

Livestock Market Center In Delay Constructed Here

Construction of pens, sheds and scales for a livestock marketing center in North Wilkesboro will get under way this week, Robert B. Curtis, of the marketing division of the State Department of Agriculture, said here following a meeting of Northwestern North Carolina county agents.

The pens will be located on a lot adjacent to Meadows Mill company and cost of the new construction is being paid by local civic organizations.

Plans are to have the facilities ready for a large shipment of lambs to be sold cooperatively by farmers of this part of the state about June 15.

The center is being constructed here for mutual advantage to farmers and packing company buyers. Heretofore, lambs and other livestock have been shipped out of Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany counties through Virginia. By shipping from North Wilkesboro, the lambs will reach the Metropolitan markets one day earlier. Graders furnished by the Department of Agriculture will serve the marketing center here.

Present for the marketing discussion meeting here Thursday were Mr. Curtis, of the Department of Agriculture; Earl Mechem, of the marketing division of Sta. College; County Agents Harry Hamilton, of Watauga, R. H. Cronse, of Ashe, R. B. Black of Alleghany, R. D. Smith, of Wilkes, H. C. Colvard, of Alexander, and County Agent Perkins, of Yadkin. Also present were a number of farmers from adjoining counties.

If the marketing center proves to be as successful as anticipated, the Southern Railway company plans further development of the establishment next year.

North Wilkesboro City Schools End Successful Year

Many Awards Presented In Final Program Of Commencement Thursday

High school diplomas and other awards were presented to a large class of graduates at the final program of the North Wilkesboro high school commencement Thursday night.

The students carried out the program in an admirable manner with the following taking part: Ruth McNeil, J. C. Plexico, Joanna McNeil, Nancy Rousseau, Faye Ellledge, Dick Sloop, Bill Casey, Pauline Hawkins, Pat Hunt and Gordon Reins.

High school diplomas were presented by D. J. Carter, chairman of the city board of education. On the honor graduate list were: Joanna McNeil, first; Faye Ellledge, second; Ruth McNeil, third. The list also included two twelve-year diplomas — Nancy Rousseau and Dorothy Campbell.

A diploma was presented to one former student now in service. Sgt. Jack Vannoy, in the army in Italy, has completed sufficient studies since entering the army to entitle him to graduate. The diploma was presented to his mother, Mrs. A. L. Lippard. Four students who successfully passed college entrance examinations last spring and since had completed requirements for diplomas were also graduated. They were Doris Casey, Bucky Horton, Sue Landon and Thomas Nelson.

The scholarship medals were presented by Supt. Paul Gagan to the three honor graduates listed above. The Legion and Auxiliary citizenship medals were presented by Mrs. J. W. Leyshon and Major E. P. Robinson to Joanna McNeil and Pat Hunt. The Balfour key award went to Joanna McNeil, and was presented by Supt. Gagan.

Typing certificates were presented by Rufus B. Church, member of the school board, to Mary Taylor, Faye Ellledge, Grace Beamon, Annie Eller, Joanna McNeil, Reva Tugman and Ruthline Westmoreland.

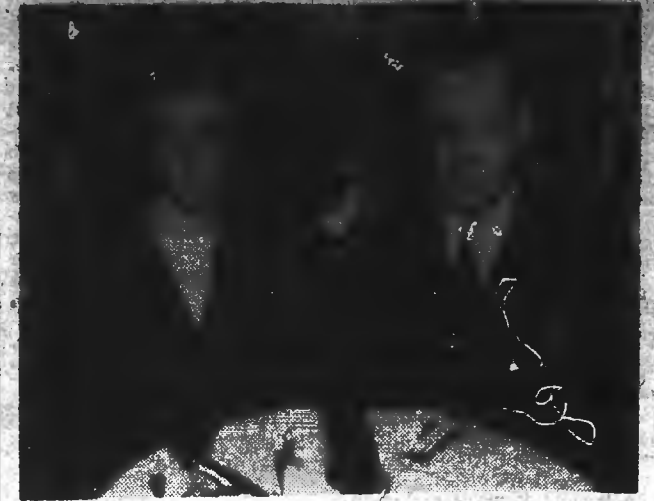
Supt. Gagan presented to Gordon Reins an award for being president of the Student Activities Association. Miss Reins presented medals to students for outstanding activities, including Dick Sloop for band and as editor of the school paper, and to Pat Hunt and Jay Johnson for band activities.

