

The Franklin Press

and

The Highlands Maconian

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Give To USO

PEOPLE of Macon do not have to be urged to give generously to the support of the United Service Organizations. A year ago, when the first appeal went out to provide wholesome places of recreation and amusement for the men in the armed service and in the many military camps and centers springing up all over the country, the response was far above the quotas asked.

The real unity of the people of the United States was expressed in this outpouring of funds to bring home to the boys far away from home. Now, the results of this first appeal are reported by the men themselves as a splendid service provided by the centers which have been built and are being conducted for the comfort and pleasure of service men in their leisure time. With the rapidly expanding armed forces, as the nation girds itself for the mighty struggle ahead, the people back home have this chance to express their devotion and their interest in the welfare of their men in the service by giving to meet the increased needs.

Last year Macon's quota of \$200 was oversubscribed by almost 50 per cent. Now that our quota is increased to \$800 there is a greater effort on the part of the committee to reach everybody in the county so that they may have an opportunity to share in this gift, which, as the familiar poster reminds us, "You Help Someone You Know When You Give To USO." On another page there are a few letters printed from Macon men telling what USO means to them.

Today there are 647 USO clubs and units. Some of these are mobile units which are prepared to serve the men on the actual battlefield and their number must be greatly expanded. Every soldier is grateful for the home-like ministrations of USO, and every civilian is likewise grateful for all it means to their men. That this service is one of the strong factors in our will to win, there is no doubt. As our great Commander-in-Chief says, "Not by machines alone will we win this war."

Cure for Firebugs

A CASE of wanton destruction hard to understand is reported in the conviction of three men in the Federal court in Bryson City this week who set fires in Nantahala National Forest. FBI detectives worked on the case and testimony of witnesses showed that the fires set interfered with prosecution of the war to the extent of destroying over half a million feet of timber, halting defense projects by turning off of power, besides incalculable man-hours lost by this stoppage and diversion of labor to fight the fires. To this is added the likewise incalculable loss in the wild life of the forest. Although the greater area of destruction was in Graham county, Macon county also suffered. The transmission lines of the Nantahala Power and Light company were burned, depriving whole communities of electricity and a \$4,000 transformer was destroyed.

The safety of prison walls may not be the right punishment or cure for firebugs like these. Perhaps if they could be sent to the very front in one of the old world's choice battle fronts at this time, they would be both punished and cured of any further urge for destruction. At least they would learn what real destruction is like, and, if they were fortunate enough to survive, they may be both chastened and cured.

Memorial Poppies

MEMORIAL Day, Saturday, May 30, will be commemorated in Franklin, as well as many other communities, as "Poppy Day", the memorial flower of the English-speaking world since the first World War. All are asked by the American Legion Auxiliary to buy and wear a poppy on this day.

The day carries deep significance for all who remember or have lived through the period of one or more wars. Since the days of the Confederacy, Memorial Day has been observed as a day to decorate the graves of soldiers—May 10 for those who wore the gray, and May 30 as National Memorial Day. Especially since World War I, has the day been kept in special remembrance of our battle dead. To those now are being added the heroes of World War II, already a "noble army of martyrs" joining those others of all ages who have given their lives for fellow men and country.

The beautiful custom of decorating the graves of "all those who from their labors rest" has grown up around this Spring day of flowers and sunshine, making it indeed a "holy day" in the real sense of the word, rather than a "holiday." This year the day falls on Saturday, and Sunday will be celebrated by many as "Decoration Day."

Letters to Editor

CLERK OF COURT WRITES LETTER TO CORRECT FALSE RUMORS REGARDING HIS SERVICE CLASSIFICATION

To The Editor:

Under the stress of the present crisis when the country is having to exert its every effort and mobilize all its resources to repel threatened invasion, there is no place for anyone who would not answer his country's call or who would shirk any patriotic duty imposed upon him as a civilian. This is especially true among a people who are as patriotic as the citizens of Macon county.

Any number of young men have been called to the colors, and still others will be called. The willingness with which they responded speaks loudly for their patriotism. However, I do wish to speak a word in behalf of those of us who were called into the service, and on account of some physical defect were not accepted. There may be some who welcome the fact that they were rejected, but this I doubt. For the most part, those young men deplored the fact that they were found by the military authorities to be physically disqualified for the armed forces of the United States. Almost half of those sent away on the last two calls were sent back home on this account. This was no fault of theirs.

On a former call, I was among those sent up to Asheville for examination and was rejected on account of a physical defect, and I can sincerely state that this was one of my most bitter disappointments. However, at times like this rumors run rife. It is hard for me to believe, but I have heard rumors to the effect that I connived in some way to evade being drafted. Such rumor, if current, is absolutely not only untrue but unthinkable. In order for it to be true the members of the Local Draft Board would be involved; in order for this to have been done they would have had to have violated their oath, which we all know that neither Mr. E. W. Long, Mr. Henry Cabe nor Mr. George Dean would have done. The last two saw service in the first World War and would be especially intolerant of anyone who sought to evade military service.

