

Plan Is Started To Encourage Sheep Raising

Twenty-four Sheep Are Donated To Start Chain In Alleghany County

A "Sheep Chain", sponsored by the Sparta Grange, has been organized for the purpose of promoting the sheep industry in Alleghany county and to help 4-H and FFA members to get started in sheep raising, county agent R. E. Black announced this week.

One ewe will be given to the individual 4-H club and FFA members as their own personal property and they in turn will give back one lamb which will be used on the purchase price of another ewe to be given to another qualified boy or girl, he pointed out.

Twenty-four sheep have been donated, he explained but approximately 40 will be needed to take care of the application. Any firm or individual wishing to do so, may contribute to this project.

Eugene Transou contributed two ewes and the following have each contributed one ewe:

Van Miller, Arthur Gambill, W. O. Hooper, Ralph B. Cheek, E. C. Minnich, R. E. Black, J. R. Gambill, J. C. Gambill, J. H. Doughton, Cleve Gambill, C. R. Roe, Clyde Fields, Roy Ellison.

Jay Hardin and C. G. Collins, Lonnie Edwards, C. T. Edwards, Smithy's Store, Kay's 5 and 10c Store, Drs. B. O. and P. L. Choate, Farmer's Hardware Co., Cash & Carry, Bell's Department Store, B & T Drug Store, Northwestern Bank of Sparta.

Wounded Vet Is Home From Front

Pvt. Raleigh Caudill Took Part In D-Day And Fighting In France

Private Raleigh Caudill, of Sparta, returned home from France after seeing action in the recent European invasion, is spending a 30-day furlough with his parents.

Private Caudill, who landed with the American troops on the French coast twelve days after D-Day, saw three months' active duty, first in France, then to Belgium and on to Germany before a stray bullet hit him in the foot.

Following the injury, the Alleghany soldier was placed in a field hospital in France for one week and then moved to England where he remained for two months before returning to the states on December 1. He is now stationed at Moore General Hospital near Asheville, where he will return after his furlough.

Private Caudill, a little reluctant to talk of his experiences, told of small towns in France and Belgium that had once been thriving little places about the size of Sparta, now flattened to the ground.

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THOMAS B. LANDRETH RECEIVES SILVER WINGS

Thomas Burton Landreth, 19, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bob Landreth, of Sparta, received his silver wings as an aerial navigator of the Army Air Forces as he was commissioned a second lieutenant at San Marcos, Texas, December 16.

Lt. Landreth is a graduate of Piney Creek high school.

NEWS TO BE CLOSED ON SAT. AND XMAS

The office of The Alleghany News will be closed on Saturday and Monday in the observance of Christmas, but will be open on Tuesday and will publish the paper as usual next week.

This paper takes this occasion to again wish all of the readers a "Merry Christmas." This is also the message of the advertisers in this issue. Throughout this paper will be found many greetings sent to the readers as a personal message from merchants, other firms and individuals.

These greetings are being sent to more than 1,500 subscribers and to around 11,000 readers. To all of them, along with merchants, we again say, "Merry Christmas."

Sincere Christmas Greetings To Everyone . . . Everywhere!



Fight Hard To Halt German Drive; Make Progress On Leyte

Bloodiest Battle Of European Area Now In Progress On Wide Front

Veteran American doughboys, flung into one of the war's weirdest battles on a moment's notice, brought the German attack on the northern flank in Belgium to a bloody halt yesterday in a welter of tanks and dead men.

At least six German counterattacks were smashed. The pine-covered area, where millions of snow-covered evergreens stand like Christmas trees, the Germans elite guard tank columns have been stopped and hurled back while their flying bombs still thunder overhead.

How it was done is one of the war's most fascinating battle stories.

Despite the Americans desperate holding fight, the enemy's tank-led battering ram continued probing into Belgium and Luxembourg on a front of approximately 70 miles extending from above Monschau in the north to the vicinity of Echternach in the south.

The Germans apparently were hammering with the same fury that in the first three days of the assault rolled back the first army.

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Five Men Left Monday For Army

A group of five Alleghany county men left Monday for induction into military service at Camp Croft, S. C.

The men were given cigarettes, candy and magazines by the Lucille Ford Circle of the Baptist W. M. U. before their departure.

Those leaving included James Franklin Halsey, Clifford Howard Brooks, Otis Vaughn Brooks, Jones Kent Andrews and Don Rex Tolliver.

Selective Service Director States Deferment Changes

According to the director of the Office of War Mobilization and Reconversion, there is a present urgent manpower situation. The Director of Selective Service, General Hershey, states that it is increasingly necessary that all persons, and particularly registrants 18 through 37 years of age, participate to the full extent of their abilities, either in the armed forces or in the civilian war effort and selective service regulations have been amended accordingly, Mrs. Meza Phipps, chief clerk, explained.

"It is important that all registrants in the 18 through 37 age group become familiar with the amended Regulations, because the local draft board will be reconstituting thereby. Selective service regulations have been amended to restate the occupational classification policy to be applied by all local draft boards in view of the present urgency for manpower, both by the armed forces and in war production work directly connected with the war program," she said.

