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YANKS CONTINUE DRIVE; GERMANY SEEN BIASECTED

American Armies Break Into Other German Prize Cities, as British Tanks Close in On Hamburg Port City; Germany Cut in Half, Fighting on Two Fronts

Paris, April 18—American armies, which already have virtually bisected Germany, broke into the prize cities of Leipzig and Magdeburg yesterday as British tanks tore loose on a 22-mile sweep that carried within 25 miles of the great port of Hamburg.

Dusseldorf, last major city in the Rhur still held by the Germans, also was entered by doughboys who now have whittled down the Rhur pocket to 125 square miles from its original 3,000 square miles.

The U. S. Third army stabbed to a point four miles from the Czechoslovak border, with one or more of its armored columns operating under a news blackout and was believed to be about 75 miles from Russian positions on the eastern front.

Says Berlin Halved
A Berlin military commentator asserted that Germany had been cut in half and now was forced to fight on two separate battlefields. He did not say whether this meant that American and Russian forces had linked up or merely that the Reich had been cut in two geographically by American units reaching Czechoslovakia.

For the most part the American armies concentrated their might on clearing out fierce pockets of Nazi resistance which have developed in the big cities and there was no indication that the final drive on Berlin had begun—although the U. S. Ninth army enlarged its bridgehead across the Elbe river south of Magdeburg to a depth of five miles. Supreme headquarters disclosed today that these bridgehead forces of Lt. William H. Simpson had beat off the heaviest counterattack thrown against the allies since their crossing to the east bank of the Rhine weeks ago.

SHAEP said the Germans launched their counterattack some time Monday and the battle raged into the night, but by Tuesday morning it had been thoroughly repulsed.

CLOTHING SOUGHT FOR WAR VICTIMS

Local Women's Club Asks for Clothing: "Clean Up Your Closet Week" Announced

The Worthwhile Club, in an effort to secure quantities of used clothing for the destitute people of the nations overrun by the dictator countries, has announced "Clean Up Your Closet Week" beginning next Monday, states Mrs. Ralph Greer.

It is thus hoped that all clothing not in use can be secured to provide aid for the many victims of the war throughout the world. All clothing should be clean and mended, and the garments will be sent immediately to the war-ravaged countries.

Beach Keller USES Interviewer as Love Goes To Raleigh Post

Mr. Beach Keller, of Boone, has been named interviewer in charge of the Boone office of the United States Employment Service, to succeed Mr. C. C. Love, who has been promoted to the position of occupational analyst at the state administrative office in Raleigh.

Mr. Love states that the USES is fortunate in having secured the services of Mr. Keller, who is admirably fitted for his new position by training and experience. For more than a year he was employed in the Boone postoffice. He served for almost three years in the navy during the present war, which will stand him in good stead, since in addition to his other duties he is a veterans employment representative.

Mr. Keller states that the office which is located upstairs in the courthouse will continue to be open daily from 8:30 a. m. to 1:00 p. m., and that the office desires to be of the greatest possible service to employers and those seeking work.

Hoy W. Norris Dies In Statesville Hospital

Hoy W. Norris, prominent resident of Meat Camp township, died at a Statesville hospital on Tuesday of last week, after an illness of several weeks. He was 43 years old. Funeral services were conducted from the Fairview Methodist church Thursday afternoon by Rev. Mr. Winkler, and interment was in the nearby cemetery.

Mr. Norris is survived by the widow, the former Miss Lizzie Williams; two sons, two daughters, the father, six sisters and one brother.

Killed In Action



PFC. FRED M. ASHLEY FRED M. ASHLEY KILLED IN ACTION

Son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Ashley of Boone, Loses Life On German Front

Pfc. Fred M. Ashley, 19 years old, son of Mr. and Mrs. Spencer Ashley of Route 1, Boone, was killed in action in Germany on March 25, according to official word received from the War Department by the family.

Pfc. Ashley went into the army in July, 1943, and had been with the Ninth army overseas for eight months.

He is survived by his parents, one brother and two sisters: Greene Ashley, Bessie Jean Ashley and Judy Ashley.

