

WATAUGA DEMOCRAT

An Independent Weekly Newspaper—Established in the Year 1888.

VOL. LVIII, NO. 2

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1945

WATCH THE LABEL
On your paper as it shows the date your subscription will expire and if the date your paper will be stopped unless renewed. The Democrat is published weekly on a cash in advance basis. There are no exceptions to this rule.

\$1.50 A YEAR—5c A COPY

DAIRY FARMERS TO GET HIGHER PAYMENTS IN CO.

Production Payments to Farmers Are Stepped Up for Current Quarter, Says Triple-A Official; Applications Are to Be Filed Soon

Dairy farmers in Watauga county will have benefit of increased payment rates for milk and butterfat production payments during the current quarter, beginning July 1, according to W. W. Mast, chairman of the Watauga County AAA Committee. These government payments to milk and butterfat producers are adjusted quarterly to reflect changes in production costs.

The new rates for this county for milk and butterfat production in July, August and September, will be 75 cents per hundred pounds for milk, and 13 cents per pound for butterfat, Mr. Mast said. Rates for the quarter just ended were 55 cents per hundred pounds for milk and 10 cents per pound for butterfat.

"Dairy farmers here are making every effort to increase milk production," the chairman said. "Higher payments for production during the current three-month period will help offset the extra feed bills when pastures brown off during the summer and more feed and hay have to be fed to maintain production levels."

The dairy production payments, initiated in the fall of 1943, are made direct to producers by the Watauga County AAA Committee upon submission of sufficient evidence of production and sales, and are designed to take care of the increase in production costs without raising the prices of milk and milk products to consumers. Since started, the program has helped farmers push milk output to record levels without breaking the barriers against inflation.

Applications for payments on milk and butterfat production during April, May and June should be filed as soon as possible at the Watauga County AAA office, but not later than August 31, Chairman Mast said. Sight drafts, negotiable immediately, are issued at the time applications are filed by producers.

L. B. Swofford Buys Local Tire Business

Mr. L. B. Swofford, native McDowell county man, has purchased the tire recapping plant and the Goodyear agency from the Main Street Station, and has assumed active management of the business, retaining the original workers in the plant.

Mr. Swofford is an experienced tire man and had been responsibly employed by the Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company before going into the army. He spent three years in the army, and when discharged a few weeks ago was a first lieutenant. He spent one year in the European theatre, where he commanded a rifle company in the invasion of Normandy and in the battle for France. He was twice wounded and received his release as a result of the second injury. Mrs. Swofford and small son, Billie, will join Mr. Swofford soon and the family will establish residence in the Tom Davis house in Daniel Boone Park.

Ration Guide

Processed Foods
T2, U2, V2, W2, X2, now valid, expire July 31; Y2, Z2, A1, B1, C1, now valid, expire August 31; D1 through H1, now valid, expire Sept. 30; J1 through N 1, expire Oct. 31.

Meat and Fat
K2 through P2, now valid, expire July 31; Q2 through U2, now valid, expire Aug. 31; V2 through Z2, now valid, expire Sept. 30; A1 through G1, now valid, expire October 31.

Sugar
Sugar stamp 36 expires Aug. 31.

Shoes
Airplane stamps Nos. 1, 2 and 3, in Book Three, continue valid indefinitely.

Gasoline
A-16 coupons valid through Sept. 21. Each car owner must write his license number and state on each gas coupon as soon as it is issued to him. Mileage rationing record must be presented when applying for all passenger car gasoline rations.

SINGING AT WEST JEFFERSON

All vocalists of Watauga county are invited to a singing convention to be held at the First Baptist Church in West Jefferson next Sunday, July 15, beginning at 1 o'clock p. m.

To Speak Here



M. L. FUNKHOUSER

E. A. L. OFFICIAL C. OF C. SPEAKER

Air Lines Representative Will Speak of the Skyways of Today and Tomorrow

Mr. M. L. Funkhouser, district manager for the Eastern Air Lines, whose offices are located in Charlotte, will be the guest speaker at the dinner meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, which will be held at the Gateway Cafe Thursday evening at 7:30.

Mr. Funkhouser will use as the subject of his address, "The Skyways of Today and Tomorrow." He will speak authoritatively, as an air lines operator, and a former pilot, who has flown over this immediate area, and knows something of the country.

