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# The Alleghany News

AND STAR-TIMES—(CONSOLIDATED ON SEPTEMBER 2, 1941)—ALLEGHANY COUNTY'S ONLY NEWSPAPER.

SPARTA NEEDS NOW... an industrial plant, a modern hotel, a federal post office building and a civic club. Let's go after them!

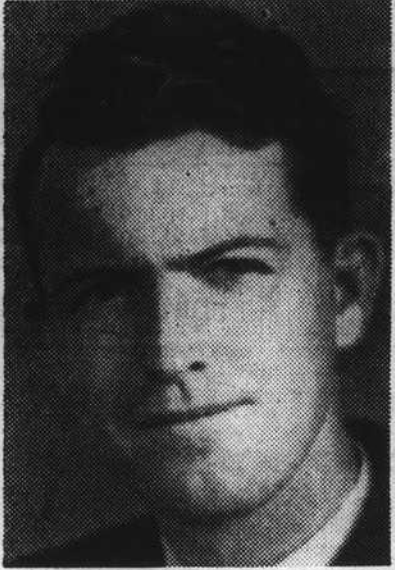
VOLUME 54, NO. 10

\$1.00 a Year in Alleghany County

SPARTA, NORTH CAROLINA

\$1.50 a Year Out of County THURSDAY, NOV. 6, 1941

**People YOU KNOW In Alleghany**  
By Staff Writer



REV. V. W. SEARS

Seeing the Rev. V. W. Sears for the first time, you wouldn't know he has been preaching for nine years. Yet the young pastor of the Sparta and Laurel Springs Baptist churches has been in the pulpit that long.

He began supply work when he was only 17 years old. Then, he had just completed his high school work in Concord, where his father was superintendent of the Concord gas plant. Mr. Sears says he decided to be a preacher when he was a senior in high school, and he did not veer from this decision.

The first job he ever had was delivering newspapers, which is a "first" for many young boys. But as he went through college and on to seminary his experience with work became varied.

Going to Wake Forest, Mr. Sears worked his way by painting and by being operator for a dry cleaner. He had, however, previously attended Wingate Junior College before going to the Baptist college.

On the same day that he received his Wake Forest diploma, Mr. Sears was married to Miss Annie Fury, his home-town girl friend of Concord. They decided to both attend the Baptist seminary.

## School Routes To Be Adjusted

School Board Approves Plans For Colored School House.

Extensions and adjustments are expected to be made soon in some of the bus routes of Alleghany county after the state director of school bus routing, L. C. Thornton, came here last Friday and went over the proposed requests, and the county board of education decided at their regular meeting Monday to make the adjustments after more investigation.

The school board, at the Monday meeting in the courthouse, also approved the proposed building plan of a school building for colored children at Cherry Lane with NYA help. Work will begin on this project as soon as the NYA officials give their approval.

Superintendent W. C. Thompson is to notify the principals of the schools where the changes in the bus routes will be involved. The principals will in turn give the information to the drivers, who will make what changes occur.

If the project for a new colored school is approved, the building will be constructed much on the same plan as the colored school built at Gap Civil two years ago with NYA labor.

The Cherry Lane school is now being held in the colored church of that section. Superintendent Thompson said the new location, four miles east of Sparta, would place the building in a more central location. The school would have a standard size classroom, and a combination library and office.

## CONGRESSMAN RETURNS TO CAPITAL TUESDAY

Congressman R. L. Doughton returned to Washington Tuesday after being at his home in Laurel Springs for a few days.

Congressman Doughton was a principal speaker at the dedication of the new Ashe Memorial hospital in Jefferson last Saturday afternoon.

## Home Demonstration Agent To Come Here Set Up A New Office

TWO PERSONS BITTEN BY POISONOUS SPIDERS

Two persons in the county were reported as having been bitten by Black Widow spiders during the past week.

No serious complications resulted from the bites, according to a local physician, but the persons were ill for awhile because of the poisonous spider bite.

The Black Widow is a small, black spider, which is transparent when held to the light. The bite of this spider in some instances has been known to be serious.

