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CHRISTENING OF U.S.S. KEPHART SET FOR FRIDAY

Mother of Blowing Rock Hero, Killed in the Fighting on Guadalcanal to Take Part in Ceremony at Charleston Navy Yard This Week

Charleston, S. C., Jan. 1—In ceremonies at the Charleston Navy Yard Friday, Jan. 7, Mrs. A. P. Kephart, of Blowing Rock, N. C., formerly of Greensboro, N. C., will christen a new destroyer escort, the U. S. S. Kephart, named for her naval hero son, the late Lt. William Perry Kephart, a naval flier killed in the struggle last year for control of Guadalcanal.

Citizens of Greensboro provided money for the new warship when they purchased \$5,000,000 worth of war bonds in the third war loan drive and earmarked them for the construction of this fighting vessel. Mrs. Kephart, as a sponsor, will have as her maid of honor her daughter, Miss Margaret Kephart, of Washington, or in the event of Miss Kephart's absence, Mrs. W. E. Dill, of Broomall, Pa.

W. H. Sullivan, mayor of Greensboro, and long-time friend of the Kephart family, will be principal speaker at the christening of the U. S. S. Kephart.

The U. S. S. Kephart, named for the daring naval flier who lost his life in aerial action against the Japs over Guadalcanal on Oct. 14, 1942, was officially undocked in the Charleston navy yard some time ago.

It is one of the destroyer escorts constructed in building docks under an accelerated navy ship construction program. In the effort to save time and to speed the new warships to the fleet, ceremonies for christening the vessel were not held at the time it was floated.

Born in Pennsylvania, Lieut. Kephart was the son of Dr. and Mrs. Adam Perry Kephart. He was born in Meyersdale, Pa., and spent his boyhood in Greensboro. While living in Greensboro he attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, graduating in 1937 with a bachelor of science degree in mechanical engineering.

Following his graduation from the university, he enlisted in the naval reserve in Washington on Aug. 15, 1937, and received his preliminary flight training there. He was appointed aviation cadet in November, 1937, and ordered to the naval air station, Pensacola, Fla., for aviation instruction. In November, 1938, he was designated naval aviator and was assigned to the fleet air detachment naval air station, San Diego, Calif.

After duty with the carrier air group attached to the U. S. S. Saratoga, he was transferred to a scouting squadron of the U. S. S. Wasp. From May, 1940, through October, 1940, Lieutenant Kephart served as a flight instructor at the Pensacola, Fla., naval air station. He returned to duty in a squadron attached to the U. S. S. Wasp and continued serving in the fleet until he was killed in enemy action over Guadalcanal, October 14, 1942.

Lieutenant Kephart was awarded posthumously, the Purple Heart medal. He was also entitled to the American Defense Service medal with fleet clasp and the Asiatic-Pacific Area campaign medal.

FOURTH WAR LOAN STARTS JAN. 18TH

Quota for Watauga County Will Likely be About \$130,000, Says Chairman

The Fourth War Loan campaign gets under way over the nation on January 18, and continues until February 15, during which period it is proposed to sell fourteen billion dollars worth of war bonds, and while Watauga County's quota has not been established definitely, information coming from Mr. W. D. Farthing, local chairman, indicates that local people will be asked to subscribe no less than \$130,000 to this huge war-financing fund.

Mr. Farthing states that Mr. W. H. Neal, of Winston-Salem, chairman of the war loan in the northwestern tier of counties, will be here Thursday of this week to aid in perfecting the local organization, and to assist in getting the drive off to a good start in this county. Detailed plans for the local campaign will be released shortly.

"Even a foolish woman knows enough to laugh at a man's joke, but it's a gentleman who knows enough to hang on to his coat lapel and beg her to tell it again."

Predicts '44 Victory



Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, who was named commander of the main European invasion force. When he left Algiers to take over his new post he flatly announced: "We will win the European war in 1944."

