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Bank Of North Wilkesboro Observes 50th Anniversary

Axis Forces Pounded In Attacks

U. S. Warplanes Sink 23 Ships In New Guinea Foray

General MacArthur Establishes Headquarters In Australia For Combat

American and Australian air forces dealt devastating blows to Japanese shipping near New Guinea north of the Australian coast yesterday, according to late war news dispatches. Twenty-three Japanese ships were put out of action in the attacks while only one plane was lost by the Americans and Australians.

Hitler Knows Defeat Near, Welles States

Washington. — Sumner Welles acting secretary of state, asserted yesterday that Adolf Hitler now knows that his downfall is near.

Welles made this statement in commenting on Hitler's speech in Berlin Sunday. The German leader predicted the "complete destruction" of Russia's armies next summer and went on to say that President Roosevelt not only would fail to create a new Europe but would "bring about the collapse of his own world."

There was a time, Welles told a press conference, when Hitler could hurl a "monstrous lie" around the world with devastating effect, but gradually the world has become aware of this technique and now the lies come back at him boomerangs.

People have learned, Welles explained, to pay less attention to Hitler's boasts and predictions and more attention to the inadvertent admissions of his own fears and weaknesses with which his speeches abound. The significance of Hitler's Sunday speech, he said, is to be found not in its boasts and promises but in the fact that "there is implicit in every word and every phrase Hitler's own recognition of his impending downfall and of the inevitable conquest of the German armies."

"The magnificent resistance of the Russian armies and the defeats which they have inflicted upon the forces of Hitlerism," said Welles, "have in great part been responsible for bringing this to pass. These are the very armies whose annihilation Hitler announced many months ago."

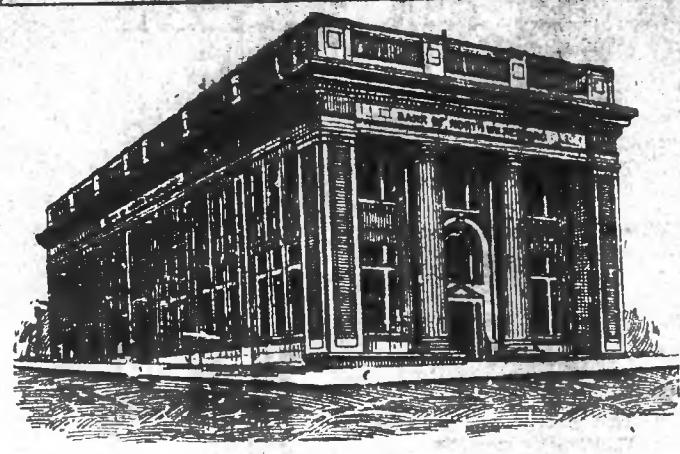
As for Hitler's exhortation of President Roosevelt, Welles asserted "it is only natural that the kind of world in which President Roosevelt and the American people wish to live should be termed 'a new, detestable, alien world' by Hitler."

Dr. Hoyt Blackwell To Speak At First Baptist

In the absence of the pastor, who is conducting evangelistic services at the Celvey Baptist church in Bluefield, West Virginia, the pulpit at the First Baptist church in North Wilkesboro will be supplied this Sunday by Dr. Hoyt Blackwell, president of Mars Hill Baptist College. Dr. Blackwell is well known in this section of the state, and his visit to North Wilkesboro is anticipated with interest by many. The worship services will begin at the usual hours — 11:00 a. m. and 7:30 p. m.

Under Dr. Blackwell's leadership, Mars Hill College has been enlarged by the addition of several new buildings, and the student body has increased considerably in recent years. A number of boys and girls from North Wilkesboro and Wilkesboro have attended the school at Mars Hill. A cordial invitation is extended to the public to attend the worship services at the Baptist church, and to hear the sermon by Dr. Blackwell.

HAS 50th ANNIVERSARY



Pictured here is the Bank of North Wilkesboro building. The bank this month is observing its 50th anniversary of service as a financial institution to the people of this section of the state.

BEST RECORD YET— Local Students Highly Rated In Music Contest

Three Honor Ratings I, Two II, and One III At Boone On Saturday

Students of North Wilkesboro high school made the best record in the school's history at the district music contest held at Boone Saturday.

Results of the North Wilkesboro entries were as follows:

Soprano solo, Jackie Frazier, honor rating I.

