

THE Roanoke Beacon

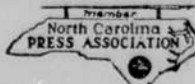
Washington County News
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY
in Plymouth, Washington County,
North Carolina

The Roanoke Beacon is Washington County's only newspaper. It was established in 1889, consolidated with the Washington County News in 1929 and with The Sun in 1937.

Subscription Rates
Payable in Advance
One year..... \$1.50
Six months..... .75

Advertising Rates Furnished Upon Request

Entered as second-class matter at the post office in Plymouth, N. C., under the act of Congress of March 3, 1879.



January 15, 1942

ALMANAC



"Of the two evils choose the least"

- JANUARY
- 15—Price of wheat rises to \$1.45 a bushel, 1915 highest since 1898.
- 16—First Nebraska territorial legislature meets in Omaha, 1855.
- 17—Benjamin Franklin, statesman, philosopher, born, Boston, 1706.
- 18—Peace conference opens at Versailles, 1919.
- 19—Floods on Ohio leave 15,000 homeless around Cincinnati, 1907.
- 20—First third term inauguration of president in U. S., 1941.
- 21—Louis XVI executed, 1793.

Time To Crack Down On Somebody—Hard

We Americans in general, and the automobile industry in particular, have been guilty of some pretty extensive bragging about what we could do in the matter of production of war goods if it came to a showdown. All right, we have now come to the showdown; and, although it has been more than a month since the Axis nations declared war on us, the automobile industry is still arguing about the manner of changing over into war production.

From where we sit, we see no justification of the manufacturers' delay in getting down to brass tacks. They are still holding out over a few inconsequential details in the conferences at Washington, while the nation's armed forces are catching hell all over the Pacific due to short-

ages of vital equipment which the motor makers can be quickly equipped to furnish.

Quite a furor was created last year over the time lost in defense industries due to strikes and labor disputes. Without attempting to justify these shutdowns, it is nevertheless a fact that we were not actually at war then, while we are now, and have been for more than a month. Yet the automobile manufacturers are still holding out for assurance of their normal profits.

Perhaps the United States Chamber of Commerce and the National Association of Manufacturers, which two agencies so meticulously kept the tally of man-hours of labor lost due to defense strikes last year, will now furnish us the number of man-hours of labor lost due to industrial management's bull-headedness.

No Special Favors for Farmers or Anyone Else

Always we have considered the farmer to be the backbone of our economic system, and in the past have been inclined to view with approval attempts to organize "pressure groups" which had for their announced aim the betterment of the lot of agriculture.

However, in the recent attempts to browbeat Congress into giving favors during war time to the farmers not accorded other classes of industry in this nation, we believe the "pressure organizations" have gone too far. Such tactics are likely to react against the farm groups in the future, when the farmers may need a friend even more than they do now.

We refer to the price-ceiling measure now in process of enactment at Washington. There is no justification for the attempt to make farmers a specially privileged class by giving the Secretary of Agriculture veto powers over any price ceilings fixed for farm products by the price administrator. It would be as logical to give the Secretary of Labor veto power over wage ceilings, or the Secretary of Commerce veto power over ceilings placed on prices of clothing, food, or other necessities. Such divided responsibility would, of course, be highly impractical, to say the least.

Whoever he may be, the federal price administrator during war time should have the final say-so on all prices, wages, rents, commodities, and farm products. Every group should have the right to present its side of the case, but no one group should be singled out to have a special representative veto a price fixed after a fair hearing. It is manifestly unfair, and we believe the farm organizations are ill-advised in pressing for this feature in the bill.

QUESTION of THE WEEK ??

Individual Opinions of People You Know About Current Matters of General Public Interest

Do You Think That the United States Should Bomb Non-Military Objectives in Japan as Retaliation for the Bombing of Manila After It Had Been Proclaimed an Open City?

Roscoe Gaylord, industrial plant accountant: "I think that they should bomb all of the cities in Japan that can profitably and safely be reached by planes of the Allied nations. That was the trouble in the last war. Germany could not have rebuilt its forces for another World War if that country had been invaded. This war is total and air raids may take place in this country. Japanese towns should be subjected to same treatment accorded Manila."

