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Surrender of 5,000 Italian troops leaving a huge gap in the center of the 100-mile Balkan war front...

The Greeks said the wholesale surrender of Premier Mussolini's Fascist legions—the largest seizure of prisoners in the war—had signaled a general Italian retreat in the central sector.

The victory, without exaggeration, is of exceptional importance, for the enemy line in this sector has been destroyed and all bridges eliminated for us," a Greek dispatch said.

The assault on Southampton (population 175,000) interrupted rail communication with London, Nazi quarters said, following up Saturday night's raid, which they asserted had left the big shipping port engulfed in "an ocean of flames."

After British censorship had first refused to permit identification of the assaulted town, a London communique confirmed that it was Southampton, peacetime port of call for transatlantic liners.

A number of fires were caused, but they were all under control by daybreak," the communique said. "Some persons were killed and others injured."

In the week-old Balkan war, Premier Mussolini's high command reported that furious attacks by an entire Greek army corps (about 45,000 men) were beaten off by Italian troops attempting to halt the Greek counter-invasion in Albania.

"The enemy was thrown back to original positions, suffering serious losses," the Italian communique said, noting also that an Italian colonel, leading the 4th Fascist regiment, "perished gloriously."

In contrast to the Italian report, the Greeks said that fresh Italian shock troops, rushed into the 100-mile battlefield, were being driven back and that Greek columns scored "important" new advances everywhere.

A Greek spokesman pictured the fighting line as swinging like a barn door toward the Adriatic Sea, pivoting on a hinge on the Albanian coast, near Argyrocastro, to Lake Ochrida, on the Yugoslav frontier.

In the Lake Ochrida sector, the Greeks said, the Italians were retreating through ice and snow toward Elbasani, 40 miles north of captured Pogradec, on the highway to the Albanian capital, Tirana.

A Greek spokesman said that the Italian retreat was general from Lake Ochrida to the sea, and that Greek bayonet charges had won new fortified heights.

Church Will Head Jr. Order In City

Officers for Next 6 Months Elected In Meeting Held Last Tuesday Night

North Wilkesboro council of the Junior Order, one of the largest and most influential councils of the order in this section, has elected officers for the coming term of six months.

R. B. Church is the newly elected councilor and the other officers are as follows: F. H. Waller, vice councilor; C. A. Canter, recording secretary; Paul Hutchens, assistant recording secretary; C. G. Day, financial secretary; Wade Wallace, conductor; A. G. Anderson, warden; E. A. Shook, inside sentinel; O. K. Pope, outside sentinel; Charles Leekie, junior past councilor; H. E. Mechem, chaplain; D. E. Elledge, assistant chaplain; E. A. Shook, B. F. Bentley and Paul Hutchens, trustees.

The officers were elected in the meeting Tuesday night, at which time an interesting program was carried out and the Thanksgiving offering was received.

Mrs. Foster Appointed Postmaster At Congo

Washington, Nov. 30.—The appointment of Mrs. Roxie M. Foster as postmaster at Congo, Wilkes County, N. C., was announced today by the Post Office department. She succeeds Arthur G. Foster, deceased, and has been acting postmaster for several weeks. The Post Office department also announced that Mrs. Margaret T. Roper had been appointed acting postmaster at Bath, N. C.

Almost \$8,000 Paid in This County For Public Assistance

New High Reached in the Monthly Grants for Needy During November

A new high record in amount of public assistance paid out to Wilkes needy through the welfare department was set this month when the total reached \$7,948, according to figures obtained from the office of Charles McNeill, county welfare superintendent.

This amount went out in monthly grants for November to 1,006 people.

Old age assistance cases receiving grants numbered 627 and the amount was \$5,372; 341 dependent children in 140 families received \$2,077 and \$499 went to 38 blind.

Practically all of those certified as eligible to receive dependent children help are now on the list for grants but there remain a substantial number certified as eligible to receive old age assistance but who receive no grants because of lack of sufficient funds.

Farmers Asking Assistant Farm Agent In County

District Extension Agent Is Here Today to Confer With Commissioners

O. F. McCrary, district agent of the extension service in North Carolina, with a delegation of the Triple A committee in Wilkes, were in Wilkesboro today to confer with the county board of commissioners relative to the appointment of an assistant county farm agent in Wilkes but the conference was deferred until a later date because the commissioners were late in getting organized.

Mr. McCrary said in an interview with a representative of this newspaper that it is probable that Wilkes can obtain the services of an assistant to County Agent J. B. Snipes at a cost to the county of only \$25 per month provided sufficient funds are appropriated by the legislature in 1941.

Only two counties in the Northwestern District of 20 counties do not have an assistant agent now, Mr. McCrary said. The two which do not have assistants are Wilkes and Person. Wilkes is the largest county in the district and has the most diversified agriculture, making the work of the county agent excessive if all phases of agriculture are given anything near the amount of attention they should have.

Guilford, he said, has three assistants—one for club work, one for terracing and a third, whose salary is paid entirely by the county, to promote beef cattle, work stock, swine and sheep. Durham county has two assistants, including one man devoting much time to farm forestry.

