COUNCILOR

Other Officers Named at December Meeting; Meeting Date Now is Third Monday.

Rev. J. C. Canipe, pastor of the Boone Baptist Church was elected Councilor of the Daniel Boone Council, Jr. O. U. A. M., at a meeting of the organization held on December 21st.

Other officers elected were: W. M. Cook, Vice-Councilor; Clyde Greene, Financial Secretary; Russell D. Hodges, Recording Secretary; W. C. Greer, Treasurer; R. D. Shoemaker, Conductor; John W. Hodges, Jr., Warden; S. B. Greene, Inside Sentinel; Perry Greene, Outside Sentinel; Howard Shore, Chaplain.

It was decided to hold future Junior meetings on the third Monday evening of each month at 7:30.

Preachers, Deacons To Gather Monday

The preachers and deacons of the Three Forks Baptist Association will meet in an important session at the Boone Baptist Church, Monday, January 4, at 2 p. m. The subject for the meeting is "Intemperance," and the following program has been arranged:

1. The Cost of Intemperance to the Home, Ronda Earp. Open discussion.
 2. The Cost of Intemperance to Society, Rev. D. M. Edmisten. Open discussion.
 3. The Cost of Intemperance in Eternity, W. D. Ashley. Open discussion.
- All preachers and deacons of the Three Forks Association, and others as well, are invited to come and take part in this timely and important discussion.

Readers are asked to look up these scripture references: Deuteronomy 21:18-21; Proverbs 23:20-21; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; Proverbs 31:4-9; Isaiah 5:11-24; Proverbs 4:10-18.

Watauga Sailor, Member Crew Ill-Fated "Lexington" Tells Story of Sea Battles

Following is a newspaper clipping sent by Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Rowe, of Valle Crucis, having to do with the experiences of their son Howard, while on active duty with the navy in Pacific waters. The name of the newspaper wasn't mentioned, but anyway it is a vivid first-hand story of the fight against the Japs:

This morning at the Camp Traveler, was told to an American reporter one of the most intriguing stories of danger, excitement, and luck on the high seas.

The narrator was Howard Rowe, gun captain, U. S. Navy, unassigned. Unassigned, because he has at present no ship on which to live. Unassigned, because the last two ships of which he was a crew member, were sunk by the enemy, the Japanese.

Howard and his pretty, young and red-haired wife of three weeks and his brother and wife, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Rowe were en route to their family home at Valle Crucis, N. C. This afternoon they returned to Sacramento, the home of the Henry Rowes.

The reason for such a story coming first hand to Tucumcari—Howard is on leave of absence from the Navy, and he and his bride, his brother and wife were on their happy way to see the boys' parents, whom the sailor had not seen since his enlistment in the Navy four years ago, the other brother had not been home

KEPHARTS RECEIVE DETAILS DEATH OF SON IN PACIFIC WAR

Lieutenant Kephart Killed By Enemy Shell; Buried on Guadalcanal; Flight Commander Pays Tribute to Bravery Of Watauga County Aviator.

Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Kephart have returned to their home at Camp Yonahlossee from a five weeks' trip to Washington, Philadelphia, and New York, part of the time looking after the affairs and effects of their son, Lieutenant W. P. Kephart, who was with the airplane carrier Wasp recently sunk in the South Pacific, and bring some further information concerning his death.

Lieutenant Kephart, it is revealed was not on the Wasp at the time of the attack, but was on a scouting flight. His squadron went to Guadalcanal Island, where they participated in the fighting until October 14, when Lieutenant Kephart was killed. The following letter has just been received from the commander of the deceased man's squadron, and gives the most recent information about what actually took place:

"Those of us who have returned from Guadalcanal have impressed on our minds forever the memory of those pilots and gunners of our squadron, who, after inflicting severe damage on enemy surface forces in numerous attacks, after many days of active aerial combat with the enemy, and after undergoing the 'hell' of the enemy bombs and shells, finally made the ultimate sacrifice for their country. No man can do more. No American aircraft squadron can be prouder of their pilots whom they leave behind than we, who have returned, are of Bill.

