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on your paper as it shows the date your subscription will expire and the date your paper will be stopped unless sooner renewed. The Democrat is operating strictly on a cash-in-advance basis. There are no exceptions to this rule.

COLD WAVE KILLS FRUIT THROUGH MOUNTAIN REGION

Temperature Drops to Low 20s to Blight Huge Fruit Crop; Springlike Weather Had Resulted in Earliest Bloom in Memory of Most People

A cold wave, sweeping through the country last week, destroyed all hopes of a fruit crop in Watauga and adjacent counties, inflicting a loss of gigantic proportions to the people of this area.

Unseasonably warm weather which had prevailed for the most part for several weeks, had resulted in the earliest blooming of fruit trees remembered by even the older inhabitants, and practically all trees were in full bloom when the thermometer dropped a few degrees below the freezing point Thursday evening. On Friday, however, indications were that the crop was not seriously damaged, but on Friday evening, when the mercury slipped to about 23 degrees, and a heavy frost accompanied the freeze, there was little doubt but that the fruit crop was a total loss.

Springtime came to the mountains this year at least three weeks ahead of schedule, making pastures green and bringing prolonged warm weather. Since the freeze summer-like temperatures are again prevailing.

WAR FUND OVER TOP BY \$2,000

Late Report Indicates Fine Job Done in Red Cross Campaign; Envious Record Set

Watauga county has exceeded her Red Cross War Fund quota by more than \$2,000, it is revealed in a report made today by Clyde R. Greene, chairman of the campaign, which was so enthusiastically received by the people of the county.

The quota for the county was \$6,700 and \$8,603.94 is actually on deposit in the bank, says Mr. Greene in releasing the following itemized accounting of the fund to date:

Reported to April 3	\$8,004.56
Less error in Bethel Report	72.00
	\$7,932.56
Stony Fork community, Joe J. Wellborn	43.00
Laurel Creek township, Ned Glenn	52.00
Blowing Rock, Mrs. H. C. Hayes	45.00
Bethel school, Mrs. G. E. Tester	8.00
Tracy community, Mr. and Mrs. Robt. Thomas	28.50
Timbered Ridge community, Wade Greene	7.00
Timbered Ridge Sunday School, Wade Greene	11.06
Laurel Creek township, Dwight Cable	19.00
Howard's Creek community, L. E. Cottrell	4.00
Boone (residential district), Ed G. Farthing	11.00
Rich Mountain school and community, Mrs. E. L. Payne	13.50
Appalachian College, New River L. & P. Co., S. M. Ayers	36.00
Barnard Dougherty	87.00
Mrs. A. Antonakos	71.50
Mrs. R. W. Watkins	12.00
Brushy Fork community, Mrs. L. A. Henson	39.00
Henson's Chapel community, Mrs. Mary S. Harris	31.00
Henson's Chapel community, Mrs. Mary S. Harris	80.00
Total to April 11	\$8,550.12

Mr. Greene makes the following statement in connection with the campaign:

"The actual amount deposited in the bank for the 1945 Red Cross War Fund is \$8,603.94. Some have made deposits and have not turned in their list of contributors. The above itemized report is based on contributor's lists turned in. Please make your full report if you have not already done so. If errors have occurred in the report in the paper, please report them to me at once so that correction can be made. We are justly proud of the record Watauga county has made in this Red Cross War Fund drive. Certainly we have exceeded our quota of \$6,700 by more than \$2,000. I thank you, one and all, sincerely. Also the boys and girls in the service from Watauga thank you."

Clinic for Crippled Children to Be Held

A clinic for the benefit of the crippled children of the county will be held at the health department offices on April 18, at 1:30, by Dr. J. S. Gaul, of Charlotte.

Mrs. Smith, the county health nurse, has mailed notices to all sufferers from polio, of which there is a record. However, if there are others, they are asked to come in at this time for an examination.

Wounded



Pfc. Vaughn D. Smith, son of Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Smith, of Deep Gap, who suffered a slight wound in the forehead while in action with the First Army in Germany. He is making normal improvement. He went overseas in November and has been in the army since July.

COMMERCE GROUP TO MEET MONDAY

Recreation Center, Highway Problems, to Furnish Major Discussions at Banquet

The Boone Chamber of Commerce will meet Monday evening at 7:30 at the Gateway cafe, and following the dinner a number of important matters of civic concern are slated for discussion.

Mr. H. W. Wilcox, who announces the meeting, asks for a full attendance, and particularly urges the officers and directors to be in attendance, since the election of a secretary will be a feature of the business session.

