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RED CROSS WILL START WAR FUND CAMPAIGN MAR. 1

Watauga County to Raise \$6,500 in Red Cross Campaign Which Starts March 1; General County Organization Is Set Up

The Red Cross War Fund drive is to start in this locality and in the nation as a whole on March 1, and an effort will be made to reach the national goal of \$200,000,000 as quickly as possible. \$6,700 of this amount is to be raised in Watauga county and Clyde R. Greene and H. M. Hamilton, co-chairmen, have made plans to launch an aggressive campaign to raise Watauga county's share at the earliest possible time.

A meeting of the workers is to be held at the Gateway Cafe next Tuesday evening, at which time supplies will be distributed, and instructions given regarding the different phases of the campaign.

The Organization
Mr. Alfred Adams has been made treasurer of the campaign, while Mrs. R. W. Watkins is publicity chairman. The remainder of the organization is as follows:

Town of Boone: Guy Hunt, chairman; Mrs. Russell D. Hodges and Mrs. M. R. Maddux, vice-chairmen. Blowing Rock: Mrs. H. C. Hayes, chairman.

Schools: S. F. Horton, chairman. Rural sections: H. M. Hamilton, chairman. Churches: Rev. E. F. Troutman, chairman.

Past Campaigns
It is recalled that in the first War Fund campaign of 1941-42, Watauga's quota was \$1,500, and \$2,395.32 was raised; in 1943, \$3,600 was requested, and the county gave \$5,800; in 1944, the quota was \$6,000 and the amount contributed \$7,829.21, or more than a thousand dollars more than this year's quota. So with this record of Red Cross support here, it is felt certain that the quota will be reached quickly.

The campaign which takes the place of the pre-war Red Cross roll calls, gathers money for the following activities: Overseas clubs, hospital service, prisoner of war service, home service work (aid to soldiers, their families); field director and assistants; disaster work; production of garments for military personnel; canteens; recreation; nursing service and blood plasma development, and other relief activities brought about by the war.

"Tweetsie" May Suspend Operations

Elk Park—Officials of two rayon companies in Tennessee whose employees regularly ride "Tweetsie," the narrow-gauge railroad passenger train which operates between Johnson City, Tenn., and Elk Park, Tuesday were preparing to appeal to the office of defense transportation for continuance of the train after word was received Monday night that suspension of service on March 1 has been authorized.

The little narrow gauge train, one of the few such remaining railroads, is reported to be serving approximately 600 workers of the North American Rayon Corporation and the Glanzstoff Corporation at Elizabethton, daily.

Elk Park residents expressed the view Tuesday that suspension of passenger service on the narrow gauge line foreshadows suspension of freight service.

WAC Recruiters To Be Here Next Week

A recruiting team for the Women's Army Corps will again be in Boone all during next week, it was announced Monday from the Asheville army recruiting office.

Lieut. Geo. Faulder and Cpl. E. Jane Brown will be at the local post-office each day next week beginning Monday, to interview and recruit women of the area who are badly needed at this time for special duty with the WAC.

Ration Guide

PROCESSED FOODS—Blue stamps X5, Y5, Z5, A2 and B2, now valid, expire March 31.

C2, D2, E2, F, 2, G2, now valid, expire April 28.

H2, J2, K2, L2, M2, now valid, expire June 2.

MEATS, FATS—Red stamps Q5, R5, S5, now valid expire March 31.

T5, U5, V, X5, now valid, expire April 28.

Y5, Z5, A2, B2, C2, D2, now valid, expire June.

SUGAR—Sugar stamp 34, good for five pounds, expires Feb. 28.

Sugar stamp 35, good for five pounds, expires June 2.

SHOES—Airplane stamps 1, 2 and 3 in Book 3, good indefinitely.

FUEL OIL—Period 4 and 5 coupons from last season. Periods 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 from this season—all valid for 10 gallons each.

GASOLINE—A-14 coupons valid through March 21. Rationing rules require that each car owner write his license number and state on each coupon in his possession as soon as it is issued to him by his local rationing board.

Store Manager



W. W. CHESTER

CHESTER WILL MANAGE BELK'S

Assistant Manager Local Department Store Succeeds Bus Crowell

Mr. W. W. Chester, popular member of the Belk-White organization here for many years, has been named manager of their local department store, to succeed L. H. Crowell, who died recently.

Mr. Chester has been employed by Belk's for the past five and a half years, as assistant manager and has also been in charge of the shoe department.

Mr. Chester, who has entered upon his new duties, states that the big store, which was closed two months ago due to the fire, will possibly open around the first of March. The painting and carpentry work has long since been completed, and men are now engaged in installing the new fixtures. Detailed announcement of the opening will be made soon.