"Bill was splendid; exceedingly popular, and possessed of a sense of humor and intellect that emanates confidence and keenness. He was one of the squadron's main cylinders and his passing has been felt deeply by all. Some day, we who remain, will return to fight the enemy, and we will be stronger in the fine memory of Bill. We shall never forget him.

"About two, on the night, of October 14, we were all awakened by the deep roar of naval guns and the crashing of shells in our bivouac area. Bill and I lived in the same tent. He went to a dug-out close by and I to a second one. Unfortunately the dug-out in which Bill sought refuge, received a direct hit. A number of officers, including Bill, were killed instantly. He is buried in a grove of rubber trees on Lunga Point, Guadalcanal.

"I hope I may have the opportunity to tell you in person of the many splendid days spent in the company of your son, and repeat again the story of his accomplishments and bravery."

Mr. H. T. Heffner, who is making his home with a daughter, Mrs. G. K. Moose, has been quite ill for the past week.

BURLEY SALES TO RE-OPEN MONDAY

Sales of burley leaf on the floors of the local warehouses will be resumed for the post-holiday period on next Monday, and indications are that the sales will be large and the record prices maintained, in the end-of-season sales.

Roscoe Coleman, warehouseman, is highly pleased with the sales so far this season. About one and three-quarter million pounds of burley has been sold for a record average of \$41.27. This figure surpasses all former years on the local market, both as to total poundage and money paid to the growers.

Out of Fight on 'Guad'—But He'll Be Back



A wounded Marine is shown being carried aboard a landing barge on the beach at Guadalcanal Island in the Solomons. He was transferred to a waiting transport for evacuation from the battle area, and will live to fight another day.

1943 To Bring Various Changes In Civilian Life, Says Babson's Forecast

Thumbnail Outlook for 1943

1. TOTAL BUSINESS: Defense production will be sharply up, plus 50%; non-defense down sharply, minus 33%, accompanied by a drastic standardization of products.
2. EMPLOYMENT: The above also applies to employment, if we do not include the armed forces.
3. FARM INCOME: Will be up 5% in 1943 over 1942.
4. DIVIDENDS AND BUSINESS EARNINGS: Have passed their peaks and will be lower in 1943 than in 1942.
5. LABOR: There will be practically no strikes until the end of the war, and wages will gradually become stabilized.
6. COMMODITY PRICES: Will strengthen somewhat, especially the prices of manufactured goods. Commodity prices indexes will indicate far less than the actual advance.
7. TAXES: Will be felt severely, especially by the white-collar group who can expect no pay increases.
8. RETAIL TRADE: Will be 12% off in physical volume in 1943 compared with 1942.
9. HIGH GRADE BONDS: Should decline, but good Stocks should sell higher.
10. CREEPING INFLATION: Will continue throughout 1943.

Says Hope Of America Lies With Small Business Man; Help Seen For Retailers; Better War News Expected and Creeping Inflation to Continue

By ROGER W. BABSON.

Babson Park, Mass. Dec. 31.—Events are moving at breath-taking speed. Never before has the world been in the midst of such far-reaching turmoil. Within the next hour news might break



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that will change the whole course of history. Nevertheless, it is vitally important to keep your perspective. To change your business or investment program with every piece of war news is utmost folly. A good example of this was portrayed when the United States opened up a second front in Africa. That morning many thousands of self-appointed commentators were convinced that the war was going to last at least five years. Yet by midnight of the same day these same commentators could see nothing but a short war and a quick victory. Let us now, therefore, confine this outlook to probabilities.

Retail Trade.
The first quarter of 1943 should equal the first quarter of 1942; considering the entire year, a decline of 12% is probable. Just what will happen depends on two things: First, upon the quantity of goods; and second, to what extent consumers are willing to take substitutes. Washington talks about 300,000 retailers being put out of business; but I believe this is entirely unnecessary. If landlords will be easy on rents, as sensible ones should be, practically all retailers can run on a skeleton force, and keep alive until the war is over, when business again should be good.

The hope of America lies not with big business concerns, but with the small businessmen. These small businessmen must be protected in order to preserve democracy. I go further and say that the preservation of democracy depends upon the small businessman.

