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Mica Industry In Macon Grows To Meet War Needs

Many Uses For Mineral In Various Forms Described

(By THAD D. BRYSON, Jr.)

Macon county has long enjoyed a reputation for its mineral deposits and is now coming into its rightful heritage as a result of the tremendous demand for mica. Heretofore this resource has been developed on a small and dubious scale due to the competition from foreign sources, especially India. There the famed "Bengal Ruby" mica contributed a large per cent of that utilized in this country, and only the recent invasion of the Japanese forces in Singapore and other points in the Pacific stopped this source of supply. Now the domestic sources are being called upon to supply the tremendous demand the present war has brought about. Probably the reason foreign imports heretofore far exceeded the domestic supply was because of cheap labor, and further, it was commonly supposed that the "India" mica was of a superior grade. It has been proven, however, that the "Rum" or "Ruby" mica produced in this country is equal in quality to that produced in other parts of the world.

Types Of Mica

The types of mica produced here are classified white, ruby and black; the first two types are used in the production of practically all important military equipment, such as tanks, trucks, airplanes; as a matter of fact, each bomber that is sent to harass and ultimately destroy Hitler and Company contains approximately \$500 worth of mica. Its uses in the electrical industry are almost countless. It is used in highly important items such as radio transmitters, condensers, high-tension magneto condensers, which are indispensable to the functioning of squadrons of airplanes, tanks, ships and other mobile mechanical instruments of modern warfare. Thus under present conditions it is readily observable the great importance of the development of mica mines, and the recovery of this important product. Foreseeing this fact, the United States Government has set up the Colonial Mica Corporation, with offices in Asheville, for the purpose of assisting mica miners to increase their field of operation by supplying necessary machinery at nominal lease rentals, and also, stabilizing the market so that a reasonable price may be obtained from the sale of their product. This is an important step forward and will exert a tremendous influence upon the development of this industry in Macon county. The prices now being paid for mica are practically double that paid in the latter part of 1940. Punch then selling at an average of eight to ten cents per pound, now brings twenty-two cents; one and one-half by two then bringing forty-five cents to sixty cents per pound, now is quoted at one dollar and ten cents, and all sizes have increased proportionately. Six by eight formerly quoted at four dollars and twenty-five cents, now is eight dollars. Thus the facilities for mining are available and the market a guarantee of a reasonable return for labor expended.

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Legion Demands Drafting Manpower And Industry

Goes On Record In Favor Of All-Out Support Of War Effort

The American Legion at its three-day weekend national convention held in Kansas City demanded that both capital and labor be drafted and the lowering of the draft age to 18.

Roane Waring, Memphis utility executive, chosen national commander by acclamation, in a blistering speech, assailed those hampering the war effort as saboteurs and traitors, pledging the legion's fullest support to the president in the war effort.

Almost as one voice the 1,500 delegates passed resolutions embodying the following demands:

Conscription of both manpower and industry for war production.

Lowering of the military draft age to 18.

Compulsory military training for

P. T. A. GREET'S NEW TEACHERS

Mrs. Carl Slagle And J. F. Pugh Address Gathering

The first meeting of the Franklin Parent-Teacher's association last Monday afternoon was well attended. J. F. Pugh, new principal, addressed the gathering, welcoming their cooperation and pledging his every effort to sustain a high standard for the school in the difficult days ahead.

"The task will be heavier for all of us, and there will be hard problems to solve," said the speaker, "and we will have to learn to do more with less under the restrictions of war. The organization which always helps to maintain standards is the P. T. A."

Mrs. Carl Slagle, the new president, read the P. T. A. objectives for the year and appealed for united interest of parents and teachers to uphold the standards of home and school for the young people whose lives are bound to be disrupted by war conditions.

Mrs. Lola Barrington, chairman of the program, led in the pledge to the flag. She paid high tribute to Mrs. John Wasilik, whose efficient administration through several terms as president has laid the foundation for the strong organization which exists today.

Rev. J. L. Stokes welcomed the new principal and the teachers, and Mr. Pugh responded. Rev. Philip Green led in prayer and in the signing of the National Anthem and "God Bless America," and Rev. Hubert Wardlaw sang a solo.

New teachers were introduced; Miss Mildred Cable B.S. from Kentucky State Teachers College, mathematics teacher; Miss Mary Griggs from Morehead, Ga., who holds an M.A. degree from the University of Georgia, is teaching mathematics in Mr. Hawkins' place. Miss Naomi Derrick holds an A.B. degree from the University of South Carolina and a certificate in Library science, and is teaching English and faculty advisor for the Journalism club.

Mrs. Boesser and Mrs. Gilmer Crawford are new teachers in the elementary school.

