

THE ALAMANCE GLEANER

Vol. LXX

GRAHAM, N. C., THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1944

No. 14

WEEKLY NEWS ANALYSIS

U. S. Forces Clean Up Hollandia Area; WFA Announces Dairy Subsidy Rates; Heavy Hog Shipments Glut Markets; Aerial Attacks Weaken Nazi Defenses

(EDITOR'S NOTE: When opinions are expressed in these columns, they are those of Western Newspaper Union's news analysts and not necessarily of this newspaper.)
Released by Western Newspaper Union.



Italy—Italian farmers are shown clearing vineyards of small volcanic stone fragments spown by belching Mount Vesuvius.

EUROPE:

Invasion Awaited

With huge concentrations of shipping reportedly massed in British ports and the Allied aerial attacks continuing in unprecedented force, Nazi Europe nervously awaited the historic and heralded invasion.

While the U. S. and Britain prepared for hostilities in the west, the Russians were reportedly organizing strength for a new drive into eastern Poland, presumably to synchronize with the invasion. As the Russians gathered their new forces, the Axis armies in southeastern Rumania stiffened resistance and parried Red thrusts along the Dniester river front.

Western Europe found no rest by day or night as British and American heavy, medium and light bombers smashed at the Germans' vaunted concrete and steel Atlantic wall, French and Belgian rail lines over which the enemy could be expected to shuttle troops to meet invasion forces, and German industries supplying the wehrmacht.

AGRICULTURE:

Hog Glut

In the wake of the government's move to buy all corn in 125 midwestern counties for sorely pressed processing industries, heavy hog shipments clogged slaughtering centers, resulting in embargoes in some centers, notably St. Louis, Mo., and Peoria, Ill.

The large shipments were believed also influenced by short feed supplies after two years of extensive use of grain for fattening record numbers of stock, and the government's plan for a minimum price of \$12.50 per hundredweight for this fall.

Taking note of the dwindling feed stocks, OPA announced that effective May 15, the ceiling price on hogs over 240 pounds would be cut to \$14 per hundredweight, to discourage heavy finishing off.

Dairy Subsidy

To encourage conservation of grains during the pasture season to provide for heavier feed during the fall and winter months, the War Food Administration announced subsidy payment rates for dairy production for the next 11 months.

Although rates during the next four months will range from 35 to 65 cents a hundred pounds for whole milk and 6 cents a pound for butterfat, beginning September 1 and ending next March 31, rates will range between 60 to 90 cents for whole milk and 10 cents for butterfat.

Estimated to cost between \$300,000,000 and \$400,000,000 annually, the whole program is dependent upon congressional appropriations for administrative expenses, WFA said.

RATIONING:

More Butter

Because of record stocks in warehouses and freezers, 35,000,000 pounds of country butter will be available for civilian use in May at 8 red points per pound, along with 112,000,000 pounds of creamery butter at 12 points.

At the same time, OPA announced that more and better ice cream will be produced in May and June, following permission to manufacturers to increase output to 75 per cent of 1941 figures, and to use a mix 1 to 3 per cent richer in butterfat content.

In addition, reductions in point values are scheduled for flank beef, lamb and mutton, variety cuts of pork and veal, dried beef, potted and dried meats, and sausages.

DUCKS:

Population Up

With mallards most numerous, the duck population now approximates 125,000,000, according to figures of Frederick C. Lincoln, chief of migratory birds investigation of the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Mallards now make up 35,000,000 to 40,000,000 of the duck population, Lincoln said, with pintails second with 20,000,000, and bluebills third with 15,000,000. Marked increases also were noted for red-headed ducks and coots and mudhens.

Because of the continuing decrease of woodcocks, however, it has been indicated that the season may be closed on them next fall, along with the Jacksnipes.

BUSINESS:

Oil Supply

Because a tremendous area of prospective oil territory remains to be tested and petroleum could be produced from enormous reserves of coal and shale, the U. S. need have no undue concern over future oil supplies, Edward G. Seubert, president of Standard Oil company of Indiana, told stockholders in the course of a report on the firm's business in 1943, showing profit of \$50,591,371.

At the same time, President Ralph W. Gallagher of Standard Oil company of New Jersey, in announcing profits of \$121,327,773 for 1943, told shareholders that although the U. S. was assured of sufficient oil in the future, two principal problems existed, namely, discovery of more oil, and insitition of sound, world-wide conservation policies to prevent wastage in production.

MAIL ORDER:

Legal Battle

Ground was laid for one of the U. S.'s most historic legal battles when the government forcibly took over Montgomery Ward and company's big Chicago plant following its refusal to accept a presidential order to obey a War Labor board's directive to extend a contract with the CIO's Mail Order, Warehouse and Retail Employees Local 20 could be determined.

