

The Transylvania Times

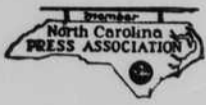
Published Every Thursday by
TIMES PUBLISHING COMPANY
Brevard, N. C.

THE NEWS Estab. 1896 THE TIMES Estab. 1931
Consolidated 1932

Entered as second class matter, October 29, 1931, at the Post Office in Brevard, N. C., under the Act of March 3, 1879.

ED M. ANDERSON.....Publisher
HENRY HENDERSON.....Ass't. Publisher
MISS ALMA TROWBRIDGE.....Associate
IRA B. ARMPFIELD.....Business Manager

SUBSCRIPTION RATES, PER YEAR
In the County, \$1.50 Out of the County, \$2.00



Thursday, March 18, 1943

Let's Do It

One of the major accomplishments of the 1943 session of the state General Assembly was the passage of the ninth month school term, which is to become effective next fall.

This progressive measure provides that counties have the optional privilege of operating on a nine months' basis, or of continuing on the present eight-month schedule. In either case, the state will pay the entire cost.

For years we have favored the nine months term, but because of the nation's dire need for increased production of food and the corresponding need for children to help produce this food, we felt that it would be better to make this plan operative in 1944.

However, an overwhelming majority of the members of the legislature and Gov. Broughton were apparently of the opinion that by next fall the war outlook would be bright enough to justify this action.

In order to prevent our county from losing many of its best teachers and to give our children the advantages of an extra month's training, we urge the school authorities to plan now to operate on a nine months basis during 1943-44.

It is only natural that every good teacher would prefer to be in a school system that will operate nine months instead of eight, and counties that fail to make the change may have difficulty in getting a sufficient number of teachers to fill their requirements.

Really Not So Bad

With two Transylvania county men reported by the War Department as "missing in action" on the North African front during the week of February 14-20, we were delightfully surprised to learn from an official statement released last week by Secretary of War Stimson that the United States lost only 2,242 men that week as a result of the big German thrust.

We had concluded that if the losses from this county were about the average, the total casualty list for the nation would be large.

Of the losses, Secretary Stimson reported, only 59 were killed, 176 wounded and 2,007 missing in action. It is quite probable that Donald Howard Nelson and Arthur Gravely, as well as the other 2,005 "missing in action," may be prisoners, and not casualties. We share with their families and friends the anxiety of knowing more about the whereabouts and welfare of these fine young men.

More Victories Needed

While the news for the past week from the lower Russian front has been bad for the allied cause, at the same time releases from all other theatres of the global war have been given much encouraging information.

In North Africa it is revealed that the cornered axis armies did not get anywhere by their desperate lunges in Tunisia and that the combined allied forces are now poised for a large-scale offensive that will destroy Rommel.

General Dwight Eisenhower, who is in supreme command in Africa, told his men that the combined weight of the allied land, naval and air forces would push the enemy "back into the sea and to destruction." Action this week is beginning to prove that statement.

From London came another most gratifying bit of news. "The British, now push-

ing their monthly bomb-sowing rate to the high level of 12,000 tons, have wrecked 2,000 German war factories, cut Nazi steel production by 1,250,000 tons annually and driven at least a million Germans from their ruined and roofless homes," the dispatch stated.

In France thousands of French patriots waged war on the Nazi invaders, killing several hundred and wounding many others. The uprising is still in progress, too, and supplies are being delivered to the French guerillas by plane by the allies.

In the Russian central front area, the Reds are continuing to move forward, recapturing many towns and in the Pacific allied bombers are sinking Jap ships at a rapid pace and destroying enemy planes.

But the tremendous comeback made by the Germans in the Kharkov area is disheartening. With lightning speed, the reinforced Hitler armies have driven the Russians back and have retaken the Soviets' fourth city.

A few weeks ago most of us were feeling secure in the belief that Germany was weakening and that the Russians would continue their march to the German border. In fact, even our high ranking officials were so sure of it that great post-war plans were being advanced rapidly and our Ambassador to Russia came out with a strong criticism of Russian government for failure to stress the amount of aid which we had sent.

These utterances were probably sane and justified, but to say the least, they were poorly timed. Hitler has just demonstrated that he can show as much strength as ever and unless a real second front is opened in Europe, he may soon destroy the Russian army.

It is fine to discuss postwar plans and to harmonize our peace terms with those of all of the allied nations, but it seems to us that the greatest and most important job of all right now is to win more major victories. We want to see fewer battles of words, fewer political battles in Washington, fewer battles of complaint on the home front and more victories on the fighting fronts!

On "Sharing"

Rev. B. W. Thomason last Sunday morning at the First Baptist church preached a compelling sermon on "sharing," using as the basis of his discourse the incident of the rich young ruler who, seeking eternal life, "turned sorrowfully away" when Christ told him how he might attain it. He was unwilling, the minister said, to share his wealth and privileges with others and went away into "oblivion." At life's end he found himself rich but impoverished.

