

The Jackson County Journal

ONE YEAR IN ADVANCE OUTSIDE THE COUNTY

SYLVA, NORTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1941

\$1.50 A YEAR IN ADVANCE IN JACKSON COUNTY

AS WORLD EVENTS UNFOLD

BY DAN TOMPKINS

SOCIETY NOTE: Mr. Winston Churchill and eighty other Englishmen are visiting President Roosevelt at the White House during the Christmas season.

THE SUPREME COMMAND of all the nations fighting the aggressor nations will probably be centered in Washington. This will provide a unity of action that is apparently necessary in this war that has no front and no rear, in which every continent and every sea is either an actual battlefield or a potential one.

JAP submarines, operating along the California coast, within sight of land, have been attacking shipping. One tanker, empty and returning to its port for another load of oil was torpedoed and lost. Survivors tell of machine-gunning of boats loaded with men trying to get to shore.

JAP attacks in the Malay peninsula are causing a great battle for the preservation of the Malay states and to hold the fortress of Singapore is expected to be the most strongly fortified naval base in the world. Successful Jap attacks on the Reguise and the Prince of Wales, weakened Singapore and greatly strengthened the Japanese position throughout the east.

THE PHILIPPINES are undergoing heavy attacks from strong landing parties of Japanese at various points, and the American and Philippine defenders have been showing much stubbornness, as they refuse to give ground before the Nipponese. Just how many soldiers, sailors, marines, Philippine scouts, tanks, planes, and other means a staving off the attackers were engaged has not been disclosed.

HONG KONG, the British colony, defended by Canadian and other empire troops, has been another scene of a great epic of heroism in this war. The British refuse to surrender, although few people in London hope that they will not eventually be forced to surrender.

THE CHINESE moving down from the North are putting pressure upon the Japs in an attempt to relieve Hong Kong. The success of the Chinese and the heroism of the defenders are the only hopes that any one has that Hong Kong will not be occupied by the Japs.

THE DUTCH naval and land forces have done much effective fighting in the war in the far east, against the Japs. They have repeatedly attacked and sunk transports and Japanese war vessels, and have joined hands with the British in the defense of the island of Borneo, which is owned half by the Dutch and half by the British.

RUBBER is already a big problem in the world. It may grow larger, for the Japs are in the Malay peninsula, which is one of the largest sources of the material. If they capture the rubber country and hold it, the supply will go to them. If, on the other hand, seeing that they are to be driven out, they destroy the trees, a serious rubber shortage for several years will ensue, for it takes seven years to grow a rubber tree to the point of production.

LYBIA is being overrun by the British as they drive the Germans and Italians out of that part of North Africa. This appears to be a real and substantial victory to mark up for our cause, and the end is not yet.

RUSSIAN thrusts continue against the Germans, and the German retreat from before Moscow is reminiscent of Napoleon's similar experience. It remains to be seen whether it will prove to be as disastrous to the Germans as it was to Napoleon. We can only hope that it is.

Culver-Stockton College, at Canton, Mo., is campaigning for \$150,000 for a library building.

The "Northwest Passage" Now A Reality

As the shadow of war lengthens over the Pacific, a new inland, fog-free, airway to Alaska, rushed to completion by Canada, places the military might of the United States and Dominion forces within five hours of this continental outpost.

Within twenty-four hours men and aircraft could be mustered from all over the United States and Canada for concentration in Alaska.

In November of 1940 the United States-Canada Joint Board on Defense recommended construction of a chain of air bases linking Alaska with air fields close to the American border. Today, little more than a year later, U. S. and Canadian transport planes are winging their way over the new skyway. Built by Canada at a cost of \$6,000,000, the airline will serve in the days of peace as the foundation for a commercial air route to the Orient.

Much credit for this achievement should go to the Air Services Branch of Canada's Department of Transport. But the men who made the forests blossom forth as airports were the tobacco-chewing, tractor-cussing, frost-bitten sons of the wilderness who tackled the job with typical Canadian gusto.

The plans called for main ports to be established at Grand Prairie, Fort St. John, White Horse, Fort Nelson and Watson Lake. The first three were near enough railways to eliminate transportation problems, but Fort Nelson was 300 miles north of the end of steel and Watson Lake was just a dot on the map surrounded by wilderness.

