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\$1.50 A YEAR—5c A COPY

HOUSE APPROVES BILL TO INCREASE BURLEY ACREAGE

Congressman Doughton Aids in Passage of Bill Offered by Rep. Flannagan; Would Increase Acreage to One Acre For All

The bill introduced in Congress by Representative Flannagan, of Virginia, and which had the active support of Congressman Doughton, designed to provide burley tobacco growers with a minimum allotment of one acre has passed the House of Representatives and been sent to the Senate.

Information of the success of the measure in the lower house first came in a message to Mr. W. H. Gragg, of Boone, from Congressman Doughton, which said:

"House today passed the Flannagan bill increasing acreage of small tobacco growers. Did all I could to be helpful."

The Boone Chamber of Commerce had long been active in its advocacy of increased acreage for the small planters of this section and a special committee had been assured of Mr. Doughton's support of the measure. A large percentage of the burley growers of Watauga County now have bases less than one acre and by making one acre the minimum the yield here will be greatly increased thus aiding the individual farmer and guaranteeing further increased sales at the local market.

Statutes now provide that any farm having an acreage allotment in 1942 shall be given an allotment of not less than one-half acre.

If the legislation becomes law, it will affect primarily farms now having allotments of between seven-tenths and one acre. The additional acreage provided would be distributed among about one-third of the burley farms, proponents said. "It is believed," said the agriculture committee in a report, "that the effect of the resolution will be to further encourage the farmers by giving them an opportunity to obtain a slightly larger income from burley tobacco and as a result will tend to increase rather than decrease the production of food and feed during the war period."

Provisions of the Bill
The text of the resolutions passed by the House is as follows:

Whereas the increased demand for cigarettes and other tobacco products has resulted in record usages during recent years of burley tobacco; and

Whereas, due to a shortage of labor and equipment and the need for the production of essential food and fiber crops, the production of burley tobacco has not kept pace with the increased usage; and

Whereas small growers of burley tobacco could, if their acreage allotments were increased, produce additional burley tobacco without adversely affecting their production of essential food and fiber crops; therefore, be it

Resolved, etc., That notwithstanding the provisions of section 413 (a) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act of 1938, as amended, the burley tobacco acreage allotment which would otherwise be established for any farm having a burley acreage allotment in 1943 shall not be less than one acre, or 25 per cent of the cropland, whichever is the smaller, and the acreage required for apportionment under this joint resolution shall be in addition to the national and state acreage allotments.

Local burley growers are being urged to have plenty of plants available this year to take care of their needs. In the event of final passage of the bill, the demand for plants will be increased here immeasurably, and those fortunate enough to have more than they need can readily dispose of them to neighbor farmers.

Additional Report of Bond Sales in Schools

Following is the final report of purchases of bonds in the schools of Watauga county during the Fourth War Loan drive:

Deep Gap school	\$ 425.00
Valle Crucis school	22,552.10
Blowing Rock school	1,718.75
Carolyn Mast, of the Valle Crucis school, has sold \$19,229.25 worth of bonds during the drive. Other schools in the county reported last week.	

Course in Farm Repairs At Local High School

A course for adult farmers in construction and repair of farm machinery and equipment will begin Saturday, March 4, in the vocational agriculture shop of Appalachian High School, Dr. Orby Southard, instructor, has announced. Any farmer wishing to construct or repair any piece of farm machinery or equipment may do so at the shop under the supervision of a competent instructor while the course is in progress.

The course will run for at least six weeks and meetings will be held each Saturday from 9:30 a. m. to 4 p. m. The use of such shop equipment as a forge, drill press, power saws and electric welder in addition to common hand tools will be available to farmers, without charge, during the course.

Red Cross blood plasma was the number one life-saver in the African campaign, according to Major Norman T. Kirk, surgeon-general of the army. Death rate of wounded men was kept down to 3 per cent instead of the 15 to 18 per cent common in World War I.

