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COUNTY LEADS STATE IN SIXTH WAR LOAN DRIVE

Final Figures Indicate Watauga Went Over With 430% of Quota; Only Three Other Counties Sell as Much as 400% of Quota; Prizes Given

Final reports for the Sixth War Loan campaign in Watauga county indicate that 430 percent of the quota was subscribed, thus placing Watauga ahead of all other counties of the state on a percentage basis. Only three other counties raised as much as 400 percent of their quotas. They are Cherokee, Graham and Henderson.

Total sales of bonds in Watauga were \$503,272.25, against a quota of \$117,000, while in the E bond sales 125 percent of the quota of \$84,000 was sold, or \$105,581.25 in this type of security.

Prizes Given

A highly organized bond sales campaign was conducted through the schools of the county, and last week and the first of this week, Dr. D. J. Whitener, chairman of the school committee, assisted by Clyde R. Greene, Sixth War Loan chairman, and Alfred Adams held meetings at the participating schools and presented the prizes given by the Boone Merchants Association. Two prizes of \$5 each were given to the boys and girls of the larger schools of the county, \$5 to the student who sold the greatest value in E bonds, and another to the student who sold bonds to the greatest number of people. In addition to these the Western Hardware and the North-Western Bank offered as county-wide prizes two \$25 bonds, one to the student who sold the greatest amount of bonds, and the other to the student who sold bonds to the greatest number of people.

Those who received prizes of \$5 are: Bethel school, Janice Ray Swift and Bobby Wilson; Blowing Rock, Tony Lentz and Buddy Council; Boone Demonstration, Martha a Council and Billy Crawford; Boone High, Mary Elizabeth Barnes and Nancy Shull; Cove Creek, Emogene Harmon and Mary Sue Walsh; Deep Gap, Jane Moretz and Don Harold; Green Valley, Baxter Proffitt; Mabel, Verlie Brown and Jackie Trivette; Valle Crucis, Carolyn Mast and Sue Farthing.

Buddy Hollar of Boone Demonstration School, and Joan Mast of Cove Creek, each received a \$25 bond in the county-wide contest. Superintendent S. F. Horton, the principals and teachers of the county worked patriotically in this phase of the war loan campaign. Altogether more than 100 school children in the county participated.

POLIO CAMPAIGN TO BE CONTINUED

More Than \$1,000 Reported; Chairman Believes Quota Can Be Reached

Due to the extended cold weather over the nation, which has slowed up the campaign for funds with which to combat infantile paralysis, the campaign which was to have closed today, has been extended to Feb. 15, states County Chairman Howard Cottrell.

Mr. Cottrell believes that Watauga county will raise her quota of \$1,740, and states that more than \$1,000 has already been collected, on the basis of meagre returns from the county. Only two churches have reported their collections, and 24 school districts are yet to be heard from. In addition, there are no figures yet on the contributions of local business men and on collections at the theatre.

Mr. Cottrell insists that all those who desire to help in this worthy cause make their contributions at once. Checks may be mailed direct to him at Boone, if more convenient.

This Is Last Day For Old Auto Tags

Today, January 31, is the last day that 1944 automobile license tags may be displayed legally, says Patrolman Miles Jones. The state had granted a 30-day extension from January 1, for the new tags, but Officer Jones states that after today those found driving vehicles without the 1945 tag will be cited for violation of the law.

Ration Guide

MEATS, FATS—Red stamps Q5, R5, S5 expire March 31; T5, U5, W5 and X5 expire April 28; Y5, Z5, and A2, B2, C2 and D2 expire June 2.
PROCESSED FOODS—Blue stamps X5, Y5 and A2 and B2 expire March 31; C2, D2, E2, F2 and G2 expire April 28; H2, J2, K2, L2 and M2 expire June 2.
SUGAR—Stamp 34 expires Feb. 28; stamp 35 expires June 2.
FUEL OIL—Periods 4 and 5 became good January 29.
SHOES—Airplane stamps 1, 2 and 3 in Book 3, good indefinitely.