Miss Reins also presented to the school a \$500 war bond as a gift from the Student Activities Association. The award was presented by Supt. Gagan.

(See PAGE 8)

Japs Battered On Okinawa

WILKES MAN KILLED AT OKINAWA



Lt. Archie J. Fletcher, who was instantly killed when the ship on which he was serving was hit by a Jap suicide bomber at an Okinawa port April 6, is shown here in a fifth wedding anniversary picture with his wife, the former Miss Myrtle Smith, of Oakwood. Lt. Fletcher served with the Maritime commission.

S. Sgt. Creech Now Liberated Prisoner

Staff Sergeant Ceber M. Creech, who had been a prisoner for some time in Germany, was among those liberated, according to a War Department message received by his wife.

CPL. CANTER SPENDING FURLOUGH AT HOME

Recently returned from two and a half years in the Pacific, Marine Corporal Sherman Otto Canter, 22, is presently on furlough visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. S. Canter, 1008 Hinshaw Street, North Wilkesboro.

As an artillery battery administration clerk, he saw duty in Ellice Island occupation, Tarawa, Hawaii and Guam.

ROY VINSON HALL SERVES ON DESTROYER

Roy Vinson Hall, 22, of 507 E. st., North Wilkesboro, has been promoted to radioman, second class, USNR. At present he is serving aboard a destroyer escort of the Atlantic Fleet.

He wears the American Area and European - African - Middle Eastern Area ribbons.

Hall is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. V. Hall, of Marvle, N. C. Before entering the Navy, he was employed by the Southern Railway Co. He graduated from Sylva Central High School, Sylva, N. C., in June 1939.

SEAMAN GLENN WINTERS VISITS FATHER HERE

Glenn S. Winters, seaman second class, who is assigned to a ship in the Atlantic fleet, visited his father, Mr. G. S. Winters, a few hours Sunday. Glenn entered the navy in November last year and received training at Baltimore, Md., and Newport, R. I.

Mr. Genio Cardwell, who has been undergoing treatment at the Wilkes Hospital for the past several weeks, returned to his home in the city today. Friends hope that he will soon be able to be out again.

Lieut. Fletcher Is Killed When Ship Is Struck By Japs

Wilkes Man Killed Instantly When Jap Bomber Hits Ammunition Ship

First Lieutenant Archie J. Fletcher, age 38, of the U. S. Maritime commission serving with the merchant marine and who was first reported missing, met death on the S. S. Hobbs Victory in a port of Okinawa April 6, according to letters received by his wife in San Francisco, California.

The S. S. Hobbs Victory, loaded with ammunition, was sunk into the port of Okinawa about one o'clock on April 6. Jap planes swarmed overhead and were fought off through the afternoon. Lt. Fletcher went on duty at six o'clock and was in the engine room when a Jap suicide bomber struck the center of the ship overhead. In the explosion those below met instant death. The powerful explosions continued to carry the flames over two hundred feet above the ship until about 2:30, when it sank. A written report of the tragedy was brought by the captain and two officers to Mrs. Fletcher in San Francisco.