Namur Jap Surrenders to Leathernecks



During the fourth marine division's battle for Namur Island, these leathernecks discovered an occupied Jap pillbox. With guns trained on the only exit, they yelled for the Japs to come out and surrender or be blown up. One Jap surrendered and after being lifted from the dugout informed the marines that a comrade remained in the dugout but was afraid to give himself up. Photo shows the reluctant Jap, wearing a stomach bandage, as he gave up.

C. L. DUNCAN IS FATALLY BURNED

Son of Mr. and Mrs. I. I. Duncan of Todd, Dies in Baltimore Hospital

C. Lester Duncan, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. E. Duncan, of Todd, and brother of Brantley Duncan, former Boone resident, died February 22 in a Baltimore hospital, five days after he was fatally burned at his home in Bel Air, Md.

Mr. Duncan, it is revealed, was working nights at the Glean Martin Aircraft Corporation, and had come home from the plant, seated himself in a chair near the stove, to smoke a cigarette before retiring. Exhausted, Mr. Duncan fell asleep, the cigarette butt ignited the packing in the upholstered chair, and medical opinion was that he was overcome by carbon monoxide from the burning chair before the fire reached his body. When he was found, he was horribly burned, and there was no hope for his recovery.

Mr. Duncan, who was 43 years old, leaves a wife and four sons and daughters, two of whom are in the armed services. The family had lived in Bel Air since 1932. The parents also survive, together with four brothers and a sister.

The body was brought back to the old home where funeral services were conducted from the home by the Rev. Mr. Winkler. Burial was in Beaver Creek cemetery.

ACCOUNTING OF SEAL SALE FUND

Final Report of Christmas Seal Sales in County; Balance Sheet of Fund

Following is a final report of the 1943 Christmas Seal sale campaign in this county, released Tuesday by Mrs. J. E. Holshouser, chairman of the campaign:

Amt taken in for seals, 1943	\$889.59
Amt taken in for bangles	96.33
Amt taken in after March 1, 1943	25.52
for 1942 drive	

Grand total	\$1,011.44
Distribution of gross receipts:	
Percentage to state	\$252.65
Balance for Watauga Co.	758.79

Total distributed	\$1,011.44
Total received from communities:	
Boone	\$386.81
Cove Creek	80.53
Blowing Rock	164.24
Valle Crucis	93.35
Deep Gap, Laxon, Boone Rt. 1, (Stony Fork, Bald Mountain and North Fork)	91.60

Total	\$885.09
Bal. brought forward Dec. 1942	\$ 28.42
Total sale for 1943	\$913.51
Total fund for 1943	\$908.96

DISBURSEMENTS

Boone Drug Co., first aid supplies for schools	\$ 19.21
Frank Webster, State's percentage of seal sales	212.02
Frank Webster, supplies for seal sale	14.57
W.N.C. Sanatorium, Miss Foster	141.87
W.N.C. Sanatorium, Miss Foster and Mrs. Logan	136.80
W.N.C. Sanatorium, Miss Foster	32.71
W.N.C. Sanatorium, Miss Foster	34.98
N. C. T. B. Association, Book	1.00
W.N.C. Sanatorium, Miss Parks	8.15
W.N.C. Sanatorium, Miss Parks and Mrs. Hodges	22.50
Herman Wilcox, freight for supplies	42.90
Mrs. J. E. Holshouser, stamps, envelopes, etc., for sale	3.59
W.N.C. Sanatorium, Mrs. Lula Townsend	22.17
Mrs. J. E. Holshouser, supplies for workers	7.50

Total expenditures for 1943	\$700.06
Funds, 1943	\$ 98.96
Expenses	700.06

Bal. Jan., 1944	\$ 208.90
Sales, 1943	985.05

Bal. Feb. 29, 1944	\$1,193.95
To State Association	252.26
Bal to date	\$ 941.69

Names of contributors who have not heretofore been acknowledged: Robert Greene, Clark Greene, E. N. Norris, Geo. Norris, Spencer Warren, W. E. Reark.