Alto solo, Billie Rudd Tredon, honor rating II.

Tenor solo, Justus Brewer, Jr., honor rating I.

Solo by boy with unchanged voice, Dean Minton, honor rating III.

Girls glee club, honor rating III.

Trio, Peggy Nichols, Annie Ruth Blankenship and Jackie Frazier, honor rating II plus.

Members of the faculty who accompanied the students were Paul S. Cragan, superintendent, Miss Louise Younce, Mrs. A. F. Kilby, Miss Ellen Robinson and Miss Peggy Nichols as accompanist. Parents with the students were T. J. Frazier, Mrs. R. P. Casey and Mrs. A. H. Casey.

FIFTH SUNDAY— Ronda Singing At Bethel 29th

Ronda Singing convention will be held on Sunday, March 29, at Bethel church, five miles southwest of Elkin.

W. H. Jones is chairman of the convention, which will open at ten a. m. and continue through the day. All gospel singers are invited to attend and take part in the singing.

Examine Draftees After Induction

Washington, March 16.—A new system for inducting selective registrants into the army became effective today.

Heretofore men subject to call have received notice from their local boards to report for the army physical examination, and it was usually about ten days after they passed this examination that they received their induction orders.

Under the new plan, registrants will receive orders for immediate induction, and the physical examination will come after they are in the army.

The change was adopted at the request of the War department, which has agreed to grant immediate furloughs to men who need time to wind up their civilian affairs.

Keep 'em rolling— We mean dollars! Buy U. S. Savings Bonds and Stamps.

HAD BEST RECORD— Wilkes Boy Most Outstanding At N. Y. A. Center

Baxter Brice Durham Honored; Many Boys Trained For Defense Industries

Baxter Brice Durham, Wilkes youth who entered the Durham NYA resident center on December 29, was selected as the most outstanding among 300 defense industry trainees there.

Young Durham is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Coy Durham of Lomax.

Mrs. Maude S. Miller, personnel interviewer for the NYA in this district, said today that many who entered training centers a few months ago are now employed in defense centers. Included are ten from Wilkes who have gone to the shipyards at Norfolk, Va., and several have positions in Blackstone, Va.

Mrs. Miller said that several Wilkes girls have been accepted at resident centers for clerical and home economics training. Etta Gray Mayberry and Edna Bell Miller of North Wilkesboro, are at the clerical center at Charlotte. At the home economics center at Ellerbe are Florine Coffey and Grace Combill, of North Wilkesboro, and Beatrice Burchette and Elsie Arlee Johnson, of Hays. Mrs. Miller said that there are vacancies for other girls who wish to secure similar training.

Boys going to the Durham center in the last few days from Wilkes to study welding include Helton Holbrook, of Moxley; Tom Sam Handy of Absters; Dwight Martin, of Elkin; George Porter, of North Wilkesboro; Garvey Settle, of Elkin route one. Those going to the machine shop center at Raleigh have been Tom Edward Hendren, of Gilreath; James Moody, of State Road; Floyd Simpkins, of Dockery.

Three, Claude Ellis, of McGrady; John Robson; Lyman, of Ronda, and David Gentry, of North Wilkesboro, left for Wilmington to take welding training. Eugene Harrold, of Hays, is taking training for auto mechanic at Charlotte and Murphy Lee Waugh, colored youth, went to Rocky Mount.

THURSDAY, FRIDAY— Educators Are Attending Meet

School superintendents, principals and some faculty members from North Wilkesboro and Wilkes county schools are attending the annual session of the North Carolina Education Association.

The convention opened today and will continue through Friday.

None of the schools at Wilkes are closed, however, and substitute teachers will grade over classes of teachers attending the convention.

Called To Service

Robert Wood Finley, a second lieutenant in the U. S. Army reserves, has been called to report for March 27 at Fort Benning, Ga. He received his military training at Davidson College and recently passed his physical examination. He is a son of Mr. and Mrs. R. G. Finley, of this city.

Russians Claim 3,500 Nazis Are Killed In Attack

Five More Towns Recaptured By Attacking Red Forces Yesterday

Moscow. — More than 3,500 Germans were reported today to have been slain in a series of actions ranging from Leningrad to the Crimea and the Moscow radio said Red army men had recaptured five more communities in the Smolensk zone.

Cutting off of the Rzhev-Vyazma pocket, where German gerrillas hold out approximately half way along the 230-mile route Moscow to Smolensk, is a major aim in current Russian operations on the central front.