Lt. Fletcher was married April 29, 1939, to Miss Myrtle Smith, daughter of Mrs. Smith and the late Marshall Smith, of Oakwood. They have one daughter, Janet, age four. He was the son of Mrs. Maggie Fletcher and the late John W. Fletcher, of Edgecombe community of Wilkes county. In addition to his wife and daughter he is survived by his mother and the following brothers and sisters: Mrs. H. S. Soots, C. W. Fletcher and Miss Pansy Fletcher, of North Wilkesboro route three; Mrs. John Irvin, Wilkesboro; Harry E. Fletcher, of Galveston, Texas; Mrs. Floyd M. Jennings, Pores Knob; Mrs. Ray Felts, North Wilkesboro; and Pfc. Walter Fletcher, in the army in Germany.

Lt. Fletcher spent 11 years (See FLETCHER—Page Eight).

ORGANIZED RESISTANCE IS NEAR END

Guam.—The Seventh U. S. Infantry Division effectively cut off Okinawa Peninsula on Southeastern Okinawa yesterday in a swift, wheeling advance as Tokyo radio was admitting the Japanese hold on that island "is to be regarded as very grave."

Major Gen. Archibald V. Arnold's doughboys made a 3,500-yard advance — greatest single day's gain of the 65-day old campaign — to reach Okinawa's southeastern coastal plain.

This eastward thrust by the veteran Seventh Division's 184th Regiment had reached within 450 yards of the southeast coast by nightfall yesterday.

Open, flat land, in which the Japanese could not offer effective resistance, lay ahead.

Object of the 184th Regiment's eastward smash was to quickly cut off Okinawa Peninsula before any Japanese could withdraw from the central Okinawa area into heights at the extreme eastern end of Okinawa Cape.

PFC. ISAAC H. DANCY

Pfc. Isaac Dancy Died In Germany On 14th Day May

Pfc. Isaac H. Dancy died in Germany May 14, according to a telegram received by his mother, Mrs. Roosevelt Dancy, of Wilbar.

Pfc. Dancy entered the army January 21, 1943, and received training at Fort Eustis, Va., Camp Stewart, Ga., Camp McCoy, Wis., Fort Fisher, N. C., and Camp Davis, N. C., before going overseas in October, 1944. He served in a medical detachment of the Ninth army.

Cause of his death was not stated in the telegram received by his mother.

Pfc. Dancy is survived by his parents, one brother and four sisters: Mrs. Raydell Bowlin, Orlin; Mrs. Clyde Bowlin, Odell Dancy, Miss Mae Dancy and Miss Fay Dancy, all of Wilbar.

PVT. E. L. DERRICK VISITING HIS FAMILY

Pvt. E. L. Derrick, who is a member of a tank corps and has just completed training at Fort Knox, Ky., is home visiting his family. Pvt. Derrick was assistant manager of the local J. C. Penney Co. store before entering service. He will report to Fort Ord, Calif., this week.

SEAMAN GARNIS ROOPE RETURNS TO DUTY

Seaman First Class Garnis F. Roope returned to San Francisco, California, last week by plane after spending 30 days with his wife, Mrs. Grace Roope, in North Wilkesboro. Seaman Roope, son of Mr. and Mrs. F. O. Roope of Wilkesboro route two, has been in service on the Pacific for 20 months.

THREE SOUTHER BROTHERS SERVE IN THE ARMY



CPL. ZEB R. SOUTHER



PVT. WARREN N. SOUTHER



PVT. CALVIN H. SOUTHER

Three sons of Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Souther, of Cycle, are in service. Cpl. Zeb R. Souther entered service October 28, 1942, and received training at Camp Blending, Fla., Camp Forest, Tenn., Arizona, California, and Camp Phillips, Kansas, before going overseas in April, 1944. He has been in England, France, Belgium, Holland and at the present time is in Germany with the Ninth Army. Pvt. Warren N. Souther and Pvt. Calvin H. Souther, twins, entered service June 14, 1944, and received training at Fort Jackson, S. C., and Camp Wheeler, Ga. They went overseas in April of this year and at the present time are in Naples, Italy.

Highway Commission, A New Speaker

Address on Highway Commission Delivered At Club Meeting

Raymond Smith, of Mount Airy, newly appointed highway commissioner for this division, addressed the North Wilkesboro Kiwanis club in meeting Friday noon.