GENERAL KENNEDY TO PRESENT SERVICE CROSS FOR SGT. EGGERS



SGT. CARROLL D. EGGERS

Pfc. Olma Greene Killed in Action

Pfc. Olma D. Greene, age 22, son of Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Greene, of Boone, was killed in action in Luxembourg, Germany, on Jan. 11, according to a telegram received from the office of the Adjutant General by the parents. The official message stated that a letter would follow.

Pfc. Greene enlisted in the army May 31, 1943, and took training at Camp Haan, Calif., and Camp Gruber, Okla. He went overseas November 15, 1944. He is survived by his parents, and the following brothers and sisters: Pvt. Herman S. Greene, with the American army in Italy; Enzer and Loreita Greene, of the home; Willey and Berlin Greene of Blowing Rock; Osteen Greene, of Hainesville, Ga.; Mack Greene, of Boone, and Coy Greene, of Meat Camp.

SPECIAL MEETING JUNIORS SLATED

Past State Councilor Snyder to Deliver Address at Meeting Next Monday

Daniel Boone Council No. 129, Jr. O. U. A. M., will meet in special session Monday evening, Feb. 5, at 7:30 o'clock, at which time Past State Councilor C. W. Snyder of Winston-Salem, will speak, and several candidates will be on hand.

This is the first Junior meeting to be held since the organization's hall was redecorated, and it is asked that each member attend at this time, and note the wonderfully improved appearance of the lodge room.

Past Grand Master To Be Honored By Local Masonic Lodge

James W. Payne, past grand master, will be present at a regular communication of Snow Lodge No. 363, A. F. & A. M., to be held Friday evening, Feb. 2, at 7:30 o'clock. On this occasion Mr. Payne will be presented with an honorary certificate of membership in the lodge. A full attendance of the membership is desired.

Second Yank Army In Battle of Louzon

Gen. MacArthur's Headquarters, Louzon, Jan. 31—Another American army was thrown into the battle for Louzon Monday morning when elements of Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger's new eighth army swept to a completely unopposed landing just north of Subic bay on the west coast. By nightfall they drove 11 miles inland toward a junction with the sixth army which is within 30 miles of Manila.

The eighth army Yanks, landing at San Narciso and San Antonio to seize five miles of beachhead 80 air miles northwest of Manila, took an airfield at San Marcelino in their quick drive to seal the fate of the Japanese retreating to Bataan and to capture the vital Subic bay naval base.

Not a man was lost in the amphibious operation, which caught the Japs completely by surprise. Not a Japanese gun nor plane attempted to interfere or even observe as the 38th and 24th division troops hit the Zambales coast beaches lined with flag-raising, cheering Filipinos.

7,000 MILES OF RAILWAY REHABILITATED IN EUROPE

Paris, Jan. 28.—U. S. army engineers have rehabilitated 7,000 miles of European railroads for use by allied armies as supply routes to the western front, it was announced today.

The engineers restored 5,000 miles of double track and 2,000 miles of single track in France and Belgium including all major rail networks in allied territory and reconstructed 172 major rail bridges destroyed by bombing or enemy demolition.

American Legion to Sponsor Program for Presentation Ceremonies in Posthumous Award of Distinguished Service Cross to Vilas Man; Commander Snow to Participate

A Distinguished Service Cross has been awarded posthumously to Sergeant Carroll D. Eggers, son of Mr. and Mrs. George C. Eggers, of Vilas, according to information coming from the office of the Adjutant General, and Watauga Post, American Legion, is formulating a program for a public ceremony, at which Brigadier General John T. Kennedy, commanding general at Fort Bragg, will present the medal to the parents of Sgt. Eggers, who distinguished himself in a battle in France last July.