To Be Memorialized



**PFC. JOHN M. EDMISTEN
PFC. WILLIAM H. VINES**

SERVICE SLATED FOR LOCAL MEN

Sugar Grove Men, Lifelong Friends, Killed in Action, to Be Honored On April 29

Memorial services will be held at the Bethel Baptist church Sunday, April 29, for Pvt. John M. Edmisten, and Pfc. William H. Vines, of Sugar Grove, lifelong friends and comrades in arms, who were killed on different fighting fronts within a 30-day period.

The pastor of the church, Rev. Robert H. Shore; Rev. W. D. Ashley and others will appear on the program of tribute to the local men, and the American Legion will take part in the service. The public is invited.

Pfc. Edmisten, 21, was killed in Italy on February 25, while Pfc. Vines lost his life in the fighting in France on January 29. The young men who were lifelong friends, enlisted on April 12, 1944, were trained at Camp Blanding, Fla., and in September, 1944, were separated for the first time in their lives, and sent to different sectors of the global battlefield. Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Edmisten and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Vines are the parents of the young men who gave their lives in the cause of freedom.

Superforts Hit Kyushu Base of Suicide Planes

American B-29's bombed six Japanese airfields on Kyushu Tuesday and Wednesday as the air war against Japan swung into a climatic phase after a month of unceasing blows which have destroyed or damaged more than 2,813 enemy planes.

The Superforts struck at the source of enemy suicide planes attacking fleet units off Okinawa, following two fire raids on Tokyo within 72 hours. Those fire assaults burned out 8.1 square miles of Tokyo and Kawasaki—raising to more than 52 square miles the total area wiped out in four of Japan's greatest cities since the Superforts opened their offensive.

TRIBUTE IS PAID LATE PRESIDENT

Memorial Services Are Held Here Honoring Memory of Former President Roosevelt

Fitting memorial services were held in front of the Boone postoffice Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, out of respect to the memory of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who died suddenly Thursday afternoon at Warm Springs, Ga.

"At this critical time in our nation's history," said Mayor Winkler, "when our armies and navies and those of our allies are knocking at the doors of Berlin and Tokyo, and on the eve of the great peace conference at San Francisco, it is indeed tragic that we should lose the services of our great leader, Franklin D. Roosevelt, President of the United States.

"As a man he was loved and admired by friends, and as our President for many years he steered us times our country has seen. Historians of the future will fix his true place in history according to his accomplishments and worth to his fellow man. He was a great leader and his place at this time cannot be filled with ease.

"Our new President faces great problems," continued the mayor, "and he has asked for the prayers of his people. It is fitting that during this hour we should grieve for the loss of our great leader, and help support the one who takes his place and asks for our prayers that he may be able to meet with wisdom and courage, the problems that will confront him in his new duties as leader of our great country and the world."

The program consisted of sacred music by the college and high school band; prayer by Dr. F. E. Warman; Scripture reading by Dr. E. K. McLarty; short talk by Rev. Edwin F. Troutman; talk by Rev. J. C. Canipe; prayer by Rev. J. K. Parker, Jr., and benediction by Rev. Robt. Brown.

Honor guests were Sergeant Clyde Rominger and chief Petty Officer Homer Brown, who made some timely remarks.

Stores Are Closed

The stores of the city were closed for one hour during the course of the services, in line with the request of Clyde R. Greene, president of the State Merchants Association, who had asked that all stores of the state close their doors out of respect to the late President, while the services were being held in the White House. Some cities of the state, notably Charlotte, went even farther, and remained closed throughout the day.

ASSOCIATION TO HOLD SPRING MEET

Three Forks Baptist Association to Hold Spring Meeting at Meat Camp Church May 4

The spring session of the Three Forks Baptist Association will convene with Meat Camp Baptist church on May 4, at 10 a. m., with the moderator, Rev. J. C. Canipe, presiding. The session will last only one day and the following program will be carried out:

10 a. m.—Song service by Meat Camp choir, Grady Wilson, leader.

10:15—Devotional, Rev. Tipton Greene.

10:30—Program presented, Rev. R. C. Eggers, chairman executive committee, and roll call of churches.

10:40—The Southern Baptist Centennial Crusade, S. C. Eggers.

11:10—Southern Baptists Winning a Million Souls in 1945, Rev. Zeb A. Caudle, pastor Lower Creek Baptist church, Lenoir.

Noon Recess

1:00 p. m.—Devotional, Rev. G. A. Hamby.

1:15—The Place of Teaching in the Centennial Crusade, Miss Kathleen Frink.

