

War News

2 Albanian Towns Are Attacked

Athens, Dec. 18.—Greek machine gunners were reported raking the Albanian towns of Klisura and Tepeleni from surrounding mountain peaks tonight in an apparent prelude to a major effort to drive out the Italian defenders.

The Greeks declared that in bringing the two nearby towns under their guns their troops scored a "brilliant victory" likely to have a decisive influence on the Albanian campaign.

Klisura is in middle Albania on a cross mountain road leading to Tepeleni, some 12 miles to the west. It also provides an important route to the lower Viosa river valley.

Tell-tale flames such as those seen before the Italians retreated from Argirocastro and Porto Edda were said to be licking skyward at Klisura, indicating Mussolini's forces had fired the city in preparing for withdrawal.

Bombless Period For British Capital

London, Dec. 18.—Bomb-wise Londoners went into their second successive night without an alert tonight for one of their longest raid-free periods since September.

The British capital had a similar bombless period last week, ending after 43 hours and 51 minutes with a major pounding from the Nazis the night of December 8.

Adding to the mystery of the Luftwaffe's absence was the fact that the channel was clear of mist for the first time in weeks though the sky was cloudy.

Raids Continue

Keeping up with its own offensive, the R. A. F. roared through last night's rain squalls to blast the German industrial center of Mannheim for the second straight night, the air ministry announced. German-held channel ports and airdromes also were attacked.

Italians Retreat In Africa

Cairo, Egypt, Dec. 18.—An Italian retreat was reported along the Libyan coast toward Derna, 100 miles within the colony, was reported today by Royal Air Force observers while the British Army closed in on the Mediterranean port of Bardia, Libya, the easternmost base left to the fascists in their disastrous Egyptian campaign.

Bardia itself appeared surrounded and doomed to imminent fall to the British, whose dusty armored cars were reported to have cut communications to the west. From the east, thousands of fresh imperial troops brought in from Egyptian desert camps stormed the other end of a closing pincer which imperiled several fascist divisions.

The British command had but a single sentence in description: "Operations in the Bardia area continue."

The reports of British pilots, however, drew a picture of fascist flight over a vast area—from Bardia to Tobruk, itself more than 70 miles from the Egyptian frontier and the strongest Italian base in Libya, and on to the west from there toward Derna.

Northwestern Pays A Bonus

45 Employees Of Bank Receive Bonus Of Five Per Cent Of Year's Pay

The Northwestern Bank, which has home office here and branches in eight other northwestern North Carolina towns, has paid a Christmas bonus to all its 45 employees, it was learned here today from an official of the bank.

The bonus payment, which equalled five per cent of the 1940 salaries, was paid to all employees of the home office here and branches at Sparta, Jefferson, Boone, Blowing Rock, Bakersville, Burnsville, Valdese and Taylorsville.

Rev. H. J. Ford Will Preach Here On Two Sundays

Rev. Howard J. Ford, a former pastor of Wilkesboro Baptist church and now a student of the Southern Baptist Seminary, will fill the pulpit of the First Baptist church in this city at both morning and evening services on Sunday, December 22, and Sunday, December 29. The public is most cordially invited to all services.

THE JOURNAL-PATRIOT

12 PAGES
Section One

VOL. XXXIII, No. 77 Published Mondays and Thursdays NORTH WILKESBORO, N. C. THURSDAY, DEC. 19, 1940 \$1.50 In the State — \$2.00 Out of State

NIGHT ON NORTH WILKESBORO'S MAIN STREET



Some idea of the pretty street lighting in North Wilkesboro this holiday season can be gained from this night picture of Main Street, looking west from near the corner of Main and Ninth. As shown by the picture, the street decorations consists of brilliantly lighted streamers with stars over the center of the street. The decorations are of a permanent type, purchased at considerable cost by the merchants, and may be used from year to year in attractive arrangements. (Staff photo by Dwight Nichols).

Moose From Three States Gathered For Meeting Here

Large Class Admitted In A Gathering Held In This City On Sunday

A well attended meeting was held on Sunday, December 15, at the Moose hall and a class of 25 was admitted into the Defending Circle under the direction of Membership Director A. Jack Mount. The exemplification of the ritual was put on by the excellent team of Galax, Va., Lodge No. 733. The team was composed of Dr. R. C. Bowie, governor; Walter Catron, Junior governor; Glenn J. Musser, past governor; Golden Voss, prelate; Wilson Ramey, sergeant at arms; H. H. Williams, orator.

There was some fine musical entertainment by the Moose Melody Boys, of Galax. Very interesting talks were made by A. V. Nolan, who represented the class; by Gov. Allen, of Elizabethton lodge No. 369. Also heard were D. W. Cardwell, also of the Elizabethton lodge; Loyd Swann, of Lenoir lodge No. 385, and W. C. Pemberton, of the High Point lodge No. 693.