POSTAL RECEIPTS AT BOONE OFFICE SHOW BIG INCREASE

Gross Receipts for 1943 Over 1942 at Local Postoffice is 18 Per Cent; Money Order Sales Show 38 Per Cent Rise; \$127,040 War Bonds Sold

A general increase in the business at the Boone postoffice during the year 1943 is shown in figures made public by John E. Brown, Jr., the postmaster, who reveals that the gross receipts for the office as of December 31, 1943, were \$22,289.10, as against \$18,879.43 for the same period in 1942.

Mr. Brown further states that stamp sales for December, 1943, were \$2,643.39, as compared to \$2,256.90 for December, 1942, or an increase of \$386.49. The increase in money order sales was \$43,812.29, or 38 per cent over 1942. In 1942, money orders were issued in the amount of \$115,241.63, in 1943, \$159,231.63.

War savings stamps to the amount of \$7,121.35 were sold during the year; internal Revenue stamps amounted to \$822.65, and motor vehicle stamp sales were \$5,298.90. United States War bonds were sold in 1943 to the amount of \$127,040.

Postmaster Brown states that during the year the rural routes were adjusted in such a way as to afford additional and improved service to the patrons of the two routes out of the local postoffice.

Allies Blacken Nazi Skies in Mightiest Air Raid of War

London, Jan. 4—Allied heavy, medium and fighter bombers hit northwest Germany and the French invasion coast with more than 3,000 tons of bombs today in a dawn-to-dusk offensive employing probably the war's greatest number of fighting aircraft in a single day.

Allied air officers threw about 2,750 planes at northwest Germany and the French invasion coast in the daylight hours.

Approximately 1,500 American heavy bombers and escorting fighters blasted Germany's great submarine dotted northwest area in a massive attack which blackened the skies.

Eighteen bombers and two fighters were lost.

American Marauders, shuttling across the channel 200 strong, twice during the day pounded military objectives along the French coast for the sixth consecutive day without a loss.

They raised to 1,500 the number of individual sorties they have flown against the same targets.

Tonight the German long wave radio left the air abruptly, possibly signaling a new attack on the continent by RAF.

In the morning alone, 450 British and American medium bombers, including 300 Marauders, with 300 fighters, struck the French coast and in the afternoon 500 more bombers and fighters crossed the channel to continue the assault.

Formations were so gigantic they seemed to stretch across 100 miles of sky. Bombs hurtled down on the targets with such methodical regularity that one flyer said he was reminded of a relay of team trucks. They met little German fighters.

SEASON BURLEY SALES PASS TWO MILLION POUNDS

Opening Day of Post-Holiday Period Sets New Record on Floors of Local Warehouses; 47-Cent Season Average; Four Sales Weekly

Tobacco sales on the floors of the Mountain Burley Warehouses on Wednesday will bring the season total to more than one hundred thousand pounds above the sale for the entire 1942-43 period, if conservative estimates of Mr. R. C. Coleman, warehouseman, on the poundage of the auctions now being conducted, are borne out.

If the sales of today reach 125,000, as is confidently expected, the total sales as of tonight will be 2,030,000, as compared with 1,906,000 for the entire period last year. The season average is reported by Mr. Coleman as being 47 cents per pound.

The first post-Christmas auction held on Monday, resulted in the sale of 179,000 for an average of 48 cents, breaking all former records of the local market for a comparable day, both as to total tonnage and average price; on Tuesday 124,000 pounds were sold, and today's sales will easily reach 125,000. With a large amount of tobacco on the floors, 17 trucks, most of them large ones, were unloading as the sale opened, and receipts are expected to be large for the next several days.

One of the best sales to be made Tuesday was by Mr. A. T. Arnold, of Crumpler, Ashe county, who sold 480 pounds at 66 cents, with an average for his entire big crop of 55 cents. Before Christmas Nate Jarvis, of Madison county, sold the tobacco from one acre for an average of 54 cents or for the net sum of \$1,367, with transportation, warehouse fees and all charges paid.

