

The Skyland Post

VOLUME 13, NO. 5

\$1.50 a Year in Ashe County

WEST JEFFERSON, N. C.

THURSDAY, DEC. 23, 1943

\$2.00 a Year Out of County

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

Blow On Head Fatal To the Man; Painful

Clarence Dent Balkin Dies In Hospital Monday After Being Hit Sunday

A blow he received on the head, Sunday, while loading tobacco, proved fatal to Clarence Dent Balkin, 33, of the Gray Creek section of Ashe county and as a result, Dewitt Francis and his seventeen year old son, Ira, are being held in jail, pending a preliminary hearing.

The accident occurred on the Baldwin farm following an argument the group had on loading some tobacco. Balkin was struck on the head with a tobacco stick and, apparently at the time, felt no serious injury. The altercation took place in the morning and later on when Balkin became unconscious, he was brought to the Ash hospital. Here it was discovered that he had a clot on the brain. He died on Monday afternoon there.

Both Dewitt Francis and his son are being held in the county jail, charged with assault with a deadly weapon, pending a hearing. Chief Deputy C. B. Graybeal said that both son and father claim to have struck Balkin. Besides the parties involved, Grady Eastridge, driver of the truck on which the tobacco was being loaded at the time of the accident, was the only witness.

Funeral service for the deceased was held at the home yesterday. (Continued on Page 4)

Rotary Has Big Christmas Party

Ladies Are Special Guests; Music And Quiz Program Are Enjoyed

Members of the Jeffersons Rotary club, Rotary-anns and guests celebrated at their annual Christmas party at the community building last Thursday when in addition to a novelty quiz program, special music was featured. Mrs. D. J. Whitener, of Boone, accompanied by two outstanding pupils, Miss Cynthia Styles and Mr. Stanley South, gave a most enjoyable musical program.

James Haire, Sr., well-known West Jefferson comedian, acted as Professor Quiz, and aided by Rotarians, tested the knowledge of several in a quiz program. All of the proceeds from this were turned over to the crippled children's fund.

W. B. Austin acted as program chairman.

Christmas decoration and a beautifully lighted tree added to the festivity of the occasion. The holiday color scheme was also carried out in the table decorations and delicious menu. Each Rotary-ann was presented an attractive gift from the club.

It was announced by the president, Ira T. Johnston, that the club would not meet this week because of Christmas.

SERVICES ANNOUNCED

Services will be held at the Beaver Creek Primitive Baptist church on Saturday, December 25, at 11:00 o'clock A. M., and on Sunday afternoon at 3:00 o'clock. Rev. Dewey Roten will conduct the services. The public is cordially invited to attend.

SCHOOLS OBSERVING A WEEK'S HOLIDAY

The Ashe county schools are observing a week's holiday this week for Christmas, but will open, as usual, next Monday, Supt. A. B. Hurt explained.

This is a shorter vacation than usual, but due to the longer term of nine months this year, efforts are being made to conserve time.

Most of the schools had programs or Christmas trees last Friday, when they closed for the holidays.

There are still a large number of cases of measles, flu and croup, but most of the cases are in mild form, according to reports.

Only one school, Riverview, found it necessary to close for a short time early this month, on account of measles prevalent in that section.

Sincere Christmas Greetings To Everyone, Everywhere!



Russians Are Making Important Gains; 20 Jap Planes Bagged

Heavy Fighting In Italy; Slavs Open Up Offensive Against Nazis

The approach of Christmas sees fighting intensified on all fronts and the Allies gaining, which is an indication that peace and victory is not as far distant as it was.

Russia's Baltic army, storming down from Nevel toward the Vitebsk-Propoisk rail line, has captured more than 100 populated places, killed 1,600 Germans and reached to within 20 miles of the German defense bastion of Vitebsk—Now menaced from two sides—Moscow announced, yesterday.

At the same time the Russians announced the liquidation of a German bridgehead on the south bank of the Dnieper across from Kherson, near the great river's mouth.

Air actions in which the Japanese lost 20 planes for sure and six more probably against six lost to the allies in New Guinea, were reported by Gen. Douglas MacArthur, yesterday.

Most of the aerial activity occurred in connection with attacks (Continued on Page 4)

Needy Are To Be Remembered

While there are fewer needy families in this county than there have been in several years, according to reports, the less fortunate families are to be remembered at Christmas.

Individual and church groups will distribute clothing and food. Members of the Woman's club will remember needy tubercular patients again this Christmas.

Public Asked To Help Make Christmas Safe This Year

"A safe Christmas on the home front should be the interest of every citizen as the season of increased travel and additional winter highway hazards approaches," declared Ronald Hocutt, Director of the North Carolina Highway Safety Division, today.