Bound for Fort Nelson, Tractor Train No. 1 started out from Dawson Creek in two sections on February 9 last. Mile by mile the caravan bunted and battled through the brush. Sometimes it moved ten miles in 24 hours, but more often only three or four miles. A week after its departure it had covered 35 miles.

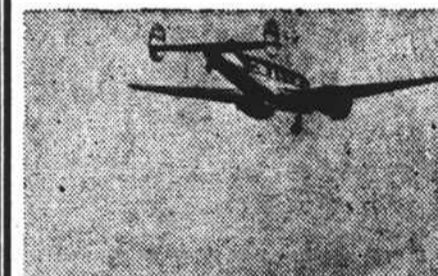
Tractor Train No. 1, leaving a trail which others might follow, arrived at Fort Nelson on March 31, 1941. Thus ended the first skirmish with nature, forty-six days after it left Dawson Creek.

Next came the summer campaign. To hew a road into Watson Lake in the summer over rocks and muskeg bogs was out of the question. But, why couldn't men and equipment be floated in from Wrangell, Alaska, via the Stikine and Dease rivers? This involved 350 miles of river travel and a 75-mile portage.

As soon as the river was open, barges were loaded with trucks, tractors, grading machinery and equipment for two saw mills. The



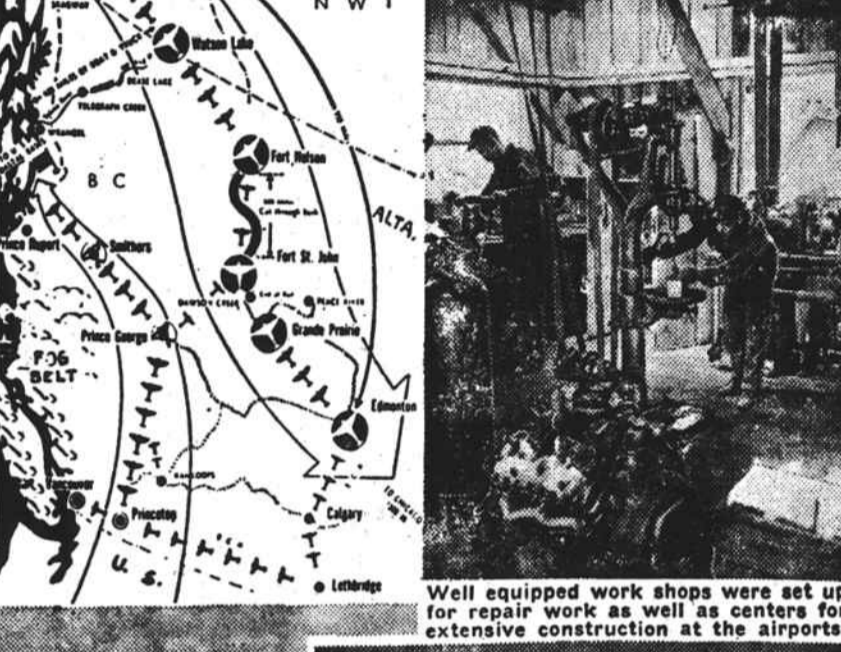
Where, a few months ago, tree tops filled the sky, wireless towers stand to guide planes on the new Alaska air route.



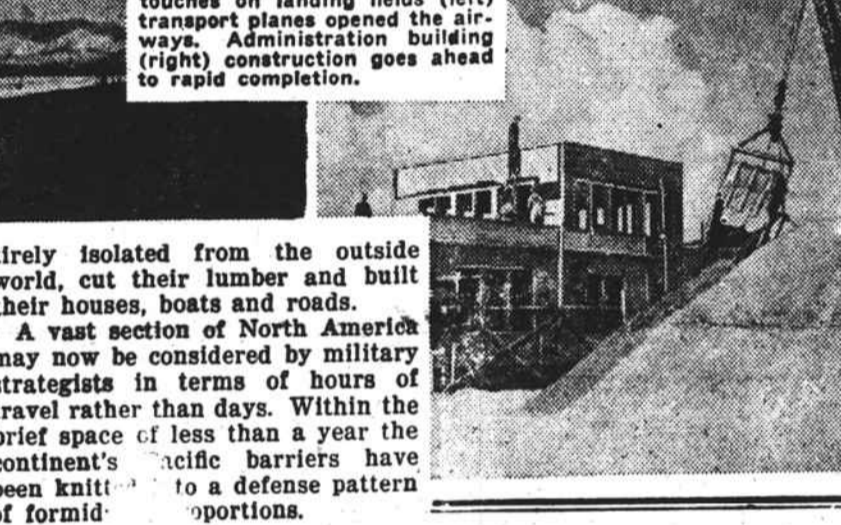
Even as tractors put finishing touches on landing fields (left) transport planes opened the airway. Administration building (right) construction goes ahead to rapid completion.