W. H. Duhling, secretary of lodge No. 243 and president of the North Carolina Moose association, presented a very timely talk. H. Way Russell, vice president of the North Carolina Moose association followed Mr. Duhling at the rostrum.

The principal speaker was Pilgrim District Deputy Supreme Governor W. L. York, of High Point, who outlined the wonderful workings at Mooseheart, the "Child City."

Mr. York emphasized the fact that the motivating ideas of the Moose home for the young and helpless are so obviously needed in the social structure that they have been the sole guide for the formation of forms of social security insurance and benefits to the aged.

Preliminary arrangements for the North Carolina Moose association conclave, which will convene in North Wilkesboro the 30, 31, of August and the 1st of September, 1941, were made.

Preparations were made to hold the mid-winter conference of the Legion of the Moose of North Carolina in the middle of February. The Legion is the second degree of the Moose. Dates will be set later as to the convenience of the director general, who is founder of Mooseheart. Senator James J. Davis may be here at that time, also past commander of the Legion, Senator Robert R. Reynolds, of North Carolina.

U. C. C. Checks For Monday Deliveries May Come Saturday

North Wilkesboro office of the North Carolina Employment Service and Unemployment Compensation Commission has received word from Raleigh that every effort will be made to have checks for claimants who are supposed to report Monday, December 23, in the office here for distribution on Saturday, December 21.

Claimants who are supposed to report Monday may call at their office Saturday for their checks if they choose to do so. B. G. Conroy, office manager, said today.

Empty Stockings Fund Solicited By Welfare Officials

Persons Who Will Care For Families At Christmas Time Wanted

City and county welfare departments and cooperating organizations are making every effort to keep Christmas this year from being an empty stocking Yuletide in needy homes.

In North Wilkesboro Police Chief J. E. Walker, who is also city welfare officer, and Mrs. J. L. Clements have a list of needy families whose children's hearts will not be gladdened with Christmas toys, candies, foods and clothing unless someone helps. Persons who will agree to make a donation for any family in North Wilkesboro are urged to communicate with Chief Walker or Mrs. Clements at once in order that all needy may be cared for and that there will not be duplications. Deliveries will be made of donations.

For the rural sections the county welfare department has a list of needy families, which includes 16 in dire circumstances. The families are listed as opportunities one to sixteen and were briefly described by a spokesman for the welfare department as follows:

Mother and four children at Boomer; father and mother and five crippled children, North Wilkesboro route one; orphan boy, age 14, needs everything, Millers Creek; mother and six children, North Wilkesboro route one; mother and four children, Fairlains; mother and one daughter, Oakwoods; mother and four children, Buck; mother and four children, Wilkesboro; mother and five children, Summit; mother and seven children, Wilkesboro; mother and two children, Wilkesboro route one; mother and two children, North Wilkesboro; grandfather and one grandson, North Wilkesboro route one; father and two children, Roaring River.

Faith in a real Santa Claus was proved by requests of needy families that their names be placed on the Christmas list.

The welfare department also reported that it has recently had

Holiday Trade Here To Reach A New High Record

Merchants In This City Prepared To Meet Varied And Exacting Demands

Holiday trade is reaching a peak in North Wilkesboro with the climax expected Saturday and a late rush on Tuesday.

North Wilkesboro stores, anticipating the high peak in business this week-end, begin tonight remaining open evenings until nine o'clock, and will continue open evenings until that hour through Tuesday, December 24.

With only four more shopping days until Christmas, retail business is gaining rapidly in momentum here but mercantile establishments have prepared for an increase this year and were stocked heavily at the beginning of the season. A large number of extra sales people have been employed to accommodate the increased number of holiday shoppers in North Wilkesboro, which is the trading center for an expanding area in this part of the state.

Merchants here this year bought merchandise of greater volume than for any previous holiday season in order to meet the demands of a growing patronage and to further promote this city as a trading mecca.

B. & L. Meeting On Friday Night

Wilkesboro Building & Loan Association To Have Annual Meeting

Annual stockholders meeting of the Wilkesboro Building and Loan association will be held in the association's offices on Friday night, December 20, seven o'clock, according to an announcement by Wm. A. Stroud, secretary-treasurer.

A report of the year's business will be given and directors of the association will be elected. The directors will then elect officers for the coming year.

Mr. Stroud said today that the association has enjoyed good business throughout the year.

Duke Power Co. In New Location

North Wilkesboro branch of the Duke Power company has moved its offices and showrooms from the Hotel Wilkes building on Main street to the new building recently erected adjacent to Rhodes-Day Furniture company on Ninth street. The office moved Monday.

The firm extends a cordial invitation to its thousands of patrons in Wilkes and to others interested to visit the office and showrooms in their new and attractive quarters.