Claiming that the WLB had no supervision over Ward's because it cannot be classed as a war plant, Ward's 69-year-old President Sewell Avery stuck to his guns to the last, finally being carried from the plant by U. S. troops when refusing to recognize the government's occupancy.

As both sides W. C. Taylor squared for a court battle Undersecretary of Commerce Wayne Chatfield Taylor took over operation of the plant, lacking cooperation from some Ward officials standing loyally beside Avery.

CIVILIAN GOODS:

Increase Opposed

While congressional leaders pressed for an increase in output of civilian goods in view of a surplus of certain materials and cancellation of some war contracts, government officials cautioned against any considerable boost in production over present levels.

War Production Czar Donald Nelson said military output must be increased in the immediate future and maintained at high peaks until actual needs for operations in western Europe are established.

Undersecretary of War Robert Patterson opposed any notable switch to civilian production on the grounds that it would create unfounded optimism and lead to a rush from war plants to obtain jobs in consumer goods industries.

QUEBEC:

Overseas Service

Paced by Nationalist Member Rene Chalout who declared that any fighting forces should be furnished by the U. S., Britain, China and Russia because only they stand to gain anything from the war, the Quebec provincial legislature cast a 55 to 4 vote expressing disapproval of any move to send Canadian conscripts overseas.

Said Chalout: "Conscription for military service in Canada was instituted because there was supposed to be danger of invasion. If federal authorities were sincere at the time, they should abolish it now since there is no more danger of an invasion of Canada."

The legislature acted after the Canadian national defense minister declared draftees could be used overseas if appropriate measures were taken by the government.



Man Making Notes In a Night Club:

Islands of celebs surrounded by joy-pollol. . . The off-key clatter of plates and ho-hum of conversation bruising the boogie-woo. . . Browning from table to table, colymists searching for paragraphs. Casting pearls before swine, ha ha. . . Dowagers curried with age cruising in like battleships that have just been launched. . . Bores anchored at tables waiting for the check to be picked up. . . Nibbling on a side-dish of hope, flops sitting alone twiddling their thoughts. . . Pretty gals wrapped in tight gowns that put every curve in italics. . . Drunks riveted to the bar making private tragedies public.

In secluded corners, lovers juggling happiness at the tip of their hearts. . . Biggies draped across chairs acting as if they were thrones. . . Movie stars making entrances like a parade of one—walking over an invisible carpet of stares. . . Members of the lifted-punky set greeting each other with snubbed expressions. . . Cigarette gals who are lovelier than many of the famed beauties around them. . . Trouble-makers trying to create a bonfire of scandal by rubbing two ugly whis-pers together. . . The monologue of a visiting Hollywood producer punctuated by the expressive eyebrows of his listeners.

The Magic Lanterns: Packed with more action, "Buffalo Bill" is a swift biography of a fabulous American during the pioneer era when a man's best friend was his six-shooter. Joel McCrea stars. Linda Darnell and Maureen O'Hara's beauty are as exciting as the gun play. . . The Big Town in its knee-pants days provides the background for "Knickerbocker Holiday." Nelson Eddy's baritone contributes a bouquet of tunes in full bloom. . . The pungent anti-Nazi short yarn, "Address Unknown," becomes a vivid film study of the present Nazi degeneration. Paul Lukas adds to his acting laurels. . . "Raiders of Red Gap" buzzes out of Movieburg's B-hive with more sting than honey. . . "Hot Rhythm" is what Hollywood can turn out in its sleep. Listing the cast would be more of an expose than publicity.

The Networks: Fred Allen's comi-crack about the fellow wearing an overseas cap, a sports jacket, khaki pants, suede shoes, etc., because "he's just turned 26 and doesn't know if he's coming or going" was first rate. . . Radio jesters have reversed a show business tradition. Stooges used to be the butt of the comic's quips. Now radio's stooges are given the most generous portions of the punchlines. . . Norman Corwin, one of the few radio writers who drap radio drama with long pants, deserves a salute for his independence. He informed an interviewer that he has turned down sponsors for fear they won't allow him to write what he thinks. . . Nothing is impossible. On Info Place this week erudite John Kieran admitted he didn't know.

The Intelligentsia: When the Herald Tribune changes Moscow correspondents (which is not frequently), only the man leaves Moscow. Behind him he leaves a lease on a comfortable apartment, grocery requisitions, an old fur coat and a second-hand sedan. All these must remain in the name of the newspaper. . . Paul Porter heard that George Jean Nathan, the critic, laughed during a new show. . . "The curtain," observed Paul, "must have hit some actor on the head!" . . . Sophie Tucker's autobiography will be Doubleday-Doran's. The title: "Some of These Days," naturally. . . In one London humor mag there is a cartoon of a British officer walking with a WAC. The caption: "Say, Pam, can you get your teeth into the idea of middle-aiding it with me?" . . . The Overseas Press Club is fed up and will start fighting for the many newspaper and radio men at the fronts, who are not allowed to wear campaign ribbons.

