

LT. SHOEMAKER IS HONORED AT BANNER ELK

Banner Elk—In a special assembly program last week, Lees-McRae College paid tribute to and listened to a talk from one of its alumni just returned from the battle front. He is First Lieutenant William Ernest Shoemaker, son of J. M. Shoemaker, of Balm, who is just back from the North African theatre of war.

Lieut. Shoemaker graduated from Lees-McRae in 1940. He went to Langley Field, Va., where he studied airplane mechanics, and was sent from Langley Field to the Casey Jones School of Aeronautics in Newark, N. J., where he remained until May, 1941. He came back to Langley Field where he became crew chief of a B-26 plane. In April, 1942, he received his appointment as an aviation cadet and was sent to Santa Ana, Calif., for pre-flight training. He went to Visalia, Calif., for his primary training; to Merced, Calif., for his basic training, and his advanced training was completed at Luke Field, Arizona, where he was commissioned a second lieutenant in the army air corps on December 3, 1942. His commission as first lieutenant came on Sept. 6, 1943.

Lieut. Shoemaker received the Distinguished Flying Cross in September, 1943, for extraordinary achievement while participating in aerial flying in the North African theatre of operations. His citation states that his "squadron escorted a flight over Villacidro airdrome. When 20 enemy fighters attacked, he shot down a Messerschmitt and was conspicuous throughout the action in which three enemy fighters were destroyed and four others severely damaged. Under this protection all bombers returned safely to their base. His leadership, courage and constant devotion to duty has reflected great credit on himself and on the armed forces of the United States."

He has also received nine oak leaf clusters for 50 successful missions over enemy targets, and two oak leaf clusters for confirmed vic-

Ladybird



Test Pilot Elizabeth Hooker dons her headgear at the Grumman aircraft plant in New York as she prepares to test a new Helicat for the navy.

ories over enemy aircraft.

Lieut. Shoemaker has left for Miami Beach, Fla., from which point he will be assigned to duty within the United States, probably as a test pilot or as an instructor in the air forces.

He went to Africa by Convoy and returned to the United States on a hospital ship. He stated that he had an opportunity to remain there and attend fighter school with an advancement in rating, but he chose to come back to the United States.

The two confirmed victories which were credited to Lieut. Shoemaker were the shooting down of a Messerschmitt during the bombing of the Villacidro airdrome, and a Focke-Wulf 190, which he shot down during the bombing of Naples.

Asked of what a "confirmed victory" consisted, Lieut. Shoemaker explained that two persons must see a wing fall of a plane, the plane blow up in midair, or plunge to the ground.

His plane was twice shot up, he reported. One time was following the completion of a dive-bombing mission in Sardinia, when one engine was shot out. He came back to the home base and started to put down his landing gear, when he discovered that the hydraulic system was out. He circled again and came back in for a landing, which he finally accomplished with his emergency landing gear. He had to choose between a landing or a crash, he said, because his gas had given out.

Lieut. Shoemaker's squadron was the first bunch of replacements to land in North Africa. Most of his work at the front, he said, consisted of low-altitude work—skip bombing, strafing, dive-bombing. He took part in the Tunisian campaign, in the bombing of Sardinia, Pantelleria, Sicily, Rome, Naples and "the bloody beach at Salerno." A strange coincidence took place the night before the bombing of Naples, he said. His tent mate happened to be reading a book entitled "See Naples and Die." After the raid on Naples, this young man was reported missing in action.

In the action at Salerno, Lieut. Shoemaker said, the ground forces of the air corps had the most diffi-

CONGRESS DEBATES PRICE ROLL-BACK

Attack Use of Funds to Cut Consumers' Retail Food Costs

On November 1, President Roosevelt sent congress the longest message of his career.

All 12,000 words of the communication contained his arguments for continuation of the administration's food subsidy program, under which the government pays producers and processors to cut the charges to retail consumers.

Although the President said abandonment of the subsidy program "would increase the cost of living, bring about demands for increased wages . . . and might well start a serious and dangerous cycle of inflation," Rep. Jesse Wolcott, of Michigan, sounded the opposition's sentiments by replying: "The question is whether we should use taxes to pay part of the grocery bill of people who are financially able to pay their own bills now . . . or let them pay them themselves."