Four Sales Weekly Starting this week, it is said, there will be only four sales per week, rather than five as formerly. This change which affects the entire burley belt, was brought about because of the difficulty redrying plants are having in keeping up with deliveries, due to the shortage of labor.

Boone Lions Club Meets With OPA Board

The Boone Lions Club met at the Gateway Cafe Tuesday evening, Jan. 4. The Watauga County Ration Board were guests of the club for the evening, and introduced by Dr. D. J. Whitener, publicity director of the board, the members spoke briefly.

In commencing the fine work of the board, Lion Wade E. Brown gave something of the history of the board's activities. Chairman Gordon H. Winkler spoke of the difficulties of administering the program. Mr. Winkler, one of the original members of the committee, has seen the work grow in importance in the lives of Watauga countians. Mr. S. F. Horton, another member, spoke briefly. Other members who spoke were Rev. Walter K. Keys, of Blowing Rock, and Mr. W. C. Greene.

The feature talk of the evening was delivered by Mr. Richard E. Olsen, executive secretary of the local rationing board. In explaining the purpose of OPA, he stressed the importance of rationing as a means of holding back inflation and protecting the economic life of the post-war period. He asked that people learn to like rationing better than they have in the past.

Guests of the evening were Dr. A. P. Kephart, Lion-on-leave; Mr. Morris O'Sullivan, manager of the local tent-store, and Prof. A. R. Smith of Appalachian College.

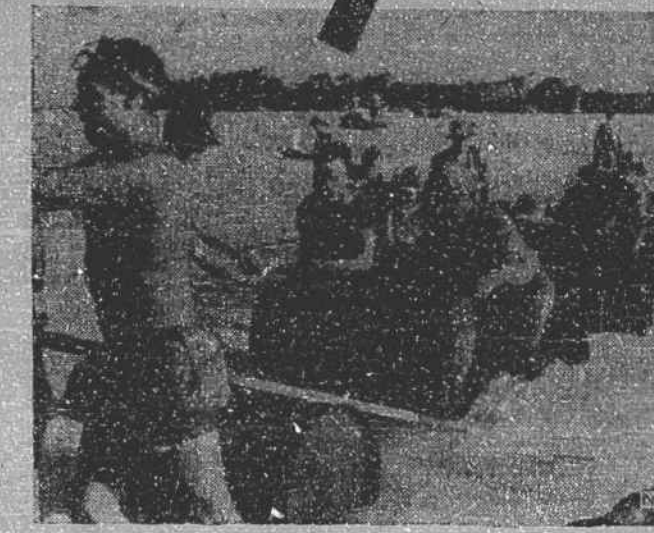
Rites For Mrs. Geo. Cottrell On Thursday

Funeral services for Mrs. George Cottrell, age 34 years, were conducted from the Oak Grove Baptist Church last Thursday afternoon by the pastor, Rev. G. A. Hamby, and Rev. J. C. Canipe. Interment was in the Hine Cemetery.

Mrs. Cottrell, a daughter of Mrs. F. M. Malba of Boone, and the late Mr. Malba, had been residing with her husband in Lenoir for some time, and came to Boone Thursday before Christmas for a visit with her mother. She became seriously ill Sunday evening and died in the local hospital Wednesday morning.

Besides the husband and mother, Mrs. Cottrell is survived by one sister, Miss Dora Malba, of Nashville, Tenn.

Supplying Marines on Apamama



Marines and navy Seabees roll drums of gasoline and fuel oil through the water at Apamama, one of the Gilbert atolls that fell to the marines. The defending Japanese offered only light resistance to the invaders at this point.

FLAKE BOWLES IS MISSING IN ACTION

Former Assistant County Farm Agent in Air Corps, Reported Missing Dec. 20

Lieut. W. Flake Bowles, formerly assistant county farm agent here, was reported missing in action in the Mediterranean theatre of war on December 20th, members of his family at Hiddenite, N. C., have been advised.

