



CHRISTMAS GIFTS FOR SOLDIERS TO BE BOUGHT SOON

Local Postmaster Gives Out Information Regarding Sending Of Gifts to Men in the Armed Forces; Must Begin Shopping For These Men by 15th.

The Christmas shopping season is here, even though the weather is yet warm, says Postmaster John E. Brown, who reminds that mailing gifts for army and navy personnel overseas must begin by September 15th, if many of the men and women in our armed services are not to be disappointed, and September 15 isn't quite two weeks away.

Christmas gifts, Mr. Brown explains, may be mailed by parcel post to Army men and women overseas only between September 15th and October 15th. After the latter date, such parcels may not be mailed unless a written request from the soldier for the article is presented with each parcel. No soldier should have to ASK for a Christmas gift; so the gifts must be mailed on time. The Navy also urges that gifts be mailed between September 15 and October 15.

Reasons for the early mailing dates are: The vast distances that the parcels must travel to reach our men at war fronts and stations the world over; frequent transfers of thousands of men from one location to another, which means forwarding of the mail and consumes additional time; the necessity of giving preference to reinforcements, arms, munitions, medicine and food in allotment of shipping space, which often means that the shipment of gifts must wait. And it is most urgent that the gifts be delivered to the men IN TIME FOR CHRISTMAS, to keep their spirits high.

The only way to insure against disappointment for the fighting men is to buy at once and mail early—mail your gifts as soon as possible after the September 15th starting date.

Those who have relatives or friends in the service should remember that we have fighting men in Alaska, Greenland, Iceland, England, Sicily, far-separated regions in Africa, the near Eastern countries, Australia, many of the Pacific Islands, India, China, South America, and other areas.

Weeks are required for a ship to reach many of these stations. There can be no assurance, of course, that the first ship sailing for any of these locations will have space available to carry Christmas parcels. Gifts may have to wait until vitally needed supplies and equipment have been shipped, to assure victory and to save the lives of our men. If the parcels are not mailed early, that delay may prove to be just enough to prevent their arrival by Christmas day, with consequent disappointment to the men who are offering their lives for their country and ours.

Mail of all kinds is vital to the spirit of fighting men. Every officer who has inspected our Army and Navy postal facilities overseas has reported that thousands of fighting men disregard mess call when it conflicts with mail call, and get the letters first. Officers at our large military and naval stations report that the efficiency of their men receive a distinct lift when mail is distributed, and that a delay in mail service caused a decided decline in spirit with a consequent let-down in efficiency.

A disconsolate soldier or sailor who thinks he has been forgotten at Christmas time obviously is not at his best. So the gifts MUST be mailed on time so that they can arrive on time.

Rules for Christmas mailings to the fighting forces overseas, include the following:

The parcel must not exceed five pounds, and must not be more than 15 inches in length or 36 inches in length and girth combined. It should be marked "Christmas parcel" so that it may be given special attention to assure its arrival before December 25.

Not more than one parcel may be mailed in any one week to the same member of the armed forces by or in behalf of the same mailer.

The parcel must be well and strongly packed in a container of metal, wood, strong fiber board, or similar material, then wrapped in strong paper and tied with a twine. The cover should be such that it can be opened readily for censorship. The contents should be packed tightly.

Perishable goods, such as fruits that may spoil, are prohibited. Inflammable, inflammable materials, such as matches or lighter fluids, poisons, and anything that may damage other mail are also prohibited. Gifts enclosed in glass should be

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New Russian Envoy



Andry A. Gromyko, who has been named as the new Soviet ambassador to the United States in place of Maxim Litvinoff.

U.S.S. KEPHART TO BE LAUNCHED SOON

Destroyer Escort Bears Name of Watauga's First Man to Die in Global War.

A knife-bowed destroyer escort, costing five million dollars, to be named for Lieut. William P. Kephart the first Watauga man to die in the present world conflict, and whose parents live at Blowing Rock, will be launched on Monday September 6, in the first Labor Day event of its kind in the history of the Charleston S. C. Navy Yard.

There will be no launching ceremonies, it is said, but these will be held perhaps in January, and Mrs. Kephart has been named as sponsor of the ship named for her son and will christen the vessel later.

The keel of the U. S. S. Kephart was laid by WAVES, the first one laid by members of the Navy's Women's Reserve in the Charleston Navy Yard.

In addition to Dr. and Mrs. Kephart a number of friends and relatives will be asked to attend the launching ceremonies for the new fighting craft.

Mr. and Mrs. Kephart, it is revealed, have been asked to designate a city for a "Sponsor a Fighting Ship" bond campaign and have chosen Greensboro, the city in which the late Lieut. Kephart was reared.