The program was in charge of W. J. Carson, who had F. W. Mahalman present the speaker.

Mr. Smith discussed the highway situation in North Carolina, particularly post-war plans for construction. He stated that shortage of manpower and materials had been responsible for lack of highway construction activity during the past few years. He stated that at present there is a shortage of engineers and other personnel for highway planning and preliminary work as well as a shortage of personnel for construction. He expressed his intention as commissioner to give his best attention to all ten counties in the eight division and to get the most needed projects under way as soon as practical after the war.

Following the address of Mr. Smith, J. G. Hackett, of North Wilkesboro, talked briefly, highly complimenting the people in this part of the state and pointing out that progress in all lines was following the construction of highways.

Prior to the program L. M. Nelson presented to a representative from each high school in the county a certificate of award for good citizenship. The honor students were accompanied by parents and school principals, who were club guests.

Guests Friday were as follows: F. C. Tomlinson with J. E. Walker, Mayor R. T. McNeil with J. R. Hix, E. V. Stewart and J. G. Hackett with J. B. Williams, Max Foster and H. M. Hutcheson with P. W. Mahalman, Sgt. Thomas Carter and J. B. Carter.

Keeping Watch On Cash Deals

Treasury Orders Financial Institutions To Report Suspicious Deals

Washington, May 11.—The government set a grim watch on cash deals throughout the country today in order to catch tax cheaters.

Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, ordered all financial institutions in the country to report the name and address of anybody engaging in a suspiciously big currency transaction.

Failure to make these reports can be punished by 10 years in prison, \$10,000 fine, or both. The order is effective now.

Morgenthau said men "cheaters" are using large currency in their financial dealings, trying to hide the size of their income.

His order applies not only to banks, building and loan associations, and brokers—but also to currency exchanges and "other persons or organizations engaged primarily in cashing checks and exchanging currency."

This is the first time currency exchanges have been included in a Treasury order. A currency exchange is a place of business which cashes checks for a fee and performs other services. There are thousands of these establishments but they are not under Federal regulation and Morgenthau said he doesn't know the exact number. He gave an indication of their growth by saying he has been told there are 62 banks in Chicago, and about 400 currency exchanges.

Under the order, institutions are not required to report transactions which in their judgment are in keeping with "legitimate and customary" business. Morgenthau said "no honest person needs to fear the results of our investigation."

Other transactions must be reported if they involve \$10,000 or more in currency. If the money is in bills of \$50 or higher, \$1,000 transaction must be reported.

Officials said the legal basis for the order is the trading with the enemy act of 1917, as amended and repeated in the first war powers act of 1941. The authority was delegated to the Treasury by President Roosevelt early in 1942.

Sgt. Richard Greene Liberated Prisoner

Sgt. Richard C. Greene, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mansfield Green, of Stony Fork, was recently liberated from a Nazi prison camp. A letter received by his parents said he was well and all right. Sgt. Greene was a member of a transport crew shot down over Berlin on June 21 last year.

Local Student Gets Digest Merit Award

Miss Joanna McNeil, valedictorian of the graduating class at North Wilkesboro high school, has been given the Sixth Annual Award of The Reader's Digest Association for students who by their successful school work give promise of attaining leadership in the community, it was announced by Superintendent Paul S. Gagan.

Miss McNeil will receive an honorary subscription to The Reader's Digest for one year and an engraved certificate from the Editors, "in recognition of past accomplishment and in anticipation of unusual achievement to come."

Since 1937 The Reader's Digest Association has presented these awards yearly in senior high schools throughout the United States and Canada to the highest honor student of the graduating class. The awards are part of the educational program sponsored by the Association and were a logical outgrowth of the wide use of The Reader's Digest in school work.

