



# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT



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BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, MARCH 18, 1943.

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## RED CROSS FUND IS 25 PER CENT ABOVE GOAL FOR COUNTY

War Fund Chairman Says \$4,560 Already Reported Against Quota of County of \$3,500.00; Says Final Figures Will Show \$5,000; Many Reports Yet To Be Received.

Clyde R. Greene, chairman of the Red Cross War Fund Drive, stated Tuesday afternoon that a tabulation of late reports indicates that Watauga county people have subscribed already \$4,560.48, or more than 25% in excess of the quota set up of \$3,500.

Mr. Greene states that a number of reports are yet to come in and that it is reasonably safe to state that the final figures will be no less than \$5,000.

Referring to the splendid response of the people of Watauga county, Mr. Greene said it hadn't really been "much of a job" so far as the central committee is concerned, and added that "the fine response was simply a spontaneous action on the part of the good people of the county, who realize fully the gravity of the international situation, and the part that the Red Cross plays in aiding and ministering to our men in uniform."

Mr. Greene, in thanking all those who have aided in this work, asks that late reports be forwarded him as quickly as possible.

The Democrat has been trying to publish the name of every contributor. Most newspapers only attempt to publish the special gifts, but we feel that all should be recognized. However because of the huge number of contributors involved the names will be published from week to week, as space permits. Below are as many as can be handled today but others will appear in our next edition:

- Boone
- Albert C. Farthing \$2.00, Mary Theresa McNeil 5.00, J. W. Norris 5.00, Roxanna Bingham 5.00, Mrs. W. J. Dukess 5.00, Gordon C. Taylor 5.00, Paul A. Coffey 5.00, A. E. South 2.00, Dave P. Mast 2.00, Amelia C. Greer 3.00, Iake Tuckwiller 5.00, Alma Hodges 1.00, Forrest Smith 3.00, Alice Robbins 1.00, J. D. Winebarger 1.00, June Lee Russell 1.00, W. H. Walker 1.00, Ruth McConnell 1.00, Helen Underdown 2.00, E. D. Cook 10.00, I. B. Wilson 1.00, W. B. Day 1.00, Elizabeth Bridge 6.00, H. W. Horton 1.00, Pansy Woodie 1.00, Edna Stansberry 1.00, Mrs. W. S. Penn 1.00, Fannie H. Hodges 1.00, Mrs. L. S. Isaacs 2.00, Nettie Lee Shop 10.00, A & P Store 5.00, City Meat Market 15.00, Qualls Furniture Store 10.00, Stallings Jewelry Store 10.00, Dixie Home Store 5.00, M. & J. Store 1.00, Charlie's Bowling Center 25.00, McGuire's Beauty Shop 5.00, Daniel Boone Hotel 50.00, Snow Lodge No. 363, A. F. & A. M. 50.00, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home 25.00, D. R. Hodgins 2.00, Timbered Ridge Baptist Church 1.72, Poplar Grove Baptist Church 7.50, T. M. Shore 5.00, L. M. Hodges 5.00, Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Hodges 6.00, Dewey Hodges 1.00, G. B. Miller 1.00, L. F. Cottrell 1.00, Mrs. L. F. Cottrell 1.00, Mrs. Laura Cottrell 1.00, Mrs. J. E. Clay 1.00, Mrs. J. F. Carter 1.00, Mrs. W. M. Cook 1.00, Mrs. W. H. Gragg 4.00, Mrs. J. B. Hagaman 1.00, Mrs. Ruth Graybeal 1.00, Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Cannon 5.00, Mrs. W. M. Burwell 1.00, Mrs. Coker Triplett 1.00, Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Smith 2.00, Mrs. Dewitt Barnett 1.00, Dewitt Barnett 10.00, Mrs. A. E. South 1.00, Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Taylor 2.50, Mrs. Ella Higgins 2.50, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Lyon 1.00, Mrs. Carrie Adams 1.00, Mrs. Bill Rush 1.00, Mrs. H. S. Storie 1.00, Mrs. J. L. Storie 1.00, Mrs. Elsie Hagaman 1.00, Mrs. D. L. Wilcox 2.00, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. W. Davis 5.00, Mr. and Mrs. Roy Hagaman 1.00, Mrs. T. Len Cook 1.00, Mrs. Vera C. Tunnell 1.00, Mr. and Mrs. Thompson 5.00, Robert W. Pulliam 5.00, Walter Bumgarner 1.00, Edna Bingham 1.00, Will H. Hayes 5.00, Roby G. Greer 1.00, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Greene 2.00, Mrs. W. M. Grubbs 2.00, Estelle Grubbs 1.00, Mrs. Flucie Stewart 5.00, Mrs. Florence Barbee 1.00, Mrs. J. T. C. Wright 1.00, Isabel Eggers 1.00, Beth Eggers 1.00, Mary Jean Garbee 1.00, Everett Lee Garbee 1.00, Mrs. E. E. Garbee 5.00, Mrs. A. J. Payne 1.00, Mrs. Frank M. Payne 1.00, Mrs. Earl Payne Thomas 2.00, Mrs. John F. Hardin 1.00, Mrs. Jessie McGuire 3.00, Mrs. Henry Greene 2.50, Mr. and Mrs. Hall Smith 1.00, Mrs. H. M. Hamilton 1.00, Mrs. Frank Miller 1.00, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Leighty 10.00, Mrs. M. R. Maddux 2.00, Mrs. Wayne Richardson 1.00, Dr. and Mrs. E. T. Glenn 25.00, Mrs. Ralph Mast 1.25, A friend .50, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith 10.00.
- (Continued on page eight)