Mr. Thomason predicted another world conflict in a quarter century if the Christian people of the world did not share the burdens and aspirations of other peoples. He stated an unpalatable truth, viz., that we are in large measure responsible for Hitler. After the last world war, he recalled, we withdrew to our own shores while Europe drifted into another struggle.

Red Reports Fairly Correct

From the outset of the war between the Hitlerites and the Soviets, the latter have made what appeared to be fantastic claims as to the losses inflicted on the enemy. Premier Stalin himself on more than one occasion has placed total casualties at a figure believed to be in excess of all the German soldiers on the Eastern front. And as for planes downed, tanks smashed, guns captured, the claims are even more astounding.

How much credence can be placed in these reports?

Henry C. Cassidy, chief of the AP bureau in Moscow and now on leave in this country, undertakes to answer the question. He says they are "substantially reliable," and gives the sources as Red Star, army newspaper; Pravda, Communist organ; and the communiques issued twice daily.

Early in the war, however, Cassidy concedes, figures on enemy casualties appeared to correspondents to be over-estimated. Now, since the Reds are going the other way, he continues, the pressmen consider the figures more reliable.

The Red censorship, stern at the beginning of the war Cassidy says, is the most liberal of any warring nation. "Any article," he states, "which seems to them (the censors) a reasonable interpretation of the facts given by the Soviet press or communiques, or witnessed at the front, is permitted to pass."

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS By PAUL MALLON

Washington, March 17 — This much we know about Ambassador Standley's accusation that Stalin has played down our billion and a half aid to Russia before his own people:

Standley is an adult personal representative of Mr. Roosevelt, and all such know enough not to criticize a diplomatic host without word from the boss.

It is difficult for any observer here to believe the old friend of the president would have dared to speak even the simple truths he did without authority. Of course, occasionally, diplomacy requires a government to officially deny what it unofficially knows to be true.

This much we know despite all the official and congressional efforts to becloud and smooth over the incident:

At Casablanca, Stalin was worse than absent. He was unrepresented, and he explained the vacuum he left there in a very peculiar way. He said he was busy fighting.

He left out all mention of American aid in his speech to the world last week, saying Russia was carrying the brunt of the fighting alone.

But more important to skilled phrase-fencers in the diplomatic world at this end, all Stalin's recent speeches have taken the position that he is not warring on Germany, that he has no intention of destroying Germany as a nation, or even Germany as a military power—but only Hitlerism.

These Moscow winds have sown the seeds of suspicion, not only here, but among all the American people, that Russia may be fighting for herself alone, and therefore might consider a different kind of peace than we would, perhaps an earlier one.

It is only simple, truthful reporting to set out these facts, none of which is secret, although the official reaction to Standley's very limited statement here was a beating of the bushes in congress demanding Standley's return.

Whether Standley returns is unimportant by comparison with the fact that he has thrown out into the open a situation which must be met by both Moscow and Washington fairly and honestly on the open table. The time for pretending by both sides has long since passed.

To let such seeds grow unnoticed under a plea that no questions should be asked concerning an ally, would only plant a real distrust which could never be adjusted. Open questioning brings answers and genuine understanding.

The only thing remarkable about Standley's views to me was their suggestion that while Russia knows everything going on in the United States and has \$1,500,000,000 of our planes, tanks, etc., we know nothing about what is going on in Russia.

Stalin can easily prove that he is not fighting a war for himself and will not expect a peace for himself by his deeds in the immediate future — including the sending of an authentic representative to the coming Welles meeting here on the post-war world.

Most confusing aspect of Standley's observations was the simultaneous speech of Vice President Wallace, warning Americans they would never attain post-war peace "if they doublecross Russia."

Standley and Wallace seem to have the official shoe on opposite feet.

But juggling of shoes is the order of the day. Mrs. Roosevelt announced that fourth term talk should be cut off, because it would hurt the immediate war effort. Her friends, like Senator Mead, of New York, who would not for the world say a word she would not want said, simultaneously endorsed the fourth term.

All the talk has been coming from such sources which are obviously convinced that despite what Mrs. Roosevelt said, she will not be displeased to any serious extent.

All this seems to be confusion. But is it?