Before I was called, some of my friends, feeling that I could do more good by holding down my office than by entering the military service, suggested that I make an effort to get exempted on account of my official position. This I positively refused to do. Later on I was called to the service and made no request for exemption, and would have been accepted had it not been for this physical defect. Later on the requirements for acceptance may be less exacting and I may be reclassified and called again. Regardless of what office I may hold at the time, I will be ready to go.

Respectfully yours,
HARLEY R. CABE

WHAT H. D. CLUB WORK MEANS TO THE FARM WOMEN OF MACON COUNTY

Dear Editor:
As a Home Demonstration Club member, I wish to express in a few words through our local paper what Club work means to the women of our county. If the thought comes in your mind that I have been asked to write this, please dismiss it, I have not been asked by anyone to even think about writing. Not even our Home Agent, Mrs. Sherrill, will know this until she reads it.

The question has been asked so many times, "What do you do at your Club meetings?" We have very orderly meetings and each one gives close attention and interest to the parts that are to be discussed. Each month we have new things brought by our beloved Home Agent, Mrs. Sherrill. Without this organization, perhaps we would not know about things that are happening in our State and Nation.

Of course we have radios and papers and magazines, but there are some things that can't be brought to each one through these things. Our time spent one afternoon each month is well worth our going. We always feel more like going about our day's work. The meetings are far from gossip meetings; We discuss our home problems, talk with our neighbors and have a feeling that we are an organized community, always ready to do anything that our Agent calls on us to do. The Club women were eager to help with the Red Cross knitting and sewing, 289 yards of material being cut and made into garments.

They have also helped in the scrap iron campaign.

The great thing that faces us now is producing all we can on the farm, and canning and storing all products that are not needed for family use. We must make our gardens do their best, and not forget the greatest power of all, the Lord's Blessing on us as a Nation striving for Peace. For this we must pray always.
Mrs. Jim S. Gray

This and That

By FRANKIE MACON

Wonder if the sugar rationing decree is going to have any effect on the Sugar Bowl game in New Orleans next New Year's?

Do you know Algebra? X equals a full tank of gasoline.

Since the freezing of prices by the government, we are wondering how that will affect "hot goods"

One thing is certain: If the President goes through with his plan to run all the parasites out of Washington the old town won't be nearly so crowded.

The Japanese seem to have got the jump on the United Nations, but it remains to be seen what kind of game they play on their home grounds.

A New York man announces that synthetic rubber can be made from wheat. He probably made his discovery while eating a stack of lunch-counter wheat cakes.

May be the shade of Nathan Bedford Forrest led the British attack on Madagascar. Anyhow, they got there first with the most men.

The gasoline rationing program allows three gallons per week for a pleasure car. With three gallons in his tank, and threadbare tires on his wheels, any motorist is entitled to all the pleasure he can get.

Press Comment

TRUE CHAMPIONS (The Asheville Citizen)

To pretty Miss Myra Slagle of Franklin and handsome young Burnice Carter of Democrat—our congratulations. They are the new health champions of Western North Carolina, chosen yesterday from the ranks of the 4-H Club boys and girls of the mountain region.

Who is more real a champion than a "health champion?" The possessor of that laurel truly is endowed with great honor and riches. He approaches the responsibilities of maturity with the best possible advantage. A healthy body and a healthy mind are the soundest of all foundations for the hard battle of life.

The dictator countries make a fetish of physical perfection in youth, but there is mischief in their method. Healthiness has become a cult which is warped and twisted to suit the ideological purpose of the state. Some one has described the typical Hitler Youth member, in a paraphrasing of the famous Latin motto, as "an unsound mind

is a sound body."

We need never fear that distortion of the Youth idea as long as institutions like the 4-H clubs continue to thrive in rural America and inspire in youth the free, high concepts of our democratic way. The four H's—head, heart, health and hand—are the symbols of wholesome living and abundant opportunity for the young people of our farms and countryside.

Poet's Corner

ON THE BLUE, THINKING OF YOU

As I stand on the deck of a battleship, grey,
Out on this ocean blue,
Perhaps from my lips, there escapes a sigh
Because, Darling I'm thinking of you.

With a mapped-out course we sail along,
The helmsman steering true.
Alert, we are waiting for something to start
Here where everything's blue.

We have in mind a country so great,
And we're out to see it through.
Soon we shall be returning again,
Never forgetting you.

We watch the stars as they come

at night,
Myriads in the sky,
Soon we will court them together again
The moon and you and I.
R. E. McConnell, C.M.L.C.

McConnell was at Pearl Harbor at the time of its attack. He has been on active duty with the Navy in Pacific waters since the beginning of the war. The above poem won for him an award from his ship's paper. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. R. McConnell of Sealy.

Private Jones



"Your eyes are like brown molasses cookies," says Pvt. Jones, reaching for one. (Cookie, not eye!) Lulu scores because she bakes with RUMFORD Baking Powder. It's been rising right, tasting right, for 80 years! (No alum, folks, that's one reason.) FREE: Victory booklet of sugarless recipes! Conserve supplies. Help win the war in your kitchen. Write today. Rumford Baking Powder, Box 88, Rumford, R.I.



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