

## Smelter At Webster Due To Start Soon

### Former Teacher Of Sylva Is Jap Prisoner

W. Carr Hooper, Has Lived In Philippines For 12 Years, Was Taken In Fall Of Manila.

W. Carr Hooper, former resident and native of Jackson county, is being held in an internment camp in the Philippines by the Japanese. Mr. Hooper is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Vance Hooper, of East LaPorte.

Mr. and Mrs. Hooper are in good health and getting along as well as could be expected, according to a letter just received from Alvin Aurell, of New York, who has just returned to the States from the same camp.

Mr. Hooper was formerly superintendent of the Sylva graded school, and about 12 years ago, he and Mrs. Hooper, the former Miss Ruth Williams, of Fayetteville, Tenn., went to the Philippines, where Mr. Hooper was employed by the government to teach English. About six years ago he became associated with the Singer Sewing Machine Company as paymaster and held that position when Manila fell about two years ago.

The first direct letter from Mr. Hooper was recently received here and was written from Santo Tomas Internment Camp, Manila:

"We have been allowed to communicate to you the message that both of us are well and are as comfortably quartered as possible under the circumstances. We read, work on assignments, carve, do gardening, knit and engage in various activities. We have medical and hospital facilities.

"Kindly relay our message to Ruth's sister, Mrs. Atlee Moore, