

# The Alleghany News

AND STAR-TIMES

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The News is glad to publish letters, not too long, on matters of general interest. But such communications must be accompanied by the real name of the writer, even when they are to be published under a nom de plume.

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"If the choice were left to me whether to have a free press or a free government, I would choose a free press."—Thomas Jefferson.

## Easter 1947

Easter 1947 finds many problems of the world still unsettled. Hunger, fear and a spirit of uncertainty is felt in many parts of the earth. Easter is a time of new hope and a promise of a more peaceful world. But it is also a time of reeducation to the principles of Him, who gave us new hope at Eastertime. Until the world can come nearer to carrying out His principles there will always be fear, hunger and unhappiness.

We have much to be thankful for this Easter; but along with all that we are thankful for, we have added responsibilities as individuals and as a nation. As individuals we should feel more keenly the meaning of Easter. As we attend sunrise services and other church services throughout the day, let us again rejoice for the triumph of good over evil and continue to work and pray that individuals and the world may rise to new heights of understanding and appreciation of Him, who gave us Easter with its hope, joy and promise.

## Free Enterprise

The hope of the world lies in the American government—and the American private enterprise system which underlies it. As our international commitments grow, more and more peoples in nations which bore the full physical brunt of war look to us for succor.

Already, American industry has brought new vistas of prosperity and progress to remote parts of the world. The work of the Arabian-American Oil Company in Saudi Arabia is a dramatic example of this. The company is financed and operated by a group of four United States oil companies. It is pouring gigantic sums—the total may run as high as \$300,000,000—into Saudi Arabia to develop hitherto untouched oil resources that are there. In the process it has brought modern medicine to the peoples of the region. It has started great agricultural experiment projects. It has built modern villages and good roads. Thus with free enterprise at the helm, social progress and economic development go hand in hand—precisely as they have always done here at home.

In the coming years American industry in many fields will carry on the work of this nature. The techniques developed in the new world will be applied to the resources—and the rehabilitation—of the old. Millions of people, who know little of American ideals of liberty, will see the superiority of the free enterprise system over the totalitarian system—regardless of what name it wears. The American oil industry is a product of free opportunity upon which our nation was built.

## Rise Of Fire Loss

The National Board of Fire Underwriters recently analyzed the causes of the disastrous and menacing increase in fire loss in the United States—a loss that came near the \$600,000,000 figure last year. The following principal reasons were cited:

1. The increased value of property, merchandise and large inventories.
2. The use of substandard housing.
3. Overcrowding of buildings, with a resulting strain on electrical circuits and heating plants already in disrepair because of wartime shortages.

4. A tendency to build factories and other high-value properties in outlying areas where water supply for fire fighting purposes may be inadequate.

5. Shortage of fire department equipment.

6. A great increase in carelessness at the end of the war.

Most of the causes of fire are correctable. Substandard housing must be prevented by local building and safety ordinances. Communities will soon be able to obtain needed fire equipment. Adequate repair and maintenance of electrical and heating facilities can be obtained now. The last cause, human carelessness, is probably the most important—and it is likewise the most indefensible. So long as we take chances with this great destroyer, lives and property will continue to be needlessly sacrificed. That is the message which must be brought home to all the American people.

## Better Feed, More Food

Our nation is great because it enjoys the highest standard of living—and the highest nutritional level—of any Nation in the World. One of the principal reasons for the American people is the relatively high quality of their protein diets. And the proteins on which we rely most are supplied largely through meat, milk and eggs—the products of livestock and poultry feeding.

A great deal of credit for maintaining and improving the Nation's high level of nutrition rightly belongs to the feed manufacturing industry which has done much to bring the age of scientific feeding to American farms.

About thirty years ago the hens in this country laid an average of 110 eggs a year. Today they are averaging 150. Cows now give an average of 265 quarts more milk apiece each year than they did in 1925!

During the past quarter century the production of livestock has increased 44 per cent per acre of land, and 27 per cent per unit of feed available.

These remarkable increases have been due to improved breeds of livestock and poultry and to improved feeding and management methods. It is vitally important that we have had these production increases and that we continue to improve livestock raising efficiency, for the population of this country has been increasing at an alarming rate.

Scientific feeding, as we know it today, is based largely on fundamental knowledge developed during the past 50 years at our agricultural colleges and experiment stations. The feed manufacturing industry has utilized this basic information, supplementing it with the findings of its own laboratories and experimental farms.