COUNTY SCHOOLS ARE NOW OPEN

An Unusually Large Enrollment is Reported; Blowing Rock Not Open; Hamrick Goes to Navy

All the county schools opened on Monday, with the exception of Blowing Rock, which was postponed for one week due to repairs being completed on the building.

Superintendent S. F. Horton states that first-day enrollments were unusually large throughout the county.

Bradshaw school is still without a permanent teacher, but is open with a temporary teacher.

Boone colored school has an additional teacher this year, who will teach high school subjects.

Mr. A. Frank Hamrick, who has been principal at Blowing Rock, has been selected for the Navy, and will leave soon for a training station. He has accomplished much at Blowing Rock, and was former assistant principal of the Boone High School.

Preachers, Deacons To Gather On Monday

The preachers and Deacons of the Three Forks Baptist Association will meet September 6th at 2 p. m., at the Boone Baptist church and all are urged to attend. Rev. Ronda Earp, program committee chairman has released the following program for the meeting:

Devotional, Rev. Raymond Hendrix.

What Gives a Church New Born Souls, Acts 2:46-47. — Rev. J. C. Canine.

What Kind of a Message Does the World Need in Time of War.—Rev. G. A. Hamby.

Is the Church Christ-Like Enough to Stand the Day in Which We Live?—Rev. R. C. Eggers.

Prayer—Rev. W. D. Ashley.

COURT HOUSE CLOCK TICKS

The large clock which hangs in the courtroom at the county court house and has been out of the running for several years, has been taken down at the instance of the county officials and placed in tip top condition by Will C. Walker, jeweler. According to Janitor W. B. Carter, the clock hasn't been running for about fifteen years.

FORTY-FIVE LOCAL RESIDENTS TAKEN TO ARMY CENTER

Thirty-Eight White Men And Seven Negroes are Sent to Induction Center Recently By Local Selective Service Board; Names of Those Called.

The Watauga County Selective Service Board has released the names of 38 white and seven colored draft registrants, who have recently been sent to an army induction center. They are as follows:

- Dale Cloyd Norris
- Levi Coffey
- Thomas Francis Davis
- Charles Olin Wright
- Thomas Lee Greene
- Andrew W. Tester
- Roy Blanford Greene
- Grady George Moody
- Abram Franklin Hamrick
- Morris Wayne Barnett
- Basel Rex Taylor
- William Carroll Greene
- James Paul Brown
- Everette Ward
- Walter Clark Thompson
- R. J. Main
- Vilas Triplett
- Lewis Vernon Williams
- Edgar Randall Hartley
- Blaine James Eller
- Carson Byrd Smith
- Glenn David Cottrell
- James Albert Hendrix
- Mason Morton Hodges
- Ralph Alonzo Woodring
- Lorenzo Dow Cole
- Max Porter Andrews
- James Earl Bryan
- Gonnie David Watson
- Howard Dean Taylor
- Dallas Ray Loudermilk
- Martin McKinley Gragg
- Harold Gray Farthing
- Burl Bingham Rominger
- Archie Ray Eggers
- Clarence Edmond Greene
- Robert Clyde Winebarger
- Harvey Blane Hayes
- Colored Selectees:
- Billy Pink Whittington
- Henderson Edward Horton
- Robert Junior Hagler
- James McQueen
- Peter Cline Banner
- David Horton
- Linnie Whittington

Opening of Lunch Room At Boone Schools to Be Decided at Early Date

The question of whether or not the lunchrooms at the Boone Demonstration School and the Boone High School will be open this year is to be decided by the patrons of the two schools within the next few weeks. For the past several years, the manager and cooks at the lunchroom were paid by the WPA. Since that organization has been discontinued the lunchrooms must be operated so that there will be enough income to pay the help. If the parents of the children will donate enough food this will be possible, otherwise it is said, there will not be enough cash to pay the help and buy the necessary supplies.

The Boone PTA at the request of the two principals is making an appeal to the parents to keep these lunchrooms open. They have accumulated through the past several years, enough equipment to serve meals to several hundred school children daily; the state government will give a few cents per meal for each child for staple groceries, but this will not be enough with food at the present price levels—there must be large quantities of donated food.

This is what the patrons of the schools are asked to do: Those in the country are asked to donate whatever vegetables or fruit of which they have a surplus, and the mothers in town are asked to come to the cannery on Wednesdays of each week and help to can the donated fruits and vegetables. The school will furnish the cans.

Anyone who has vegetables or fruits to give may send them on the buses, or if any community can get a large quantity together there will be a truck come for it. Any woman who will help with the canning on Wednesdays is asked to call Mrs. B. R. Page, phone 150, so that it may be known how many to depend upon.