## Thirteen Lucky Number For Sub Crew



Thirteen is the lucky number of the crew of this U. S. submarine, but unlucky for the Nips. The sub's special tally flag, with its own device in the center, counts ten Jap merchantmen and three Jap warships sent to Davy Jones' locker. The submarine, which was not named, was commanded by Lieutenant Commander Lucius Henry Chappell, 38, of Columbus, Ga. Its "bag" was one of the most impressive of the war.

## Mrs. Annie Rominger, With 7 Sons In Army, Termed "All American Mother"

Camp Lee, Va.—On every street, in every home, and in every gathering you now see Stars of Honor being proudly displayed to pay tribute to loved ones serving in the armed forces of our country.

To Mrs. Annie Rominger, mother of Private Richard W. Rominger, Co. B, Eighth Regiment, Camp Lee and the Camp Lee Traveller, extend their most military salute and congratulations as the "All-American mother."

For Mrs. Rominger, probably unknown to herself, is the winner of the Traveller search for the mother of the largest military family with a representative at Camp Lee.

Seven Sons in Service. And here is the reason. Mrs. Rominger is the mother of seven sons serving their country. A real record to shoot at—seven from the same family in Uncle Sam's armed forces. As a tribute to Mrs. Rominger, the

Traveller will forward, as soon as possible, a large white service flag with a red border, bearing seven blue stars—one for each of her sons in the service.

Out of the mountains of Watauga County, N. C., went the first of the Romingers 10 years ago to join the army. Since that time six sons have followed. Two sons, both married, and two young girls remain at Matney to help Mr. and Mrs. Rominger conduct a large farm and operate a sawmill.

With the more than a score of entries in the contest, the decision was an easy one, for the Romingers were the only family with seven immediate members in the service.

Mrs. Rominger's seven sons in the army include offsprings serving with the Quartermaster Corps, Infantry, Air Corps, among other branches of the service in the United States and overseas.

## BLACKOUT TO BE THURSDAY NIGHT

A local blackout will be arranged for Thursday night March 18, in this area, it was announced at press time by the local Council of Civilian Defense, the primary purpose of this test being to acquaint the people with the signals used for heralding such occasions.

The blue signal will be heard at 8:50 p. m.; the red at 9:00 p. m. and the blue at 9:10 p. m. No all-clear will be sounded. The all-clear will be announced by radio.

## OPA EASES UP ON TIRE RATIONING

Price Administrator Prentiss Brown liberalized tire rationing for a second time Tuesday and expressed belief that all motorists will be able "to keep their cars on the road" as the result of the release of additional tires by Rubber Administrator William Jeffers.

Effective April 1 Brown made Grade II tires available to drivers with gasoline mileage allowances exceeding 240 miles a month—most B, C and T card holders. These tires, which include new tires made before 1938, other new but slightly damaged tires, and Victory tires made of reclaimed rubber, were available previously only to passenger cars driven more than 560 miles per month.

At the same time Brown announced that motorists eligible for 560 or more miles will be allowed to buy a limited number of Grade I tires, the highest grade casings. The tires, previously reserved for drivers with a ration exceeding 1,000 miles a month.

All of these types of tires, however, still have to be obtained with certificates issued by local ration boards.

