

Aged Negro Is Custodian Of Great Seal Of State; Soon Begins Fifth Term

BY GARLAND B. PORTER.

Raleigh, Feb. 12.—Occupants of some capitals might have been giving a little thought to so-called fourth terms, and some plain citizens might have advanced an argument or two, but not so in the State Capital of North Carolina. At least in this case in the case of Ben Thornton, who this year is finishing his fourth term of office as assistant extraordinary to the governor of North Carolina. If he is worried about his fifth term, he shows no sign of it.

Ben Thornton is one of those few southern colored gentlemen of the "old school." He is nearing his 64th anniversary, and this is the sixteenth year he has been custodian of the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina. Most of the commissions, laws, and state documents required by the last long governor since passed through Ben's capable and busy hands before they became official.

It is Ben's job to see that the Great Seal of the State is preserved in these documents after they have been signed by the executive, the governor of North Carolina. Ben's office is in the Governor's office, and he is assisted by J. C. B. Furrhoush, Governor Clyde R. Hoey, and the executive secretary, Governor's Secretary, J. C. B. Furrhoush.

"They are all important men," pronounced Ben. "It has always been a pleasure to serve them."

Ben could not understand how any one would possibly be interested in the duties of his office, but he has been playing in State affairs for these last four international years. But he called attention to the fact that he had been playing in State affairs for these last four international years. But he called attention to the fact that he had been playing in State affairs for these last four international years.

Republicans Discussing Their Cabinet Already

By Central Press.

Washington, Feb. 12.—Republican groups, voicing confidence in a sweeping GOP victory next November, are beginning to discuss the composition of the White House cabinet. Of course, they are assuming that President Roosevelt will be a fourth term nominee in the Democratic primary and assuming, too, that he will be elected.

Should Mr. Roosevelt build another cabinet to his third or fourth term, it is expected there will be but a slight change in the positions of the cabinet members from 1943 to 1949.

Included in the speculation of the GOP-Politicians is the creation of a new cabinet post—secretary of the bureau of aviation, or some similar name. Such a cabinet post would coordinate the Army and Navy Air Corps, and, in time of peace, would command the Civil Aeronautics Board, which it would supervise.

They are placing faith in the post—similar to the position of an air transport land, the name of Capt. Edward V. Bremer, former leading American ace in World War I, and a hero of the present war by virtue of his daring rescue flights.

Many Republicans feel the creation of an aviation portfolio will speed the war's conclusion and aid the program of flying after the war. They feel Bremer has the peculiar qualifications to get up such a department.

These same observers say they would not be surprised to see a potential Republican candidate for president being Governor Douglas A. MacArthur in Washington as the secretary of war. There is great pressure in the west for this action.

Another cabinet possibility they point out is Herbert Hoover—the only living ex-president—to be secretary of state. The 1936 GOP presidential nominee, Alf Landon, is considered a "natural" for a cabinet post, either to be secretary of agriculture or the interior.

Of course, it is considered a cinch that Harrison E. Spangler, GOP national chairman—or his successor if Spangler is unseated after the June convention—will be the next postmaster general—a traditional appointment.

signed to the post of trust. Nor has the mystery of that disappearance ever been cleared away. Ben thinks he is still among the living, but some say he must have died long ago.

Ben's full duties include handling all the governor's heavy mail. He assigns and stamps outgoing letters, and receives incoming mail, registered and otherwise. If a letter has been lost during his tenure of office, as one was caught up, Ben usually is the man to find it in the mail in the East door to the Capitol, just outside the governor's office.

The Thorntons are from Warren county, where Ben was born. Many of them have been school teachers and have served their race faithfully and with honor. One of his uncles served as registrar of deeds for many years. Ben says he did not have much schooling, as he started late, but long after the Civil War, before the hard work and honesty were all a man needed to get along.

"I soon learned better," he will tell you. "I still believe in hard work and honesty, but a man must have education. I learned to read and write and I can read a lot since then. You must learn. Both covered and I had to learn to read."

The thought advanced that Ben Thornton is not a politician, one who could be lured by a party machine to a position? He must be a politician, for he serves only the people, and although they elect the Great Seal to serve a term, he does not serve a term without them, a year, a month, and the Lord only knows, Ben will start his fifth term not far from the governor's right hand, come next January.