Mr. Wilcox states that highway problems will come up for major discussion, along with a badly needed recreation center. In this connection, Mr. Wilcox says:

"A lot of cities are planning on various monuments and other means of honoring our service men. Why not Watauga build a recreation center in honor of these boys? What about this, 'A Recreation and a Minister's Seminary' jointly? Something we would all be proud of—some place where our good mountain preachers could meet and study God's Word, and somewhere our returning service men could meet and pass away their leisure time, as well as our younger people, too. Think about this. Come and help discuss it. It is believed that such a center could easily be self-supporting. Build it in honor of both our service men and ministers of Watauga county."

TROUT SEASON OPENS MONDAY

Fishing for Other Species Stops on April 14, Says Warden; Some Streams Closed

The trout fishing season in this area will open next Sunday, April 15, according to County Game Warden Edmisten, who states that the prospects are good for angling season this year.

Fishing for other species of fish will close at sundown April 14, and remain closed until June 10, it is explained.

New River is closed to fishermen from H. Neal Blair's down, and the Watauga River from the high bridge at the mouth of Laurel Creek on down, says the warden.

Russians Extend Hold On Vienna

London April 11—The Russians seized all of Vienna west and south of the Danube except the narrow island between the river and the Danube canal yesterday and thrust within three and one-half miles of the German rail escape route northward to Brno (Brunn), the Soviet communiqué disclosed last night.

Fall of the remainder of the old Austrian capital appeared imminent as heavy street fighting raged on, and Moscow told how the enemy's defenses were crumbling in announcing that on Monday 2,000 soldiers were captured along with 72 tanks and 75 field guns inside the city.

OWI REPORTS 282,000 JAP SAULORS KILLED

Washington—OWI has estimated Japanese navy dead at 282,000 officers and men since Pearl Harbor.

This compares with total American naval casualties of 92,819, of whom 35,750 are dead.

And, contrasted with more than 3,000,000 men in this country's sea arm, the office of war information said Japan's present naval personnel afloat and ashore totals 850,000.

LIONS CLUB FIXES PLANS FOR USUAL BLIND FUND SHOW

Gay Nineties Revue Title of Benefit Stage Performance by Members of Boone Lions Club; One of Best Benefit Performances by Local Organization

The annual stage performance by local talent comprised of members of the Boone Lions club will be presented on Wednesday, April 18, at the Appalachian Theatre, it was announced the first of the week. The theme of the show will be the "Gay Nineties Revue" and will be staged in connection with the usual screen program at Appalachian Theatre, to raise funds for work among blind people of the county.

The picture show program will start at 3 o'clock and the Lions show will be at 4. In the evening the film will be shown at 7:30, and the Gay Nineties Revue will be staged at 8:30.

The current presentation of the Lions promises to be one of the best efforts of the local organization, and the cast will be composed of more than 60 local people. Characters will wear costumes depicting the styles of the nineties. Choruses, country dance of the olden times, dialogues, burlesque melodrama, gay nineties dances, street scene of the gay nineties, and the Lions chorus constitute a brief outline of the annual Lions club show. A program that will make you laugh once every second.

The Gay Nineties Revue will be opened by a welcome address by Lion G. K. Moose who will herald the coming of the laughs you are sure to spill forth. The first number is the Lion chorus composed of A. R. Smith, M. R. Maddux, Harry Hamilton, D. J. Whitener, J. E. Holshouser, Orby Southard, Frank Payne, Joe Crawford, T. M. Greer, W. B. York, Cratis Williams, Howard Cottrell, James Winkler, J. K. Parker, J. R. Craven, Mr. Kelsey, Grady Moretz and M. J. O'Sullivan. The second number is a dialogue—a farmer goes to see the Lions show, by A. R. Smith and D. J. Whitener. (CONTINUED ON PAGE EIGHT)

Worthwhile Club To Collect Clothing For Needy in Europe

The Worthwhile club is joining in the nation-wide clothing collection for the millions of men, women and children in the war-torn countries of Europe who, through no fault of their own, are in dire need of clothing. The program is asking for 150,000,000 pounds of warm clothing, shoes, underwear and bed clothes for free distribution in war-ravaged lands where exposure and scarcity of clothing have taken almost as many lives as actual starvation.

The clothing needed are good, substantial winter and summer clothes or underclothing, and cotton garments should be washed but need not be ironed. Evening dresses, tuxedos and dress suits cannot be used. Materials wanted are garments for infants, men and boys, women and girls; heavy duty caps and knitted headwear, bedding, durable oxfords or high shoes with low heels (must mate and securely tied together), also good fabrics of one yard or more.

Anyone having something to contribute please bring it to the Worthwhile club room during the month of April.