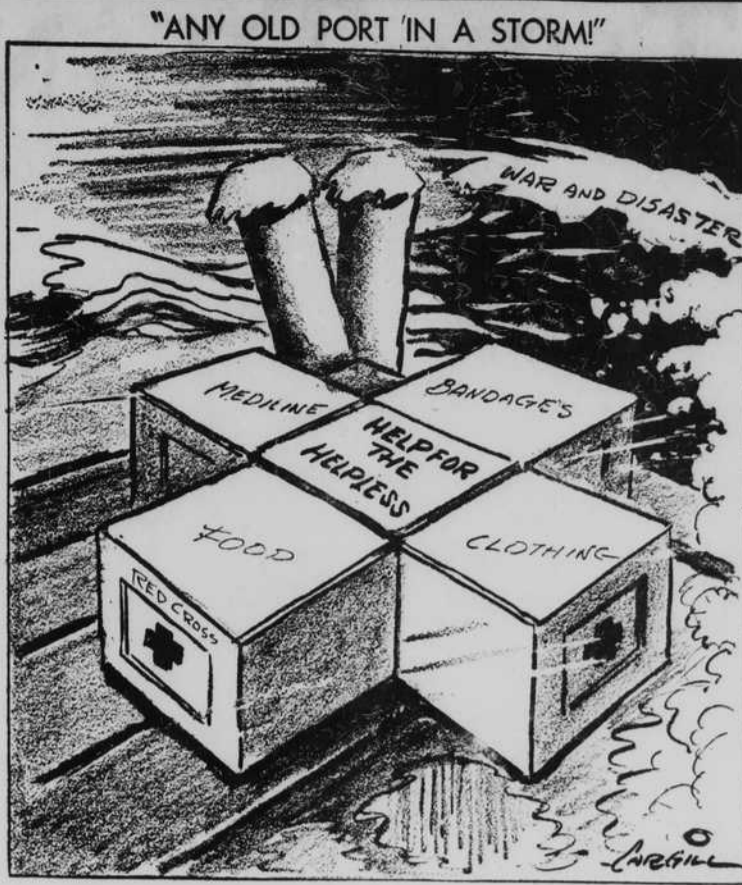
Franklin Boy Is Elected President Of Student Body

Grover Arvey, of Franklin and a sophomore at Brevard College, has been elected president of the student body at the college, succeeding David Franklin, who entered military service recently.

Arvey has made an outstanding record at the college. He was vice president of the student body.

Luther Earwood, of Asheville, has been chosen to succeed him as vice president.

SA! YOU SAW IT IN THE TIMES



OLD TOXAWAY

By Miss Myrtle Aiken

Mr. and Mrs. Ciemmons Chapell and son, W. C. Jr., and Miss Myrtle Aiken spent the past week-end visiting Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Stewart and family at Eastatoe, S. C.

Mr. and Mrs. Meece and daughter, Shirley, and son, Billy Joe,

of Middle Fork, were guests Sunday of Mr. and Mrs. Gaston Chapman and family.

Pvt. Elnord Chapman, of Camp Croft, S. C., spent the week-end here with relatives and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Whitmire and Mr. and Mrs. Chris Galloway, of near Rosman, were visitors here Sunday.

Howard Aiken visited relatives near Rosman the past week-end.

Several Are Sick In Penrose Section

By N. L. Ponder Mrs. J. R. Brown was taken to the hospital at Hendersonville last week. It is reported that she had to undergo an operation and was in a rather serious condition. Her many friends here hope for her a speedy recovery.

Billy Wilson, who lives with Mr. Middleton, is reported ill with flu and not able to be out.

Lloyd Cantrell, Associational Director of the Lord's Acre work, was present and spoke at Enon church last Sunday. The church voted to adopt the work and elected T. F. Middleton as chairman.

Herbert Williams moved last week from the George Lyday's house to T. F. Middleton's house near Enon Hill.

W. L. Talley was teacher of the adult Sunday school class last Sunday and every one enjoyed his teaching.

All enjoyed his presence because he had been absent a few Sundays being ill with flu.

Mr. and Mrs. Harris, who live on C. W. Talley's place, took a sick six-year-old boy to the hospital at Sylva last week.

Arthur Griffin and family, who live with Mr. Reeves here, attended the funeral of his step mother in Jackson county last week.

One hundred and eighteen miles of tunnel are used to bring water to New York City.

When your doctor asks where you prefer to have your prescription filled, say: VARNER'S, because: Filled only by registered pharmacist; as written and at reasonable prices. (A.v.t.) 12-18-tfc

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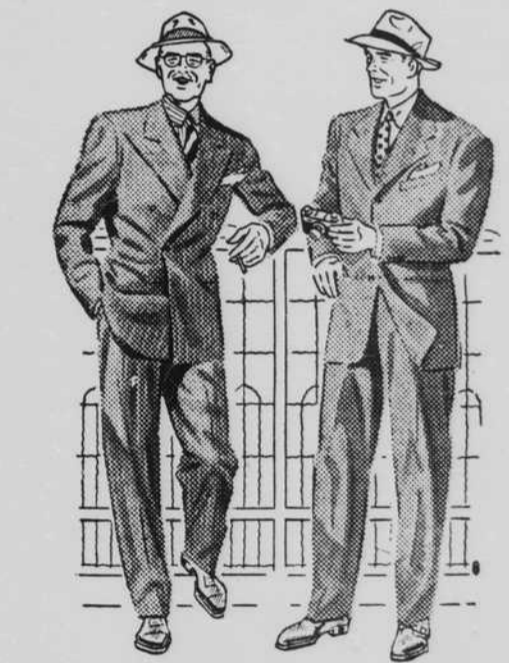
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