Laurel Springs Man Decorated With Silver Star

Receives Award In Italy For Gallantry Shown In Action On Italian Front

With The Fifth Army, Italy—Staff Sergeant Coy E. Mabe, Laurel Springs, North Carolina, recently was awarded the Silver Star for gallantry in action on the Italian front.

He is in the 135th Infantry Regiment, 34th "Red Bull" Division, a unit of Lieutenant General Mark W. Clark's Fifth Army.

Mabe, a private first class at the time, led his squad against a German machinegun emplacement of logs and concrete after his squad leader had been wounded. Having maneuvered his squad into proximity of the enemy nest, Mabe threw a hand grenade at the enemy, but the enemy crew refused to surrender. Mabe withdrew his men, returned and threw in another grenade, putting the enemy gun and two-man crew out of action.

"The courage and leadership displayed by Mabe," the citation stated, "Enabled his company to advance and move to a position from where they were to support another unit."

J. D. Brawley Is Reported Missing

Pvt. J. D. Brawley has been missing in action in France since Nov. 26 according to a message received by his mother, Mrs. W. C. Brawley, of Roaring Gap.

Pvt. Brawley's wife and three small children reside in Taylorsville.

He had been in service for the past nine months and had been overseas since September.

Turkish Tobacco To Be Grown On State Test Farm

Experiment Will Be Tried Out Next Year, Dean Colvard Announces

Tobacco farmers will be interested to learn that plans are now being worked out to experiment with the growing of Turkish aromatic tobacco on the State Test Farm at Laurel Springs, next year, according to an announcement made by Dean Colvard, supervisor of test farms in Western North Carolina.

Mr. Colvard told a News reporter that plans included the planting of one-fourth of an acre on the farm next year to determine whether or not it could be successfully grown in this section, which is well adapted to some types of burley tobacco.

Mr. Colvard pointed out that work was going forward on the building work on the farm considering the unfavorable weather and that some commercial grade Hereford heifers had already been shipped to the farm.

Experiments in both beef and dairy cattle are a part of the plans now underway, there.

Uncle Sam Has Extra Business

Many Post Offices Of The County Report Record Breaking Days

Due to the fact that many people are away from home this year and will receive their Christmas greetings, as well as gifts, by mail, the post offices of the county report that business this week has reached a new high peak.

"I never knew there could be so many Christmas cards," one postal worker declared.

Packages are also on the increase this year, both incoming as well as outgoing. And in spite of warnings of early Christmas mailings to assure delivery, many packages are still being mailed here. Packages are being sent from Alleghany to all parts of the world, where men in service are stationed. "Uncle Sam is going to have to cover a lot of territory for Santa," someone remarked.

Needy Are To Be Remembered

The needy families in this county will be remembered at Christmas time with baskets of food, clothing and toys as various organizations and individuals will distribute them.

The Sparta Grange assisted by the Boy Scouts, are gathering toys to distribute to needy children. Several toys have already been collected and more are expected to come in by Friday night.

The offering taken at the Thanksgiving union service will be used to prepare baskets of food for the needy, it was pointed out. Representatives from the Baptist, Methodist and Presbyterian churches will have charge of the distribution. Mrs. Jay Hardin, Miss Dorothy Evans and Bill Sprinkle will prepare the baskets.

War Bond Record Of County Is Praised By Governor Broughton

Purple Heart Is Awarded Thomas Pugh; Now Home

Was Wounded In France On His Birthday; Spending Holiday With Parents

Wearing a Purple Heart and campaign ribbons denoting one major battle, Pvt. Thomas Graham Pugh, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Pugh, of Topia, who was wounded in action in France on June 7, arrived at his home this week to spend the Christmas holidays with his parents.

Private Pugh was one of the thousands of American troops to land on the Cherbourg peninsula on D-Day, June 6. "I lasted through the day and well into the evening before they got me," the young soldier told a reporter. "We were advancing through the tall grass and the Germans had mines placed pretty thick around there. Someone hit a wire and set off the mine which exploded very near me."

There had not been time to set up aid stations on the coast of France that June day and Private Smith lay there with a wounded foot and leg for 24 hours before he was given first aid treatment and put on a boat for England.

A pal stopped long enough to place a tourniquet just above the knee which served to stop the bleeding.

SPARTA MAN GOES IN LAUNDRY BUSINESS

Emory Joines, formerly of Alleghany county, has recently purchased a one-half interest in the Boone Steam Laundry, Boone, and has taken over the management of the business office at the laundry.

Mr. Joines has resigned a position he held with the Colvard Tire and Chevrolet Company.

E Bond Sales Continue To Mount; For Over 6th War Loan Quota

Bond sales in Alleghany county continued to climb this week as sources of sales reported \$15,093.75 over the quota of \$74,000.00, according to Alton Thompson, bond chairman.