Bradley's Army Nabs Over Million Nazis

Paris, April 9—Gen. Omar N. Bradley's Twelfth army group has captured more than a million Germans on the Western front.

Lt. Gen. George S. Patton's Third army leads with 418,501. Lieut. Gen. Courtney E. Hodges' First army, two months older, has taken 405,703, and the Ninth army of Lt. Gen. William H. Simpson has bagged 182,162 for a combined total of 1,006,366.

No figure has been announced for Lt. Gen. Leonard T. Grow's Fifteenth army, also a part of Bradley's command, which includes more than a million American troops. Another American army, the Seventh, had captured almost 200,000 troops.

April 21 Final Day For Paper Collection

On April 21, the Boone Boy Scouts will collect paper that is still left in Boone by making a house-to-house canvass.

All people are urged to have all the scrap paper tied in a bundle and out on the front porches on Saturday morning so that the Scouts may pick it up more easily.

Ten thousand pounds is needed so that a truck from Winston-Salem will come here to pick it up.

This paper is needed by the government. Do your bit to help out in this drive. Don't forget April 21.

Slaves Freed From Bondage



A long line of liberated civilians, who were used as slave laborers in Germany, are shown as they wait for food at a displaced persons center, shortly after their arrival. Among them are Poles, Frenchmen, Russians, Belgians and Czechs. They were freed by the advancing Allied forces.

Killed In Action



Mrs. Harold J. Stone, the former Pauline Castle of Blowing Rock, received official notification from the War Department of the death of her husband, Sgt. Harold J. Stone, above, on March 27, while on a bombing mission over Germany. Sgt. Stone, whose family live in Cramerton, N. C., was for two years a student at Appalachian College. After enlisting in the army he took specialized training at a number of camps, and was sent to England about two months ago as the radio-gunner of a bomber crew. He was connected with the Eighth bomber command. Mrs. Stone is making her home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Will Castle, in Blowing Rock.

SCHOOLS START BOND SALE DRIVE

Seventh War Loan Campaign Gets Started in Schools Ahead of Time; Prizes Provided

The campaign for the sale of bonds in the Seventh War Loan began in the schools of the nation on April 9th, and will continue until May 19, according to Dr. D. J. Whitener, educational director for the bond campaign in Watauga county, who further states that the business men of Boone will donate \$125 in prizes to go to the students who accomplish most in bond sales during the period.

The official opening of the bond campaign is May 14, but the schools of the nation did so well in the last campaign that the Treasury Department decided to start their phase of the campaign this month, since most of the schools of the nation would be closed by the established date.

Yanks Take Hannover On Road to Berlin

Paris, April 11—The U. S. Ninth army, in a neck and neck race with the American First army toward Berlin, quickly toppled Germany's 12th city of Hannover yesterday and swept on 28 miles into Brunswick's outskirts at a point only 110 miles from the Reich capital.

While tank units of the Ninth also overran Salzgitter, site of the Goering steel works 10 miles southwest of imperilled Brunswick, U. S. First army troops in a 40-mile advance on the south smashed into Nordhausen and likewise struck within 110 miles of Berlin with the seizure of localities near Auleben, 45 miles west of Halle and 57 miles from Leipzig.

Thousands of allied warplanes were aiding the explosive advance into the heart of Germany and destroyed 397 German planes during the day.

CANCER CONTROL PLANS ARE GIVEN

Funds Will Be Sought to Establish Cancer Clinics by Woman's Club of Boone

The Women's club is sponsoring a county-wide campaign to raise \$130 for the purpose of establishing a cancer control clinic here, and Paul A. Coffey and Mrs. F. E. Warman have been named chairmen of the effort.

Boxes for receiving contributions will be placed in business establishments for the convenience of shoppers, and air mail stickers, decorated with the cancer control insignia will be sold. Direct contributions may be made to either of the chairmen. The campaign begins April 15 and lasts through the month.

The importance of the campaign is emphasized by these statistics on cancer:

One out of every 8 of you who read this will die of cancer—unless you do something about it. For cancer kills 165,000 Americans every year. It may kill you or one of those you love.

Every hour, cancer kills 18 Americans.

Cancer is the greatest killer of American women between the ages of 35 and 55.

Cancer is the second greatest killer of American men.

Cancer, if permitted to continue its vicious way, will kill 17,000,000 of us who are living today.

VOTERS ENDORSE PLAYGROUND PLAN

Blowing Rock Citizens Decisively Approve Bond Issue for Recreational Development

At a special election held on April 3rd, the citizens of the town of Blowing Rock very decisively approved the proposed bond issued for the purchase and establishment of a memorial park and playground in the town. The vote was: For the bond issue, 141; against, 51.