## Olivine Mined In The County Several Years

Mrs. C. C. Choate Remembers Taking of Mineral Many Years Ago.

Olivine was mined in Alleghany county several years ago, according to Mrs. C. C. Choate, of near Edwards Crossroads, who said yesterday there was a deposit of the mineral on their place seven miles from Sparta.

Mrs. Choate says she remembers olivine being taken from the land when she was but a girl. Also, about twelve years ago she sent a sample of the rock to be tested, and the report came back that the rock was olivine. She says the letter concerning the test is still in her possession.

Since announcement recently in this newspaper that national defense officials are being requested to investigate the rich olivine deposits believed to be in Alleghany county, Mrs. Choate is one of the first to report such a deposit on her land. The TVA has said that vast deposits of olivine are in this section of the state.

Olivine has from 20 to 30 per cent metallic magnesium content, and magnesium is now needed for national defense purposes.

All persons who believe a deposit of olivine is on their place are asked to come by The Alleghany News office with a sample of the ore. This newspaper would like to know of the possible number of such deposits in the county.

## Four Apply For Defense Courses

Three Alleghany county boys and one girl made application Tuesday for NYA defense training courses when Mrs. Claire P. Simpson, personnel interviewer of the area office here to interview those interested between the ages of 17 and 25.

Miss Rosa Jordan, of Glade Valley, made application for hotel hostess training at the school in Sardis.

Jessie J. Andrews and Walter W. Blewins, of Sparta, applied for an auto mechanics course at Asheville.

Golden M. Royal, of Laurel Springs, wants to take a course in sheet metal work at Durham.

Mrs. Simpson said she would return to the local NYA office next Tuesday to interview other girls and boys interested in taking a training course.

## Germans Checked At Rostov; Move Toward Red Naval Base

In spite of winter weather, heavy fighting continued in the Moscow area with the Russians claiming to have the Germans forces checked in the southern area toward Rostov.

The outskirts of Moscow felt the effect of the big guns in the distance, but the Nazis were able to make little advance in this direction.

The German army of the Crimea was declared yesterday to be beating rapidly forward in two columns, one to have stormed and taken the city of Feodosiya some 60 miles short of Kerch and the other driving down upon the great Soviet naval base of Sevastopol.

The fall of Feodosiya, an important port and communications center on a railway running to Kerch, was announced by the high command.

Miss Maggie Lawhorne From Virginia Accepts This Position.

BEGINS NEXT WEEK

Alleghany county will have a home demonstration agent when Miss Maggie Lawhorne, of Virginia, reports next week to begin her duties, for the first time such an office has been held in this county.

The county commissioners interviewed Miss Lawhorne the first of this week, and decided Tuesday the county would assist in obtaining a home demonstration agent.

The office of Miss Lawhorne will temporarily be in the courthouse here. She will be in the office one time occupied by the public welfare department, but plans are to later move the office into the Community building, it was stated.

The Woman's Club of Sparta, of which Mrs. J. T. Inskeep is president, has been interested in securing a home demonstration agent in this county, for some time.

Miss Lawhorne is a graduate of Radford State Teachers College in Radford, Va. She took further training for home demonstration work at Virginia Polytechnic Institute, and has been assisting in the demonstration office at Lexington, Va.

Miss Ann Rowe, of Raleigh, head of the agent offices, is expected to be in Sparta a few days next week when Miss Lawhorne begins her duties here. The new demonstration agent will reside here in the house owned by Clinton Halsey back of the community building.

She will organize community demonstration clubs throughout the county.

## No Violations Of School Law

Unlawful absences from the public schools of Alleghany county no longer exist since the establishment of a truant officer last month, Superintendent of Public Instruction W. C. Thompson said this week.

R. D. Gentry, of Sparta, was named truant officer October 6 by the county board of education, and what few children known not to be attending school before that time, are now doing so, according to Mr. Thompson.

The state school attendance law requires all children between seven and 14 years old to be in school, and the parents are held responsible if they are not. The fine for violation is a maximum of \$50 or 30 days in jail.