Single-handed, Sgt. Eggers poured withering machine gun fire into the overwhelming ranks of a German unit, driving back the foe twice before being struck with a bullet in the jaw. He called an ammunition carrier, and bade him support him, while he drove the Germans away for the third time, after which a sniper's bullet entered his brain. His efforts held the enemy until his comrades were able to bring up a unit with 81-mm guns.

Local Legion officials have planned for the presentation of the award to be made the father of the dead soldier at the Legion hut on Thursday evening, Feb. 8, at 8 o'clock, and a program is being planned for the occasion.

George K. Snow of Mount Airy, state departmental commander of the American Legion, will be present and introduce General Kennedy. Lionel Ward, 17th district commander, will present Mr. Snow, and will be in charge of the gathering. Howard Steelman, post commander, will make brief remarks, as will S. F. Horton. The assembly will sing the National Anthem and America, and prayer will be offered by Rev. J. C. Canipe, local Baptist minister, and the benediction will be by Rev. J. K. Parker, Jr., of the Presbyterian Church. The program details haven't been completely formulated yet, but all friends and others who desire may attend the ceremonies, the first of their kind ever to be held in this city.

About General Kennedy

General Kennedy, a South Carolinian and a holder of the Congressional Medal of Honor, the only medal higher than that which he will present to Mr. and Mrs. Eggers, is a graduate of West Point and served in the Philippines. He served in Mexico in 1916 and with a field artillery unit in France during the first World War, seeing action in the battles of St. Mihiel and the Meuse-Argonne. Other medals he received were the Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, the Order of the Purple Heart and the Etoile Noir from the French Republic. He has been commandant at Fort Bragg since December 2, 1941, which is the largest field artillery center in the world.

Bitter Cold Weather Again Visits Region

Wednesday morning the mercury dropped to eight degrees above zero, after a short period of milder temperatures, and weather reports indicate that the frigid wave will grip the eastern section of the United States for a couple of days yet.

The mountain section has had the toughest winter for years, the inclement weather having been abated only briefly since the first snow fell back about November 20. High winds and below freezing temperatures, with considerable snowfall, have made the winter here unusually severe. Householders, however, have been able to get a fairly adequate supply of coal so far, and transportation has been maintained for the greater part of the winter.

U. S. Job Agency Places 255,655

Raleigh, Jan. 29—Breaking all previous records in finding jobs for men, the U. S. Employment Service of the War Manpower Commission in North Carolina made 255,655 verified placements in non-agricultural jobs in the state in 1944, exceeding the 1943 record of 201,390 by 26.6 percent.

Dr. S. J. Dorton, state WMC director, said the placements last year were about three times the number in 1938, and that 15,275, or 5.6 percent of them, were war veterans. Of the total placements, 159,058 were men and 96,597 were women. Placements of physically handicapped persons totaled 5,598.

MARRIAGE DECREASE IN 1945 ESTIMATED

Washington, Jan. 29—The census bureau estimated today there were about 1,441,000 marriages in 1944, a decrease of 136,000 from 1943.

It was a rough preliminary estimate, based on the fact that in cities of 100,000 or more, about 514,000 marriage licenses were issued during the year a decrease of 9 percent from 1943.

BURLEY MARKET CLOSES BANNER SEASON TODAY

Total Sales Are Near Five Million Pounds at Close of Tuesday's Auction; Almost Two and a Quarter Millions of Dollars Paid Growers

The Mountain Burley Tobacco Market ends its current season here today, with total sales far and away ahead of any year in the market's history.

At the close of the sales Tuesday afternoon figures indicated that 4,798,200 pounds of tobacco had been sold, which total comes in striking distance of doubling last year's sales of a little more than two and a half million pounds, with Wednesday's sale figures not yet available.

The growers of this section have been paid a total of \$2,238,756.46 for a season average of \$46.66 per hundred pounds. Should 5,146,000 pounds have been auctioned last season's total sales would have been doubled.

Warehousemen are highly pleased with the results of this season's sales, the totals being rather ahead of their expectations at the beginning of the season. There is rumor to the effect that additional warehouse space may be provided by next year, but there is no confirmation of such a report at the present time.