Joe M. Arps drug store employee: "I say bomb all the cities in Japan. Especially should Tokyo be subjected to the same kind of treatment that the treacherous Japanese have been heaping upon cities in the Pacific that are possessions or territories of the United States. War should be brought home to Japan."

Gilmer Ayers, grocery clerk: "In Rome do as the Romans do. In a total war, a belligerent must fight as

does their enemy. If they could raid Manila twice after it had been proclaimed an open city and maybe more than once before it was made an open city, then Japanese should pay in kind for their treacherous activities."

Mrs. L. R. Swain, housewife: "I didn't approve of the Japanese bombing the cities in the Pacific, and I think it is a dirty way to try to win a war. It isn't right because they did it. My sympathy is with the Japanese civilians who will have to suffer if their cities are bombed. But I have no patience with the Japanese military leaders."

Mrs. Earl Hardison, of Belhaven, a guest of Mrs. James E. Cox here: "I hope that it will not be necessary to bomb Japanese cities. The civilians suffer so much in this kind of war. Innocent men, women and children suffer under a bombardment of cities. I only hope that it won't be necessary."

Everyone Can Have a Part in Our Victory

The first question in the mind of every patriotic American at this time is: "What can I do to help win the war?" Passing days are multiplying the answers to this question, and it has already reached the point where there is something everyone can do.

First, everyone can buy Defense Savings Stamps and Bonds. Then there are the campaigns to save waste paper, scrap iron, bits of steel and aluminum and other metals needed for war materials. The Red Cross presents an opportunity for every woman who is willing to sew or knit garments needed by our fighting men, as well as for relief of distressed civilians.

We can disregard rumors and false stories of disasters; we can keep our mouths shut about things which might well bring aid and comfort to the enemy. And, last but not least, we can continue to do our everyday work in the most efficient manner possible, accepting cheerfully any inconvenience which may be imposed by shortages of many things we have regarded as essential to our daily manner of living.

All these things contribute to building up that intangible asset called "morale," without which no nation can long stand.

Yep: It's Election Year For One of Our Senators

See by the papers that Senator Josiah William Bailey voted for the amendment to give the Secretary of Agriculture veto power over any price ceiling fixed on farm products. Also see by the paper that Senator Bob Reynolds voted against the amendment.

All of which simply means that Bailey is up for reelection this year while Reynolds still has a couple of years of grace before facing the electorate.

You don't need a calendar to keep track of election years if you are

Rambling About

By THE RAMBLER

Sinners—

There are sins that can be committed by citizens of this country that are not listed as treasonable acts against the government nor regarded as a punishable act by society but they are nevertheless serious. And a good citizen would not choose to be classed in this group.

Even in Washington County there are those who transgress the laws of the country. They may not be violent in their wrong doing but they are guilty of a crime against their government. And when this country is straining every nerve to win a war for the very foundations of democracy against a powerful group of dictator countries, there is no time for the citizens to follow their own ways.

Persons with the best of purposes can sometimes sin against their strength, knowledge and ability to do country because they do not have the task that is assigned to them. Some are deficient in character and cannot make of themselves a person on which the community can depend.

Sins against a country are of two kinds. They can be either of commission or omission. These sins rise in their range of offenses from failure to cooperate and do their part in every task assigned to them, to the maximum sin of outright treachery.

A sin against this country is committed by the person who desires to find a loophole in the law regulating tire rationing in order to profiteer in the restricted use of rubber for motor vehicles. Waste of any kind is reported to be a very serious sin. Hoarding is classified as an almost unpardonable sin, if the hoarded articles are needed in defense.

This is no time to be guilty of the selfish sin. This country with its 130,000,000 subjects should constitute one large family that bases its desires on the firm premise that all should do their part every day in

familiar with the records of our two Senators. And the only time we remember that they ever voted together on a question, they were both wrong!

NOTICE

Your taxes for 1941 are due and may be paid at par during January. You can save money by paying them before the state schedule of penalties becomes effective in February. Help yourself and the town by paying now!

P. W. Brown

Tax Collector — Town of Plymouth

every way. Labor and management should subjugate their rights to that of the country in which they live. The soldier fights side by side with his buddy on the bloody battlefields in the Philippines, traverses the hazardous sea lanes and none are seeking riches, merely they are fighting for a principle, and even die for the same cause.