It was indicated that the matter of an assistant agent for Wilkes will be before the board of commissioners in their January meeting.

Record Holiday Business Looms

Washington.—The Commerce Department predicted today the biggest Christmas stocking of holiday trade that American business has ever enjoyed.

Experts of the department have advised Secretary Jesse H. Jones, it was learned, that their surveys show that the physical volume of Christmas retail trade—sales between Thanksgiving and Christmas—will be the largest on record.

Mrs. Vannoy Rites Conducted Nov. 27

Funeral service was held Wednesday at the Houck family cemetery for Mrs. Emma Houck Vannoy, age 82, who died Tuesday.

Of the immediate family there are surviving one brother, Louis Houck, and one sister, Mrs. Julia Staler.

First Volunteer



Raymond Pearson, of Millers Creek, was the first Wilkes county man to volunteer for a year of training in accordance with provisions of the Selective Service act. Not being regularly employed, he said that he believed a year in training would be good for him and the country too. He was the first of seven volunteers in Wilkes draft board area number 1. He and Belo Queen, of Gilreath, second to volunteer, were given physical examinations Monday and are now awaiting the call to fill the board's quota of two. Wilkes draft board number 2 has seven volunteers from whom to choose three for the first call and they were examined today.

Three volunteers were examined for board number two today by Dr. J. H. McNeill and only one, Paul Reeves, passed the examination. Others will be examined this week.

Only One Per Cent Wilkes Men Tests Reported Positive

County Health Department Gets Report on First 500 Blood Tests

Of 500 blood test reports of Wilkes men who registered for the draft only five—one per cent—showed presence of syphilis, the Wilkes county health department reported today.

A total of 1,700 blood tests were made of men who registered for selective service but only 500 have been heard from to date.

One per cent is considered by health authorities to be an exceedingly low percentage having the disease. Arrangements have been made to treat all whose blood tests show presence of syphilis, members of the health department said.

Willkie At Duke

Talk is being heard in Durham that serious consideration is being given to Wendell L. Willkie to become president of Duke University to succeed the late Dr. W. P. Few, who died recently.

Two Republicans And One Democrat Are Sworn In As County Commissioners

Three Are Cleared In Conspiracy Case In Federal Court

John Alexander, S. C. Hutchison and Earn Gambill Acquitted Saturday

Three of 23 defendants in a big liquor conspiracy case were freed by verdict of a jury in federal court at Wilkesboro late Saturday.

When the case was finally given to the jury for consideration there were only three defendants who had not pleaded guilty and all three were acquitted. The three were John Alexander, S. C. Hutchison and Earl Gambill.

When the case began on Wednesday morning there were ten who entered pleas of not guilty but before the trial was completed all but three had submitted with pleas of guilty.

Judge Johnson J. Hayes set Monday, December 16, as the date for court to convene again in Wilkesboro, at which time the defendants in the conspiracy case who were not freed by verdict of the jury will return for sentencing.

Those to be sentenced are: Robert Hutchison, Roscoe Hayes, W. Gordon Benton, Bryan Hutchison, Joe P. Hayes, Elmer Dunn, Jackson K. Threatt, Josephus Teague, Council Hayes, Jesse M. Johnson, Major Teague, Shelby Joines, Tyre C. Caudill, Cager Teague, Clay B. Bauguess, William Dunn, Yates White and Henry L. Russel.

The following were placed on probation during the term:

Pomie Pendergrass, Lin Blackburn, Clarence (Skin) C. J. Miller, Belve Nora Miller, Clay Mayberry, Paul Yale, Ray Porter, Frank Billings, Grayson Dowel, Jarvie Burchett, Chester Shepherd, Garnace Blackburn, Trelle Wyatt, Frank Billings, Robert Brewer, Dewey Billings, McKinley Billings, Romer Billings, Bill Miller, Hester Parks, Carl Moore, Pleet Miller, Bristol Holland, Charley Clay Souther, Minnie Jarvis, Vernon Jarvis, Dewey Todd, Ernest Todd, Millard Marvin Johnson, Guy Billings, Carl Bauguess, Ira Billings, Willard Church, Leonard Woodie, Clarence Whitington, Gray Holbrook, Ezra Brooks, Burr Love, Paul Charles Patterson, Elan Burdette, Maens Lyons, Varden Salder, Cobell Swim, Penn O. Wiles, Dole Wiles, Robert Vickers, Glennie Crable, Reece Bellines, Miss Eala Cooper, Roy Ray, Albert Hawkins, Eugene Walker, Welborn Adams, Guy Combs, Julius Vernon, Lon Hubert, Ruby Percy Prevette, Sam Cothren, Charley Southern, Gaitner Mathis, Charley Welborn, James Holcomb, Soeneer Blackburn, Ed McCann, Shelton Triplett, Theodore Zeno Handy, William L. Pliken-ton.

Weight of Two Turnips 14 Pounds



Shelby Joines, Fairplains youth, is shown here in North Wilkesboro holding two giant turnips which he found in the turnip patch near the home of Miss Theima Walker in the little Frushy Mountain community in Wilkes. The two

turnips had a total weight of exactly 14 pounds, one seven pounds, two ounces and the other six pounds, fourteen ounces. The two large ones shown here were only samples of many such turnips in the patch, Joines said.—(Photo by Dwight Nichols).