Mr. R. C. Coleman, warehouse operator, takes occasion to thank the farmers of the belt for their fine co-operation, which has enabled the local market to show such a spectacular growth, and expects to be back on the job next fall, with the same fine, friendly, helpful service, which has made the local market such a favorite with all burley growers who have sold on the local floors.

Red Army Drives to Within 73 Miles Berlin

London, Jan. 31—The first White Russian army thrust within 73 miles of Berlin yesterday when it captured the Brandenburg province town of Stolzenberg in a 20-mile dash down the valley of the Netze river from Driesen.

The capture of Stolzenberg was announced in the regular nightly communique broadcast from Moscow, which made no point of the fact that it represented the Russians' closest approach to the Nazi capital.

Early today, the Moscow radio announced that the Red army was less than 50 miles from Stettin, Berlin's port on the Baltic. Stolzenberg is 52 miles south east of Stettin.

First and Third U. S. Armies Launch Drive

Paris, Jan. 30—The American First and Third armies smashed into the outer defenses of the Siegfried line today in an attack approaching major-offensive scale and gained as much as four miles on the frigid, snow-covered western front.

Starting as a series of local thrusts, the assault picked up speed and, after several additional divisions were thrown in, eventually involved well over 100,000 men. It further increased the pressure along a 40-mile front on German military leaders who already are robbing their westward defenses to bolster positions on the crumbling eastern front.

The doughboys overran a number of Siegfried line outposts and frontline correspondents said the Germans had previously evacuated the positions.

Promoted



Cpl. Blain C. Aldridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. Horatio Aldridge of Banner Elk, who was recently promoted to his present rank. His parents are in receipt of a letter from Capt. R. A. Bassler, air corps, in which he states: "Henry, as we here in the office call him, has been working with us for well over a year and has been doing a superb job." Cpl. Aldridge is in the European area.

Boone Laundry Razed By Fire; Loss to Owners \$25,000; Plan to Rebuild

Wounded



Pfc. Marl D. Aldridge, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Aldridge, of Banner Elk, was wounded in France December 15th. His parents have received word that he is now in the hospital in England, and is making normal improvement.

MRS. TAYLOR DIES IN BATON ROUGE

Native of Boone Succumbs in Louisiana; Interment in Boone Cemetery Sunday

Mrs. Emma A. Taylor, daughter of the late Dr. W. B. Councill and Mrs. Councill of Boone, died Thursday from a sudden illness at the home of a son, David P. Taylor, Baton Rouge, La. Mrs. Taylor and her daughter, Miss Margaret Taylor, had gone from Asheville for a visit with her son.

Funeral services were conducted Sunday at 1:30 from the Church of the Ascension in Hickory, with the Rev. S. B. Stroup in charge, following which the body was brought to Boone and interred in the family plot in the community cemetery.

Mrs. Taylor was a native of Boone, was the widow of the late James Taylor of Valle Crucis, and was the last member of the immediate family of Dr. W. B. Councill. She had lived in Hickory for many years before going to Asheville.

Surviving are two sons and a daughter: Weston Taylor, Monroe; David Taylor, Baton Rouge, La., and Miss Margaret Taylor, Asheville. Mrs. Taylor's mother, Mrs. W. B. Councill, died ten years ago at the age of 102.

Says County Farm Meetings Are Being Attended by Many

The series of farm meetings, which are featuring food production needs, other topics, together with entertainment features, are drawing good crowds, according to County Agent Harry Hamilton, who asks that farmers avail themselves of the opportunity of attending one of the remaining meetings on the schedule, which follow:

Bamboo School, Thursday, Feb. 1, at 2 p. m.

Cove Creek High School (lunch room), Thursday, Feb. 1, 7:30 p. m.

Bethel High School, Friday, Feb. 2, at 2 p. m.