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Andrew Casey Dies From Short Illness; Well-Known Here

Andrew H. Casey, prominent attorney of North Wilkesboro, died at a Winston-Salem hospital Sunday from an illness of only a few days, prior to which time he was apparently in good health.

Mr. Casey was a graduate of Appalachian College and was well-known in Boone. Soon after finishing at Wake Forest College, he established his law office in North Wilkesboro, and became one of the best-known attorneys in this section of the state. He was a leader, likewise, in the religious, civic, fraternal and public life of Wilkes county. He served as attorney for Wilkes county for a number of years, and was a leader of the Republican party serving as chairman of its executive committee there for eight years. He

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BOONE LAD LOSES LIFE IN CHRISTMAS HUNTING ACCIDENT

Gray Howell, Son of Prof. V. C. Howell, Instantly Killed When Shotgun Is Accidentally Fired; Funeral Services Conducted On Saturday Afternoon.

Vance Gray Howell, 14 years old, son of Professor V. C. Howell of Appalachian College, and the late Mrs. Katrina Walsh Howell, met instant death from an accidental gunshot wound, as he hunted upland game in the vicinity of the Howell old homestead in Bald Mountain Township, on Christmas day.

The hunting party, composed of the Howell lad, his father, and a cousin, Paul Howell, was following after some ruffed grouse. Vance stepped upon a slanting log, fell, and the hammer of the 20 gauge shotgun which he carried, presumably struck the side of the log. The full load of shot entered the head just beside the right eye. Death was instantaneous. The father and cousin to the deceased lad were within a few feet of him when the accident occurred.

Funeral services were conducted from the Boone Baptist Church last Saturday afternoon at 3:30, Rev. J. C. Canipe, the pastor, being in charge and interment was in the city cemetery, the Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home taking care of the arrangements.

Gray was a sophomore at Appalachian High School, and his class attended the services in a body. Members of the class and other close friends acted as pall bearers and flower girls. The floral offering was profuse and beautiful.

Gray had a host of friends in the school and the community who share the sorrow occasioned by his tragic death. He was exceptionally popular with his school mates and was making a fine record in school, where he was a leader in his class. He greatly enjoyed outdoor sports and excelled in hunting and fishing.

The immediate survivors are the father and one sister, Rheta Kate, of Boone.

Quiet Celebration Of Yuletide Is Reported In This Community

Christmas passed off quietly in Boone, most of the residents staying by their own firesides for the celebration of the festive period. Because of gasoline and tire restrictions local people, on the whole, desisted from holiday trips. A large number of soldiers visited with homefolks, adding materially to the happiness of the Yuletide and a good many workers from the war plants were privileged to visit briefly in the county.

Only eleven were placed in the county jail during the week, Deputy Sheriff Wiley Day reports, all of them for inebriety. Seven had breakfast Christmas morning in the bastille and four took supper with Jailer Day. No disturbances marked the holidays, however. The one fatal accident of the week, the death of Vance Gray Howell by the discharge of a shotgun, brought sorrow to the otherwise happy occasion.

Retail business was at a record peak during the closing days of the pre-Christmas shopping period, and despite curtailed production of civilian merchandise, the foresight of local stores in buying well ahead of their requirements, resulted in everyone's gift list being filled completely and satisfactorily.

U. S. Troops Widen Wedge in Jap Lines

American and Australian troops have expanded a wedge driven into the Japanese lines southeast of Buna mission and have hurled back a new enemy counter-attack on the left side of their lines, it was announced Tuesday, as field dispatches reported the Japs making a last ditch defense of their shattered New Guinea positions.

The wedge was reported smashed into the Jap lines between Gairopa point and the mouth of Sinemi creek which flows between Gairopa and the southeastern end of the main airfield which now is in allied hands. Another has been driven to the sea over the week-end about 800 yards southeast of the mission, which is 1,300 yards from the point.

The mid-day communique from General MacArthur's main headquarters here said that yesterday, on the right side of their lines, allied troops "expanded their initial wedge still further west," indicating that they were pushing the Japs back up toward the mission.