Any quantity of any fruit or vegetable that may be canned will be accepted. Those having only a peck of beans or apples or beets or a few pumpkins, may send them in. Those not having a surplus in their gardens, are asked to buy some produce and send it. A nourishing hot noon day meal means much to a school child, and we who have it within our power to supply warm lunches to the hundreds of school children in the Boone schools should not fail them. How much are you willing to help?

Advance on Little Men Who Weren't There



American fighters board an invasion barge to attack Japanese forces on Kiska Island in the Aleutians. They found no opposition. This was the first time that the Japs have given up a major base without a fight.

D. F. Thompson, Mabel Man, Wounded in Sicily; Lauded By His Captain

D. F. Thompson, seaman first class, USNR, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. F. Thompson of Mabel, has been wounded in the Sicilian conquest, but is getting along well, according to word reaching his parents, and is expected to arrive soon at a base hospital in Norfolk, Va.

In a letter from Capt. Phillip P. Welch, it is learned that young Mr. Thompson has been recommended for the Legion of Merit Officers Class for "courageous services in the amphibious assault on the beaches east of Scoglitti, Sicily, on the morning of the 10th of July 1943."

Seaman Thompson who entered the Navy in June 1942, has two brothers in the service, Walter C. who was sworn in as an air cadet last Thursday, and John W. U. S. Army, Atlanta, Ga.

SQUIRREL SEASON OPENS OCTOBER 1

Opening of Local Hunting Season is Postponed for 15 Days; Trout Season Closed Tuesday.

The open season for squirrel shooting in Watauga county will open this year on October 1 rather than on September 15th, as was the case last year. Mr. Walter Edmisten, county game warden says that the opening of the season was postponed to give young squirrels a chance to mature before shooting begins, and came as a result of conditions found by the state game officials in a survey recently conducted.

Mr. Edmisten says squirrels are plentiful this year and that those who have some ammunition may expect plenty of fun this year.

The trout fishing season closed Tuesday, Mr. Edmisten stated, but bass fishing continues, the only streams now open being New River from the Neal Blair farm down, and Watauga River from the high bridge below Shulls Mills, down.

Warden Edmisten and District Game Protector H. Grady Farthing were in Taylorsville Thursday attending a meeting of county and district fish and game officials.

Lee Stout Takes Lead In Big Bass Competition

Mr. Lee Stout, local angling enthusiast, is out ahead in the local competition for the biggest bass of the year, having landed one last Sunday which nosed out the big fish landed by Dr. Wright by one-quarter inch in length. It weighed three and three-fourths pounds, the same as the one caught by the college professor and was 20½ inches long.

When asked as to the exact location of the catch, Mr. Stout, who is credited with catching bass strictly for the fun of it and liberating many large ones, says: "I caught him in New River in Ashe county, near Joe Crawford's home town of Obids."

NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

Fighting America, continuing the battle for the four freedoms, will devote sober consideration that "consciousness of God produced America." That week is national Bible Week October 11-17, which will be launched in a coast to coast radio program on which President Roosevelt will be asked to address the nation as to the necessity of a true, religious attitude to maintain the soundness of the American way.

LOCAL SOLDIER TELLS OF FIGHT AGAINST ROMMEL

Stanford Coffey Wears Silver Star Awarded Him in African Campaign; Tells of Success Of Tanks in Desert Warfare and Sees Growing Allied Might.

Private Stanford Coffey, son of the late Filmore and Mrs. Coffey of Shulls Mills, has arrived home from the African war zone, wearing a silver star, for outstanding courage in combat, when the drive was on that pushed Rommel into the sea.

Private Coffey, who was in the 13th armored regiment, first armored division, was in fifteen major battles in Africa, and was twice cited for initiative and courage in the face of enemy gunfire, and on one occasion when the American forces suffered their one and only African setback he was lucky enough to be a member of a crew of one of 3 tanks out of 54 that escaped. During his extended baptism of fire he lost four tanks, but came home safely with no injuries other than a damaged ear drum resulting from shell concussion.

Private Coffey's regiment did not take part in the Sicilian invasion, he says, but "stood by" at Bizerte until the success of the assault was assured.

Young Coffey, who speaks rather modestly of the magnificent part he played in the rout of Rommel's army, served intermittently as driver and tank gunner and likes that hard-hitting branch of the service.

"The record shows," says Private Coffey "that the tank crew of which I was a member in our best day of combat, accounted for 6 German tanks, 6 anti-tank guns, 1 pill box, 1 dive bomber—or 86 Nazi dead. This is the official record."