The Soviet information bureau said Red army troops killed 1,000 Germans to overrun a southwest defense position and levied heavy tolls in other sectors.

(A Morocco radio station broadcast a Moscow report that heavy fighting was under way in the suburbs of Kharkov, German-held industrial city of the Donets Basin, 400 miles below the capital.)

Nazi survivors of the southwestern fighting, the site of which was not specifically located were said to have retreated.

At the upper end of the battle line, in the Leningrad region, the Soviet information bureau reported today that German troops and men were killed in two days of fighting.

Red Navy forces operating along the allied supply line to from far, north base—Gnabli-Archangel and harassing Finnish German sea communications, also came in for official mention.

"Our ships in the Barents Sea" a communique said, "have sunk two enemy transports, one trawler and a patrol ship with an aggregate displacement of 16,000 tons."

Johnson Child Is Claimed By Death

Funeral service was held Tuesday afternoon at Fairplains Community church for Edward Franklin Johnson, eight-month-old son of Paul and Joyce Chambers Johnson, of North Wilkesboro. He died Monday evening. Surviving are the father and mother and one brother.

LABOR

A United States Department of Agriculture survey recently completed shows sharply higher farm wages for labor and larger numbers of workers now employed on farms.

Q. E. MATHIS SAYS— Aircraft Courses Will Begin Here Monday, April 6

State Director Says Instructor Will Definitely Be Here On That Date

Q. E. Mathis, director of defense training in North Carolina vocational education division of the state's educational system, has informed Paul S. Cragan, superintendent of the North Wilkesboro schools, that a good instructor has been obtained for the aircraft sheet metal course to begin here.

The date of the opening of the classes was postponed from March 2 to March 16 and a second postponement was necessary because some equipment had not arrived and an instructor could not be secured by that date.

The letter from Mathis to Cragan stated definitely that the instructor will report for work here on April 6 and that all materials and equipment should be on hand.

Announcement that the courses will be held has attracted much interest and already more than 60 men have registered with the employment service office as applicants for the training. The courses will begin with two eight-hour shifts, the first beginning about three o'clock in the afternoon. After school ends a third eight-hour shift will be started.

The instructors will be from aircraft plants and those who take the course will use equipment and materials identical with what is used in aircraft plants. No minimum of experience or training are set but applicants for the courses must agree to accept employment at any part of the country where they may be needed in the aircraft industry.

Doughton Files For Re-election

Only Three Races Among Democrats Indicated So Far

Raleigh, March 17.—Rep. Robert L. Doughton, veteran of nearly 32 years in the United States house of representatives, filed with the state board of elections today for re-election as congressman from the ninth district.

Doughton is unopposed so far and with his filing all of North Carolina's members of the house of representatives had signified their intention of seeking reelection by filing with the elections board.

Filing for state offices will close at 6 p. m. Saturday. So far, only three races for Democratic nominations have developed. Senator Josiah William Bailey, of Raleigh is opposed by R. T. (Dick) Fountain, of Rocky Mount. Rep. Herbert C. Bonner, of Washington, is in a three-corner race with Marvin K. Blount and Jack Edwards, both of Greenville, in the first district, and Rep. John Folger, of Mt. Airy, is opposed by D. C. Speas, of Winston-Salem, in the fifth district.

Camaron Morrison, former governor and United States Senator, is unopposed for the Democratic nomination for representative from the new 10th district.

So far, only one Republican has filed with the state elections board, Solicitor Avalon E. Hill, of Yadkinville, in the 17th district. However, more Republicans are expected to file before the deadline Saturday.

The State Board of elections will meet here Saturday to appoint election boards for the 100 counties of the state.

—On Pay Day, Buy Bonds—

Be a regular on the home front! Make regular pay-roll purchases of U. S. Defense Savings Bonds and Stamps.

Navy recruits have any of 50 trades and vocations to choose from, and over 1,500 qualified men are sent to Navy trade schools.

Pioneer Here



James Edward Finley, who died in 1923, was president of The Bank of North Wilkesboro from its beginning on March 2, 1892, until shortly before his death. He made an outstanding pioneer in many business enterprises.

J. E. Finley Was President Of Bank Thirty-One Years

James Edward Finley, an outstanding pioneer in many developments in northwestern North Carolina and other parts of the country, was from March 2, 1892, until 1923 president of the Bank of North Wilkesboro, which has passed the half-century mark of its existence.