And it is well to bear in mind, even though the governor of North Carolina does to commission you a member of his staff—when he will not be as such at it exists—and say something about it to the governor of South Carolina, it won't be official until it passes through Ben's department and bears the imprint of his Great Seal.

The admirals say there is no other way a Navy can get the tremendous power of 16-inch guns for amphibious operations except by use of the big ships. The Navy contends the broad, sturdy decks of the battleships provide a firm "gun mount" for 16-inch guns as well as for a huge number of anti-aircraft guns.

The United States lost the Arizona at Pearl Harbor, and the Oklahoma captured but later was raised and may be salvaged. Others that were damaged and now are more powerful than they were before the war. With a couple dozen battleships plus aircraft carriers and other warships, they seem to have the United States fleet in a position to meet all comers on the high seas.

This may be the secret of Vice President Wallace's ability to engage in a rough-and-tumble political fight.

Frequenters of the House gymnasium report the V P has been demanding changes of the football game, in which work-study assignments participate in late afternoon sessions.

Wallace plays a hand, they say that Honorable mention for skill in the game, according to their own figures, goes to Representative E. E. Kerner (D.) of Tennessee, Karl E. Mundt (R.) of South Dakota and Emmett O'Neal (D.) of Kentucky.

NAVY RECRUITER TO BE HERE ON MONDAY

A United States Navy recruiter will be at the post office in Henderson, basement office, all day Monday to accept applications from young men, age 17, who desire to enlist in the Navy or naval reserve.

Petty Officer Louis H. Wilson, in charge of the recruiting sub-station here, said that "opportunities to qualify for one of the Navy's 59 trade schools are still available to every recruit, regardless of educational attainments."

He again urged parents of 17-year-olds to accompany their sons to the recruiting station "to discuss advantages being offered young men under the Navy's educational program."

The recruiter emphasized the need for qualified men for the hospital corps of the Navy, adding that "qualified recruits are now being accepted as hospital apprentices, second class."

NIMITZ HONORS FALLEN MARINES



ADMIRAL Chester W. Nimitz (left), commander of the United States Pacific Fleet, visits the graves of Marines who were killed in the capture of Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands. The temporary burial ground is at the left. Nimitz planned the attack which won the atoll from the Japanese. (United Press)

A Quick Change Rears Baby Tigers



MRS. FRED MARTINI, wife of the keeper of the lion house at the New York Zoological Park in the Bronx, holds one of the two baby tigers she is rearing in her apartment. The cub is part of a litter of three belonging to the tigress Jennie, who in the past has ignored her cubs completely. Despite Jennie's refusal, which resulted in the death of the offspring she bore in 1943, zoo keepers have left the third cub with her, with the hope that she will change her unmotherly attitude. Mrs. Martini is feeding the babies by bottle until they can go on their own. (International)

WHEN seaman D. F. Webb, Cocheton, O., visited the Merchant Seaman's Canteen in New York City about three months ago, artist Paul Fichtel made the sketch of him shown at top. A trip to Africa and back brought a number of changes, particularly in the private department, and Webb sent Fichtel the photo (bottom) taken just after his safe return. (International)



DEAR NOAH—IF I CAN'T BUY A RAIL ROAD TICKET AT THE DEPOT, DO YOU THINK THE TRAFFIC COP ON THE CORNER WILL GIVE ME A TICKET FOR NOTHING?
J.N. HAMPTON
DETROIT, MICH.



DEAR NOAH—WAS THE TURTLE THE ORIGINAL UNDER COVER AGENT?
MRS. C. C. CROWNE, BOSTON, MASS.

Adolf's Kin in Navy



WILLIAM PATRICK HITLER, 32, a nephew of Adolf Hitler who has been residing in New York City for the last five years, soon will be inducted into the U. S. Navy. He is looking forward to the time when he'll sail against his uncle's fast diminishing fleet. (International)



DEAR NOAH—CAN YOU CASH A RAIN CHECK AT A CLOUD BANK?
MRS. HOWARD M. ULBERS
SAN DIEGO, CALIF.

