

Soviets Take Odessa And Head South for Oil Fields

Costly Blow Dealt the Japs

Caroline Islands

Clearing their southern Ukrainian front, the Russians are now looking in the direction of Bucharest and the Ploesti oil fields in Rumania where Hitler's war machine is getting approximately one-third of its gas supply. While the drive is facing two or three natural barriers, Marshal Konev's Second Ukrainian Army, having crossed the Seret River on a 50-mile front, has started the southward drive. The drive has about 165 miles to go, but it received a great send-off with the fall of Odessa, the important Black Sea base that had been held by the enemy since 1941. Recent developments by the Red Armies put the clamp on eastern Czechoslovakia and northern Rumania, and it is possible that with the Russians closing in from the east, and with the increased activity in the air by the Americans and British the plight of Hitler is rapidly becoming critical.

Concentrated bombing of the invasion coast, targets in Belgium and Germany has been proceeding on an ever-increasing scale.

Little activity has been reported on the Italian fronts in recent days, but the enemy claims that the Allies are making ready for two landings at other points.

The situation in India is extremely grave. The Japs are only 35 miles from Dinapur, important junction on the Assam-Bengal railway feeding Allied forces in northern Burma. If Dinapur falls, it may bring about the collapse of Gen. Stilwell's campaign to open the Ledo Road for supplies to the armies of Gen. Chiang Kai-Shek and delay the winning of the China coast bases for the offensive against the Nipponese mainland.

Over in the Central Pacific area, the Japs are still staggering from the blow dealt them by the American Navy and Air Force some few days ago. The raid, directed against the western Caroline Islands, cost the Japs 88 ships and 496 planes, destroyed or damaged.

Following that raid comes a hint of further action in the central Pacific. It is now believed that no invasion of the strong Jap base of Truk will be attempted, that it will be outflanked and left to die on the vine.

Carrying the current aerial offensive against the Luftwaffe into its fourth day, American planes are again over the Continent today. Yesterday, 1,400 planes smashed three airbases in Belgium and aircraft plants in France in the wake of RAF attacks night before last which blasted two French rail centers with 1,000 tons each.

Yesterday's assaults on Western Europe rounded out a week-end period in which 5,000 British and American planes of all types teamed up to smash Hitler's war machine, and large forces of RAF planes were over the targets again last night. The Americans took over this morning.

On the diplomatic front, Secretary Cordell Hull, after all the pious platitudes on American foreign policy, really got down to some of the fundamentals of the war in his radio report to the American people Sunday evening. Following are some of his points: The days of compromise with the neutrals are over. "Stability and order" do not mean reaction. Social and economic democracy for Europe is vital. We'll work the French Committee of National Liberation in France. Unity among the United States, Great Britain, the Soviet Union and China is essential. There can be no compromise with Fascism—its leaders, its institutions, the power which supports it must go. These highlights come a long way from the days when Hull was sharply critical of preoccupation by liberals with the political implications of the war.

Announces for Place On Education Board

While there is some talk about the possibility of late developments, the political front in this county remains fairly quiet at this time. No official report could be had immediately from the chairman of the county board of elections, but it is understood that several candidates have filed, but it was not certain that a contest had been created up until early today. Mr. Ferd W. Holliday, well-known Jamesville farmer, announced his candidacy for a place on the board of education, but it could not be learned if there would be more than three candidates for the three seats, or not. Filing time for county and district offices closes at 6 o'clock p. m. on Saturday of this week.

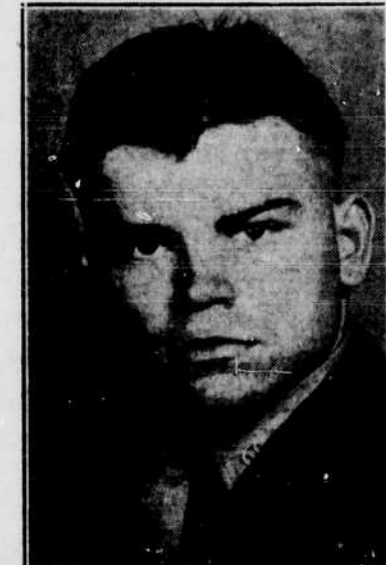
Plans About Complete for Fat Livestock Show Here April 27

Plans were announced just about complete today for the county's first independent fat livestock show to be held here on Thursday, April 27, the promoters declaring that the prospects were unusually bright for a successful show.