A stern wheeler briskly puts along Dease Lake, transporting construction equipment by barge to the Watson Lake airport. In shallow waters of the Stikine River boat crews had to remove rocks to make passageway for these crafts.



Well equipped work shops were set up for repair work as well as centers for extensive construction at the airports.



Dease and Stikine rivers were so shallow that the barge crews had to wade into the icy waters and roll rocks out of the way to clear a passage for the little fleet.

At the end of this stretch there was a portage and then the last water trip across Watson Lake to the airport site. On the shores of Watson Lake a saw mill was built. By such means these men, en-

tirely isolated from the outside world, cut their lumber and built their houses, boats and roads.

A vast section of North America may now be considered by military strategists in terms of hours of travel rather than days. Within the brief space of less than a year the continent's Pacific barriers have been knitted to a defense pattern of formidable proportions.

County's Generous Folks Provide Ample Cheer For Needy And Service Men

HOLIDAY TRADE GOOD IN SYLVA THIS YEAR

Storekeepers of Sylva have all reported that the holiday trade in Sylva town has been good this year. At first, when the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor shocked the folks, their minds were upon the war situation, and it seemed that the Christmas trade would not be so good. But, the people recovered from the shock, and snapped back to normal, as they realized that the Christmas spirit of giving, of cheering, of loving, is one of the precious things in American life that we are fighting to keep alive, and the crowds in the shops soon became as usual.

Each day, as Christmas drew nearer, the congestion in the shopping district became greater, until the great throng swamped the stores on Christmas Eve and well night emptied them of their wares.

ISSUE BOOK ON BILL OF RIGHTS

A 38-page, illustrated pamphlet on the sesquicentennial of the Bill of Rights, which will be celebrated throughout the nation under the sponsorship of the Office of Civilian Defense, is now ready for distribution.

The pamphlet, which was prepared for the Office of Civilian Defense with the assistance of the Library of Congress, gives a historical summary of the writing of the first ten amendments to the United States Constitution, now known as the Bill of Rights, excerpts from statements of famous Americans on the various amendments, and material which may be useful in connection with the observance of the day.

A selected list of old and modern patriotic songs, famous marches, books dealing with the Bill of Rights, and plays, radio dramas and motion pictures on the subject is also included in the pamphlet.

RED CROSS ASKS FOR \$1500 FROM COUNTY

The American Red Cross, faced with one of the greatest tasks in its history, has ordered a second and special roll call throughout America, to raise funds for its war relief work, in the new war that has broken out involving the United States.

Jackson County's quota of the huge new sum that is being called for is \$1,500 it is stated, and Dr. Grover Wilkes, county chairman, will put into motion machinery for raising the county's quota immediately after Christmas, it is stated.

The county recently raised nearly \$900, in the annual roll call; but this applies only to the regular work of the Red Cross, and the new roll call will be for the special war chest, to be used in work among the service men and their families, and for relief work in areas affected by the war.

WILL CELEBRATE GOLDEN WEDDING

Mr. and Mrs. Dillard L. Bryson will celebrate their Golden Wedding anniversary on Sunday, December 27, at their home near Beta.

A number of their friends will call during the afternoon and evening.

HAS BIRTHDAY PARTY

Master Pat Montague celebrated his eighth birthday on Tuesday afternoon, with a party and Christmas tree, at which he was host. Games and decorations centered around Christmas, as did the refreshments, served by his grandmother, Mrs. J. F. Freeze.

The generous people of Jackson county have provided amply for the Christmas cheer for the needy folks in this county, and for sending gifts to the soldiers, sailors, and marines from this county.

The packages for the boys in service were dispatched by mail, last week when it became apparent that the appeal for funds was meeting with a hearty response. Thus Jackson county people remembered their young men who are in the service of our country, battling for the freedom of us all, or training to assume that battle.

The baskets of provisions for the needy will be delivered from the Community Christmas Tree, by members of the Sylva Fire Department, Christmas Eve.