Lieut. Bowles came to Boone in June, 1941, and was assistant farm agent until Nov. 13, 1942, when he went into the air corps. He received his wings and commission on July 23, 1943, and was navigator on a B-17 bomber when he failed to return from duty.

No further word has been heard of Lieut. Bowles and his many friends here are still hopeful that he will later be reported as safe.

BAPTISTS HAVE BANNER YEAR

Reports Show Best Twelve Months Financially in State Conventions' History

Raleigh, Jan. 2—The North Carolina Baptist convention had the best financial year in its history in 1943, L. L. Morgan, statistical secretary, said yesterday in his year-end report.

The convention, made up 69 white and two Indian associations, received a total of \$6,454,818.82 in gifts for all purposes, a gain of \$974,809.88, or 17.8 per cent, over last year.

Gifts to all missions, educational institutions and benevolences totaled \$1,420,869.19, a gain of \$304,595.57 over the previous year, and gifts for local work amounted to \$5,033,949.63, 15.4 per cent more than last year.

Morgan said that the number of churches had been increased to 2,044, with a combined membership of 551,348, a gain of 35 churches and 13,668 members. There were 21,308 baptisms among white association churches and 244 in 35 Indian churches.

With 2,537 churches contributing to denominational objects, the per capita gift to denomination objects was \$2.58, and the per capita gift to local objects was \$9.14.

The report showed there are 2,642 Sunday schools, with a total membership of 402,244. Thirty-six Indian Sunday schools have a membership of 3,687.

The four churches reporting the largest Sunday school average attendance in the convention were Tabernacle of Raleigh, with 1,053; First of Charlotte, with 816; First of Greensboro, with 805, and First of Winston-Salem, with 806.

In Bible school and training work, Morgan's report showed that 564 churches held Bible schools, a drop of 85 from last year, which Morgan attributed to the shortage of gasoline and tires; and 995 had some form of training union work, compared with 1,049 last year.

E. E. McGuire Dies On Tuesday Evening

Mr. E. E. McGuire, of Todd, died at the Wilkes Hospital Tuesday night, from an illness of only a few hours. Funeral details had not been arranged as this was written.

Arabs, Netherlands West Indies, have a petroleum boom, and 1,500 laborers have been imported in three months to work in refineries.

WEATHER DATA FOR OLD YEAR

Local Man Submits Interesting Figures on Temperatures, Etc., For 1943

Mr. W. H. Smith, who makes a hobby of recording the whims of the elements in this locality, furnishes The Democrat the following concise summary of the weather in Boone during the year 1943:

Average low temperature..... 41.8
Average high temperature..... 62.9
Mean temperature..... 52.3
February 13, 14 and 15 was the coldest period with temperature 4 to 9 below zero.
January 27 and 28, we had an all-time record sleet storm.
April 13, 14 and 15 were snow blizzard days.
January—five snows.
February—six snows.
March—eight snows.
April—one snow and three days of blizzard.
October—two light snows.
November—two light snows.
December—two light snows.
First killing frosts—Sept. 14 and 18.
June, July and August weather:
Low average, 63.5 degrees.
High average, 82.0 degrees.
Mean, 72.2 degrees.

Dr. and Mrs. Kephart Spend Week in County

Dr. and Mrs. A. P. Kephart, owners and directors of Camp Yonahlossee, and of the Out of Doors School at Sarasota, Fla., have been at Camp Yonahlossee for the past week after a visit to Miss Margaret Kephart, who is with the Australian Ministry of Supply in Washington, D. C., and a short stay in Greensboro. They are on their way to Charleston, S. C., for the christening of the U. S. S. Kephart, destroyer escort, named in honor of their son, Lieut. William Perry Kephart, which will occur on Friday.

Dr. and Mrs. Kephart and Miss Margaret Kephart have purchased and reorganized the Out of Door School in memory of Lieut. Kephart. On October 14, the first anniversary of his death, they set up a fund for a special shelf of books in the school library also in memory of Lieut. Kephart. Since then this fund has been added to by friends of the school and the Kepharts.