DEAR NOAH—DID THE ENGINEERS BURN WHEN THE COWCATCHER DIDN'T CATCHER?
CASSY JONES
SALT LAKE CITY.

Legion Is Aiding Many Soldiers Now Being Discharged

BY LYNN NISBET, Daily Dispatch Bureau
Raleigh, Feb. 12.—Jim Caldwell, adjutant for the North Carolina department, American Legion, has written every post officer in the State urging them to offer all possible assistance to veterans of the present war upon their discharge. One of the chief items in the service is aid in obtaining money for pay without losing any rights or advantages acquired by service.

It is pointed out that under an act of the 1944 legislature, sponsored by Senator Gregg Cherry of Gaston, and now candidate for governor, a former State Legion commander, certificates of discharge may be filed or reissued by registers of deeds in the soldiers' home county without cost to the soldier. Caldwell suggests this ought to be one of the first things done. If the discharge certificate is thus recorded before it is presented with any claim for compensation or moneys due, even if it is later lost, the head record will remain to control the situation.

So much emphasis has been placed on selective service quotas and inductions, not much has been heard about the number of men honorably discharged. It is somewhat surprising to learn from Caldwell that some 20,000 Tar Heels have been discharged since Pearl Harbor. That is about one-fourth the total number of North Carolinians in World War I and is approximately the same as State membership in the American Legion.

The Legion has opened its membership to veterans of the present war on equality with the other war veterans, and Caldwell's letter to post commanders emphasizes that the services suggested are not conditioned upon membership. He also urges that no high-pressure tactics be employed to recruit members. The intention, however, is clear that discharged soldiers will find membership in Legion to their present and future advantage.

Plans for Meeting Demand for Farm Workers Proposed

New York, Feb. 12.—(AP)—Agricultural officials from 12 northern states will meet here Thursday to map plans for meeting a demand for 4,000,000 workers to supplement the regular farm labor force in 1944. The session will be the first in a series of four conferences at which Federal and state administrators will plan means of meeting farm labor needs of meeting farm labor needs of meeting farm labor needs. The other gatherings will be at Memphis, Tenn., February 21 to 23; Chicago, Feb. 24 to 26; and Denver, Feb. 28 to March 1.

War Food Administration officials said that probably half the needed 4,000,000 supplementary workers must come from towns and cities, and that women and young people also would be called upon in large numbers. A goal of 1,200,000 boys and girls and 800,000 women has been set.

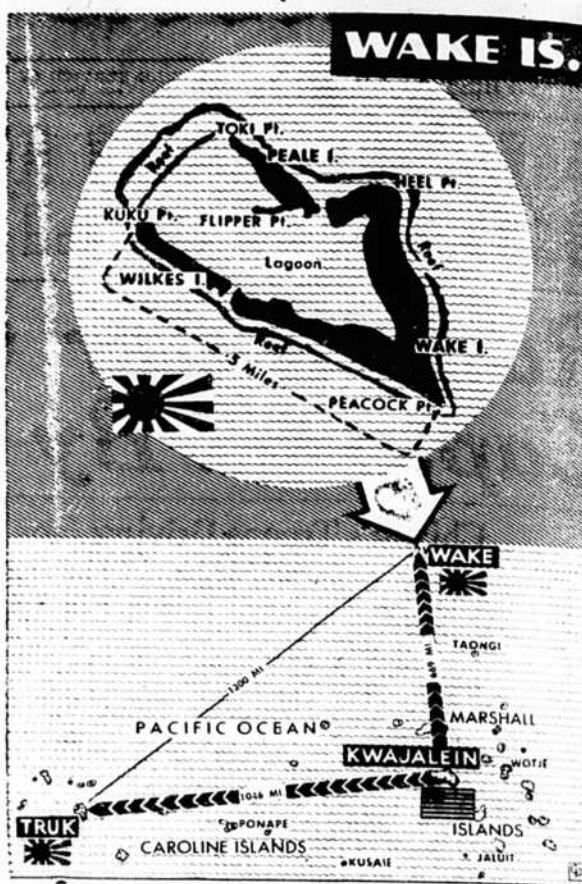
Goes to New Command.
Arnold Avenue Knight, carpenter's mate second class in the U. S. Navy, has been here for several days with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Knight on the Danbury road. He has been stationed in the Canal Zone, but is now leaving for a new assignment.

