

The Memories Of Stoneman's Raid Told In Book

By LARRY PENLEY

All that remains of General Stoneman's raid in Western North Carolina is a legend and a multitude of historical markers denoting his march.

This raid, a Union harassing campaign during the Civil War, rained terror, destruction and death on the inhabitants of this region.

Most North Carolinians have heard about this raid but a few know what the raid was all about and what role it played in the Civil War.

During the next four years

as Americans re-enact the events of the Civil War, Stoneman's Raid will once again come to life.

In fact, the memories are now being resurrected in Western North Carolina as Dr. Ina Woestemeyer Van Noppen's book on Stoneman's Last Raid rolls off the presses.

Autographed copies of the new book may be secured by writing Dr. Van Noppen, Box 30, Boone, N. C. (Paper back, \$1.75; Cloth \$3.50)

To write this book the Appalachian State Teachers College professor reread much of the trail Stoneman's horse-riding troopers blazed across this section of the South.

Her book vividly portrays the events of that great 2,000-mile-long march, the longest without returned to headquarters by any cavalry in the war.

In describing the events of the raid, Dr. Van Noppen declared that the raider's mission was to cut Southern transportation arteries, destroy supply producing centers and break civilian morale.

It was done by burning, pillaging, killing and humiliating. Stoneman's objective was to destroy the people's will to fight.

The author, who teaches Southern history at Appalachian State Teachers College, believes that Stoneman's Raid was as much for revenge as strategic for the Yankees. Her book gives interesting accounts of how various North Carolina towns and cities felt the blunt of this raid.

"Supplies came from the land and women were forced to cook for troops. A Taylorsville woman fried eggs all day long, feeding one table of men after another," Dr. Van Noppen said.

Many Tar Heel villages and towns openly greeted Stoneman's men, pointing up disunity in the Southern cause.

At Elkin some 60 girls employed in a cotton factory welcomed the Yankees.

Near Wilkesboro, the Yankee troopers uncovered a whiskey still, and threw a mass drinking spree. Unable to ride horseback, the drunken soldiers confiscated a conglomeration of horse-drawn vehicles.

Dr. Van Noppen describes Stoneman's review of his drunken troops in Wilkesboro. She said that the review that Stoneman saw probably will never again be matched in U. S. history. The soldiers rolled by in a mile-long caravan of carriages, stagecoaches and buses, stacked with drunken soldiers, their boots sticking out in all directions.

At Winston-Salem the Yankees destroyed factories which had been supplying the Confederates with clothing, and in Greensboro the troops tore up large sections of the railway.

Salisbury, site of Confederate supply depots, arsenal, hospitals, railroad center and a military prison containing some 10,000 Federal prisoners of war, was Stoneman's main objective. More than any other town, Salisbury felt the devastating effect of Stoneman's wrath.

In her book, Dr. Van Noppen mentions only one instance of Confederate application of the "scorched earth" policy. This happened in Hickory where Confederates destroyed food stores and cotton at the railway station to keep them from falling in Union Hands.

From Salisbury Stoneman withdrew to Lenoir, where he turned the command over to General Gillem. Some resistance was encountered along the Catawba near Morganton and at Swannanoa Gap. Gillem bypassed the gap, going through Rutherfordton, Hendersonville and into Asheville where General Martin, the Confederate commander, surrendered. This ended the ravage of Western North Carolina.

Stoneman's rampage through North Carolina took place during the closing phases of the war. He entered by way of Boone on March 28, 1865.

Dr. Van Noppen, author of two other books, dug up some 320 references to document Stoneman's Last Raid.

Business leaders predict the decade of the Sixties will be the best in history from the economic standpoint.

RIDGEWAY NEWS

Miss Louise Bender of Concordia Teachers College, River Forest, Illinois, is here for the holidays.

Mr. Julius Brauer of State College, Raleigh, is spending the Christmas holidays at his home here.

Miss Betsy Haun of WCUNC, Greensboro, is here for the holidays.

Mrs. Bob Manning and son of Williamston and Mrs. P. L. Harris of Littleton visited Mrs. E. E. Hecht on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Duke Champion, Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Champion and Mrs. Annie Champion visited Mr. and Mrs. William Champion in Baltimore, Md., last weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Brown visited Mrs. Joseph Brown in Franklinton on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Lorenz of Wise visited Mrs. C. P. Holtzman on Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Richard Matthews, Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Seaman and son, Marshall, of Henderson visited Mrs. C. P. Holtzman on Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Holtzman and Mrs. W. A. Kimball shopped in Durham on Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. A. P. Holtzman and son visited Mr. Charlie Herring on Sunday.

Lutheran Services

The Rev. M. E. Franke, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, announces the following church schedule: Sunday, December 24, Sunday School at 10:00 a. m., worship service at 11:00 a. m. and the children's Christmas program 7:00 p. m.; Monday, December 25, Christmas morning worship service at 10:00 a. m.

Mrs. Seaman President Mrs. Richard Seaman was elected president of the Ladies Aid Society of St. Paul's Lutheran Church during the regular meeting on Thursday night in the Parish Hall, with Mrs. M. E. Franke as hostess.

Other officers elected at this

time were Mrs. Albert Seaman, vice-president; Mrs. Herman Seaman, secretary and Mrs. H. W. Seaman, treasurer.

Plans were made for the Christmas party to be held on December 27. The Rev. M. E. Franke opened the meeting with prayer and led in topic discussion. Refreshments were served carrying out a holiday motif.

North Carolina farmers now have the means for irrigating about 50,000 of the State's 450,000 acres of flue-cured tobacco.

Drewry Club Has Christmas Party

The Drewry Community Club held its annual Christmas party at the home of Mrs. C. B. Curtis, Jr., on December 13. Mrs. Felix Ranes, president, presided and the group joined in singing Christmas Carols, followed by bingo playing. Each member brought a gift for Bingo.

Mrs. C. B. Curtis, Jr., played a record and members formed a line and marched around the Christmas tree. As the music stopped, two members

nearest the tree picked a gift until each member had received a gift.

Christmas stockings were given to the small children of each family. After the opening of gifts, delicious refreshments were served the 50 attending.

Nikita Khrushchev almost turned around and went back when he picked up a New York sports paper which headlined, "Reds out of the race. Pirates are out to scalp the Yanks."

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Our best wishes, our grateful thanks to all our good friends, whose loyal patronage we value so highly. May you have a holiday season that's happy, hearty and healthy!

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With grateful hearts for the privilege of serving as your Congressional Family, we pause to utter a prayer that the blessings and joys of the Christmas season will be yours in abundance both now and throughout the coming year.

L. H., Christine & Nancy Dail Fountain

Season's Greetings

At the holiday season, our thoughts turn with special warmth to our loyal friends and customers. We want to say how pleased we are to be privileged to serve the folks in this community and we wish for all a Yuletide that really rings the bell for good fellowship, contentment and good cheer...

to everyone

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