Contribute to the Red Cross!

Lieut. Aldridge Killed in Action

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Linville Aldridge Meets Death in Italian Campaign

First Lieutenant Shona Aldridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Linville Aldridge, of the Foscoe neighborhood, was killed in action in the fighting in Italy on January 22, according to a brief message received from the War Department last week. The message stated that a letter would follow.

Lieut. Aldridge was attached to General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army, and had been overseas for a number of months. He had seen service in Africa and Sicily, before taking part in the invasion of Italy.

REPUBLICANS TO MEET SATURDAY

Chairman Cook Calls Convention to Meet Saturday Afternoon; Precinct Meetings Friday

Mr. Earl D. Cook, chairman of the Republican Executive Committee of Watauga County, has issued a call for the members of his party to gather in convention at the courthouse in Boone, Saturday afternoon, March 4, at 2:30.

In the official convention call which is published in this newspaper today, it is stated that the convention will be for the purpose of naming a chairman and secretary of the executive committee; the appointment of an executive committee, and the election of delegates to the State and Congressional conventions, as well as for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the convention.

Township meetings will be held in the various townships Friday, March 3, at 2:30 p. m. These meetings will set up a township organization, recommend a member and associate member of the county executive committee, and elect one delegate and one alternate to the convention for each 50 votes or majority fraction thereof cast for the Republican candidate for Governor in the 1940 election.

15,780 No. 4 Ration Books in County

Washington, Feb. 28—Distribution of war ration book four now totals 128,760,419, the office of Price Administration disclosed today in making public a tabulation showing the number of books issued in each county throughout the country. Distribution of the book began Oct. 18, 1943.

Tabulation for North Carolina, in which 3,423,109 books were distributed, follows, in part: Watauga, 15,780; Ashe, 19,259; Avery, 11,839; Caldwell, 34,355; and Mitchell, 14,184.

Baptist Pastors to Hold Conference

A conference of Baptist pastors of Watauga County will be held at the Boone Baptist Church on Monday, March 6. The program for the conference, prepared by Rev. B. L. Ray, of Blowing Rock, is as follows: What is Fellowship? Grady Minton; Why We Need Fellowship, Raymond Hendrix; Introduction to the Epistle of John III, J. C. Canipe.

WATAUGA ONE OF FEW TO REACH E' BOND QUOTA 17TH

Total Bond Sales for County Near \$260,000, With Four More Days to Go; E Bond Sales More Than Cover County's Overall Quota

Sales of Series E bonds, according to Federal Reserve clearances up to Friday of last week, had more than reached the total overall bond quota for this county, according to Mr. W. D. Farthing, chairman of the local War Savings Staff, who further states that sales of bonds of all types in the county during the Fourth War Loan doubled the quota for the county, with \$16,000 over.

The quota for the county was \$122,000, and \$122,212.50 in E bonds alone had actually cleared the Reserve Bank. Overall clearances were \$259,401.50.

Watauga county is one of the few counties in the state reaching its E bond quota as is evidenced by the following excerpts of a letter to Mr. Farthing from C. T. Leinback, chairman of the War Finance Committee, under date of Feb. 21:

"I want to congratulate you upon having reached, according to Federal Reserve report as of February 17, your E bond quota. There are only 18 counties that previously had reached their E bond quota, and on the 17th Watauga was one of the four additional counties to reach it, so that you are now one of the 22 to reach that goal."

WANTS SCHOOL REPORTS
Mr. Farthing states that so far reports of the student selling the most bonds in the county have reached him from only three schools. He insists that each school report to him at once the leader in bond sales, also the names of those deserving honorable mention for their efforts. It is to be remembered that sales of E bonds, only count, and that total sales are to be in terms of actual sales value.

Plan To Speed Rate Of Military Draft

Officials of the local selective service board are expecting a sharply accelerated draft rate as a result of the President's order for an immediate review of occupational deferments and a speedy start on making up a 200,000 man deficit in army inductions.