Spearheading the attack against subsidies have been the powerful farm blocs in both house and senate. Sure of their ground, they have strongly resisted any compromises. As the senate's agricultural committee chairman, Elison D. "Cotton Ed" Smith, said: "You can't compromise with evil . . . you are either for subsidies or you are against them."

As hearings on the subsidy bills opened in congressional committees, about 2,000 representatives of producers and marketing associations massed in Washington, D. C., to testify against the subsidy program. Previously, representatives of 85 per cent of the processed food industry had met in New York and condemned the same program. On the other hand, organized labor stands strongly behind the administration on the issue, demanding the reduction of retail food costs to the level of the fall of 1942.

In his address, the President made no request for a specific sum of money for financing the subsidy program, only alluding to costs so far.

During 1943, the President said, operations of the Commodity Credit Corporation in financing production subsidies and other subsidy programs had cost 350 million dollars. Expenditures at a rate of 450 million dollars a year also are being made to reduce meat and butter prices at wholesale and retail levels.

"The expenditure of 8000 million dollars a year is a moderate sum to pay in order to accomplish the objectives we have in mind . . ." Mr. Roosevelt said.

"Every nation now in the war has used some sort of government equalization payments in order to hold down the cost of living and at the same time to allow a fair return to the farmers," Mr. Roosevelt continued.

"A good part of the great success of the stabilization program in both Canada and Britain is due to the effective use of government funds in this way."

Launching into the principal body of his argument, Mr. Roosevelt said: "When properly used they (subsidies) have three important advantages: first, they stimulate production of certain necessary and select crops. Second, by preventing price increases, they eliminate inflationary tendencies. Third, they encourage the distribution of food through normal legitimate channels instead of black market operators, who are willing to pay higher prices to farmers."

The expenditure of very small sums makes it possible to avoid pyramiding price increases all down the line—from the producer through the processor, wholesalers,

cult time. His squadron was the first to land in Italy, due to the fact that the planes were running out of gas. He said the ground forces, in the face of enemy aircraft action, had to fill up the planes of the United States fliers, most of which held around 400 gallons each, from cans holding five gallons each. It took over five hours to service the planes he said. "I consider myself lucky to be a pilot," he said. "I think it's the safest branch of the service."

Lieut. Shoemaker said that on the trip to Africa, the convoy was attacked by submarines a number of times, but the trip back home was without mishap. He said that he was in hearty accord with the army's policy of sending the soldiers to many points within the United States. There is nothing better for a man's morale, he said, when he is thousands of miles from home and sometimes starts wondering what he is fighting for, than to think back about home, and this wonderful land of ours. And he said that seeing as much of America as possible strengthens this feeling immeasurably.

Lieut. Shoemaker met one of his Lees-McRae classmates, Lieut. Clyde Saunders, of Ruffin, at Casablanca. Lieut. Saunders has since been reported killed in action. Two other boys, formerly from Banner Elk, he also saw and visited with—Paul Jones, with the communications branch of the army, and Clifford Brown, bombardier.

jobbers and retailers—the cost of which runs to extremely large amounts."

Speaking before the meeting of processed-food representatives, OPA Chief Chester Bowles declared that runaway prices can only be avoided by properly controlled subsidies, and even a 10 per cent rise in living costs would set the consumers back 18 billion dollars.

"If congress decides to abandon the use of subsidies," Bowles said, "the prices of some commodities are bound to go up. With increases in the cost of living . . . a broad increase in wages would be inevitable. This, in turn, would increase costs still further, and eventually retail prices."

"A 10 per cent rise in living costs would mean 8 billion dollars added to the household bills of the American people . . . which we would all have to pay in higher rentals and in the store. And if our war bill next year runs 100 billion dollars, 10 per cent added to government expenditures through a 10 per cent rise in cost, means 10 billion dollars more which would be added to our national debt."