Eight entries have already been arranged for the calf show, Assistant County Agent L. L. McLendon stating that four of his club boys were currying and rubbing their animals in keen anticipation of winning some of the prize money. Four calves have also been entered in the open class, and others are making plans to exhibit during the one-day show. Several farmers are also planning to exhibit, but in their cases there will be no competition or prize money awarded. There are still openings in the prize field, and those wishing to exhibit are directed to contact Mr. McLendon.

More Men Report For Pre-Induction Exams

COMMISSIONED



Hubert A. Hardison, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wilbur M. Hardison, RFD 3, Williamston, was recently commissioned a second lieutenant in the U. S. Marine Corps at Quantico, Va.

Earl Lewis Home From War Theater

Pvt. Earl Lewis, after more than two years in foreign service—twenty-five months and seventeen days by his own count—returned home last week to spend a 30-day emergency furlough with his mother, Mrs. W. R. Lewis, near here. Volunteering for service back in May, 1941, the young soldier received his basic training in a few months and shipped out for the Caribbean area, later going into the Mediterranean area. Except for minor shell shock, he received no wounds. During his long period of service, he never saw a person he knew from home. Lewis, seeing so many servicemen back home, declared that some of the boys who have been in foreign service for approximately two years can't understand why they can't get back for furloughs. The young man frankly declared that much of the morale-building business was little more than a lot of "hokey", that traveling stars made no hit with his crowd. Granted an emergency leave, Lewis will spend about thirty days here before reporting for further service.

Picture On "Life Of St. Paul" Is Delayed

The scheduled showing of the moving picture, "Life of St. Paul", has been delayed for two weeks, it was announced today. The first in the series of pictures was scheduled for showing in the local Christian church tomorrow evening when the several church prayer meetings were to have been combined for the special event. The first in the picture series is now scheduled for April 26.

TRAFFIC INCREASE

Automotive traffic reached what is believed to have been the highest peak in two years when thousands moved through here last week-end to visit relatives or enjoy an outing during the brief Easter holiday period. Patrolmen declared that the volume of traffic was even greater than it was during last Christmas. Bus traffic was unusually crowded last Friday and Saturday. Despite the unusually heavy flow of traffic, no accidents were reported in this area during the week-end period.

GAS REBATES

Deadline for farmers and non-highway gasoline users to file petroleum used during the months of January, February and March for rebate purposes will be considered only on the gasoline used for tanning purposes of a non-highway nature during the three months.

TOWN - FARM IN WARTIME

(A weekly news digest from the rural press section of the OWI news bureau)

Need for Manpower Continues

Although the United States Army has reached its planned for peak strength of 7,700,000 persons, it will need 75,000 to 100,000 men monthly to maintain that strength, according to the War Department, and the Navy Department said it would need 400,000 additional personnel by September 1 to get the Navy, Marine Corps and Coast Guard up to peak strength of 3,500,000. Meanwhile the National Selective Service System has abandoned the war unit plan for determining agricultural deferments. Provisions concerning a registrant's agricultural occupation or endeavor that will govern are whether he is necessary, whether he is regularly engaged in it, whether that occupation or endeavor is necessary to the war effort and whether a replacement can be obtained.

About One Hundred Colored Men Leave County on Saturday

Nearly 100 colored men left this county last Saturday for pre-induction exams at Fort Bragg, but the outcome of the examinations could not be had immediately. Seventy-seven of the ninety-seven included in the group are married and they left 104 children behind.