Tax Listers And Assessors Named For Wilkes County

The Quadrennial Assessment Task Will Get Under Way In County January 8

C. G. Poindexter, Wilkes county accountant and tax supervisor, today announced that the task of assessing and listing property for taxation will begin in Wilkes on Monday, January 8, 1941.

He also released the names of list takers and property assessors for the various townships in the county and urged that all property owners and others required to list for taxation attend to the matter on the dates which will be posted for each township.

This is re-valuation year in Wilkes and the assessment board for each precinct will consist of the list taker and two assessors.

Mr. Poindexter has announced the following appointments, the first named being the list taker, the second a Republican assessor and the third a Democrat assessor:

Antioch—C. A. Sparks, Robert Segraves, B. L. Johnson.

Beaver Creek—Hayes Walker, Chap Ferguson, Charlie J. West.

Boomer—Mrs. John Andrews, Ralph Swanson, J. M. German.

Brushy Mountain—Alonzo Anderson, J. P. Hayes, W. H. Tevpaugh.

Edwards No. 1—John K. Tharpe, H. A. Hanks, E. F. Edwards.

Edwards No. 2—Jack Hoots, Rev. John Burcham, J. B. Church.

Edwards No. 3—O. P. Holbrook, W. L. Draughn, J. F. Fields.

Elk No. 1—S. F. Miller, Colton

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Wilkes To Furnish 17 Men On January 20th

Home Would Be Ideal Gift For 3 Homeless Tots

The Wilkes county welfare department has suggested that no better Christmas gift could be given three children the welfare office now has in its care than good homes.

The welfare officer, Charles McNeill, is looking for homes for a seven-year-old girl and two boys, ages five and three years. They are intelligent children and are badly in need of good homes. Persons interested in taking one or more of the children are asked to get in touch with the welfare office as soon as possible.

Big WPA Project For City Talked; Include Armory

Armory, Athletic Field, Drill Field, Stadium And Recreation Area

Interested citizens here are talking of plans for a big WPA project to fill several needs of North Wilkesboro.

Included in the project would be an armory building, the armory here having been destroyed in the August 14 flood.

There would also be an athletic field, a drill field for the army, a recreation area and seats alongside the athletic field.

It has been estimated that the total project may be secured for as little as \$20,000 for the sponsors part, not including the cost of the site.

For several years there has been agitation for a municipal playground and the flood's destruction of the armory building made the erection of another essential if North Wilkesboro is to continue to have a military company. There is also a recognized need for an athletic field conveniently situated.

Those who have been studying the combination proposal agree that it is a splendid opportunity to secure several badly needed improvements at small cost and it is expected that further details concerning the proposal may be aired publicly within the next few days.

Board One Quota 6; 11 For Board In Area No. Two

Volunteers Here Insufficient To Fill Quota Of 11 For Second Call

Wilkes county's quota for the second selective service call is eleven men on January 20 and unless there are additional volunteers someone is going to be drafted in Wilkes draft board area number two, according to present indications.

Wilkes draft board area number one, with office in Wilkesboro, has ten available volunteers, which will fill the board's quota of six unless an unusually large percentage fall to pass the physical examination.

Wilkes board number two, which has office in the city hall building here, now has a maximum of four available volunteers and a quota of eleven men to fill on January 20.

The first call of five men from Wilkes, two from area number one and three from number two, was filled on December 11 with volunteers. However, one of the men from board number one, Belo Queen, of Gilreath, was rejected at Fort Bragg when he failed to pass the physical examination there. A man to fill his place will be sent with the January quota.

Both boards have classified a sufficient number of men into class 1 to fill any reasonable call.

Draft board number two here mailed out an additional half-hundred questionnaires Monday to registrants whose local order numbers were from 201 to 250, inclusive. Another fifty will be mailed out next week.

H. G. Minton Is Claimed By Death

Widely Known Citizen Of Ferguson Community Died Tuesday; Funeral Held

Death claimed one of Wilkes county's best known characters when Horace Greely Minton, of Ferguson, succumbed Tuesday morning in a Statesville hospital.

A foot infection was the immediate cause of his death. He was carried to the hospital on Friday.

Mr. Minton was 68 years of age and was a member of one of the best known families in this section of the state. For many years he had been active in community affairs and in politics. He was

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HELLO AGAIN—AFTER THIRTY-SEVEN YEARS



Yes, it was 37 years ago, back in 1903, when T. E. Hendrix (right), of 114 1/2-th Street, Columbus, Georgia, last saw his cousin and childhood playmate, J. K. Foster (left), of Ferguson, N. C., but recently they made up lost time talking over old times and old friends. Deciding that 37 years was much too long to be separated from his boyhood pal, Foster, Ferguson mail carried, took time off for a visit. He is shown here as he arrived at Hendrix's home in Columbus, Georgia.

(Photo by courtesy Columbus Ledger)