He was born and reared on a farm where North Wilkesboro is located. He did farm work on these lands now covered with buildings, streets and factories. His father was A. W. Finley, a farmer and banker. He was a director of the First National Bank in Charlotte, which principally served banking needs of people here before the Bank of North Wilkesboro was organized.

In early manhood J. E. Finley took the advice of Horace Greely—"Go west, young man"—and went to Fort Worth, Texas. He helped lay off the town of Fort Worth, now one of the largest cities in the south central states, and was that town's first telegraph operator and depot agent when the railroad reached the town.

He came back to North Carolina and purchased the Meat Camp farm in Watauga county. He was operating that splendid farm when he was called back to North Wilkesboro to head the newly organized bank.

Here he was a pioneer in many developments, giving of his time and means to movements for good roads, for telephone, electric and water systems. He was especially interested in roads and utilities to serve the people. On one occasion before the days of good roads and automobiles he prophesied that the day would come when a man could eat breakfast in Boone and come to North Wilkesboro in time to do a day's work. Today that is easily accomplished.

Before coming back to North Wilkesboro to assume management of the new bank as president, Mr. Finley was a prominent citizen in Watauga county, where he was chairman of the county board of commissioners and often referred to as the "model commissioner."

His coming to North Wilkesboro meant much to the future development of this city and all communities in this immediate section of the state, not only as a banker, but as a public spirited citizen willing to back enterprises and developments beneficial to all the people.

Music Recital At School Today

The public is invited to a recital to be given by Miss Ellen Robinson's piano and voice pupils in the North Wilkesboro school auditorium this afternoon, 2:30 p. m.

Local Institution Opened To Public On March 2, 1892

Was Pioneer In Banking Business When North Wilkesboro Was In Infancy

The Bank of North Wilkesboro has completed a half-century of service which extends back to within two years of the beginning of North Wilkesboro.

The institution opened for business on March 2, 1892, and has enjoyed steady and progressive growth since that date until it has become the largest unit bank in northwestern North Carolina.

At the time the Bank of North Wilkesboro was organized the railroad from Winston-Salem had just been completed. North Wilkesboro was not a town—just a village in an undeveloped country.

With a capital stock of only \$20,000 and with only \$10,000 of that amount actually paid in, the bank opened in rented quarters in what was then the Dimmette building on the south side of Main street.

Money in this part of North Carolina at that time was not plentiful and those who had accumulated savings had them deposited elsewhere. But the young institution, guided by men who held the confidence of the people, grew steadily.

First directors of the Bank of North Wilkesboro were T. B. Finley, Capt. J. T. Peden, Capt. E. S. Blair, J. E. Finley and W. M. Absher. Of that number the only one now living is J. E. Finley, who for many years has been succeeded them, were successful business and professional men.

The first stockholders and directors were fortunate in being able to get the late James Edward Finley as president of the newly organized bank. He was a native of this community but at that time was living on his live-stock farm in Watauga county. With reluctance he accepted the position and came to North Wilkesboro. His decision doubtless had much to do with the growth and progress of the institution and all this community.

He served the bank as president with distinction until he retired in 1923 because of advanced age. He died in that year.

The first vice president of the bank was the late J. G. Finley and the first cashier was D. W. Greenlee, who left the bank in a few years and was succeeded by R. W. Gwyn, young man who came here from Elkin and had begun work with the bank four months after it opened. Mr. Gwyn continues as the cashier of the bank until this day and is one of the best known bank cashiers in the state.

J. R. Hix was elected president of the bank, succeeding J. E. Finley and he has ably served the bank in that capacity for 19 years.

After its opening the Bank of North Wilkesboro operated for some time in its first location and then acquired its own quarters on the southwest corner of

(Continued on page 5)

ENDS THIS WEEK— Cases Settled In Court Term

Several cases have been settled in Wilkes superior court this week by consent judgments.

Judge Leff D. Johnson, of Clinton, is presiding over court this week, which will end the three-weeks March term.

A divorce was granted in the Case of Darin Barz versus Ruth Barz. In the three following cases consent judgments were entered: Harrison Anderson versus Ned Botling company, plaintiffs recover \$500.

Laward Harris versus Mink and David Harris, plaintiffs recover \$50.

Dallas E. ...