Moving toward that end, selective service already has tightened rules for deferment of agricultural workers and draft officials told congress last week that it may be necessary to rule out industrial deferments for all men under 26. The minimum age for industrial deferments now is 22.

Selective Service headquarters sent copies of President Roosevelt's order to all state directors immediately after its issuance at the White House Saturday and directed that it be transmitted to all local boards and appeal boards.

The state directors were directed to review the cases of all men between ages 18 and 37 deferred in classes 2-A, 2-B, 2-c and 3-C.

MISS HODGES ENLISTS IN U. S. CADET NURSES CORPS

Miss Willie Lee Hodges, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Finley Hodges, of Boone Route 2, has enlisted in the U. S. Nurses Cadet Corps. She is now at Shelby Hospital, Shelby, N. C., where she is taking training.

Miss Hodges is the first young lady from Watauga County to enlist. She received her education at the Appalachian High School.

Mayor Winkler Asks Full Support of Red Cross in Current War Fund Drive

Mayor Gordon H. Winkler on Tuesday issued the following proclamation, urging the people of the town to contribute to the Red Cross to the limit of their ability, during the current War Fund campaign:

Whereas, the war in every part of the world is in its most critical stage, requiring every ounce of human endeavor possible on the part of those on the home front; and

Whereas, the young men of this city are fighting and dying on far-flung battle fronts—from Europe to the islands of the Pacific and in the Far East, both on land, on sea and in the air; and

Whereas, it is not only the privilege, but the duty as well, of every American to serve the cause of humanity to as great an extent as possible, and in every way possible; and

Whereas, it is our common aim to contribute to the welfare of our sons and daughters in the armed forces, wherever they may be, even to the point of sacrifice; and

Whereas, we must also protect our families remaining at home in the event of any great man-made, or natural disaster, which may strike without warning; and

Whereas, the American Red Cross is serving our fighting men the world over, bringing them the comfort and cheer that we ourselves would like to give them, and at the same time is prepared here in our own community to aid us in the event of disaster;

Therefore I, Gordon H. Winkler, mayor of the city of Boone, in accordance with the proclamation of the President of the United States, naming March as American Red Cross Month, do here and now call upon all citizens of this city to support the 1944 Red Cross War Fund, to the limit of their ability, by contributing to the Red Cross through our own local chapter; and I further urge that the citizens of this city with the knowledge that the Red Cross must carry a greater burden this year than ever before in its history, make their gifts larger to enable the Red Cross to meet every demand placed upon it.

Red Cross Starts Drive With Gifts Of \$758 to Better All Past Records

Casualty of Nazi Fire



Her anguished father carries this little Italian girl to an Allied first aid station near the front lines, somewhere in Italy. She was wounded by German strafing planes.

BLDG. AND LOAN NAMES OFFICERS

H. Grady Farthing Re-elected President, W. H. Gragg Secretary at Board Meeting

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Watauga Building and Loan Association, which was held Monday evening, H. Grady Farthing was re-elected president of the organization, and W. H. Gragg, secretary-treasurer.

Among other officers re-elected were: A. W. Smith, vice-president; J. E. Holshouser and Wade E. Brown, attorneys; H. Grady Farthing, R. L. Bingham and C. M. Critcher, loan committee; Mrs. Carrie H. Bingham, bookkeeper, and Miss Mabel Bingham, assistant bookkeeper.

Jay Edmisten Returns From Italian Area

Sgt. Jay Edmisten, who was perhaps Watauga's youngest soldier in the fighting in the Mediterranean area, has returned to the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. D. Edmisten, at Zionville, and has been discharged from the army.

Sgt. Edmisten, who enlisted in the army when he was 15, is now 18 years of age, and was overseas for about two years. He was in Ireland and England before participating in the victorious African campaign against Marshal Rommel's legions, and was in the first landing at Salerno, in Italy, where he was attached to the Fifth Army.