"As the Christmas season approaches, when North Carolinians strive to keep alive the traditions our sons are fighting to preserve—we must all feel a deep concern in keeping ourselves and others alive for this Christmas, and other Christmases in a better world," Mr. Hocutt continued.

"Gold Stars in many homes attest the sacrifice of life that has already been made on the battlefronts to preserve our Nation—but there are no Gold Stars for

Merchants To Apply Now For Ration Tokens

Will Probably Be Used Early Next February, OPA Announces

Ralph Campbell, clerk of the local OPA board, said that there had been some confusion among merchants as to proper procedure for obtaining their allotment of tokens for change making purposes in their store.

The local office has mailed to all merchants doing business in Ashe county the necessary form (Continued on Page 4)

Record Prices On Boone Mart

Sales at Mountain Burley warehouses, in Boone, were closed yesterday for the holidays and will re-open again, Monday, Jan. 3, officials announced.

The warehouses, however, will be open to receive tobacco, during the holiday season, beginning next Tuesday, and those desiring, may bring theirs in, in order to have it there when the sales re-open, Jan. 3, officials point out.

So far, the Boone market has made a record for sales and top market prices. The many Ashe and Alleghany farmers who have carried their tobacco there have been well pleased.

Roscoe Coleman, supervisor of sales, said yesterday that the Mountain Burley warehouses had already passed last year's entire season in poundage and in prices being paid.

Funeral Is Held On Saturday For Julius C. Speers

Well-Known Ashe County Man Died At The Age Of 84, Thursday

Funeral service was held at the home at Beaver Creek at 11 o'clock Saturday morning for Julius C. Speers, 84, well-known Ashe county man, who died Thursday evening at his home, after a month of serious illness.

Revs. Tom Houck and G. R. Wagoner were in charge of the service and burial followed in the Beaver Creek cemetery.

The deceased, who was a native of Salem, spent his early days in Jonesville, but had made his home in Ashe county for the past 50 years and was actively engaged in farming until recently. He was the son of the late Newton J. Speers and Susan Tomlin Speers.

Mr. Speers had a remarkable knowledge of the early history of Northwestern North Carolina and could relate many interesting events connected with the Civil War. His friendly disposition won for him friends everywhere.

He is survived by his wife, Mrs. Nellie Hardin Speers and two daughters, Miss Virginia Speers and Mrs. Elizabeth Barlow.

Pallbearers for the funeral were: Dr. R. C. Ray, E. A. Ray, Fred Ray, W. E. McNeill, Hugh Robinson, Walter Burkett, R. R. Griggs, Walter Burkett and Elza Cooper.

Bernard Miller Making Record

Ashe College Student Is Listed In Who's Who Among Students

Bernard Miller, son of Walter W. Miller and the late Mrs. Miller, of Clifton, who will receive his B. S. degree in the field of education from Appalachian State Teachers' College in the spring, has recently been elected to Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. This is an honor to any college student.

Mr. Miller is president of the Young Men's Christian Association of the college campus. He was a leading member and a minor officer before he was elected president. This is one of the most outstanding organizations on the campus. He is on the staff of the college paper, The Appalachian, and he is also very outstanding in all intramural sports of the campus. As a junior in college, (Continued on Page 4)

MORE FEED WHEAT IS RECEIVED BY AAA

It was announced yesterday by the AAA office that another shipment of feed wheat had been received and farmers interested in securing this are asked to call for it at once.

The AAA office will be closed on Christmas Day, but will be open as usual on Monday.

Ashe Turkeys Sold On Christmas Mart Bring Record Price

New Gas Tickets Available Soon, OPA Announces

New Type Tickets Aimed To Helping Stop Present Gas Black Market

Ralph Campbell, clerk of the local board, stated that the first quarter gasoline rations for 1944 will be available after December 29. The coupons have been revised and are now in what is known as Theatre ticket rolls. Each coupon bears a serial number. Identification folders will be issued with the coupons showing the highest and lowest serial numbers contained therein. (This should be an important (Continued on Page Four)

Army Deserter Caught By Deputy

Clayborne Blevins, of the Bina section, who has been missing from the Army since August, 1942, was picked up at the home of his father, Freeman Blevins, Tuesday night, by Chief Deputy Carl B. Graybeal.

Blevins, who was missing from Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, had not been in Ashe all of his lengthy leave, however.

When asked why he failed to return to duty he replied that liquor and another man were the cause of his desertion, officers said. Blevins admitted that while in Ashe he had been staying in the woods most of the time.