Mrs. Cante Johnson presented the War Information center now maintained in the Franklin Library as a WPA project.

Mrs. Carl Tysinger, the new secretary, announced that Mrs. Henderson Calloway had consented to serve as treasurer.

The following committees were appointed:

Membership—Mrs. T. W. Angel, Jr., chairman; Mrs. Lester Henderson, Mrs. Thad Bryson, Mrs. Charles Bradley, Mrs. Tom McCollum, Mrs. Joe Setser, Cartoogechaye; Mrs. Will Parrish, Otto; Mrs. Jim Gray, Hickory Knob.

Ways and Means—Mrs. John Wasilik, chairman; Mr. Horner Stockton, Mrs. Thad Bryson, Mrs. Henderson Calloway, Mrs. Albert Ramsey.

Education and Health—Dr. J. L. Stokes, chairman; Mr. Pugh, Mrs. Clyde West, Cowee; Mrs. John

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High School Principal



Jesse Forbes Pugh, of Camden county, who succeeds W. H. Finley. Mr. Pugh is a graduate of the University of North Carolina and Columbia University, New York, with M. A. degree. He has taught four years at Central High School, Charlotte; principal of Craven County High School for four years; superintendent of Red Springs City Schools and supervisor of practise teaching of Flora MacDonald College for ten years until coming to Franklin.

Gigantic Scrap Metal Statewide Campaign

ATTENTION, people of Macon County!

There will be important news for you in next week's issue regarding a gigantic statewide scrap metal campaign. This patriotic drive, requested by the United States government, will start October 1 and run for three intensive weeks.

This campaign will require the best effort and cooperation of every man, woman, boy, girl, civic organization, business institution and industrial plant in this region.

There will be a great statewide contest in connection with this campaign with many fine prizes offered. There will be special awards for counties, business firms, individuals and units of junior boy and girl organizations. The prizes for the counties will be based on the amount of scrap metal collected per capita population.

The county salvage committee in each county will be in charge of this program.

Full details about this campaign will be published by all newspapers throughout North Carolina next week. Watch for the news of this campaign and be getting ready now to play the fullest possible part in it.

Blackout Siren

Signal Will Be Tested At Noon Saturday

Franklin will hear the siren signal for a blackout test on next Saturday, September 26, at 12 o'clock, noon, according to an announcement made by Chief Carl Tysinger, of the Fire Department.

The town siren, located on top of the jail, will sound five blasts, with an interval between each blast. Five minutes later the all-clear signal will be sounded, which is one blast lasting two minutes. The same signals will be given when the state-wide blackout is observed on Tuesday night.

Chief Tysinger states that fire fighting training is being given every Wednesday evening at the fire station at 7 o'clock. This course requires five hours for the complete course. All citizens interested in this vital training for home defense are urged to avail themselves of this opportunity.

C. Of C. Dinner To Be Postponed On Account State Wide Blackout

The Chamber of Commerce dinner announced to take place next Tuesday evening, September 29, has been postponed to a date to be announced later.

The reason for this postponement is that the state-wide blackout is ordered to take place on that night, said Lee Guffey, secretary. Mr. Guffey reported that September has been a much better

REPUBLICANS SELECT TICKET

Paul Potts, Chairman, Announces List Of Candidates

Republicans of Macon county have selected their candidates for county offices and representatives in the general assembly, it has been announced by Paul Potts, chairman of the Republican executive committee for Macon county.

The candidates and the offices they are seeking include: The Rev. George A. Cloer, a well-known farmer and a minister of the Baptist denomination, for representative.

J. Perry Bradley, farmer and dealer in livestock, for sheriff.

Alfred R. Higdon, owner and manager of the Franklin Hardware company, for clerk of superior court.

Wiley Clark, who operates a filling station, for register of deeds.

W. T. Tippet, N. Buford Downs, and Thomas C. Harbison for county commissioners.

J. N. Dills for county surveyor. R. Glenn Ray for coroner.

Statewide Blackout Will Be Held Tuesday Night

33 MACON MEN LEAVE ON 29TH

Order Of Eastern Star To Give Sendoff To Group

Thirty-three of the group of Macon men who were examined recently for induction at Camp Croft, S. C. will leave for Fort Bragg on Tuesday morning, September 29.

The Nequassa Chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star have prepared going-away gifts for the group and will be present to give them a send-off.

The following volunteered for service: Robert Howard Shook, Harvey Cabe, Rufus Lee Holland, Chalmers Hill Mashburn, Judson Charles Cunningham, Otto Gibson, John Richard Tyler, Robert Lee Dillard.