Mabel School, Friday, Feb. 2, at 7:30 p. m.

Local Triple-A Group Cites Egg Goal for '45

The War Food Administration has announced a revised farm egg production goal for 1945 of 4,350 million dozen eggs, according to W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga County AAA committee.

"The revised goal takes into account the recommendations made at state meetings called to discuss 1945 goals, as well as the additional needs for eggs from 1945 production that have developed since the preliminary goal of 3,920 million dozen suggested in November," Mr. Mast stated.

Mr. Mast pointed out that the revised U. S. goal of 4,350 million dozen eggs—while slightly less than the 1944 record production—would provide 347 eggs for each civilian in 1945 which is equal to the consumption in 1944 and is an increase of 49 eggs over the pre-war 1935-39 average consumption. "The goal will also provide for all military requirements for shell eggs and for military and lend-lease needs for dried eggs from 1945 production. The 125 million pounds carry-over from 1944 of dried eggs is available to meet the balance of lend-lease program," he stated.

Early Morning Blaze Sweeps Through Big Laundry Plant; Equipment and Building Said to Be Total Loss; Much Laundry Burned; Owners Looking Into Possibility of Rebuilding Structure and Restoring Service

The Boone Steam Laundry, the only plant of its kind in a wide area, practically burned to the ground, in a blaze which was discovered around 1 o'clock Friday morning, inflicting a loss to the owners of some \$25,000.

The fire originated in the boiler room on the south side of the big frame building, and when the fire was discovered was sweeping through the structure. The fire department, prevented the spread of the flames to the property of the R. F. Greene Lumber Company on either side of the laundry, which was already doomed when the alarm was sounded.

A portion of the walls of the building are standing, but the loss is total, the owners state. The large amount of machinery was rendered useless, and some thousands of dollars worth of finished laundry was in the building, ready for delivery. The exact loss could not be stated, but the \$25,000 figure is believed conservative.

The business, which served a wide area, even outside of Watauga county, was owned by Messrs. W. H. Gragg and Emory Joines, the latter having taken over a half interest in the establishment only a few weeks ago. The owners are making an effort to locate machinery with which to resume service, and in the event the equipment can be secured, it is stated that plans will proceed for the resumption of service, as soon as quarters can be arranged.

Open Office

In the meantime the laundry has opened an office in the Linney stone building on Main street and Mr. Joines will be on hand there every day. An arrangement has been made with a laundry in a neighboring town to handle at least a part of the local concern's business during the emergency, and Mr. Joines states that everything possible will be done to aid in giving the people some kind of laundry service. Within a few days it is likely that there will be further information as to the reopening of the business.

The laundry, which was established more than 20 years ago, has enjoyed a wide patronage, particularly in Watauga and Avery counties, and represents a huge loss to its owners as well as to the people of the area.

FARMERS MUST FILE BY FEB. 15

Deadline is Given for Filing Reports to Receive Payments Under AAA

February 15, 1945, is the last date that farmers may file 1944 performance reports as a basis for receiving payments earned under the 1944 AAA program, according to a statement by W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga County AAA committee.

"The Watauga County AAA committee is very anxious that every farmer in the county receive the payment that he has earned by participating in the 1944 program. Only 500 of the 800 eligible farmers in the county have filed performance reports and signed application forms," he stated.

Mr. Mast pointed out that the Watauga County AAA office is open each week day from 8:30 o'clock a. m. to 5:30 p. m., and that every farmer who has not filed performance report and signed application form is urged to call at the county office and do so at the earliest possible date.

Ceiling Prices On Cattle Established

Effective as of January 29, 1945, the OPA and the War Food Administration have been directed to establish an "over-riding" ceiling price on cattle and calves of \$18 per hundredweight, Chicago basis, according to information received by W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga County AAA committee. "This ceiling price will remain in effect until July 2, 1945, at which time the ceiling price becomes \$17.50 per hundredweight, Chicago basis," Mr. Mast stated.