The "E" bond quota of \$50.00, was surpassed by \$11,893.75 with sources of sales reporting \$61,893.75.

Governor Broughton in a letter to S. R. Nichols, special drive chairman, states:

"I acknowledge receipt of your letter of December 11 and wish to congratulate you and your committee most heartily for the notable achievement in Alleghany county in this Sixth War Loan drive, as well as in previous campaigns. I know of no finer record being made anywhere in the state."

Mr. Thompson pointed out that all townships had met and exceeded their quotas and that official figures would be announced at a later date.

Both Mr. Thompson and Mr. Nichols again expressed their appreciation for the co-operation of the committees and of the buying public in making the drive such a success.

Men Classified By Local Board

The local board this week announced classifications of nine Alleghany men for military service. The classification list is as follows:

- 1-A: Hugh Fuffy, Robert L. Evans and Chester L. Brooks.
- 2-A: Dewey G. Edwards.
- 2-B: Walter C. Royal,
- 4-A: Vearl G. Wagoner and Welter G. Vanhoy.
- 4-F: Olen R. Black and Dewey C. Whitaker.

78th Congress Adjourns For Christmas; Meets Again Jan. 3

Washington—The 78th Congress adjourned sine die Tuesday night, ending one of the most momentous sessions in congressional annals.

The House adjourned at 6:59 p. m., and the Senate at 8:22 with only a few members present in both chambers.

Legislation authorizing a \$500,000,000 rivers and harbors construction program was caught in the rush for adjournment and was allowed to die when a bloc of Western Senators succeeded in stalling off action on a House-approved conference report. The bill's proponents promised to revive it in the next Congress.

The Senate passed and sent to the White House a bill to abolish the 321,000-acre Jackson Hole

Monument in Wyoming. It was created by executive order in 1943 and was a pet project of Secretary of the Interior Harold L. Ickes.

Members began leaving town immediately to spend the holiday season with their families. More than 75 Legislators who were defeated in the November elections will not be back when the 79th Congress convenes Jan. 3.

Adjournment ended an epochal two years marked by enactment of an anti-strike law, reconversion and surplus property bills to ease the transition to a peacetime economy, the G. I. Bills of Rights, huge grants for postwar civic development, simplified tax bills and other far-reaching wartime legislation.

Quiet Christmas Expected To Be Observed Here

Stores To Be Closed On Monday; Record Business Is Reported

Christmas is expected to be quietly observed in Alleghany on Monday, with the cessation of business and according to advanced reports should be a generous one, judging from the amount of gifts purchased.

The severe winter weather this section has experienced, leaving ice and snow on many roads, as well as other transportation difficulties, should keep most people at home to enjoy an old-fashioned Christmas.

All stores are expected to close on Monday for Christmas Day, but will be open for business as usual on Tuesday. County offices are also expected to be closed on Monday, but be open on Tuesday. The Northwestern Bank will be closed on both Monday and Tuesday, officials announced.

In spite of hampered travel conditions, because of the weather and shortages in many lines of merchandise, local merchants report a record business for the holiday season and point out that the public has not only bought gift merchandise, but much practical merchandise.

Thomas H. Smith Is A Crack Shot

Makes Record At Camp Croft; Is Praised By Officers For Fine Shooting

Private Thomas H. Smith, of Stratford, better known to his friends as "Harry", recently displayed some "pretty fancy shooting" on the rifle range at Camp Croft, S. C., where he is receiving his basic training.

The easy-going mountaineer fired on his targets in true Sergeant York fashion as he scored 189 out of a possible 200, which was the highest score in his company. Then came the contest between the highest scoring experts of each company to determine the best shot for the battalion and Private Smith, from Alleghany, came in one shot short to win second place by scoring 195 out of a possible 210 with his opponent scoring 196 out of a possible 210. To qualify for expert one must score 180 out of a possible 200 shots.

General Hester, Commanding General at Camp Croft, happened to be on the firing range and observed Private Smith putting

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Methodists Plan Special Meeting

A meeting of the Crusade for Christ will be held at the Sparta Methodist church on Sunday night, December 24 with Mrs. Gertrude Blevins in charge.

A duet, "Beautiful Christmas Star," will be rendered by Misses Ellen Hardin and Mary Alice Landreth. "The Crusade for a New World Order" by Miss Wilma Crouse; "World Relief and Reconstruction," Rev. Worth Sweet and "Stewardship," Mrs. Blevins. Other meetings of the Crusade will be announced later.

SCHOOLS OBSERVING A SHORT HOLIDAY

Alleghany county schools are observing only a part of a week's holiday next week for Christmas and will re-open on Wednesday, December 27, unless severe weather should prevent this, Supt. Clyde Fields explained yesterday.

Due to the fact that the schools have been closed for the past two weeks on account of the weather, it was decided that only three days' holiday would be observed. At a meeting of the county board of education yesterday morning, it was also decided that all schools would remain open for four days next week, teaching through Saturday.

Due to the snow drifts, buses have not been able to operate but all roads are expected to be opened by December 27.