## Small Articles May Be Sent to Men Overseas

Postmaster John E. Brown, Jr., states that small articles, such as razor blades, etc., not weighing over 8 ounces and sent prepaid at first class rates may now be delivered to men in foreign service.

## SIXTEEN THOUSAND RATION BOOKS ARE DISTRIBUTED HERE

"Watauga Plan" For Registration Under Rationing System Is Decidedly Successful; OPA Praises People Who Have Aided in New Program; Resolutions Are Drafted.

The "Watauga Plan" for the registration for War Ration Book No. 2 has been a marked success in this county. With registration now about completed, more than 16,000 books have been distributed among the men, women, and children, and this work has been done without the loss of a single book.

The new book with its red and blue stamps has been in operation for about fifteen days, and observers are saying that the whole undertaking has met with the most kindly and patriotic response from everyone.

At a meeting this week of the local OPA board, the officials were outspoken in their praise for all the people who have helped start the new program. The parents, the school children, the merchants, and principals were generously praised and officially thanked for their loyal cooperation. The board unanimously adopted the following resolutions:

"Whereas our country has asked every patriotic and law-abiding citizen to cooperate in a program of rationing certain foods which are necessary to win the war, and

Whereas the registration for the new War Ration Book No. 2 has been completed in Watauga county, be it resolved:

1. That the school teachers and principals deserve much of the credit for getting the new program started. For their unselfish service the local OPA board hereby extends official thanks.
2. That the school boys and girls who helped their teachers and parents, deserve the thanks of all the good citizens.
3. That the grocermen of the county have and are cooperating patriotically in this war effort.
4. That the Watauga Democrat and Mr. Dacus' radio shop have helped make the registration a success through their generous publicity.
5. That a copy of these resolutions be sent to the Watauga Democrat with the request that they be published.

The resolutions were signed by Gordon Winkler, County OPA chairman, and Richard Olsen, executive secretary.

## Merchants Group To Hold Annual Banquet

The annual ladies' night meeting and employer-employees banquet of the Boone Merchants Association is to be held at the Gateway Cafe on Thursday night, March 25th at 7:30. This will be a joint meeting with the Boone Chamber of Commerce.

## The Publisher Makes Statement Of Policy

The publisher of the Democrat takes occasion to thank the 500 readers who have renewed their subscriptions since the "deadline" for renewals was set just a week ago today. This shows that the county newspaper is really appreciated and its circulation has reached an all-time high.

The revision of the mailing list has been affected, and everyone who was not paid up at least until today, was dropped from the list. If you receive this copy of the paper and your address label date shows your subscription has expired—it's just an error on our part, for we think we got everyone deleted who was even a week behind.

The readers have had long notice of the adoption of this cash policy, both through these columns, and by notices mailed them individually—so again, if your subscription expires with this issue, you won't get a paper next week, unless renewal is made by next Wednesday. This rule will be strictly and impartially adhered to and will be a permanent policy of this newspaper. At least for the duration, subscription notices will not be sent out, so readers should watch the date on their label, for that is the exact date the paper will be stopped if not renewed.

In revising a list of some 2200 names, errors could have occurred. Any such errors noted should be promptly reported.

## Vonley Triplett Seriously Injured As Officer's Bullets Finish Local Street Fight

### Housewife's Friend



Mrs. Phillip L. Crowlie of Huron, S. D., looks over charts at the Office of Price Administration in Washington. She has been chosen to represent housewives at policy hearings of the OPA, and to explain new orders to the nation's women. Mrs. Crowlie has three children.

### Officer Gross Says Shots Fired In Self-Defense

Elk Township Man Patient In Wilkes Hospital, Following Altercation With Chief Gross; Local Policeman Relates Story of Street Fighting Which Culminated Tragically.

Vonley Triplett, about 40 years old, a resident of Elk township, was shot and perhaps fatally injured Saturday afternoon, by Police Chief A. L. Gross, as he and Deputy Sheriff Wiley Day attempted to incarcerate him, two sons and a brother, whom the officers state were intoxicated.

Two shots fired by the police officer. One of them is said to have passed through the body, fracturing the spinal column, while the other landed in the hip. Reports from the Wilkes Hospital, where the injured man was rushed after the shooting, at first indicated that there was little hope of his recovery, but later information tells of some improvement in his condition.