The call was centered for the most part, in that group whose ages ranged from 21 to 25, inclusive, as a result of recent instructions received by the draft board. One teen-age registrant, was included, but he was supposed to have reported about a month ago, and those who were over 25 years of age were called to fill out a previously assigned quota. For the most part, the approximately four-hundred men in 4-F had reported previously to the induction center. Sixty-nine of the group were taken from the farm and the remaining 28 were called from industry or odd jobs in and around the several towns.

Easter Services Are Well Attended Here

Religious services during the Easter period were well attended here, the attendance figures reaching what is believed to be a high point Sunday. Last week the union services in the theater and the various churches, attracted large numbers. The sunrise service Sunday morning in the cemetery was attended by approximately 200 early-morning worshippers. Easter finery while quite noticeable was hardly equal to that displayed prior to the war, and possibly the meaning of the Easter season struck deeper than at any other time in recent years.

Stores Close Half Day Beginning Tomorrow

The Wednesday afternoon holiday schedule, already in effect in many towns throughout this section, will be observed by local stores beginning tomorrow. The business houses will close at 1 o'clock.

PROCLAMATION

Each April we are reminded by a special campaign of the Women's Field Army of the American Society for the Control of Cancer that this disease is the second highest cause of death in our country, but that from half a century ago the 163,000 annual deaths are unnecessary. Special emphasis is lent to their message this year by the announcement that up to December 23, 1943, the deaths on all our battle fronts totaled 32,017—less than one-fifth of the deaths caused at home by cancer in a single year. "Treated in Time, Cancer Can Be Cured" is the slogan under which the Women's Field Army will endeavor to teach everyone throughout the nation the early signs of cancer, to the end that we shall realize the necessity of consulting our doctors while cure is still possible, should the disease strike us. In furtherance of this effort I hereby designate the month of April as "Cancer Control Month" in Williamston, and urge all channels of information to the public to lend their support as a matter of public welfare.

Improving In Hospital Following Operation

Undergoing an operation in a Washington hospital last week, Elbert Manning was said to be improving today after being quite ill for several days.

New Rulings To Delay Induction For Few County Men Scheduled To Report For Service This Week

Public Library Observing Its 6th Anniversary Here Today

On Tuesday, April 11, 1933, the Williamston Public Library was presented to Mayor John L. Hassell by the chairman of the committee, John L. Goff. Through six years, the library has circulated more than 65,000 books and now has a collection of 2,192 volumes as of March 1. One hundred and forty-nine of the books have been added within the last eight months. Present plans include the adding of twenty-five new titles each month. At present there are fifteen magazines and one newspaper to be read at the library, with older editions circulated. The library room is now much too small for its expanding service. It is hoped that some civic-minded person will make a more commodious home for this cultural feature of our community life. Some few improvements are being made in order to conserve all the available space. Newly painted signs will soon mark the entrance, making it easier for the passers-by to see where the library is located. The Library Committee, feeling that a public drive for funds would be unwise just now, is appealing to those who wish to maintain this excellent service and provide for its growth, and they are asked to contribute an average of one dollar per month or more in order to carry out the program. Letters will be sent out in a few days and an early response will determine the future plans for one of our institutions of which we are proud.—Reported.

Young Registrants Between 18 and 26 To Be Called First

Some Boards Cancel Induction Orders for All Men Over Twenty-five Years

The induction of all registrants 26 years of age and over, including those who have already been instructed to report for actual duty, has been delayed by special orders issued by Selective Service last week-end, provided those registrants hold "essential" jobs. It could not be learned immediately who would be exempted temporarily, at least, but "essential" jobs are listed under thirty-five classifications centered mainly around technical and industrial jobs, farming and other occupations, more or less, rated by the War Manpower Commission as being in support of the war effort.