C. E. Lenderman Declines Place; Foster Is Named

Clerk of Court Appoints Max Foster, of This City, in Lenderman's Place

Another one of those political situations for which Wilkes has become famous developed today when two Republicans and one Democrat, instead of two Democrats and one Republican as were elected November 5, were sworn in before Clerk of Court C. C. Hayes.

In the election C. E. Lenderman, Democratic candidate in district number one, was elected over Dave Mink, Republican, and V. T. Walsh, Democrat, was elected over Grover Hamby, Republican candidate for that subdivision of the county established by the last legislature for nomination and election of commissioners.

Today C. C. Hayes, clerk of court, said he had received the resignation of C. E. Lenderman, elected in district 1. The resignation expressed appreciation for the support of the people in the election but he said he could not serve in the office of commissioner because of his health.

Taking the position that a vacancy existed, the clerk of court appointed Max Foster, of North Wilkesboro, a Republican, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. Lenderman and today Foster was sworn in, along with M. F. Atsher and V. T. Walsh.

It was also learned today that Foster had already been a member of the board. C. C. Sidden, a member of the board for the past term, resigned early last week and Foster was appointed Saturday by the clerk to fill the unexpired term of Sidden. Mr. Sidden said today that he was informed early last week by M. F. Absher, board chairman, that he was calling a meeting to be held the latter part of the week and because of the fact that he could not be present he tendered his resignation in order that the clerk might appoint a member to be present for transaction of business at the meeting.

The new board, with members Absher and Foster present, convened at 11:45 a. m. today and organized, electing Absher as chairman. Walsh, although he took the oath of office, did not participate in the meeting, and through his attorney, W. H. McElwee, said that he would not participate in the meeting of the board until the legal status of the appointment of Foster was determined, and requested that the board recess until December 6 without transaction of business. This request was refused by the other two members of the board and they began the transaction of business, which concluded approval of bonds for C. C. Sidden, Republican who was sworn in as register of deeds, and of township officers elected in November.

W. H. McElwee, well known Democratic lawyer, said the legal status of Foster's appointment would be determined and added that his position was that there was no vacancy on the board since Lenderman had never been sworn in and could not resign without first taking the oath of office.

Lenderman could not be reached for a statement today.

All three members of the board of commissioners whose term of office expired today were Republicans.

In the 1939 legislature a bill was introduced by Representative Wodehouse, of Yadkin, a Democrat, dividing Wilkes into three districts for election of commissioners. The county as divided had one district which normally voted preponderantly Republican and two Democratic by smaller majorities.

In the election this year Absher in district 3 received a big majority over W. W. Harris, Democrat; Lenderman won in district 1 by 195 and Walsh in number 2 by 106.

The statement by Lenderman stating his inability to serve on the board and his resignation, was dated November 29 and was (Continued on page eight)

Welfare Department Taking Initiative in Christmas Cheer Work In County

The Wilkes county welfare department is aiding in Christmas Cheer work this year to prevent duplication of gifts to needy families and to make sure that worthy cases will not be overlooked. Case workers of the welfare department are making lists of all families in North Wilkesboro and Wilkes county who will not be able to buy anything extra for Christmas this year.

Speaking on the subject of Christmas Cheer, a welfare official said: "The welfare department appreciates the cooperation of churches, citizens and other groups in caring for needy families at Christmas time. In order to prevent duplication and that

no children in dire need be overlooked, we would suggest that those who would like to help call the welfare department as early as possible and let them know how many families and the names of the families they prefer to help. To those who wish to make cash contributions, the welfare department assures them that the necessary things are purchased for each family."

Appreciation was also expressed for Bundle Day, which was very successfully carried out on November 17. "We wish to commend the Kiwanis Club, the Lions Club and the Dokies as sponsors, the committee chairman and all

to prevent duplication and that

(Continued on page eight)

Complete Turkey Dinner--5 Cents



Students, teachers and WPA employees are shown here "dishing it out" in Roaring River school lunch room Wednesday, where 523 were served a turkey dinner with all accessories at noon. Roast turkey, dressing, cranberry sauce, creamed potatoes, snap beans, delicious pudding or pie, hot biscuits and coffee were all included in the dinner for only one nickel.

By DWIGHT NICHOLS

A Thanksgiving dinner, including roast turkey, dressing and all necessary accessories—that is what I was served Wednesday noon for only one nickel.

And I was only one of a total of 523 who were served such a sumptuous meal at the same place Wednesday noon. That place was the school lunch room at Roaring River.

It is a real treat to see that lunch room, one of 13 maintained in Wilkes county, in action; and it is a still greater treat to consume one of the meals.

The school lunch room at Roaring River is something more than the ordinary lunch room at a public school—it is a community institution and the patrons of the school, without exception, point with pride to the school lunch room.

The project has succeeded so well that children who used to be delinquent in school attendance now cry to go to school because they wouldn't miss noon-time lunch for anything.

Three years ago the lunchroom was begun with the aid of the WPA and the first lunches were (Continued on page eight)