Then, through applied research, the feed industry has converted this knowledge into a practical, workable form for the benefit of the greatest number of people in the shortest possible time. Thus farmers and feeders, large and small, have had the full advantage of latest research, experiments, and accurate blending of feed ingredients, as scientific feeding progressed during recent years.

These improved feeds, produced by the feed industry, have greatly promoted efficiency in livestock and poultry production, with resulting higher profits for the farmer and a higher nutritional level for Americans.

## Retailer Worries

The consumer is not alone in worrying about high prices. The manufacturer and merchant are definitely disturbed too.

Their interest is plain enough. Consumer resistance is strong and it is increasing. When people think prices are too high, they go without or purchase cheaper substitutes. Markets decline. And goods languish on store shelves.

The retailers of the country are devoting intense attention to this problem now. They are going to the mat with manufacturers, seeking ways and means to produce better goods for less money. The chain stores have taken the lead in this and their buyers are turning skeptical eyes on offered merchandise which may be over-priced or of less desirable quality.

On top of that, all kinds of stores are cutting overhead in every way possible. Most of the savings find their way, directly or indirectly, into the pockets of the consumer. Prices are brought down—or, of equal benefit, price increases that would otherwise be unavoidable are prevented.

## SPARTA



### SPECTACLES

By Mrs. Ed M. Anderson

Spring has come again, so we hope and what's more, we hope to stay. The heaviest snow of the season, last week, cut short the opening of the Spring.

Speaking of the snow, there were a lot of people and things slightly inconvenienced by it. We were particularly sorry the robins who had already arrived in large numbers. We were reminded of the old nursery rhyme:

"The North wind doth blow  
Then we shall have snow  
And what will poor robin do then?  
He will sit in the barn  
And keep himself warm,  
Poor thing, poor thing!

Just where all the robins went, that arrived here is hard to say. Some shivered under the evergreens, grapevines and other shelters. Some probably found barns and according to some people, others got discouraged and went South again.

When Spring arrived again this week the best story we heard about it was from a minister, who told of a small boy, who had memorized a poem about Spring, the grass and flowers. When he arose to give it, the poem was forgotten, but the thought remained and he said:

"Spring is sprung  
The grass is ris  
Tell me where the flowers is."  
We have an idea they will make their appearance on hats as well as in corsages on Easter Sunday!

Along with Spring came Mrs. J. T. Carson, known to hundreds of her friends as Miss Cora. She has been away for several months spending sometime in Washington, D. C., Richmond, Va., and Charlotte, N. C. Mrs. Carson said she encountered snow practically everywhere she went. Of course she also encountered many old friends too. Among them were the Dwight Greens of Kensington, Maryland, near Washington. Mrs. Greene will be pleasantly remembered as the public health nurse here. Mrs. Carson said, while she visited them, their son celebrated his first birthday and took his first steps. Mrs. Carson has been missed during her absence and her many friends will be happy to welcome her back again.

Back from Washington is the Honorable Floyd Crouse, who reports that among other things he had the opportunity to hear the distinguished Congressman R. L. Doughton in his memorable speech against the drastic reduction of taxes at this time. Mr. Crouse remarked that the speech was something to be heard and that our Congressman could hold his own with any of them.

An Election is coming up in May for the town of Sparta and already we have heard several suggestions for Mayor along with the present incumbent, Amos Wagoner. Among these are Bob Randolph, Kemp Doughton and Dr. Fox. Of course it is not known whether any of these will be candidates, but whoever the candidates are, we imagine the dry issue will play some part in the election. And by that we mean the water shortage!

"Flu" here and there and we are not talking about the birds or those who travel by air, but the unpleasant influenza which has hit Sparta in almost an epidemic during the past week. The B. and T. Drug Store was dealt a heavy blow. At first Dr. Burgess came down with it, then Mrs. Burgess and Tommy were victims. And in the meantime Ernest had both flu and measles. And to him the measles proved to be no measly disease. Ruth Caldwell was the only one that escaped and stayed continually on the job.

Sweet music is in store for those who attend the Woman's club dance on Friday night when the noted Paul Webber will play. Mr. Webber, who was featured at the Sheridan Hotel last season, was one of the most popular attractions in New York. We took time off from a meeting to go look him up and took along some other North Carolina friends, who agreed that his music was all that we claimed it to be.

Members of the Woman's Club also has another treat in store for them today when Mrs. Ivey

## At The Sepulchre Weeping



MILLIONS OF  
STARVING,  
HELPLESS,  
HOPELESS,  
WAR-SICK  
PEOPLES.