Sgt. Gilbert Ward Is Given the Bronze Star Award on Leyte

Master Sergeant Gilbert J. Ward, 25, of Huntersville, N. C., construction lineman section chief for the 77th Infantry Division signal company, has been personally awarded the Bronze Star medal by Lieut. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, commanding general of the Eighth army, as directed by the President of the United States.

The award was made Jan. 1, 1945, for meritorious service from December 7, 1944, to December 26, 1944, in connection with an amphibious operation against the enemy on the Island of Leyte, Philippine Islands.

M. Sgt. Ward has been a member of the 77th signal company since March, 1942, and has served overseas since March, 1944. Besides the Leyte operation, Sgt. Ward participated in action against the enemy on Guam in the Marianas.

Prior to entering the service in September of 1940, he was employed as a farmer at Sugar Grove, N. C.

Sgt. Ward is a graduate of Cove Creek High School, where he was active in school athletics. His wife, Mrs. Flowers Mast Ward, resides at Huntersville.

Trade, Tenn., Man Is Drowned in Florida

T-Sgt. Alfred Cornett, Jr., of Trade, Tenn., 28 years old, was drowned in Lakeland, Fla., a week ago, when a boat which he occupied was capsized. The body was returned to the home neighborhood for burial.

Mr. Cornett had been in the service for five years and was to have gone overseas last week. He is survived by the parents, one sister, Mrs. Lucy Armstrong, Washington, D. C., and Billie Cornett at home.

With Oversea Unit



Pvt. Arthur C. Moody, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. A. C. Moody of Blowing Rock, who was trained at Camp Blanding, Fla., and who is now attached to an overseas unit.

NON-ESSENTIAL USE OF TRUCKS IS NOTED BY ODT

AAA Official Says Shortage of Trucks and Gasoline in County Being Surveyed; Says Something Must Be Done About Pleasure Driving

The Office of Defense Transportation has made a very careful survey regarding the critical shortage of trucks and gasoline. W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga County AAA committee, announced here yesterday.

This survey revealed that "unless unnecessary travel by farm trucks is eliminated there will not be sufficient gasoline to take care of the critical needs," he declared.

Mr. Mast pointed out that "in many instances, gasoline has been issued for farm trucks, based on the fact that the applicants received consideration for such allocations of gasoline by indicating that they were taking care of the essential hauling in the community, or of the transportation of certain farmers. Investigations revealed that at least a half dozen truck owners had been issued gasoline for the same purpose and in many instances farmers were taking care of their own transportation."

The AAA leader cited cases where gasoline had been issued to applicants for pick-up trucks to carry on farming operations and it was later found that the trucks were used, 90 percent of their operations, for pleasure driving.

"Something must be done about the gasoline that has been allotted for essential use and used for non-essential purposes," he said. "In an effort to eliminate such waste and be assured that our most essential transportation can be carried on, the Watauga county farm transportation committee has been asked to review all certificates of war necessity in the county," he concluded.

INFORMATION FOR DISCHARGED VETS

Veterans Are Entitled to Social Security Benefits, Says Adjutant

Men discharged from the armed services are advised that in many cases they are entitled to social security benefits, by Beach Keller, adjutant of Watauga Post, American Legion. To the end that they may receive these benefits, Mr. Keller advises those discharged to register at the local U. S. Employment Service office.

It is also pointed out that veterans are entitled to mustering out pay of from \$200 to \$300, depending on the nature of their service. Those who have not received this payment should get in touch with Mr. Lionel Ward, Legion service officer, and procure his aid in getting the stipend provided by the congress.

Mrs. Fred Earp Dies From a Short Illness

Mrs. Fred Earp, 25, of Vilas, died Feb. 5 at the Baptist Hospital, Winston-Salem, where she had been ill for about two weeks.

Funeral services were conducted Feb. 8 from the Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, by Rev. W. D. Ashley, Rev. Raymond Hendrix and Rev. N. M. Greene, and interment was in the Danner cemetery.

Mrs. Earp was a member of Mt. Lebanon Church for about ten years and took an active interest in its affairs.

Mrs. Earp, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. T. Danner of Valle Crucis, who survive, is also survived by the husband and one small daughter, Linda; four brothers and four sisters: Clay Danner of the army; Rom Danner, navy, Bainbridge, Md.; Jack and Tommie Danner, Valle Crucis; Mrs. Lee Anderson, Vilas; Mrs. Irene Coche, Asheville; Mrs. Dave Minton, Valle Crucis, and Mrs. Clarence Earp, Vilas.