Plans are being made for the purchase of the Coffey property in the heart of town for this development. Suitable playground facilities, a memorial recreation building, a library building, and other recreational features will be provided.

Gas Truck Ignites And Endangers Grand View Service Station

A fire which developed when a Gulf Oil Company truck from North Wilkesboro was delivering gasoline to the Grandview Service station on highway 421 east of Boone Monday, did considerable damage to the truck and building before the flames could be brought under control.

Mr. Grant Greene, owner of the service station, was away at the time, and a passerby is thought to have cast a match in the direction of the gas which was pouring from the truck to the underground storage tanks near the doorway. The fluid was ignited, and but for the quick action of Mr. Don Horton, who was passing the building, would have likely been destroyed. Mr. Horton, unmindful of his own safety, succeeded in plugging the storage tanks, and the fire company from Boone was called. The truck was seriously damaged but due to Mr. Horton's presence of mind, damage to the building will likely be no more than \$200. Mr. and Mrs. Greene want to thank Mr. Horton and the members of the Boone fire department for extinguishing the flame.

BOONE, BLOWING ROCK TO ELECT TOWN OFFICIALS

Elections to Be Held to Choose Mayor and Three Members of City Council in Watauga's Two Towns; Registration Starts Saturday; Democrats Meet Here Tonight

Boone and Blowing Rock, Watauga county's only two incorporated towns, will each elect a mayor and three-member board of aldermen at elections to be held Tuesday, May 8, 1945, and candidates are to be placed in the field soon.

In Boone, the governing board is selected from partisan tickets, and the Democrats are to meet in nominating convention this (Thursday) evening in the courthouse to name the candidates. The Republicans have not announced the date for their convention.

In Blowing Rock, where partisan politics does not figure in the nominations, a mass meeting will be held in the school auditorium next Monday evening for the purpose of nominating a citizens ticket.

Registration will be open in both towns next Saturday and the books will remain open through Saturday, April 28. Saturday, May 5, is challenge day. The election officials in each instance are as follows:

Boone: Registrar, Howard Cottrell; judges, Barnard Dougherty and Clyde R. Greene.

Blowing Rock: Mrs. N. C. Greene, registrar; H. E. Coffey and Paul Gragg, judges.

RED CROSS MEETS GARMENT QUOTA

Knitting Chairman Thanks Knitters for Loyalty in Again Meeting Production Goal

Mrs. W. M. Burwell, knitting chairman for the American Red Cross here, announces that the local chapter has again met its quota of knitted garments for the armed services, having recently shipped 225 pairs of navy gloves and 66 sleeveless sweaters.

Mrs. Burwell takes occasion to thank the many knitters for their co-operation and loyalty to the cause, and states that an appropriate badge has been provided in recognition of their unselfish efforts. Knitters who have made 500 hours and over may receive these badges by calling at the Red Cross rooms on Tuesday or Thursday.

Another quota of knitting has been assigned the local chapter, consisting of 133 sweaters for the army reserves, and volunteer knitters will be given notice when the materials for this quota are delivered.

Pvt. Jernigan Wounded In Fight For Germany

Mrs. Thomas D. Jernigan, the former Miss Lillian Greene, of Blowing Rock, has been informed of the wounding of her husband, Pvt. Thomas Jernigan, somewhere in Germany.

Since receiving the official notification, direct word from Pvt. Jernigan is that he is recovering rapidly in an evacuation hospital.

Nazis Killed 577,000 In Latvia Camps

London, April 9—Two Wehrmacht field marshals and 86 other Germans were named responsible for the death of 577,000 persons in concentration camps in Latvia and the deportation of 175,000 others as slave labor in a 6,000-word report tonight by a Soviet investigating committee.

CRASH OF NAVY GUN CREW INCLUDES BANNER ELK MAN

Okinawa, April 9—A navy gun crew aboard the U. S. Marine Third amphibious flagship, which claims one Rising Sun plane, which crashed about 2,000 yards away during a Jap attack, included three North Carolinians. They are: Coxswain Gardner B. Aldridge, of Banner Elk; Boatswain's Mate Warren E. Ceuse, of Grifton, and Seaman Burton Brown of Asheville.

A Correction

On behalf of the Boone Merchants Association, The Democrat calls attention to an error appearing in an advertisement in regard to the Cove Creek basketball team last week, in which it was stated that Paul Bingham is the coach. As a matter of fact the present coach of the pennant winning team is Sam Osborne. Mr. J. E. Clay, president of the Merchants Association, regrets the error very much, and states that it occurred as a result of misinformation furnished the association.