## Your Tri-County Health Dept.

By Robert E. King, Jr.  
District Health Officer

Reportable diseases are diseases which are required by law to be reported by the physician making the diagnosis to the local or state Health Department. It must be admitted that this takes a great deal of the physicians valuable time and has little to do with the cure of the patient concerned, but there are important reasons why this procedure is important enough to have become a state law and to be customary throughout the United States.

In North Carolina there are 35 reportable diseases although of course many of these are only rarely seen, and a great many cases of the more common of these diseases are not reported because they are not seen by a physician or the diagnosis is not definitely proved or for some other reason.

The reason for reporting is to call to the attention of the health department the presence of these diseases all of which are contagious and are apt to be spread from one sick person to one or many well persons. This can be prevented if the proper effort is made to keep well people away by quarantine and by isolating the patient as nearly as possible from his family and those who wait upon him and by properly disposing of his waste products and properly washing his dishes and bed clothing.

Five of these diseases are known as the venereal diseases or "social diseases." They are chancroid, gonorrhoea, granuloma inguinale, lymphogranuloma venereum, and syphilis. They are important enough to occupy a great deal of the time and effort of the public health department.

Tuberculosis has always stood high among the causes of death in North Carolina, and its control is set up under a distinct branch of the state government as the North Carolina Tuberculosis Association.

Malaria control through sanitary engineering and typhus control by rat proofing campaigns fall under the department of Sanitation of the State Board of Health.

Many of the so called childhood diseases are on this list. Whooping cough, diphtheria, measles and scarlet fever are most notable in this group, and the first two can be prevented by proper vaccination. Two of the

The Federal Crop Insurance Corporation has discontinued payment of 1946 crop cotton loss claims under the crop insurance program.

Moore, of North Wilkesboro, will be the guest speaker at the club meeting today. Mrs. Moore is the chairman of the American Homes Department of North Carolina Federation of Women's Clubs. She has long been a leader in club work, church work, the American Legion Auxiliary and many other worthwhile organizations.

## The Washington

WASHINGTON, D. C.—President Truman's victory in his "fight to the finish" over John L. Lewis, as a result of the decision of the U. S. Supreme Court upholding the contempt conviction of the United Mine Workers' boss, and the subsequent influence of the decision on future labor legislation and labor disputes highlighted the Washington front.

And coincident with the Supreme Court decision, the President's stock with the people, which started to come-back immediately following his determined stand against Lewis last November has again started on the upswing, making him more popular with the people, according to the polls, than ever before.

All Washington is agog over the fight within the Republican leadership and the attempt of National Chairman Carroll Reece to bring about harmony among the membership of both house and senate. Indications are that Mr. Reece's attempts at peace-making and pouring oil on the waters backfired, for sixteen of the GOP freshmen Senators have signed a round-robin letter directed at Sen. Eugene Millikin, Colo., chairman of the senate finance committee, in which they deplore the fact that they are not consulted in the party policy-making and ask that they be taken into the confidence of the leaders.

It is commonly known here that the younger GOP senators and the group headed by Senators Morse, of Oregon and Aiken, of Vermont are champing against the leadership provided by Senator Taft, of Ohio. The Ohio senator has, unfortunately, been unable to win a single fight in the senate to date and the Republicans are now looking to Senator Vandenberg, of Michigan for their leadership. On the other hand, Speaker Joe Martin and Majority Leader Charles Halleck, in the house, have maintained party discipline on most issues and the house Republicans have "gone down the line" together on all partisan measures.

On the other side of the political fence, there is a shake-up going on within the headquarters of the Democratic National Committee with Gael Sullivan, former third assistant postmaster general, pulling the levers. The wise ones here profess to see in Sullivan the successor to Chairman Robert Hannegan as boss of the Democratic committee when Hannegan is ready to step aside, probably within the next few months. The resignation of Sam O'Neal, St. Louis newspaperman, as head of the committee's publicity set-up is regarded as only a starter in a list of resignations which are to come.

In the meantime, the endless debate over the budget, tax reduction, the continuous rounds of investigation initiated by almost every congressional committee, are petty, as compared with the real events of national and international significance which hang over the congress...

## Uncle Sam Says



Love on a dime sounds sweet on St. Valentine's Day, but love on a stack of United States Savings Bonds rests on a firmer foundation. You can get your stack of bonds through the payroll savings plan where you work or by buying bonds regularly at your bank or post office. Savings Bonds are a sweetheart of an investment—\$4 for every \$5 in 30 years' time.

U. S. Treasury Department