R. W. Watkins Recovers From Illness in England

Mr. R. W. Watkins, former athletic director at Appalachian College, and who is now a club director with the American Red Cross, has recovered from an operation recently performed in an English hospital, and is back at his work.

Watkins recently had the good fortune to meet another Boone man, the former Presbyterian pastor, Major John I. Rhea, and the two had dinner together in London.

Eggers Bill Receives Unfavorable Report

A bill introduced in the General Assembly on Feb. 5, by Representative S. C. Eggers, and which was designed to fix the salary of the sheriff of Watauga county at \$2,500 per annum, with an additional \$600 for a chief deputy, was reported unfavorably by the senate committee on salaries and fees, it has been learned. The measure had passed the house.

Winebarger Brothers in Army



S-Sgt. Lloyd Earl Winebarger and Pvt. Leonard Laney Winebarger, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Grover C. Winebarger of Meat Camp, now of Lenoir. S-Sgt. Winebarger entered the service in January, 1942, and was trained in Oregon, California and Colorado before going overseas in August, 1944. He was wounded while fighting in Germany in November, and has received the Purple Heart, but writes that he is now "back with the boys." Pvt. Leonard Winebarger entered the service at Fort Bragg last November, and is now stationed at Camp Wheeler, Ga.



MRS. HARRIS IS ON WELFARE BOARD

State Board of Charities Reappoints Sherwood Woman on Local Welfare Group

Mrs. Stanley A. Harris of Sherwood, was renamed as a member of the Watauga county welfare board at a meeting of the state board of public welfare held in Raleigh Monday. Mrs. Harris was named for a term of three years under legislation approved by the current session of the General Assembly.

Before April 1, when terms of the old board expire, the county commissioners of each county will name a second member to the board, and these two appointees will select the third member. The appointee of the county commissioners will serve for two years, while the third member will serve for one year. After expiration of the first terms under the new legislation all appointments will be made for three years.

The board also adopted standards for inspection and licensing of private commercial homes for boarding children and changed the procedure of inspecting foster homes boarding children placed by local welfare departments. Future inspections will be the responsibility of the county welfare departments. Previously a representative of the state board made annual inspections.

Jim Rivers Sends Jap War Implements

The Democrat has recently received a box of souvenirs from the Pacific war, sent by Jim Rivers, chief warrant boatswain, who has been on duty with the navy in Pacific waters for about 18 months.

The souvenirs include a .31 caliber Jap infantry rifle, with bayonet, ammunition for same; the deadly Jap knee mortar, helmet, some rice bowls, field ration, a Jap battle flag, and various other things gathered from the fighting fields on the Marshall Islands, Saipan and Guam.

The box was sent to Mrs. Rivers who resides in Washington and forwarded by her to Boone for exhibit. The souvenirs are being attractively displayed in a window at the Parkway Company, where much interest is being aroused.

Local Lions Club Makes Plans For the Future

The board of directors of the Boone Lions Club met at the close of the club's regular meeting Tuesday night. The directors voted to have the Lions sponsor a dance to raise funds for the high school football team, and also for the program for the blind in Watauga county. The directors voted to make a large contribution to the Red Cross War Fund campaign which will be promoted in March. Tentative plans were made for the annual dramatic program or show which will be held in April.

The club was happy to have the following guests: Lieut. Ben Miller of the Merchant Marine, a son-in-law of Lion Milt Greer; Ensign Charles Mock of the Navy, son of Lion C. H. Mock; Mr. E. F. T. Larson, manager of the Appalachian Theatre, and Mr. Willis Chester, manager of the Belk-White store in Boone.

Lions Cratis Williams and Milt Greer had charge of the program for the meeting Tuesday evening. Ladies night is coming soon.

WARREN EXPECTED TO BE SUCCESSOR TO MEEKINS

Comptroller General Lindsay C. Warren will succeed Federal Judge Isaac M. Meekins in the Eastern North Carolina district upon the resignation of the 70-year-old jurist, it is predicted by congressional leaders.

Judge Meekins announced last week in Elizabeth City that he plans to retire.

NATHAN HICKS HANGS SELF ON VALLEY MOUNTAIN

Resident of Shawneehaw Township Ends Own Life by Hanging; Body Found After Search Is Instituted by Members of His Family

Nathan Tolbert Hicks, 50 years old, a resident of Shawneehaw township, ended his own life by hanging on Tuesday, the body having been found three miles from the home on Valley Mountain at 11 o'clock Tuesday. Coroner J. V. Caudill, Sheriff C. M. Watson and Deputy Wiley Day, who investigated the tragedy, termed it a straight out case of suicide.