1:35—The Place of the Holy Spirit in the Centennial Crusade, Rev. Raymond Hendrix.

1:55—The Place of Prayer in the Centennial Crusade, Rev. Ben Lee Ray.

2:15—What Part Should We Play in the Centennial Crusade, Rev. J. C. Canipe.

Adjourn.

Pfc. Willis Swift Is Wounded in Germany

Mrs. Willis B. Swift, of Sugar Grove, has received a message from the War Department stating that her husband, Pfc. Willis B. Swift, was slightly wounded in Germany on March 23.

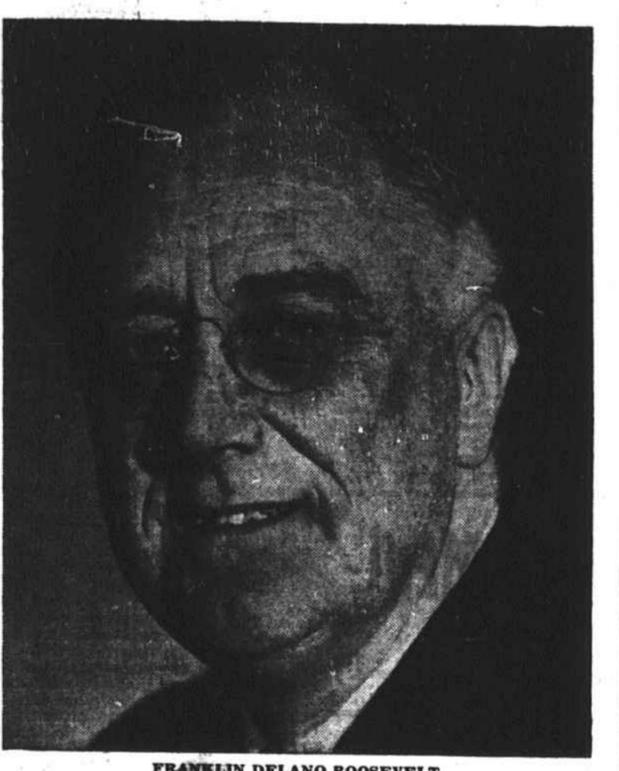
A brother, Pfc. Paul G. Swift, who was wounded in Belgium Feb. 3, is back on duty.

The brothers received their basic training at Camp Blanding, Fla., at the same time, went overseas in December, sailing about the same time, and both are in Gen. Patton's Third army.

BANK DIRECTORS MEET

The directors of the Northwestern Bank system were in session in the offices of the Boone unit of the institution on Tuesday.

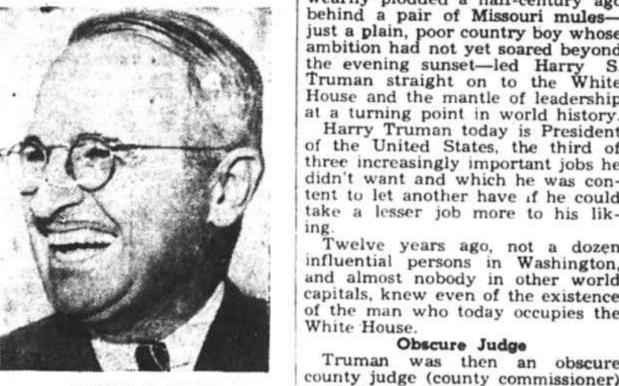
PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT DEAD



FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT
Franklin D. Roosevelt, four times elected President of the United States, and leader of the plans for world security, who died almost suddenly at Warm Springs, Ga., last Thursday afternoon from a cerebral hemorrhage. Simple funeral services were conducted in the East room of the White House Saturday afternoon at 4 o'clock, and the body of the late chief executive was interred in the rose garden of his Hyde Park, N. Y., estate Sunday morning.

Farm Boy To President—That's Record Of Truman, Now In Historical Role

Chief Executive



HARRY S. TRUMAN

President Harry S. Truman, of Missouri, who took the oath of office as the 32nd President of the United States, Thursday evening, following the receipt of news of President Roosevelt's death. President Truman asked the Roosevelt cabinet to stay on, but said little at the time other than that he would try to carry to fulfillment the policies of his predecessor. This position was elaborated upon in an address to the congress Monday.