Mack Nicholson Is Still Going Strong Even At Age Of 92

Unheard from in several years, Mack Nicholson, a native of this county, bobbed up in Cincinnati last week to declare to the world that he is still going strong despite his ninety-two years. Leaving this county when a young man, he went to Norfolk and later journeyed out to Cincinnati to join The Cincinnati Post as proofreader, a position he held for 41 years or until his retirement in 1940. He last visited his grand-nephews and other relatives and friends in this county about 15 years ago and is now at home at 1714 Madison Road, Cincinnati 6, Ohio, after a trip to Florida. Returning to his old adopted home, Mr. Nicholson visited The Post, and the following story appeared March 16 under a two-column heading: "Old Mack Nicholson, back from soaking in Florida's sunshine, visited former haunts in The Post's composing room this week. "Even at 92, when most of his generation have left this world, Mack Nicholson walked with a springy step. He walked smiling, like a visiting dignitary, between the rows of linotype machines, acknowledging the bantering greetings. "But Mack Nicholson did not drop into the first empty chair, nor in the second or third. He walked straight to the proofreading desk, yanked out a chair and planted himself in it. He was home. There he had worked on The Post for 41 years, up until the day of his retirement in 1940. "How are your eyes, Mack?" his old shopmates asked. "They remembered how strong his eyes were. Even in his 88th year he could search out the smallest typographical error and discover slips of grammar as well as fact as a side line. "Mack Nicholson reached for the near-by proof hook, slipped off a late edition story and read, hitting every word, and pausing when the copy was corrected. He looked a bit exultant. "Don't need glasses yet," he said. "Although his social security allowance provides him \$1450 a week, and the Typographical Union pension is \$10 a week, and he is in comfortable circumstances, Mack Nicholson is dissatisfied. "Sitting around doing nothing," he said, "is not the life for me. That's not the way to live. "But that is the way it is with a man who is 92. "Soon, he hopes, he will go back to Petersburg. "You get a lot of fine sunshine down there and play cards all day," he said, "even though the hotel rules say you can't play for cash stakes. "Mack Nicholson wouldn't say how long he thinks he will be around. "I've got a great-granddaughter who is 19 years old and been married two years. Might be able to see my great-great-granddaughter one of these days," he said.

Legion Auxiliary To Hold District Meet

The Fourth District of the American Legion Auxiliary, which is composed of units from Gatesville, Woodland, Windsor and Martin County, will hold its regular district meeting Wednesday afternoon, April 12 at 2:30 o'clock in the Legion Hut at Williamston. Mrs. Sam Motzno, district committeewoman will preside, and Mrs. W. O. Griffin, local unit president, will extend greetings to the visitors. Mrs. W. C. Alexander, Durham, state president, Miss Arelia Adams, Durham, state secretary, and Mrs. E. G. Hudness, Chocowinity, state vice president, will be present and take part in the program, it was announced.

Firemen Get Two Calls During Past Few Days

Local volunteer firemen were called out twice during the past few days. Last Friday afternoon they were called to Williams' store on Sycamore Street, but the fire was put out before they could reach there. Yesterday afternoon, the firemen went to Everetts where a woods fire threatened several homes. Starting in the woods about two miles west of the town, the fire burned a fairly large area and caught one or two buildings on the edge of the town. Firemen were ready for action and the fire was stopped by backing up and the use of special equipment.

ROUND-UP

There was little outward activity on the crime front in this immediate area over the week-end, but two or three drunken brawls were reported in other parts of the county during the period. Few details could be had, and according to one report, the disturbance will hardly reach the courts at this time. One person was arrested and jailed here over the week-end. Taking on too many spirits, a colored man was jailed. Earlier in the week, however, Pvt. Robert E. Sloan and Wesley H. Fleck, absent without leave, were detained and turned over to military authorities.

Prisoners of War Working on Farms

Prisoners of war stationed in the local camp are reporting in increasing numbers for special details on the farms in this county. Plans for using the labor were completed some time ago, but weather conditions have limited activities up until the past few days. The work of the prisoners is proving very satisfactory in most cases, but in other instances where the equipment was not adequate and the supervision was not properly planned, the work hardly measured up to expectations, it was said. It is fairly certain that the labor can and will be used to a marked advantage on the farms this year.

J. L. HASSELL, Mayor, April 7, 1944.