The Chamber of Commerce has for some time been discussing the possibility of securing a landing strip, or some place that could be used for airport purposes, and the special committee will make a report of these efforts at this meeting.

Mr. H. W. Wilcox, president of the Chamber of Commerce, insists that everyone interested in development of post-war aviation for this community be present.

CONGRESS AMENDS FARM LOAN ACT

Lending Powers of Land Banks and Farm Loan Associations Increased

O. H. Bracey, secretary-treasurer of the North Wilkesboro National Farm Loan Association, said today that under the new legislation recently enacted by congress, it will be possible for the association to handle loans more expeditiously and that more of the lending process turned over to the associations, the representative borrowers will be told more quickly of what action will be taken on their applications for long-term loans from the Federal Land Bank of Columbia.

Under the new law, the land bank may lend up to 85 percent of the normal agricultural value of the farm, whereas since 1917 it has been limited to 50 percent of the appraised value of land plus 20 percent of the permanent improvements.

Land bank commissioner loans will be continued for one year from July 1, 1945. They may be made up to 75 percent of the normal value of the farm. However, the contract interest rate of these loans will be 5 percent except to veterans who may borrow at 4 percent in the event the loan is guaranteed under the G.I. Bill of Rights. The contract rate for land bank loans through the association will remain at its present all-time low of 4 percent.

Secretary Bracey said that many of the commissioner loans have been reduced to a point where they can easily be refinanced with 4 percent land bank loans which will give these borrowers interest savings of one percent.

The office of the North Wilkesboro association is located in the Bank of North Wilkesboro building and handles land bank and commissioner loans in Watauga, Alleghany, Ashe, Caldwell and Wilkes counties.

Juniors Will Install New Officers Monday

At a regular meeting of Daniel Boone Council, Junior Order, to be held Monday night, July 16, at 8:30, the newly elected officers will be installed. Recently initiated and re-instated members are: John H. Farthing, G. C. Greene, Jr., Alfred Adams, I. S. Ayers and T. M. Shore.

JAP AIR FORCE IN HIDING WHEN ARMADA STRIKES

More Than One Thousand Carrier Planes Fail to Find Air Opposition Over Tokyo; Biggest Fleet Stroke of War Made Against Nippon

Guam, July 11—The Japanese air force refused to put up anything resembling a real fight over Tokyo Tuesday as more than 1,000 carrier planes of the massive U. S. Third fleet destroyed or damaged 152 enemy planes on the ground and shot down two snoopers near the fleet, fragmentary reports disclosed today.

Whether Admiral William F. Halsey's world's largest task force stuck around today for another strike was not made clear but even the first preliminary accounts left no doubt that the enemy air force assigned to defend the homeland was in hiding.

The air opposition to Vice Adm. John S. McCain's carrier raiders was so weak during the first hours that undoubtedly they returned in repeated strikes to search for camouflaged aircraft and enemy hiding places. What they found remains to be told.

Even with the 19 Mustang victims added, for a total Tuesday preliminary bag of 173 Nip aircraft, the biggest question was: Where is the Jap air force?

While the carrier planes looked around for Tokyo's defenders, the Mustangs over Kobe had to turn to enemy shipping in the inland sea to keep occupied.

Admiral Nimitz, who shattered precedence in yesterday's communique by not only saying the carrier attack was going on "at the present time" but also named some of the battleships and carriers, spoke only in the past tense today.

Nimitz said 72 planes were destroyed on the ground and 80 more were damaged during the first hours of the attack.

Reports remained to be tabulated for later in the day.

By noon Tuesday—seven hours after the attacks opened—there had been no determined enemy resistance in the air.

The navy made it clear that the achievements were far from chronicles, being based on admittedly "preliminary reports" of the biggest fleet stroke of the war against Nippon.

Nimitz emphasized that the raiding third fleet of Admiral Halsey, which included some of the biggest carriers and at least four battleships had the advantage of "complete tactical surprise."

Carrier and land based planes, totalling more than 1,500—they included a huge force of B-29s—roared over the enemy homeland Tuesday to give the war-battered country its heaviest day of aerial drubbing.

Required that Children Be Immunized Against Preventable Diseases

The Watauga county board of education is calling the attention of parents to the laws regarding immunization of children, particularly those entering school this year for the first time.