DEMOCRATS NAME CITY CANDIDATES

Mayor Winkler Chosen to Head Municipal Democratic Slate; Aldermen Nominated

Mayor Gordon H. Winkler was unanimously chosen as candidate to succeed himself in the Democratic convention held in the courthouse last Thursday evening by a representative group of local Democratic partisans.

Named as candidates for aldermen were Owen Wilson and Dr. Matheson, incumbents, and Joe Crawford. Mr. Crawford was nominated over Lee Stout, of the present board, by a two-vote margin.

Candidates Selected at Blowing Rock Monday

At press time The Democrat learns that Mayor Grover C. Robbins was renominated for mayor of Blowing Rock at the citizens mass meeting held Monday evening, together with all the members of the present city council, as follows: H. P. Holshouser, F. B. Hartley and J. H. Winkler. No other candidates were placed before the convention, which is conducted without regard to partisan politics.

CIVIC GROUP ACTS ON HIGHWAY AND OTHER PROJECTS

Recreational Center, Development of Highways, and Other Matters Come Up for Discussion at Chamber of Commerce Meeting Monday Evening

The possibility of securing the construction of a new highway from Blowing Rock to the Tennessee line, together with a thoroughfare from this city into Linville, took the attention of the Chamber of Commerce at a banquet session held Monday evening, and there was preliminary discussion of a proposal to provide the city with a recreational center when construction of this sort is feasible.

Mr. H. W. Wilcox, president of the organization, submitted a letter from Mr. Z. V. Stewart, division engineer with the state highway system, relative to the highways in which the local people are most interested. Mr. Stewart explains that at the start of the war a survey had been made from Blowing Rock to the intersection of the Blue Ridge Parkway and construction work started. It is also pointed out that a survey order has been secured on the same route from Boone city limits a distance of two and one-half miles to the Payne Branch road.

As to the Boone-Linville route, Mr. Stewart states that the department has recommended that this road be added to the secondary federal aid system and that nothing will be known until the federal authorities are heard from. The official suggested that sentiment secured to back a request for a survey on 421 from Vilas to the state line, would be a good thing, so that citizens along the route would know where the road would be rebuilt, and govern their improvements accordingly.

In line with Mr. Stewart's suggestion, President Wilcox appointed the following resolutions committee to further impress the authorities with the desire for a survey on 421: Russell D. Hodges, Alfred Adams and W. H. Wilcox. Petitions will likely be circulated in the area affected by the road for signatures urging its construction.

Recreational Project
A number of members of the commerce organization briefly discussed the need for a recreational project, and Ralph G. Greer, past commander of the American Legion, speculated on whether or not the Legion Park property might be developed to fit in with this proposal.

A committee to further study the recreation program was appointed by Chairman Wilcox and consists of Willis Chester, M. R. Maddux and Barnard Dougherty.

New Bus Station
During the course of the meeting H. W. Wilcox stated that plans are almost completed by him for the construction of a modern and commodious bus station for the city, just as quickly as the necessary federal permit can be secured.

PFC. NED AUSTIN IS LIBERATED

Shulls Mills Man, Reported Missing in Action, Rescued From German Prison Camp

Pfc. Ned P. Austin, son of Mr. and Mrs. S. M. Austin, of Shulls Mills Route 1, who was reported missing in action in Germany since March 4, was captured by the Germans instead, and the family has received the welcome news that the local man was liberated from a Nazi prison camp by the victorious American armies on March 29.

It is stated that during the 25 days spent in the German camp, Pfc. Austin lost 25 pounds in weight, but that he is rapidly regaining his strength and vigor in a convalescent camp in France.

Pfc. Austin, who is unmarried, went into the army last July and has been on active duty since the first of the year.

GREENE RENAMED BY N.C. MERCHANTS

Local Man to Again Head State Merchants Association; Other Officers Are Named

At a meeting of the North Carolina Merchants Association held in Raleigh Monday, Clyde R. Greene, local hardware merchant and civic leader, was re-elected president of the association for a second one-year term.

Other officers named are: First vice-president, O. P. Matthews, Gastonia; second vice-president, G. C. Courtney, Lenoir; executive secretary, Willard L. Dowell, Raleigh; treasurer, T. C. Henkel, Lexington. The directors voted to dispense with the usual state convention this year due to travel restrictions.