The Kepharts expect to return to Watauga County not later than the first of June to operate Camp Yonahlossee for its 23rd season. They are expecting a full season since half of the places have already been reserved. Very many were turned away last year and early enrollment, indicate that registration will be complete at an earlier date this year.

The Out of Doors School is developing very encouragingly and the enrollment for the current year will be beyond expectations for a first year. It is being operated as a non-profit corporation. Five members of the Camp Yonahlossee staff are members of the faculty and a number of students are from North Carolina.

Annual Red Cross Meeting January 10

The annual meeting of the Watauga Chapter, American Red Cross, will be held Monday, Jan. 10, at 7:30 o'clock. There will be an election of officers and reports of the activities of the chapter during the past year.

HOSIERY PLANT NOW OPERATING IN NEW BUILDING

Large Number of Machines Now in Operation at Baker-Commack Plant; Bad Weather Delays Plant Getting Into Production

Manufacturing operations started at the big new plant of the Baker-Commack Co. here Monday morning, and although bad weather has interfered with the installation of machinery, a good part of the equipment was ready for operation, with the opening shift being composed of 27 people.

Already installed are 33 knitting machines, 10 ribbers, 10 loopers, and there will be gradual expansion until the plant gets into full operation, when there will be no less than 100 people employed.

Mr. L. E. Veale, of Burlington, who supervised the installation of the new machinery, left Wednesday, and the plant will be in charge of Mr. Melvin Y. Holt. Mr. Veale states that the plant is not organized yet, and is working with little more than a skeleton crew at this time; however, as more workers arrive, and trained, the plant will gradually get into full production.

Due largely to the bad weather, a number of those having in applications for work have not appeared. The management asks that workers make every effort to report for duty when notified. Messrs. Veale and Holt are well pleased with their new building, and with the progress being made by the workers who have been recruited in this county.

\$20,000 LOSS IN SATURDAY BLAZE

Lester Carroll Loses Large Barn, Feed and 25,000 Feet of Lumber

Lester Carroll, lumber and stock man of the Perkinsville neighborhood, suffered a loss of about \$20,000 in a fire early Saturday morning, which destroyed a large stock barn, a quantity of feed, and a yard containing some 200,000 feet of lumber. Insurance was in force covering something like 20 per cent of the loss, it is said.

The cause of the conflagration is not known but the fire originated in the barn, and the structure burned rapidly. The Boone fire department responded, but since city water lines were not available in Perkinsville, such water as could be secured from a well was used to protect property of the Watauga Livestock Market. A number of cattle were taken from the building, and the structure was destroyed at about 2 a. m. When the fire appeared to be burned down, and no further danger to other property apparent, firefighters returned home. At about 6 o'clock, the lumber yard burned, only about 15,000 feet of lumber being saved.

Hotel at Elk Park Destroyed by Fire

Fire of undetermined origin completely destroyed the Elk Park hotel and all of the contents about 5:30 a. m. Thursday. Several persons living at the hotel were forced to jump from windows, the flames had gained such headway before being discovered.

A trailer, occupied by a diamond driller making tests at the Cranberry iron mine, and an automobile parked on the lot next to the hotel also were destroyed. Diamonds valued at \$4,000 used in the drilling were lost.

The Elk Park hotel, only hotel in the town, was operated by Mr. and Mrs. Ben F. Dugger, who went to Elk Park a number of years ago from Watauga County.

Red Army Smashes Into Pre-war Poland

London, Jan. 4—The Russians captured the stubbornly-defended stronghold and railway station of Belaya Tserkov and 40 more Ukrainian towns today, crushing deep into the Germans' north flank defenses protecting their hundreds of thousands of troops in the south Ukraine.

To the west of this southwestern Russian drive, Red army vanguards were smashing into pre-war Poland. A Moscow dispatch said that about main Russian forces occupied Berezna, Volynsk and other towns in back areas.