The law provides that no principal or teacher shall permit any child to enter school without a certificate or some other acceptable evidence of immunization against whooping cough, diphtheria and smallpox.

The following laws are in effect pertaining to the immunization of children in North Carolina:

Whooping cough: All children are required to be immunized against whooping cough before reaching the age of one year.

Diphtheria: All children are required to be immunized against diphtheria between the ages of six months and 12 months.

Smallpox: All children shall be immunized against smallpox before entering school.

Parents are urged to have their children immunized, if they have not already been immunized, and to secure a certificate or other acceptable evidence of immunization to present to the school authorities on the opening day of school so that the child can be enrolled without any loss of time.

PA AND ZEEK GO SHOELSS
Newton, N. C.—The Newton ration board clerk recently received a letter reading: "Dear Miss: Pa and Zeek, they drunk (too much corn) and lost their shoes and shoe stamps. Please send more stamps." The shoe stamps were not sent.

Time for Dinner at Bronx Zoo



Bringing delight to the thousands of children who visited the Bronx zoo was this baby antelope, especially when he decided it was time for dinner, and dinner came often as Mom was always handy.

Secretary of State



When James F. Byrnes entered upon his duties as secretary of state, he entered the most vital assignment of his varied career, which reached the heights of the U. S. Supreme court. Edward R. Stettinius, Jr., will handle foreign affairs as a member of the United Nations council.

DEATH CLAIMS • MRS. WHITENER

Mrs. Ada Melissa Whitener, prominent Gastonia, wife of E. K. Whitener died about 10:30 o'clock Friday night at Bowman Gray hospital in Winston-Salem.

Mrs. Whitener, who was a native of Watauga county, had been in the hospital for about two weeks. She underwent an operation there on Monday of last week. Before going to Winston-Salem she had spent about two weeks in a Gastonia hospital. She had been in failing health for a year or more.

Surviving besides her husband are her son, Lieut. E. K. Whitener, Jr., of Gastonia; a daughter, Mrs. W. H. Journey, of Golden, Colo.; two grandsons, a granddaughter, five sisters, Mrs. Joe Cooke and Mrs. R. K. Bingham, both of Boone; Mrs. K. A. Link, of Lenoir; Mrs. McCoy Moretz, of Charlotte, and Mrs. Carrie Coffey, of Greensboro, and two brothers, Frank Norris, of Charlotte, and Sam A. Norris, of Boone.

Mrs. Whitener, the former Miss Ada Melissa Norris, was a native of Boone, the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Norris. She had been a resident of Gastonia, however, for about 35 years.

A woman of the highest Christian character and of modest retiring disposition, Mrs. Whitener had many friends in Gastonia and elsewhere.

She had been for many years a member of Main Street Methodist Church in Gastonia and was identified actively with the affairs of the church as long as her health permitted.

Funeral services were held Sunday at 4 p. m. at Main Street Methodist Church. Rev. Claude Moser, the pastor, officiated, and interment was in Oakwood cemetery.

Mrs. Annie Margaret Pitts Dies at Age 67

Mrs. Annie Margaret Pitts, age 67 years, died at the home in the Shulls Mills section July 1.

Funeral services were conducted from the Poplar Grove Baptist Church on July 3, by the pastor, Rev. R. C. Eggers, and burial took place in the Pitts cemetery.

She is survived by the husband, a family of seven children, 69 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and many friends.

SHAW SPEAKER TO FARM BUREAU

Executive Secretary of State Organization Addresses Local Farm Group

Hon. Flake Shaw, a Guilford county farmer and executive secretary of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, was the principal speaker at a meeting of the Watauga unit of the North Carolina Farm Bureau, held in the courthouse last Friday evening.

The meeting was opened with a brief statement from the president, Clyde R. Greene, who presented two facts which were most interesting to those present. First, that the government is operated by groups, and in the main that farmers have been willing to take just what came to them. Second, that the farmers are the backbone of the nation. Mr. Greene asked County Agent Harry Hamilton to introduce the speaker of the evening.

Mr. Shaw entered into a dynamic discussion of the following subjects: Women's part in the farm program, relief to China, service to our men in the army, the National Forum in Washington. Turning to the three outstanding forces in America—industry, labor and agriculture—the speaker gave a history of the Farm Bureau organization, especially since the early '30s. He stated that the Farm Bureau is adaptable to any group, national, state or community, and that the organization has a membership of one million, 30 percent of which is in the South.

