



# WATAUGA DEMOCRAT



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## GIVES BIOGRAPHY OF J. E. LUTHER, 100 YEARS OLD

North Wilkesboro Man In Address Gives Brief Review of Life of Deep Gap Man, Who Served Under Stonewall Jackson; Last Local Confederate.

Mr. J. B. Williams of North Wilkesboro, was one of the speakers at the celebration, honoring the 100th birthday anniversary of Mr. J. E. Luther, Watauga's last Confederate veteran, which was held at the Deep Gap home recently. The address has considerable biographical information, and will be of interest to the people of this area. It follows:

We meet today to celebrate the one hundredth birthday of one of North Carolina's famous sons. One hundred years ago today, on September 10, 1843, Jesse Elihu Luther was born in Randolph county, N. C. He is the son of William Luther and Mary Lottin Luther. Mr. Luther and his parents moved to Wilkesboro in Wilkes county when he was 12 years old.

Mr. Luther is a veteran of the Civil War, having served in the Confederate army. He volunteered for enlistment and was inducted in Wilkesboro, N. C., on May 10, 1862, and was assigned to Col. Barber's regiment, and was later in A. P. Hill's division, Lane's brigade, with General Stonewall Jackson commanding. He was in several engagements—the Battle of the Wilderness, Spotsylvania court house, Chancellorsville, and in the second battle of Manassas. He was wounded three times, twice in skirmishes and once at Spotsylvania court house.

After the war Mr. Luther returned to his home in Wilkesboro. A short time after his return from the army he married a boyhood sweetheart, Miss Amelia M. James, who was reared about four miles below Wilkesboro in Wilkes county. To this union were born three children: namely: John E. Luther, and Mrs. Cora A. Moretz of Deep Gap, N. C.; and Mrs. Ida S. Welch of Stony Fork Wilkes county, N. C., all of whom are alive and in attendance at this one hundredth birthday celebration of their father.

In the year 1873 Mr. Luther moved to Deep Gap. Mrs. Luther died about 15 years ago this past April, having lived with her husband and children, a long and useful life.

Mr. Luther might be called the "Sage of the Blue Ridge," having spent a greater part of his long life on top of the Blue Ridge Mountains. In his early life, prior to the Civil War, he was a mail carrier, having carried mail from Wilkesboro to Boone, via horseback. He was doing this work in 1860.

Mr. Luther is a member of Calvary Methodist church in Ashe county and in his active days he served his church as Sunday School superintendent and on the same Sunday he also served as superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School in that community.

He served as postmaster three different times at Deep Gap, and to the best of his recollection, he was postmaster from 20 to 25 years. He also served as deputy sheriff for four years in Watauga county, and was justice of the peace for 30 or more years. He was a carpenter and mason by trade and also a very successful farmer. He remembers very distinctly the Ku Klux days that followed the Civil War, but was never a member.

Mr. Luther was taken prisoner while serving on picket duty at Chaffin's farm in Virginia. He was at the time about 200 yards beyond the picket line, at what in that day they called a vedette post. He was surrounded by 25 Yankees who were concealed at this point and was taken prisoner, and, as he recalls, one other man nearby was also taken a prisoner at the same time. He was carried to the Federal Prison at Point Lookout on the Chesapeake Bay, in Maryland, where he was kept confined in prison for a period of about eight months. When he was paroled from prison and returned home it was at the time Stoneman, a Yankee officer, came through this section of North Carolina, and he was arrested and carried before General Stoneman, but after an interview he was turned loose because this officer found that Mr. Luther had been given a ninety-day furlough to visit his home.

This good man has now been given not only the allotted time in life of three score and ten years, but has now lived five score and is now entering his sixth, and is now aged with many more years than when Mr. Luther was born. When Mr. Luther was only a boy, and the Battle of Gettysburg was taking its place in history, he was only a boy.

## As British Troops Land in Italy



A British signalman wiggwags messages to ships at sea as Commandos land on the shores of Italy in American made "ducks." British troops poured onto the southern end of the Italian boot on the same day the unconditional surrender was signed.

## \$46,000 Bond Purchases At Theatre Rally Bring Subscriptions To Quota

### Parade, Auction, To Be Features of Bond Effort

Under the joint sponsorship of the local Lions Club, Merchants Association, and Chamber of Commerce a parade to heighten interest in the third war loan drive, has been arranged for next Saturday afternoon, which will be featured by the Appalachian High School band.

It is also announced today that the Merchants Association will hold an auction of scarce commodities at the Appalachian Theatre Thursday night, bids to be made in terms of War Bonds. The event was worked out between Bus Crowell, head of a special committee of the Merchants group and Mr. Norman, local theatre manager and will be held in connection with the regular Thursday night movie program.