Every day the dime board has been on the streets, with men and women appealing to the people for contributions to the fund, and everybody has had a hand in providing for the Christmas Cheer, dimes have been deposited by the rich and the poor, the old people, the middle-aged, and the little children, as the mille of dimes grew day by day.

LEGION HONORS OLDEST VETERAN

Matt Carroll, the oldest veteran of the World War living in Jackson county, perhaps the oldest in the State, and one of the oldest in the United States, was presented with a handsome box of provisions on Christmas Eve, by William E. Dillard Post, American Legion. Oscar Norton and Lawrence Wilson, members of the post from Cullowhee, took the box to the home of Carroll, in Hamburg township.

Carroll, who enlisted in the Radio Company, North Carolina National Guard, at Sylva, in July, 1917, has been a patient in Oteen hospital for several months; but has returned to his home, after suffering a partial paralytic stroke.

MEANEST THIEF GETS CHRISTMAS TREES

A candidate for the title of "The Meanest Thief in the world" stole two completely decorated Christmas trees from the porch at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Roy C. Huffman on Avery avenue.

Within twelve hours after Mrs. Huffman finished the decoration of the two trees, completed with strings of electric lights, a night prowler disconnected the light cords and hauled them away.

The trees were placed on the porch at each side of the entrance, and constituted the central holiday decorations for the Huffman home. After long hours of work, Mrs. Huffman completed the decoration about 4 o'clock Wednesday afternoon, and lights were turned on that night, remaining illuminated until some time after 11 o'clock.

Early the next morning, Mrs. Huffman looked out to see her handiwork gone, with nothing left but a few slivers of tinseled which showed that the trees and their decorations had been dragged out as far as the street, at which point there was no further trace.

To the police department Mrs. Huffman reported the theft as the work of some "rogue", but sympathetic friends, less ladylike, could think of other and perhaps more appropriate names—Morganton News Herald

BREEDERS

The 26 breeders of purebred Hereford cattle in Watauga County are doing an excellent job of building the beef cattle industry in their communities, says Farm Agent H. M. Hamilton.

GOVERNOR WILL NAME BOARD RATION TIRES

The Governor of North Carolina will appoint a board to ration automobile tires in Jackson county, before January 5, it was learned today. The three man board will have charge of the tire rationing system that will be set up throughout the United States. Every prospective purchaser of a tire will make application through his local board, and the board will either approve or disapprove his application. Armed with a certificate from his local board, he will then go to his dealer and buy his tires.

These regulations have become necessary, it is pointed out because of the extreme danger of a rubber shortage by reason of the Japanese control or capture of areas producing rubber.