78th Congress Adjourns For Christmas; Will Meet Jan. 10

Washington — The 78th Congress headed homeward yesterday to learn, during the next twenty days, what the voters think of a nine-months first-session record of all-out co-operation with the war effort and sporadic but successful onslaughts against the Administration's home front program.

Routine proceedings in the Senate and the House closed the books on a session that marked the loss of Administration legislative control for the first time since Franklin D. Roosevelt became President in 1932.

Returning on January 10 for an election-year session that threatens to be sparked by Partisan battles, the law-makers will face a heavy docket of highly controversial legislation sidetracked

Around 3,000 Turkeys Are Sold For Approximately \$13,000.00

Ashe county farmers, who raised turkeys for the market this year, were well rewarded, as these prize fowls brought an unusually high price here this past week and averaged 36 cents per pound.

While the Christmas market was much lighter than usual, since most of the crop raised in this section was sold, Thanksgiving, and a much smaller number than usual held over for Christmas, those sold here the past week end brought the ceiling price of 36c per pound. It is estimated that around 3,000 turkeys were sold, weighing an average of around 12 pounds. Unofficial estimates from dealers placed the income to growers at around \$12,960.00. (Continued on Page 4)

Funeral Today For J. E. Long

Funeral service will be held today at two o'clock p. m., at the Apple Grove Baptist church, for Joseph Eriss Long, 86, of Whitesboro, Va., who died on Wednesday, December 22. Rev. Mr. Howell, Rev. Mr. Miller, and Rev. Mr. Dickson will conduct the service. Burial will follow at the church cemetery.

Mr. Long, who was a well-known farmer from this county, is survived by his wife and three children, Mrs. Cecil Hash, Louiston, Pa.; Mrs. Tom Reedy, Whitesboro, Va.; and Emmett Long, of Marion, Va. He is also survived by one sister, Mrs. Sarah Hudler, of Grassy Creek.

Quiet Christmas Expected To Be Observed Here

Stores To Be Closed On Saturday And Monday; Report Record Business

CHURCH PROGRAMS

Christmas is expected to be quietly observed in Ashe Saturday, with the cessation of business, and according to advance reports, will be a generous one, judging from the amount of gifts purchased.

The shortage of gas and tires and other war conditions will keep most people at home, where they will enjoy an old fashioned, quiet Christmas.

Most of the business houses, stores and some offices will be closed both Saturday and Monday. The tax collector's office will also be closed these two days. The county health department will be closed on Friday and Saturday. The offices of the register of deeds and clerk of the court will be closed on Saturday, but open on Monday.

The Northwestern and the First National Banks will be closed on Saturday, and probably on Monday, it was announced.

Local stores report a record business here during the holiday (Continued on Page 4)

Ashe Man Heads Big Air Station

Captain Marshall R. Greer Is Now In Command Of Norfolk Naval Air Station

Captain Marshall R. Greer, a native of Ashe county and a graduate of the U. S. Naval Academy, class of 1918, has recently taken over the command of the Norfolk Naval Air Station.

The record of the new air station commander shows service at Pensacola, Fla.; Cavite, P. I.; the Naval War College; the naval air craft factory in Philadelphia; the Wright Aeronautical Corporation; the office of the Chief of Naval Operations, and the headquarters of the Commander in Chief, U. S. Fleet.

The Air Station now embraces 10 auxiliary stations and the Coast Guard Air Station at Elizabeth City, N. C., administration of which was consolidated with that of the local air center during Captain Shoemaker's tour of duty.

AIR FORCE TO GET FLYING FORTRESS

The U. S. Army Air Forces will receive its 1,000th B-17 Flying Fortress from the Douglas Long Beach plant, in California, according to information received here from Mr. & Mrs. Butler Edwards and Charles Edwards, of this county, who are employed there.

The plane will not cost the Air forces anything, because the B-17 project members plan to present it to them as a Christmas gift. The Fortress will be produced in December through the purchase of Bonds, and will cost approximately \$300,000.

CHURCH CASE CONTINUED

The hearing of Garnett Church, scheduled before A. A. Perry, last Saturday in connection with rape charges, was continued until January 15.

POST TO OBSERVE XMAS, FRI., AND SAT.

The office of the Skyland Post will be closed on Friday and Saturday in the observance of Christmas, but will be open on Monday and will publish the paper as usual next week.

This paper takes this occasion to again wish all of the readers a "Merry Christmas". This is also the message of the advertisers in this issue. Throughout this paper will be found many greetings sent to the readers as a personal message from merchants, other firms and individuals.

These greetings are being sent to more than 3,200 subscribers and to around 15,000 readers. To all of them, along with merchants, we again say, "Merry Christmas".