### Schools Aid in War Loan Campaign

Following is a statement submitted to County Superintendent S. F. Horton, of the war bonds and stamps purchased by the students of the Bethel School from September 9th to 17th inclusive:

Purchased by students, \$52.75. The sixth grade led with \$18.75, with the seventh grade second with \$16.55, and the ninth grade third with \$10.60.

Teacher purchases amounted to one \$500 bond at the price of \$375.

Dr. Abrams Speaks at Cove Creek  
Dr. Amos Abrams spoke at chapel exercises at Cove Creek last Friday morning on the third war loan drive. Dr. Abrams presented the campaign from two standpoints, the practical and the patriotic. From the practical angle he stated that there were three ways to raise this money. Should the government borrow from the banks a depression after the war would result; should taxes be increased the very lifeblood would be drained from the taxpayers; the third and best method is that of purchasing bonds which is an investment that will be repaid with interest. Dr. Abrams then spoke of our personal and patriotic interest, that of helping our own brothers, fathers and other relatives who are in the armed service.

A complete report of bond purchases of the various schools will be published next week.

### Charles W. Combs Dies in Cleveland, O.

Word has reached relatives in the county of the death of Mr. Charles W. Combs, which occurred in Cleveland, Ohio, where he was employed in war industry. His death was reported to have resulted from an accident, but details are not known here.

Mr. Combs was a former resident of Vilas. The remains will reach Boone some time Tuesday, but the funeral details are incomplete.

## CHURCHILL SEES MASS INVASION OF NAZI EUROPE

Second Front to Be Opened at Right Time, says Prime Minister; Roosevelt and Churchill May Confer With Stalin At An Early Date.

London, Sept. 21.—Prime Minister Churchill declared today that the second front will be thrown open at "the right time" and "a mass invasion of the continent from the west will begin."

Calling the Mediterranean battlefield the "third front," the prime minister told Commons that the second front "already exists potentially" and "already is rapidly gathering weight. The second front exists and is a main pre-occupation already with the enemy."

"It has not yet been thrown into play," he continued. "That time is coming."

"At what we and our American allies judge to be the right time this front will be thrown open and a mass invasion of the continent from the west will begin."

Surveying the whole sweep of the war with serene confidence, Churchill also declared:

1. Not a moment was lost needlessly in the operations against Italy and except for the failure of Italian guards to do their assigned duty Benito Mussolini would have been shot when Hitler's agents rescued him at Gran Sasso.

2. American forces have landed on the island of Sardinia to assist Italian troops who drove the German garrison over to Corsica, now being occupied by French units.

3. A tripartite conference of representatives of the United States, Britain and Russia will take place "at an early date" and no question will be barred from discussion. Any differences will be set aside for a conference of President Roosevelt, Premier Stalin and the prime minister himself. In the American-British-Russian conference "Foreign Secretary Eden will represent Britain. Churchill added it was "confidently hoped" that there would be a conference of Roosevelt, Stalin and himself before the end of the year.

4. The Allies are prepared to place large armies in Italy and to deploy a weighty and active fighting front against the enemy on whatever line he chooses, to resist and to maintain against him with increasing weight and vigor if need be through the fall and winter.

5. A French force of 300,000 to 400,000 is being organized and the battleship Richelieu will soon take its place in the French fleet.

Speaking of the prospect of a Roosevelt-Churchill-Stalin conference, the prime minister said:

"No meeting during this war could carry with it so much significance for the future of the world as a meeting between the heads of the three governments, for without close cordial and lasting association between Soviet Russia and their great allies we might find ourselves at the end of the war only to have entered upon a period of deepening confusion."

## NINE RESERVISTS ACCEPTED IN ARMY

The following Watauga county reservists have been accepted by the army and reported for training at Fort Jackson, on the 17th, the Watauga county selective service board reports:

Dallas Ray Loudermelt  
Martin McKinley Gragg  
Harold Ray Farthing  
Clarence Edmond Greene  
Thomas Francis Davis  
William Carroll Greene  
Blaine James Eller  
Carson Byrd Smith  
Glenn David Cottrell

Lorenzo D. Cole was also accepted by the army and will return to the reception center at an early date.

## Gospel Tabernacle To Be Erected Here

Evangelist Rufus Mitchell, and his building committee have been granted a permit for the construction of a Gospel Tabernacle in Boone by the Southern District War Production Board, of Atlanta, Ga., it was revealed Tuesday.

The tabernacle is to be used for evangelistic purposes, and the committee, which Rev. Mr. Mitchell

## Five Submit In Election Assault Case And Given Suspended Sentences

### Beauty Queen



Miss America of 1943 is 19-year old Jean Bartel, a student at the University of California. She is pictured with her cup at Atlantic City, N. J., traditional city of this contest.

## FISH HATCHERY TO BE SUSPENDED

State Announces Discontinuance of Plant Here; Further Expansion Of Plant Impractical.