Midtown Vignette: Several seasons ago an orchestra leader composed a bundle of good tunes. . . Naturally, he put his name on them. . . Which his rivals pigeon-holed when song-pluggers brought them around. . . When the composer finally sensed the reason, he resolved to use a nom de handle. . . After a long interval he wrote "Take It Easy," now being thrashed by the Crosbys, the Sinatras, the Shores and many leading orchestras. . . "Take It Easy" is registered by "Albert de Bru"—Senior Cugat!

The American Farm Family Is Now Enjoying the Conveniences and Benefits of Prepaid Hospital Care Through Blue Cross Hospital Service Plans

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON
Released by Western Newspaper Union.

THIS is the story of "the fastest growing movement in the country"—one that is adding to the health and peace of mind of millions of Americans. Seven years ago there were fewer than 600,000 of those Americans. Today there are more than 14,000,000—more than one-tenth of our whole population—and it's likely that by the end of the year that number will have risen to 18,000,000.

This movement is group hospital insurance which, under the stimulation of wartime conditions, has become a \$100,000,000 a year business. And, as the result of the Blue Cross Hospital Service plan, sponsored by the American Hospital association, Mr. John Q. Citizen, one of these 14,000,000, has the assurance that, should illness or accident make hospital care necessary for him or some member of his family, his pocketbook will not be suddenly and devastatingly depleted. And the peace of mind which comes from the assurance of that fact has been purchased by John Q. at an average cost of less than five cents a day!

However, the significant fact about this story for readers of this newspaper is that the group hospital service plan has spread to the rural areas of the nation and is rapidly becoming as common as it has been in metropolitan centers. Of course, it has always been true that farmers and members of their families get sick or have accidents just as do factory workers. The same is true of employees of business firms in villages and small towns. In fact, both classes need help and often are less able to pay hospital bills than are the middle class or low-income groups in the big cities. So there was quite as much reason for their having the benefit of low-cost planned and "prepaid" hospital care as for their city cousins having it. The principal reason why they didn't get it sooner lay in certain factors which are the very heart of the planned hospital care idea. Of those factors the word "group" is the key.

First of all, enrollment of members in such a plan has to be through groups and these groups have to be large enough so that, as in any insurance of this one type, their members are "good risks." With the population so scattered in rural areas, it seemed that it would be almost impossible either to enroll people or to make collections from them. It seemed also that groups would be so small and so few that each subscriber would be in effect an "individual" subscriber, hence a hazardous risk. Then, too, it was believed that the people of rural America, especially farmers, are such individualists and independent thinkers that they could not be enrolled in hospitalization groups large enough to be self-sustaining.

Comes the "Blue Cross."

For these, and other, reasons the earliest plans for hospital care were concentrated in the big cities where large industries, whose employees were numbered by the thousands, offered the best opportunity for handling such insurance on a group basis. Then came the organization of the Hospital Service Plan commission of the American Hospital association to sponsor the "Blue Cross" movement. "Blue Cross" is a general term which identifies the 77 group plans for hospital care which meet the standards of community service, professional sponsorship, non-profit organization and financial solvency and which have been approved by the American Hospital association.

Not only did the Blue Cross movement expand the planned hospital care idea in the cities but it was chiefly responsible for its "moving out into the country." It spread to the smaller cities and towns first and then out to the farms. It's true that farmers are "independent thinkers" but, as one of the pioneer workers in the rural field has stated, they are also "shrewd buyers and are quick to take to something once its value has been proved." So now farmers are being enrolled through banks, with which they do business and which are willing to cooperate, through their farm bureaus, their granges, their farmers' unions, co-operatives, creameries, and other



She is visited by Mother and Dad, Blue Cross hospital plan subscribers.

well-organized farmer-business associations.

In the cities, workers who are buying hospital protection pay for it by payroll deduction. Farmers, who enroll through banks, authorize those institutions to make periodic deductions from their checking or savings accounts to pay the required fees. Where they enroll through creameries or cooperatives, periodic deductions are made from their cream or grain checks and those who enroll through the grange, farm bureau or farmers' union pay their fees on a quarterly, semiannual or annual basis, mostly the latter two.

How the Plan Works.