Mr. Joe Williams made a few remarks on the status of the Farm Bureau in the State, and said there are 60 counties with local units of the organization. The meeting, which was well attended, was briefly addressed by County Agent Hamilton.

The local organization will hold a picnic sometime in September, it was said. The membership now is 65.

PFC. SIMMONS IS MISSING IN ACTION

Son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Simmons Missing in Action in Germany

Pfc. Robert C. Simmons, son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Simmons, is missing in Germany since February 2, the family has been advised in a telegram from the office of the adjutant general. It had previously been erroneously reported that Pfc. Simmons was slightly wounded.

Mr. Simmons, 21 years of age, had been in the army since July 6, 1944, and overseas since last December 1.

Workers Needed At U.S. Naval Air Station

Workers, both skilled and unskilled, are needed at the U. S. naval air station, Patuxent River, Md.—Direct recruiting will be held at the local United States Employment Service Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week.

Persons not employed in essential war work and are interested should contact Lt. C. J. Long at the local USES office on the days mentioned above.

Applications, information and proper forms are available at the local USES office for enlistment in the Merchant Marines. Contact Beach Keller, interviewer-in-charge.

SOIL DISTRICT HEARING TO BE HELD MONDAY

State Farm Officials to Meet With Farmers in Effort to Establish Soil Conservation District of Watauga; Plan Is Given

The state soil conservation committee, composed of I. O. Schaub, chairman; L. D. Baver, director N. C. experiment station; E. B. Garrett, state soil conservationist, soil conservation service, and W. K. Beckler, state forester, will conduct a hearing on organization of a soil conservation district to include all of Watauga county at the courthouse in Boone Monday night, July 16, at 8 o'clock.

All landowners and others are urged to attend this important meeting to hear the district organization discussed, ask questions and be heard on any or all matters pertaining to any phase of soil conservation district operation.

After the hearing, the next step in the organization of the district will be to hold a referendum on the question of organization. Only landowners can vote in organizing a soil conservation district. Ballots are furnished each qualified voter at regular balloting places or through the mail and the farmer expresses his preference either for or against the organization of the district, signs the ballot, drops it in the ballot box or returns to the county agent's office. Only a majority of those participating in the referendum is necessary to carry the question.

A governing body of five farmers are responsible for directing the affairs of a soil conservation district. Two of these men are appointed by the state soil conservation committee for a term of one and two years, respectively. Three men are elected by the qualified voters in the proposed district. The two appointees apply to the secretary of state for a charter or certificate of organization in the name of the proposed district. The five men on the governing body of a district are known as soil conservation district supervisors. The three elected supervisors serve for a period of three years. None of these supervisors draw a salary. They do, however, receive a per diem and expenses while attending official meetings.

One of the most important responsibilities of a board of soil conservation district supervisors is to develop a program and work plan for the district. The program and work plan will include a general statement pertaining to the agriculture of the district, number of farms, number of workstock and other livestock, kinds and amount of farm machinery, the extent of the leading farm crops in the district and a summary of the main agricultural problems in the district and the supervisors plans and procedures for solving the problems. Any federal, state or local agency may furnish assistance to the supervisors upon request. For example: the United States department of agriculture through the soil conservation service may make available to the supervisors, farm planner (men) to develop soil conservation plans on the farms of landowners in the district and then assist the farmers in getting the erosion control practices specified in the farm plan applied to the land. Such practices include approved crop rotations, strip crop-

(CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

Polio Patient at Warm Springs Visits Home

Newland Wellborn left Monday on his return to the Warm Springs Foundation Hospital, Warm Springs, Ga., after spending a week with home folks at Deep Gap.

Young Mr. Wellborn was stricken with infantile paralysis during the epidemic of 1944, and has been a patient at Warm Springs for a number of months. He is showing a splendid improvement, and with the use of leg and body braces can walk some with the aid of a companion. He expects to stay at Warm Springs until he can walk unaided and care for himself, which he believes will not be so very long.

Mr. Wellborn is enthusiastic in his praise of the hospital and all it is doing for him, and for the 133 other patients being treated. The institution, he states, is operated without special favors to anyone, and that the rich and the very poor are treated equally alike—the foundation doing all possible for polio patients without regard to financial or other status.