Private Coffey, who is now with the reserves, and on a thirty day furlough, gets a great kick out of the allied air superiority in the Mediterranean area. "I saw our forces hopelessly outnumbered in the air, saw the power of the allies mount to a fifty-fifty break, and was there when the Nazis were driven out of the skies by the American and English forces."

Mr. Coffey is "strong for England." He says he has fought, eaten and slept with the English troopers and they're fine guys, and fine soldiers. The Germans he describes as "scientific murderers." "They won't fight you man to man—they must have some overpowering advantage when they fight." Referring to the captured Germans, he opines "that the whole lot of them should have been shot." He describes the Nazis as surly and "really of the belief they are of a superior race." "But," he added "there is a treatment for this—you know we have some pretty tough guys in the U. S. Army!" The Italians were said by the local soldier to be inoffensive.

Mr. Coffey takes great pride in the allied accumulation of might on the other side of the Atlantic and believes "we are just about ready now to hit the continent of Europe."

Private Coffey says he's mighty proud to be a Watauga man, is glad to be back and wishes he could have accomplished even more during his sojourn in Africa.

Cadet Nurse Corps Candidates Are Sought

County school principals are being urged to assist in the drive for U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps candidates. All high school graduates are eligible, and special training classes are conducted in September and February.

The present training of students will continue without interruption when one joins the Cadet Nurse Corps, it is said, but with expenses paid, uniforms supplied, opportunities improved, and a monthly check in the bargain. Students may register at their school office, and become officially identified with their nation's drive for victory.

At war's end students in training 90 days prior to the end of hostilities may complete their training at government expense.

COURT HOUSE BEING TREATED TO BRAND NEW COAT OF PAINT

Painters are now engaged in putting a two-coat paint job on the wooden portion of the courthouse exterior, and this action on the part of the county commissioners not only adds much to the appearance of the aging building, but will help to preserve the work for years to come. A number of needed repairs are being made from time to time on the interior of the building too.

TWO HURT IN CRASH OF MOTOR TRUCK

Goldsboro Men are Seriously Injured When Bean-Laden Trailer Leaves Highway 421.

Earl Lewis and Gordon Lewis, of Goldsboro, are patients at the Wilkes Hospital, where they were taken early Tuesday morning for injuries sustained when the motor truck in which they were riding was wrecked and all but demolished near the Wilkes-Watauga line on highway 421.

State Highway Patrolman Miles Jones, who investigated the accident says the trailer-truck was going down the mountain at about 4 a. m., heavily laden with green beans, when according to his information, Gordon Lewis, who was asleep in the cab, rolled to the floorboard and knocked the machine out of gear. The driver, was unable to get the gears to again mesh and the tractor and trailer left the road, caught on fire, burned a crib by the side of the road, and was all but demolished. Both men were said to have been right seriously injured.

Mr. Jones immediately contacted Pate Dawson, the owner of the produce truck who lives in Goldsboro and told him of the accident.

Eggers Re-elected as Baptist Moderator

Mr. S. C. Eggers was re-elected moderator of the Three Forks Baptist Association for a fourth term at the 103rd session held last week at the Clark's Creek Church last Tuesday and Wednesday.

Wade E. Brown was re-elected vice moderator and Clyde R. Greene as Clerk. Rev. N. M. Greene and Gordon Hodges were re-elected missionary and song leader respectively.

Mr. Eggers is the thirteenth moderator of the Association.

Coach Watkins Back From Aquatic School

Coach R. W. Watkins, of Appalachian College, has returned from an American Red Cross Aquatic School at Brevard, N. C.

Coach Watkins spent ten days taking the advanced and refresher courses in first aid, swimming and life saving, functional swimming, boating and canoeing.

Coach Watkins will conduct a first aid course for the citizens of Boone the latter part of September.

Eight Airforce Deals Mighty Blow to Nazis

The U. S. eighth airforce dealt an unprecedented blow to German air strength in the month ended tonight bombing airfields, plane factories and probably topping the July record of 506 enemy planes destroyed in the air.

The month's drive showed that the British-based campaign has progressed from individual stabs at enemy war facilities to a farflung smash against German air defenses, paving the way for a possible knock out blow.

In one day, August 17, Fortresses on the Regensburg-Schweinfurt raid 1. Knocked out an estimated 1-3 of Germany's facilities for producing day fighters, the Fegensburg Messerschmitt factory.

2. Knocked 307 German fighters out of the sky.

3. Inaugurated a shuttle-bombing system between England and North Africa which holds great potentialities.

Enemy airfields in France and in Holland were bombed intensively throughout the month, comprising the majority of targets for both the Fortresses and Marauders.