Although there are 77 different group plans for hospital care and they differ from each other in some minor details, here is the essential method of their operation: The hospitals in a certain region—city, county or state—guarantee hospital service to Blue Cross subscribers, whether they are members of groups in factories, city offices, educational institutions, clubs, union organizations or farm groups, who have agreed to pay a certain amount for this service at regular intervals. This amount varies somewhat according to the group plan. Membership costs from \$7.20 to \$10.20 a year for one person and from \$15 to \$24 a year for the member and his family, including his wife and all unmarried children under the age of 18. In Minnesota, where the pioneering work in farm enrollment was done, there is a plan which offers a man complete coverage for himself and 50 per cent discounts for his wife and children at \$12 a year, plus \$3 for each adult dependent.

In return for these payments the insured, or member of his family, who has to go to a hospital gets a semi-private room, his meals, general nursing, anesthetics, special diets, dressings, laboratory tests, X-rays and operating room charges. (This does not include, however, the physician's or surgeon's fees.) He can enter any one of the country's approved, registered hospitals, that is those hospitals recognized as meeting the standards of the American Medical association or state and local agencies.

If for any reason one of these hospital plans can't take him in because of lack of room, some of the plans pay back double the year's premium, but many of them provide cash payments for home care equivalent to the amount that the hospital care would have been worth. However, there have been very few instances when a Blue Cross member couldn't get into a hospital because the number of these institutions which participate in the plan is 2,500 with 80 per cent of the bed capacity of all the hospitals in the United States open to the public.

Reference has been made to the pioneering work done in Minnesota in rural enrollment in hospital plans. It began in 1938 under the auspices of the farm bureau in Hennepin county with 42 family contracts for a total service coverage of 90 persons. Since then farm bureau memberships in that state have increased to 6,200 contracts with 22,400 persons covered for hospital care. These, in 325 local units in 61 counties, have found the plan highly successful and satisfactory. There are 87 counties in the state and a total of 1,200 farm bureau units so that three-fourths of all the counties in Minnesota now have units enrolled in the Blue Cross and more than one-fourth of the units are already protecting themselves against sudden hospitalization costs.

From Minnesota farm bureau

sponsorship of prepaid hospital care has spread to other states notably Kansas, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota and Oklahoma, until now there are 15 in which farm bureau federation members may take advantage of Blue Cross plans through their unit groups. In December, 1942, the American Farm bureau at its annual meeting in Chicago wrote into its nationwide program of work a strong indorsement of the non-profit group hospital care plans and other rural health developments that lend themselves to farm family unit action.

However, the farm bureau is not the only agency through which the hospital plan is being carried to the farms of the nation. In Hillsdale county, Mich., the Farmers Mutual Fire Insurance company, a co-operative, was used as the already-established group through which to put the hospital plan into operation.

In northern Illinois, the Northern Illinois Hospital service, serving 11 counties and their small towns, ranging in population from 300 to 1,500, have worked in co-operation with Rotary, Kiwanis and Lions clubs, with women's clubs, PTAs, Veterans of Foreign Wars posts and churches, farm bureaus, home bureaus and granges. As a result in these 11 counties more than 4,500 farm families, representing 13,500 individuals are Blue Cross members.

Combined Business Groups.

In North Carolina a great many of the small groups in the small towns are enrolled as combined business groups. This type of enrollment means combining many small businesses into a group, getting 75 per cent or more of the employees in these various small concerns to become members of the Blue Cross. In some of these combined groups, as many as 800 persons join. These groups consist of drug stores, grocery stores, warehouses etc. The FSA has also been active in cooperating with the Blue Cross plans in North Carolina and other states in bringing prepaid hospital care to low income families.

Indicative of the way in which small towns and rural America is enlisting under the Blue Cross banner are these facts taken at random from many examples. In one Iowa town of 592 population, 445 or 75 per cent have enrolled in a hospital care plan and in another town of 4,465, a total of 2,214 or 50 per cent have joined. In one Wisconsin community the local power company acts as collector and remitting agent and the people of the community who have enrolled pay for this insurance along with their monthly electric bills. This town has a population of 1,000 and out of a possible 450 persons employed in the town, 155 have enrolled, there being 105 family contracts and 41 individual contracts.

Such instances could be multiplied indefinitely. From all of which it is evident that rural America is indeed "shrewd buyers and quick to take to something once its value has been proved." As for proving its value, ask the Blue Cross member in New York state who was recently hospitalized for 53 days. His contract covered him for 23 days of one contract year and 28 days of the new year, a total of 51 days. His total hospital bill was \$300.55. When he was ready to be discharged from the hospital, he was handed a hospital service credit of \$288.50. That meant he had to pay in cash to the hospital only \$12.25.

"It's a thrill that comes once in a lifetime," he said. And then, quite naturally, he added, "I think hospital service is a great idea."