The North Carolina Division of Game and Inland Fisheries announces that it will suspend its operations at the fish hatchery near Boone by the end of this month. This action is being taken upon authority granted by the Board of Conservation and Development at its meetings at Wrightsville Beach last July 19 and 20.

Mr. Willis King, Supervisor of Fish Resources says that sportsmen of Watauga county have been assured that trout streams in that county will be stocked with fish from other of the State hatcheries. It is the belief of the Division, says Mr. King, that the sportsmen of Western North Carolina can be served to a greater degree by suspending operations at Boone and spending the available funds where more favorable conditions exist. The water supply has been found inadequate, and further expansion has been found impractical after careful investigation.

Mr. Clyde Anderson, who has served as caretaker at the Boone Hatchery, has been transferred to the Marmon Hatchery near Pineola.

## James Miller Succumbs In Statesville Hospital

Mr. James S. Miller of Sherwood, died in a Statesville hospital Monday following a long illness.

He is survived by the widow and the following children: Mrs. Odenia Miller Rowe, and Miss Ruth Miller who are living in the state of California; Betty Joe and Mary Janette Miller of Sherwood; J. V. Miller who is in the army.

Funeral arrangements have not been completed pending word from relatives who are at distant points.

## VENICE BOMBED IN ALLIED DRIVE

American Liberators threw new weight into the conquest of Italy on Tuesday by bombarding the historic port of Venice as French troops and native guerillas proceeded to mop up German resistance on Corsica and the U. S. Fifth Army registered new gains in the Salerno beachhead.

Slowly and steadily pressing the Germans backward the Fifth army stormed and took the key town of Eboli, sixteen miles inland, which had served the enemy as a communications center during last week's heavy fighting around Salerno.

General Mark W. Clark's soldiers also battered their way to Montecorvino, nine miles inland, in a sustained push, an official source disclosed.

The Oslo radio reported that the Italian port of Naples was being shelled.

State and Defense Attorney Agree on Disposition of Election Row; Court Likely to Adjourn Today; List of the Judgments Passed in First Two Days.

Five men charged with an assault on county board of election officials last fall in the heated controversy which developed around 300 disputed ballots in Boone precinct, were plead guilty in Watauga Superior Court Tuesday, on agreement of the state and defense attorneys and were given suspended sentences and assessed with the cost of the action by Judge J. R. Rousseau who is presiding at the current court term.

A. C. Miller was sentenced to nine months on the roads, suspended for two years on good behavior and the payment of the cost, while Filmore Ford, Filmore Watson, Brown Miller and Dallas Hodges were given sentences of 6 months on roads, suspended for 2 years on payment of the cost.

Other judgments of the court passed up until Tuesday evening, are as follows:

Carl Purlear, Eugene Bumgarner, larceny, released on probation.

A. C. Miller, assault on female, 6 months on roads, suspended on payment of \$50 to the prosecuting witness for damages, and fine of \$50 and the cost.

Mary Greer, assault with deadly weapon, prayer for judgment continued for 2 years upon payment of \$150 to the prosecuting witness and cost.

Ivan Church, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

Ray Rufus Reid, driving drunk, \$75.00 and cost.

Mrs. Joe Baird, assault with deadly weapon. Prayer for judgment continued for two years on good behavior.

Clyde Allen, violation prohibition law, \$25 and cost.

E. J. Burkett, driving drunk, \$75 and cost.

Harvey Teams, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

Verlon Triplett, driving drunk, \$150 and cost.

Wilborn Rominger, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

Graham Teague, driving drunk, \$150 and cost.

Henry G. Norris, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

Tommie Stephens, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

Ottie Miller, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

Roby Shull, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

J. F. Bentley, driving drunk, \$50 and cost.

J. H. Eller, violation prohibition law, 6 months on roads.

Woodrow W. Colvard, driving drunk, \$150 and cost.

Lenzie Howard Winkler, driving drunk, \$75 and cost.

## Miss Ruth Greer Dies In Aberdeen, Md.

Miss Ruth Greer, aged 28 years, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Greer died on September 16th, at the State Hospital in Aberdeen, Md. She is reported to have been injured fatally in an accident a few days ago, but details are unavailable.

The body was returned to Watauga county and funeral services were held at Mount Lebanon Church Sunday, September 19, Reins-Sturdivant Funeral Home taking care of the arrangements.

## Red Cross Sponsors First Aid Course

The Watauga County Chapter of the American Red Cross will sponsor a first aid course at the college gymnasium, starting Monday Sept. 27th, at 7 o'clock.

All those interested are asked to contact Mr. Wade E. Brown, chairman of the first aid division, or coach R. W. Watkins, instructor. Both the standard and advanced courses will be given at this time.

## Squirrel Season Opens On September 15th

The squirrel hunting season opened last Wednesday September 15th, in this area, according to belated information reaching County Game

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BOONE, N. C.