According to the officer's story of the affair, Vonley Triplett, his brother Clyde Triplett, and two sons, Raymond and Gurney Triplett had been in town throughout Saturday afternoon, drinking rather heavily. Mr. Gross states that late Saturday afternoon, he in company with Deputy Sheriff Wiley Day, were riding down the street near the Mrs. E. S. Coffey home, as the Triplett men were going along the street, "staggering and cursing." Mr. Gross stated that he and Mr. Day stopped, approached them, and told them they were drunk and under arrest. He took hold of Clyde, he states, who cursed him and averred he wasn't going to jail. After a scuffle, Mr. Gross says, in which he was struck by Clyde, the latter was placed in the police car.

Vonley then is alleged to have approached the officer, with much profanity, vowing that neither of the four would go to jail—that they would go nowhere. In the subsequent scuffle, as the officers attempted to effect the arrest, Mr. Gross says that Clyde struck him twice from behind, probably with his fist. The officer says he struck Raymond with his billy when the latter "came at me with a rock." As the culmination of the fight in which the four men engaged, Chief Gross says he fired the two shots in self-defense, both of them taking effect in Vonley Triplett's body. Mr. Gross then aided in getting the injured man to a local hospital, and later an ambulance was called and he was sent to the North Wilkesboro hospital. Clyde and Raymond Triplett were placed in jail, but the officers allowed Gurney to accompany his father to the hospital.

This statement given the Democrat by Officer Gross is verified in detail by Deputy Wiley Day.

No legal action has been taken against Mr. Gross, pending the outcome of Vonley Triplett's injuries.

## LIONS OBSERVE LADIES NIGHT

Plans Being Made For Benefit Minstrel To Be Staged Here Soon.

The Boone Lions Club met Monday evening, the annual ladies night banquet being the feature of the gathering, which was largely attended.

The entertaining program was in charge of Lion Robert R. King, and Dr. Amos Abrams announced the various committees for the home-talent benefit minstrel, which is to be staged at the Appalachian Theatre soon.

The following representatives of the local club attended a meeting in Shelby Tuesday honoring the international president Edd Payne; Dr. D. J. Whitener, Deputy District Governor Dr. Abrams, Dr. King, R. A. Manship, Lee Reynolds and Wade E. Brown. Other clubs of western North Carolina were represented.

## Yankee Subs Claim Four More Jap Ships In Pacific Sealanes

American submarines have sunk four more Jap ships, including a destroyer and a troop transport, and damaged three other vessels in their ceaseless war of attrition against the enemy's Pacific supply lines, the navy revealed Tuesday.

Listed as sunk, besides the destroyer and transport, one large cargo vessel and one medium-sized cargo ship.

Damaged were one medium-sized and one small cargo ship and a medium-sized tanker.

They raised the tally sheet of American submarine victories to 137 ships sunk, 23 probably sunk, and 38 damaged, a total of 198.

Since Pearl Harbor American combat forces of all types have sunk a total of 316 Jap ships, with submarines accounting for 40 per cent of the toll.

## Red Army Within 50 Miles Of Powerful Smolensk Nazi Base

The Red Army rolled the Germans back on the important front west of Moscow yesterday, driving to within 50 miles of the powerful Nazi key base of Smolensk and capturing a score of populated places, but to the south in the Donets basin below Kharkov Russian troops were locked in a great defensive battle against strong German tank and motorized infantry forces.

In the southern sector, the Berlin radio stated, the Russians were reported as retreating east of Kharkov, beaten, and in no position to attempt to retake the city they had evacuated, while the Russian communiqué, although reporting tactical successes, made it clear that heavy fighting was under way.

The most practical methods of food preservation, in order of their importance, are—steam pressure canning, hot water cooking, freezing, drying, and brining.

## A. G. Qualls Receives Federal Appointment

Archie G. Qualls, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Qualls of Boone, has been appointed to the legal department of the Office of Price Administration and is attached to divisional headquarters with offices in the law building, Charlotte. Mr. Qualls resigned his position with the U. S. Casualty Company on January 9, after having served as adjuter for Western North Carolina for three and a half years and assumed his present position on January 11.

In his new position Mr. Qualls has served as prosecutor of OPA violators for the City of Charlotte and Mecklenburg county. His duties also include the investigation of black market activities in the Charlotte division which includes the 48 western North Carolina counties.

A. J. Eubanks of Hookerton, Greene County, is delighted with his 4 acres of Loblolly pines, set two years ago. He has 95 percent of a stand and the trees average three feet in height.