Selectees were as follows: Jesse Lee Morgan, Furman Daniel Holland, William Nelson Cabe, Charlie Wilburn Franks, Arvin Lincoln Duwall, John Robert Jones, Thomas Logan Scroggs, Robert Greenlee Holden, Fred Lee Grant, Rass Justice, John Cheek, Thurmon Henry, Joe Brown Jones, Russell Thomas Ramey, Dennis Vertel Ammons, Oscar Glen Stiwinter, Jerry Carson Gibson, Olan J. Bradley, Elbert Houston, Thomas Martin Jones, Andrew Evans, James Crawford McCoy, Elwood Bailey, Cline Roane, and Franklin Doran Dowdle.

Transferred to other Local Boards were:

John Joseph Whitesides, and Ernest Benjamin Beck, Jr.

The following men enlisted in the Navy, prior to induction:

Robert Woodrow Wild, David Lawrence Griggs, and John Frank Shope.

John Dills Arrests Graham Robbery Suspect

Deputy Sheriff John Dills reported the arrest by him of "Dock" Kruknel, one of the three men wanted in connection with the robbery of a store in Robbinsville several weeks ago, and who has been reported as dodging the law ever since. Kruknel was arrested near Sam Waters' wood camp in the Nantahala section of Macon county last Monday night according to Sheriff Dills.

Corporal Shuler's Death First Fatality Reported

Soldier From West's Mill Died In Auto Accident In Puerto Rico

The death by automobile accident of Corporal Carl Shuler in the Puerto Rico area in August is the first death of a Macon county man in the armed forces that has been reported since the war began.

Sam D. Shuler of the West's Mill community has received full details of his son's death from his commanding officer, and copies of the Caribbean Sentinel of San Juan, P. R., official publication of the Armed Forces in the Caribbean Area, with tribute to his service.

Mr. Shuler first received a wire from the office of the War Department, Washington, announcing the death of his son on August 7, at 7:15 p. m. Later he received a letter from the Adjutant General stating that the accident occurred on the Ponce Guayama Highway, near Postillo, one mile east of Losey Field, when the automobile in which he was a passenger overturned after striking a truck. One other soldier was killed and four injured in the accident.

The letter related that military funeral services were held on August 9 in the Post chapel, and the body interred with full military honors in the National cemetery at Borinquen Field, Puerto Rico. The letter expressed sympathy and regret concerning Corporal Shuler's death, adding "We would like for you to know that we at the headquarters and of the headquarters squadron, 36th Fighter Group, will long remember the hard working and good natured Corporal Shuler that attached himself so closely to all of us in the short time he spent with us." Signed, Major Arthur R. DeBolt.

To Last 45 Minutes; All Asked To Stay Off Streets

Final arrangements are complete for the test blackout ordered to be held on Tuesday night throughout North Carolina by the Army through the state organization of Civilian Defense. Guy L. Houk, county chairman, attended the meeting of Civilian Defense officials in Raleigh last week, called to receive final and detailed instructions for the blackout and for civilian protection.

Mr. Houk states that the blackout will be observed on Tuesday night, September 29, the town siren sounding the alarm and the all-clear sometime between the hours of seven and twelve, midnight. He took a trip to Highlands Tuesday afternoon to arrange with the town authorities for the blackout there.

Air Raid Wardens On Duty

Auxiliary policemen and the fire department will be on duty to assist the regular law enforcement officers in traffic control and any other duties; also 24 air raid wardens will have special patrol duties throughout the municipal area. All automobiles within sound of the siren are requested to turn off their lights and pull in on the side of the highways and streets. State highway patrolmen will also be on duty, receiving their orders and warning directly by short wave radio in their cars from police stations.

Mr. Houk states that the blackout will last 45 minutes after the alert has sounded. He stated also that it is probable that there will be blackouts from time to time. These alarms will be given by the Army and will be unannounced from now on.

"Stay Off Streets"

All persons are urgently requested to stay off streets except air raid wardens and those employed in civilian protection. During the last blackout, considerable confusion was caused in some places by the presence of people on the sidewalks out of curiosity. It can readily be seen that this is dangerous and has in the past been the cause of casualties and accidents. The full cooperation of all citizens is requested by the committee of civilian defense and the town authorities.

All cars coming into town will be stopped on the outskirts of the town area.

Red Cross Official To Be In Franklin On Next Monday

Mrs. Katherine Stewart, district field representative of the American Red Cross has notified officers of the Macon county chapter that she will arrive in Franklin next Monday to assist in the organization of the chapter's standing committees and to help them plan their wartime programs for the coming year.

The Rev. Hubert G. Wardlaw, newly elected chairman, has sent out notices of a meeting to be held at his home Monday, September 28, at 8 p. m. All officers and chairmen are requested to be present.