## Turner Wanted For Bad Check

Sheriff DeWitt Bryan said this week that W. C. Turner, who was reported last week as being held in Wytheville, Va., is wanted in Alleghany county for giving a bad check when buying cattle here last summer.

Governor Broughton has sent requisition to Virginia asking return of the man to this county because of the false pretense charge against him here.

## Germans Checked At Rostov; Move Toward Red Naval Base

ter on a railway running to Kerch, was announced by the high command.

The progress of this thrust appeared to menace Kerch itself, which is separated only by a two-mile-wide strait from the Russian Caucasus and is regarded as the most likely point of attempted exit for Russian troops reported in general retreat.

Beyond the Kerch strait to the west are the Russian Krasnodar oil fields, and to the northeast lies Roslov at the mouth of the Don river.

Informed persons in London reported that the Red high command was sending a special "winter army" of 750,000 from Siberia. (Continued on Page Four)

## Women Bolster Russian Defense



This photo came from Leningrad, Russia, via London. It pictures women of Russia's second city plying spades to erect barricades and dig trenches during the defense of Leningrad. For weeks before the battle of Moscow had begun this city had been besieged.

## Auto Goes Off 275-Foot Drop; Truck Burns; Car Turns Over

"LAURELS" — TO — OUR DISTINGUISHED R. L. Doughton

Each week this newspaper is going to acknowledge community service by some citizen of the county under the heading "Laurels".

The deed to obtain this acknowledgment need not be necessarily outstanding. The award might go to some boy for giving aid to an aged person, to some woman for canning many foods, to the official of a civic organization, or like accomplishments.

To inaugurate "Laurels of the Week" in The News, the outstanding citizen of the county, the distinguished gentleman who has received recognition by the highest officials of this country for his capabilities and service to nation, state, county and community, has been chosen. Need we say he is Congressman R. L. "Bob" Doughton, of Laurel Springs.

## Final Plans For Annual Red Cross Roll Call Made

Banquet Is Held Last Night. Importance of Red Cross Work Stressed.

Officials of the local Red Cross chapter and workers who will begin the annual Roll Call drive in Alleghany county next Tuesday, were given a chicken supper yesterday evening at 6 o'clock in the Community building by the Woman's club, of Sparta.

Mayor E. Floyd Crouse and Gov. R. A. Doughton made talks to the approximately 25 workers present on the value of the Red Cross to this country. Ernest Edwards, who is chairman of the Roll Call this year in the county, introduced the speakers and also made remarks concerning the drive for membership beginning on Armistice Day.

The Rev. R. L. Berry, chairman of the local chapter, was also called upon to tell of the importance of the Red Cross organization to the nation at this time.

Alleghany county will work towards a goal of \$400 this year, with drive for membership being made in all communities of the county. Mr. Edwards was to name the community workers immediately, and a special kit of materials will be given to each chairman in a community.

## New Models In Auto Showrooms

The new 1942 automobile models are difficult to obtain by dealers during these days of preparation for national defense, but two automobile companies in Sparta received new cars the first of this week.

Two new Chevrolets are on the floor of the Castevens Motor company, and the Alleghany Motor company is showing two new Fords.

## REA Co-op Buys All Northwest Property In Alleghany County

ARMISTICE DAY WILL BE OBSERVED TUES.

The local post office and bank will be closed next Tuesday in the observance of Armistice Day, but several of the business houses have expressed their intention of remaining open.

Several firms and individuals are cooperating in this issue of The News in making possible an Armistice Day message, which will be found on the inside pages.

## OPM "Blackout" Order Applies To Sparta & County

Non-essential Use of Electricity Ordered Because of A Power Shortage.

IS NOW IN EFFECT

Sparta is included in the OPM "blackout" ordered last week for seven southeastern states and all local merchants are expected to comply with the ban on non-essential electrical uses which became effective this week. G. F. Messick, superintendent of the Blue Ridge Electric Membership corporation has been notified by OPM authorities.

This federal order, invoked to conserve electric power for vital defense industries in the seven states, prohibits the use of electric advertising signs, merchants' show-window lighting, excess lights at filling stations, excess lights at theatres, interior and exterior ornamental store lighting and whiteways.