Miss McNeil is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Archie J. McNeil, 702 Tenth Street. She was selected to receive the award, designed to stimulate scholarship, citizenship, and continued contact with good reading after graduation.

Pfc. Lass C. Bengel Killed In Action On Luzon May 10

Pfc. Lass C. Bengel, age 33, was killed in action on Luzon, Philippines on May 10th.

The telegram containing news of his death was received Saturday night by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bengel, of Parsonsville.

Pfc. Bengel entered the army in October, 1942, and went overseas in the spring of 1943. He served with an infantry regiment.

Surviving Pfc. Bengel are his father and mother; one brother, Wells Bengel, of Sumner, and one sister, Miss Verdie Bengel, of Parsonsville.

Pvt. Jack Combs HOME ON FURLOUGH

Pvt. Jack Combs, who had been in training at Camp Blending, Fla., reported to Fort Meade in overseas assignment after spending a 15-day furlough with his wife and three children.

BUY MORE WAR BONDS

Killed In Action

Pfc. Robert Leonard Jones, who was first reported missing, was killed in action in Italy on April 15. The message that he was reported missing on that date in Italy was followed by a second message saying that he was killed in action on the same date.

Pfc. Jones Lost His Life April 15 In Italian Battle

Wilkes Soldier First Reported Missing Was Killed In Italy

Pfc. Robert Leonard Jones, who was first reported missing, was killed in action in Italy on April 15. The message that he was reported missing on that date in Italy was followed by a second message saying that he was killed in action on the same date.

Pfc. Jones was a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Charlie H. Jones, and before entering service had made his home for some time in Lenoir with his aunt, Mrs. Ruel Brown, and was employed at Kent Coffey Manufacturing company. He entered service March 29, 1943, and was in training at Camp Hood, Texas, Camp Hale, Colorado, Camp Breckinridge, Ky. and Camp Swift, Texas, before going overseas in December, 1944.

Surviving Pfc. Jones are three brothers and three sisters: Mrs. E. M. Roy, Wilkesboro; Mrs. F. O. Wallace, Mooresville; Mrs. Mack Lowe, Lincolnton; Lance Jones, Hays; Ancel Jones, in Kansas; and T5 Homer Jones, who lost his right arm in combat in Belgium August 31, 1944, and is now in an army hospital in Texas.

Shatley Springs Opens Saturday

Advices have been received from C. L. Collins, Proprietor of Shatley Springs Health Resort, Ashe County, that he will open the springs for guests on Saturday morning, June 9th. The many friends of Mr. Collins will be glad to know that he will again have charge of this famous health resort this year.

Norfolk Navy Yard Is Seeking Workers

The Norfolk Navy Yard is badly in need of men to repair ships. Urgently needed are electricians and helpers of all types, as well as laborers. See Mr. Gaskins, the Norfolk Navy Yard Recruiter, at the U.S.E.S. office every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday.

M. T. SGT. PAUL M. WARREN VISITS HOME

M. T. Sgt. Paul M. Warren, of the marines stationed at Cherry Point, spent the week-end with his mother, Mrs. Belle Warren. Sgt. Warren joined the marines Aug. 1940 and returned to the States March 1st after serving 15 months in the South Pacific.

RATION NEWS

PROCESSED FOODS: Blue Stamps N1, P1, Q1, R1, S1 expire June 30. T1, U1, V1, W1, X1 expire July 31. Y1, Z1, A1, B1, G1 expire August 31. D1, E1, F1, G1, H1 expire Sept. 30.

MEATS AND FATS: Red Stamps M1, P1, Q1, R1, S1 expire June 30. K1, L1, M1, N1, P1 expire July 31. O1, R1, S1, T1, U1 expire August 31. V1, W1, X1, Y1, Z1 expire Sept. 30.

SUGAR: Sugar stamp No. 36 good for 8 pounds, expires August 31.

STAMPS: Airplane Stamps No. 1, 2, 3 now good.

GASOLINE: A-15 coupons valid through June 31.