Another group of persons is sinning against this country by stirring up racial, religious and group hatred. Some few feel that they should have a strangle-hold on brains and that a man's skin, his religion or his group proves that they were born to be the rulers of the world and they shrink from the humble tasks that are allotted to them in this country. Unless they can be a hero they don't want to engage in battle.

Hardly an iniquity in this country is greater than that caused by the armchair generals, the rocking chair admirals and the soap-box brain trust who surreptitiously castigate the leaders in government, military and industry. They do not offer themselves as humble followers but they hope to reach the front lines in society by criticising the others.

Then there are those who commit the sin of "selling out for a price." There are those who do not want to support this defense program unless they are guaranteed a price. These men may be in labor, industry and politics. They may even be in government. No matter how much they are needed they "want their price." Not far removed from this section are those who are guilty of sabotage, espionage and treason against the best country on earth, all because of a price.

The sin of disloyalty is treasonable but there are those who give "lip service to this country" and "valuable service" to a foreign country. They use the freedom of speech, the freedom of the press, the freedom of religion, the freedom of assembly, all to the discredit of this nation because they are permitted by a lenient government to do this.

One of the wicked sins that can cause the people to grieve that is committed quite frequently is that of defeatism. Men in high circles with warped minds believe that the greatest nation on earth cannot defeat a few second rate nations. They cry because they are afraid a few bombs might destroy them or their family or molest their property. They

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forget the men at Valley Forge who suffered privations that this country might be free.

Neglect is a criminal sin. The boys never neglect to fight when the commanding officer calls on them. But there citizens in this country who have neglected to purchase defense bonds and stamps. They have neglected to give to the Red Cross. In fact some have turned down these opportunities and are guilty of willful neglect which is more wicked. Some say there was neglect at Pearl Harbor. How about the neglect here at home?

Nothing steals so much from this country as procrastination. Men are dying in the Philippines while politicians put off things that can be done today. They squabble and hold conferences over here while they fight and hope that help will come over there. If this country is to produce the planes, tanks, guns, ships and ammunition that the President has asked for procrastination must end.

People sin against the government when they take money for unnecessary pleasure that should be put in defense bonds. They are living in bomb shelters over there while many frequent the taverns over here. There is no excuse for some people enjoying pleasure when others are giving their blood that this country shall continue. This is not to be confused with healthy and happy living that builds morale in a country.

Those who lend their influence, position, money, fame or whatever achievement they have managed to obtain to the detriment of their government and its society are sinful, and deserve reproach.

Don't be a sinner. Mend your

ways. Get patriotic. Go "all out" for this country. You'll never regret what you have done for another. Just a small thing done in the interest of the country now shall get its reward. After the war is over men will rise up to call you a good citizen, and you will never be ashamed.

Soldier's Mother—

Private Alex. A. Taylor, of Roper, a soldier in the 9th Material Squadron at Barksdale Field, Louisiana, writes this farewell to mother:

Dearest Mother, never worry For we are not parting in vain; We are off to save our Country, Soon we shall return again.

Yes, I know it's sad, Dear Mother But your son must do his part; Look to God, and he will help you Ease the aching in your heart.

Now, dear Mother, duty waits me I must say, "Goodbye to you!" You will be proud of me, Mother Even as I am proud of you.

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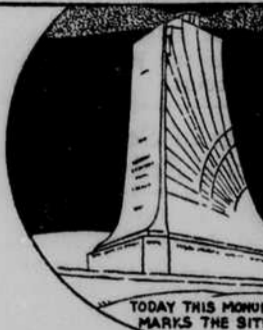
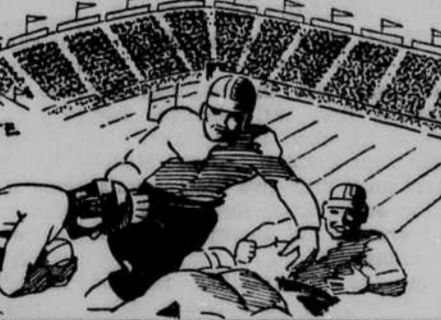
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