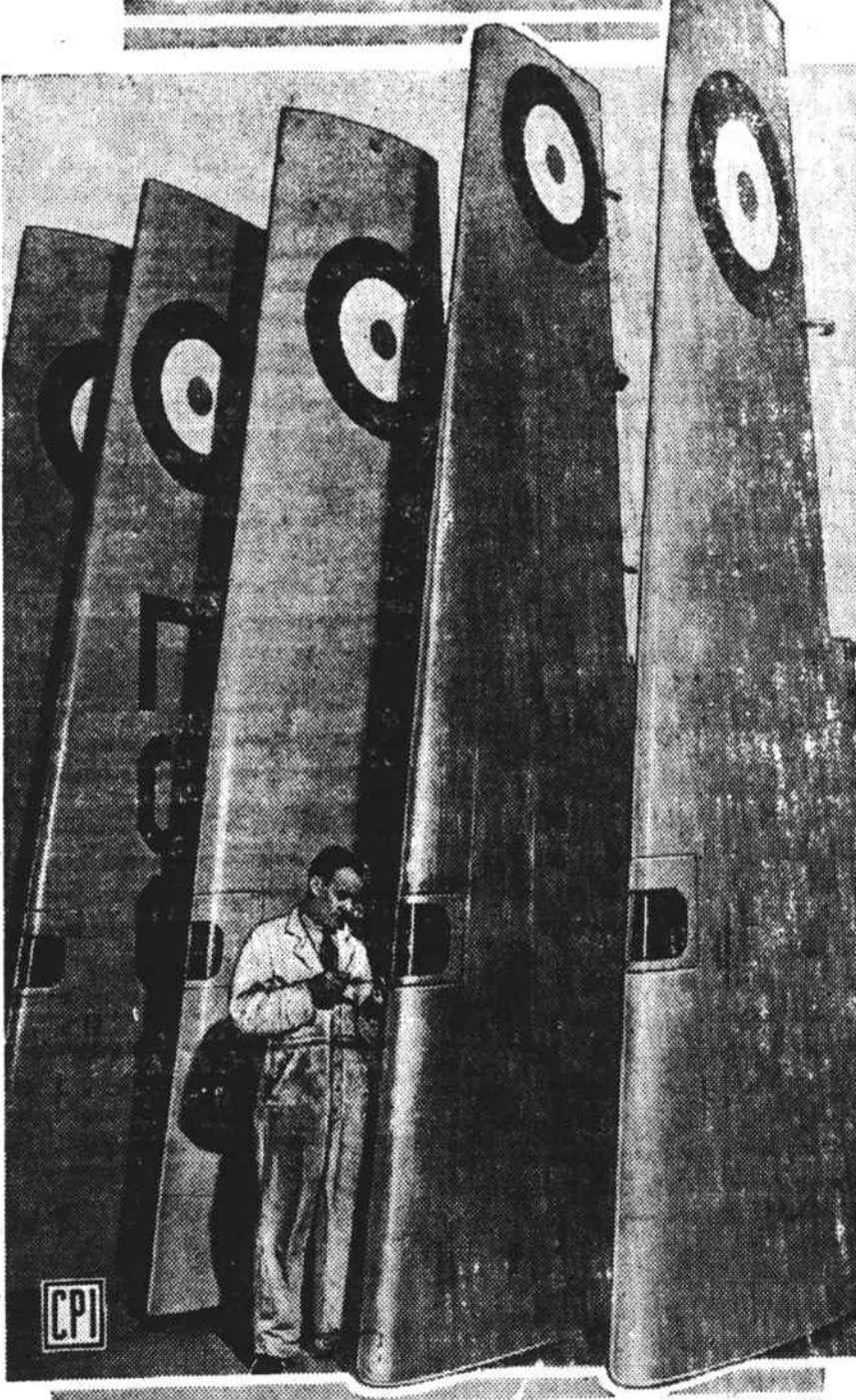
Governor Broughton is expected to name the members of the boards in the counties and cities of North Carolina within the next few days, and they will be ready to begin operation by the morning of January 5, the date when the present ban on the sale of tires is lifted.

TOM JONES DIES AT HOME ON SAVANNAH

Tom Jones, well known farmer of the Savannah section of the county, and a member of the Farm Security Committee, died suddenly at his home, on Monday afternoon, it was learned here.

Mr. Jones appeared to be in his usual health when he was suddenly stricken. Funerals and interment were on Tuesday.

WINGS OF YOUTH



HERE in a Canadian factory, final touches are being given to wings which will be part of the planes in which the youth of the British Empire are learning to fly. Greatest of all flying schools in the world, the British Commonwealth Air Training Plan now has 124 schools and establishments operat-

LAUNCHES NEW SHIPS

Navy Secretary Knox told his press conference the Navy's shipbuilding program "is continuing to beat all projected schedules." Since January 1,

1941, Mr. Knox said, the Navy has ordered 5,334 vessels at a total cost of \$7,353,000,000 and nearly one billion dollars has been allocated for expanding shipbuilding facilities.

BODY OF HERO IS NOT FOUND FROM JACKSON

Harold Monteith, Jackson County's first hero to give his life in the present war, was lost on his twenty-second birthday, when the ship on which he was stationed, was sunk at Pearl Harbor, on December 7, in the treacherous Japanese attack, according to his mother, Mrs. Oscar Monteith, who was in Sylva on Monday, from her home near Glenville.

Mrs. Monteith stated that the Navy department gave her and her husband no details of the loss of their son, but that the message stated that his body had not been recovered. It also stated that his remains will be returned to Glenville for interment, if that is the desire of his parents, and if the body is recovered from the sea.

Mrs. Monteith and her daughter, Miss Elise Monteith, teacher in the school in Cashier's, were in Sylva to accompany Miss Estelle Overcash, who was the naval hero's sweetheart, has been visiting his parents at Glenville, and was returning to her home in Monroe.

LEGION REMEMBERS MONTEITH'S PARENTS

The American Legion Post for Jackson county, remembered the parents of Harold Monteith, Jackson county's first son to give his life in the present war, with a note of sympathy and a bouquet of flowers, on Christmas.

Dr. Charlotte Boatner, assistant professor of chemistry at Tulane university, has discovered an allergy preventive to relieve hay fever and asthma.