It is not ordered, however, that the town cut off its street lights because these are needed for police protection. A warning has been issued that all firms must co-operate with the order.

There is no shortage of generated electric power in North Carolina, but there is such shortages in Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama and other southern states to whom this state is furnishing power to produce aluminum and other defense essentials, it is announced. The Duke Power company, from local power is bought, is one of these firms.

These shortages are due to lack of adequate rainfall and to increased power demands for defense industries. In case of sufficient rainfall, the OPM order will be lifted.

In addition, the OPM has ordered a 30 percent reduction in the use or power for large commercial and industrial users, to become effective November 10.

## Education Class Be Held Nov. 14

The class on "Visual Education" will be given at the Sparta high school on Friday afternoon, Nov. 14, at 4:15 o'clock with Dr. J. C. Hadley, of Catawba college, of Salisbury, as instructor.

Teachers in this county or adjoining counties interested in raising or renewing certificates have been asked to attend. This course is new in the educational field and is reported to be interesting as well as instructional.

## Collins To Serve As Chairman Soil Conservation Committee

C. G. Collins, of Sparta, was named chairman of the Alleghany county soil conservation committee at a meeting of township delegates of AAA committees at the county agent's office in the Community building Thursday afternoon of last week.

Mr. Collins has a farm about a mile from Sparta, and will head the USDA Defense board in the county.

C. L. Hash, of Sparta, was named vice chairman, with C. M. Reynolds, of Ennice, a regular member. First alternate will be M. E. Reeves, of Laurel Springs, and J. C. McCann, of Roaring Gap, is second alternate.

Final Purchase of Utility Co. Here Terminated In Washington.

TO REVAMP SYSTEM

The Blue Ridge Electric Membership corporation last Thursday afternoon in Washington completed the purchase of Northwest Carolina Utilities power lines in Watauga, Ashe and Alleghany counties and the REA co-op Friday took over operations of the electric power systems at Blowing Rock, Shulls Mill, Sugar Grove, West Jefferson, Jefferson, Warrensville, Lansing, Sparta and Roaring Gap, Supt. G. F. Messick announces.

Plans are now being made to revamp the entire system of the newly acquired property, which includes replacing old poles, relocating transformers, building a new line into West Jefferson, revamping the transmission line from Elkin to Sparta and constructing a new transmitter into Sparta from West Jefferson and so on, Supt. Messick stated yesterday while in town.

"The Northwest lines are badly in need of repair and improvement and the REA has allotted us \$150,000 for this purpose," he said.

Bids for revamping are now out and will be canvassed by the REA and the co-op's board of directors next Wednesday.

"We are having considerable difficulty in getting materials because of the OPM priorities, but we have just about enough materials in sight to do the revamp work," Messick stated.

A membership fee of \$5.00 is required of all customers and in the near future a canvass for members will be made. Messick said that all deposits made to the Northwest would be refunded through the REA co-op to members.

Power and light rates will remain the same in West Jefferson and Sparta for the next month or two. "There will be no changes until the REA and our board can work out the rate schedule, which should effect a savings," he said.

## WPA Soil Work To Begin Soon

County Farmers Will Be Assisted by 20 Workers In Conservation Jobs.

The WPA project in connection with the soil conservation work in Alleghany county is to begin November 17, with a crew of 20 workers, according to W. O. Hooper, conservationist for the New River soil conservation district.

The 20 workers will be chosen from men in this county listed with the Works Progress Administration office. The crew will be assigned to a farm in the county where a soil management plan has been worked out.

"The object of this project," Mr. Hooper said, "is to assist the farmer in establishing soil conservation practices." The project was approved last October 8 by President Roosevelt.

The type of work on the farms will include gully control, timber thinning, tree planting, erosion control, building new fences or relocating old fences, staking strip cropping, and other jobs.



OL' CHAW BODKINS ALLUS SAYS THAT SINCE THE PASTOR'S CONFIDORS HE AINT GOT ANY AMB IN LIFE...