Hicks, it is revealed by officers, is described as having been despondent and perhaps slightly deranged for some time. The condition is said to have grown apparently worse since the death of his father, Ben Hicks, a week ago. He left home Monday and when he failed to return, members of the family became alarmed, and instituted a search for him. The body was found suspended from a locust tree near a roadway. Indications were that the deceased had fashioned himself a crude hangman's noose, mounted a rail fence, tied the other end of the cord to the limb and stepped from the fence.

Investigations revealed that he had been in Banner Elk Monday and had purchased the 30 feet of cotton rope which was used as a means of suicide.

Funeral services are to be conducted from the Presbyterian Chapel at Banner Elk Thursday at 11 o'clock and interment will be in the home neighborhood.

Surviving are the widow and several children.

Thomas M. Wheeler Claimed By Death

Thomas Martin Wheeler of Triplett died on Feb. 7, after a long illness, at the age of 74 years. Funeral services were held at Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church Feb. 9, at 11 a. m., by the pastor, Rev. Roscoe Greene, assisted by Rev. Ben Triplett, with Reins-Sturdivant taking care of the arrangements.

Surviving are the widow, Julia Cooke Wheeler, and four children: Joe Wheeler, Triplett; Mrs. Doc Cox, Triplett; Simon Wheeler, Cleveland, Ohio, and Mrs. Don Hayes, Deep Gap. There are nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. He had been a member of Mt. Ephraim church for a number of years.

Fisherman's Banquet Postponed to March 22

The banquet which was to have been served in connection with the B. W. Stallings fishing contest has been postponed from Feb. 22. A tentative date has been set for March 22, at which time the bass fishing prizes will be awarded.

A principal feature of the banquet was to have been a movie film, "Battling Bass." Due to the transportation embargo in the east recently the booking schedules on the film have been so disrupted that it could not be shown when originally planned. Barring further complications, however, the banquet will be held on March 22.

Local Republicans at Lincoln Day Event

Thirteen Watauga county Republicans went to Winston-Salem Saturday where they attended the annual Lincoln Day dinner, and heard a political address by Congressman Carl T. Curtis, of the first Nebraska district. The following are those from this county who attended:

Earl D. Cook, W. H. Gragg, A. G. Miller, Wm. Winkler, I. B. Wilson, Owen Little, John W. Hodges, Kenneth Linner, Clyde Eggers, C. M. Watson, J. E. Hoishouser, Russell D. Hodges and E. H. Greene.

Sgt. Hartsell Recovers From Battle Injuries

S-Sgt. O. M. Hartsell, who is attached to a hospital unit, and who was recently wounded while removing casualties from the battlefields of Belgium, under enemy fire, has completely recovered from his wounds, and has received the Purple Heart award.

Sgt. Hartsell is well known in Boone where he taught in the Demonstration School until he entered the service.

PATTON CROSSES MOZELLE

Paris, Feb. 20—Gen. Patton's 3rd American army, slashing into or beyond the Siegfried line on a 50-mile front, surged forward 2½ miles in rain and mud today and captured ten towns and entered five others in a surprise new attack across the Mozelle river.

Exchanged



SGT. JOHN E. GUY

WATAUGA MAN IS ON GRIPSHOLM

Sgt. John E. Guy of Reese, Among Those German Prisoners Being Exchanged

Staff Sgt. John E. Guy, son of Mrs. Myrtle M. Parks of Reese, who has been a German prisoner, is being returned to this country on the exchange ship Gripsholm, it is learned.

The Gripsholm sailed from Marseille, France, Feb. 8, and was to have reached Jersey City on Tuesday of this week. She carries 665 civilians and 463 soldiers, all ill or wounded who have been prisoners of war. All were included in a recent exchange of nationals between the United States and Germany.

Steps are being taken for the appropriate reception of the repatriates, and for immediate physical examinations, settlement of pay accounts in full, presentation of any awards which may have been made and issuance of clothing. Leave or furlough will be provided each individual, if physical condition permits, shortly after arrival in the States, as well as continued hospitalization of those who need it.

MANPOWER ACT IS SHELVED

Washington, Feb. 20—The senate military affairs committee today rejected a new demand by President Roosevelt for prompt passage of a stiff work-or-fight bill.

In France



Sgt. Robert S. Perry, son of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Perry, of Zionville, who was inducted Jan. 23, 1943. He was trained at Camp Pickett, Va., Augusta, Ga., and Camp Ellis, Ill. He has been overseas for eight months.