Young Edmisten declines information concerning the actual occurrences on the fighting fronts, but has seen plenty of action, although not suffering from serious injury. Among his souvenirs is a metal division insignia with the swastika in relief, which came from the coat lapel of a German soldier.

Substantial Sum Contributed to War Fund in Advance of Opening Day of Campaign; Thermometer on Postoffice Grounds to Indicate Progress of Campaign From Day to Day; Original Contributors

The Red Cross War Fund campaign in Watauga County gets off to perhaps the best start in the history of the local organization with contributions of \$758.50, this amount having been reported to War Fund Chairman Clyde R. Greene Tuesday evening. The campaign actually gets under way this (Wednesday) morning, and will continue through the month, with an organized effort being made to raise the local quota of \$6,000 within the shortest possible time.

Mr. Greene is erecting on the lawn at the postoffice building today a huge thermometer, on which will be registered from day to day the percentage standing of the fund. In commenting on the outlook for the campaign, Mr. Greene states that never has there been such an auspicious start to a similar effort in this county, and never has there been such intense interest on the eve of a fund-raising drive.

"Every Watauga County citizen will be given an opportunity to contribute to this cause, which is so close to the hearts of our people," Chairman Greene said.

"The Red Cross spirit springs from human desire to alleviate suffering and pain in war and in times of great disaster. In this war we have carried that spirit from our own shores to every part of the globe where American men and women are serving the nation. The Red Cross is always at their side. We are the Red Cross. Subscribe to the limit of your ability."

The following is a list of the first contributors:

Boone Tobacco Board of Trade	\$ 50.00
R. C. Coleman	25.00
Rev. E. F. Troutman	1.00
Watauga Democrat	65.00
S. C. Eggers	5.00
Union Baptist Church	50.00
Boone Tire and Bargain Store	25.00
Farmers Hdw. & Supply Co.	225.00
Watauga Building & Loan Assn.	75.00
H. Grady Farthing	50.00
A. & P. Store	5.00
G. R. Moore	50.00
Hart's Department Store	35.00
Parkway Company	25.00
Will C. Walker	5.00
Goodman Dress Shop	5.00
D. J. Cottrell	4.50
College Book Store	1.00
Burl Culler	2.00
Roone Oil Company	1.00
Wade E. Brown	10.00
Total	\$758.50

COUNTY TEACHERS TO GATHER HERE

Teachers to Meet at Boone High School Saturday; Public Forum Program

Teachers in the schools of Watauga County will gather at the Appalachian High School auditorium Saturday afternoon at 2:30 o'clock.

The program for the meeting will take the form of a public forum, and the following subjects will be discussed:

1. Elementary Principals, Arlie Moretz.
 2. Grammar Grades, Edwin Gunter.
 3. Elementary Grades, Mrs. Lucile M. Wallace.
 4. High School Math, Science, Home Economics and Agriculture, Herbert Wey.
 5. Social Studies, Mrs. S. F. Horton.
 6. English, Mrs. Grace Mast.
- All teachers are urged to be present.

Ration Calendar for Week of February 28

PROCESSED FOODS: Green K, L and M (Book 4) expire March 20. Blue A-8 through E-8 (Book 4) now valid at 10 points each, for use without tokens; expire May 20.

MEATS AND FATS: Brown Y and Z (Book 3) expire March 20. Red A-8, B-8, C-8 (Book 4) now valid at 10 points each, for use with tokens; expire May 20. (Red D-8, E-8, F-8 become valid March 12; expire May 20).

SUGAR: Sugar stamp No. 30 in Book 4, good for five pounds until March 31.

CANNING SUGAR: Sugar stamp No. 40 good for five pounds of canning sugar until Feb. 28, 1945.

SHOES: Stamp No. 18 (Book 1) and Airplane Stamp No. 1 (Book 3) valid indefinitely.

FUEL OIL: Period 4 and 5 coupons (10 gallons) expire Sept. 30.

GASOLINE: A-9 coupons now valid, expire May 8.

Rationing rules now require that every car owner write his license number and state in advance on all gasoline coupons in his possession.