Wife Preservers



If you keep the broiler door open a little when cooking, there will be less smoke from the broiling food.

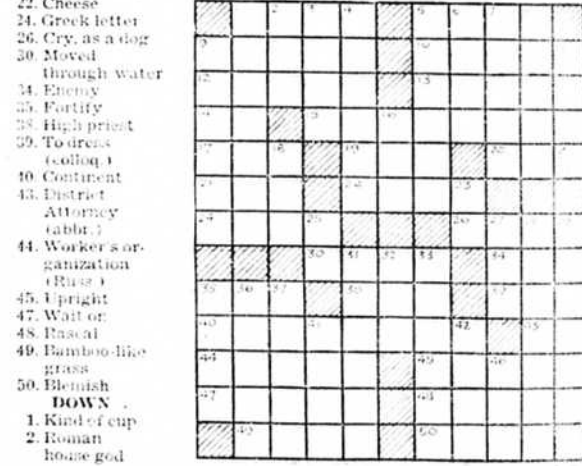
U. S. BOMBS ROCK WAKE TO SLEEP



WILKES ISLET, key airbase in the Wake Island atoll group, has become the particular target for U. S. bombers which already are using their new Kwajalein strip to good advantage. Pan-American Airways used Wilkes as a stopping place in pre-war days and the immediate purpose appears to be destruction of this air field and of Jap planes which might interfere with American activity in the Marshalls. Also it may mark the opening of an invasion campaign since, as shown by the map, possession of Wake would be a flanking move against Truk and would further clear supply lines for safer use by our forces. (International)

DAILY CROSSWORD

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| ACROSS | 1 Milk | 25 Like |
| 1 Mollusk | 2 Beverages | 27 Often (poet) |
| 5 Dancin' girl (Egypt.) | 4 Courage | 28 Engraving on wood |
| 9 Kind of rock | 5 Fleet of armed ships | 29 Ambassador |
| 10 Insect | 6 Furmish | 31 Potred forth |
| 12 Proofread-er's mark | 7 Tropical fruit | 32 A wing |
| 13 Devilfish | 8 Performed | 35 Wine receptacles |
| 14 Boy's nickname | 9 Beetle | 11 Firm |
| 15 Foreigner | 16 Free | 26 More |
| 17 Tear | 18 Careless | 27 Bishop's headress (var.) |
| 19 Cover | 23 Belonging to me | 41 Glacier snow |
| 20 Queer | 21 Highest card | 42 Let fall |
| 22 Cheese | 24 Greek letter | 46 Self |
| 26 Cry, as a dog | 30 Moved through water | |
| 34 Ebony | 35 Fortify | |
| 38 High priest | 39 To stress (colloq.) | |
| 40 Continent | 43 District Attorney (abbr.) | |
| 44 Worker's organization (Russ.) | 45 Upright | |
| 47 Wait or | 48 Basal | |
| 49 Bamboo-like grass | 50 Blenish | |
| DOWN | 1 Kind of cup | |
| 2 Roman house god | | |



CRYPTOQUOTE—A cryptogram quotation
YVNTECH VL XEKQC PVIIVYTH
UXUCRCQ EYAGOCKH—XUPVY

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: NECESSITY, THOU TYRANT CONSCIENCE OF THE GREAT!—SWIFT

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Washington Caricature By MAJOR



Francis B. Sayre, assistant secretary of state, once was an assistant district attorney in New York. He has been, among other things, governor general of the Philippines, so he knows a political hand-saw from a diplomatic hawk. He's liaison between American food and the hungry Nazi victim.

Herbert Lehman was four times governor of New York State, and began his political career as lieutenant to another distinguished pilot of the Empire State, Franklin D. Roosevelt. A man with a social conscience, Lehman hates only tyranny and the injustices which brings misery to the world.

The young man at the right is the fighting son of a distinguished father. Will Rogers, Jr., is new to Congress, but he has brought with him his father's blithe contempt for the stuffed shirt and loudmouth. Young Bill's bump of reverence for blabbing solons is simple common sense.