As Representative Wolcott declared on the other side of the fence, opposition to the administration's food subsidy program does not center around government payments to stimulate production, but rather around efforts to cut the consumers' retail prices. To back their stand, opponents point out that where the average weekly earning of industrial workers in 1936 was \$22.46, it now is \$43.45. Most workers are well able to pay their food bills, subsidy opponents say, instead of having them paid by the government with money which will have to be repaid through taxes later on, perhaps by returning soldiers.

Generally expressing the position of the subsidy foes, the Grocery Manufacturers of America said:

"In the first place, (consumers' subsidies) are justified on the fallacious theory that our people will thus be saved from the expense otherwise imposed by a higher price; whereas

the fact is that they must then pay the expense by taxation and that it will be materially increased from an administrative standpoint.

"Any important plan of subsidy payments by the government invites a serious raid on the treasury . . . difficult to limit; and it inevitably introduces a bureaucratic control of private industry, which is repugnant to free institutions . . ."

Boone Flower Shop

Our Aim is to Please You.
Cut Flowers, Potted Plants,
Funeral Designs
Phone 189-W 417 Grand Blvd.

BUY WAR BONDS

To The Burley Tobacco Growers

When you bring your tobacco to the Boone Market, you are cordially invited to visit our store, where you will find the most complete line of Pawnbrokers' Clothing to be found in this section. All merchandise sterilized, dry cleaned and pressed.

Men's and Boys' Wool Suits . . . Odd Coats . . . Pants . . . Men's Army Field Jackets . . . Men's and Boys' Mackinaws and Lumberjacks . . . Men's and Boys' Overcoats . . . OD Wool Shirts and Pants . . . Reconditioned Stetson Hats . . . Men's Army Shoes . . . Men's and Boys' Oxfords . . . Women's Wool and Silk Dresses . . . Women's and Children's Sweaters . . . Blouses and Shirts . . . Women's, Misses' and Children's Coats . . . Women's, Misses' and Children's Shoes and Oxfords.

UNUSUALLY LOW PRICES

ECONOMY STORE

JUNE RUSSELL, Manager

Earl Cook Bldg.

Depot Street

BOONE, NORTH CAROLINA.

Watch Repairing

Time is important now. If your watch hasn't been keeping correct time—we'll fix it!

WALKER'S Jewelry Store

Boone, N. C.



Next Year Will Be Different

NEXT year will be different. Not only the weather, and markets, and the needs of the country. Our jobs will be different, too. Because next year we're going to do those jobs differently—and we hope better!

We, whose job is producing goods and services, have been making resolutions like this for years. And we've been keeping them! For in our kind of business, you either keep on finding better ways of doing things, or—you go backward! And if enough people do that, the thing we call progress bogs down.

That's why farmers keep on trying new seed, and fertilizers, and machines, and strains of stock. That's the reason industry carries on research—another name for a constant search for new knowledge and better ways to do things. Because most of us have been doing this for years, America has had the highest standard of living in the world. And it's the reason, too, that American production is doing so much today to bring victory.

After the war, America is going to need more than ever men with the courage and enterprise to invest time, money, and hard work in the search for better things. And if America's producers understand each other, and each other's problems, we'll be able to do these all-important jobs better. General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y.

Hear the General Electric radio programs: "The G-E All-girl Orchestra" Sunday 10 p.m. EWT. NBC—"The World Today" news, every weekday 6:45 p.m. EWT. CBS.

BUY WAR BONDS

GENERAL ELECTRIC



WE, TOO, HAVE SEEN MUCH AND FOUGHT HARD AND ARE THANKFUL

Beautiful South Pacific Islands, steaming jungles, European cities, hot sandy deserts, and towns and plains of Asia have been washed in the blood of conquering and defending armies alike. Have we Americans had to search through the smoldering ruins of what was once our home? American towns have never been subject

to such barbarism, and for this we are grateful, yes . . . but we must show our gratitude concretely. It is not enough to give thanks for our blessings in wartime. We must back up the war effort actively. We must buy War Bonds and work harder and further our national unity in every way. That is the only way to show our gratitude.

Buy War Bonds and Savings Stamps Regularly! Buy an EXTRA Bond on Thanksgiving Day!

The Northwestern Bank

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation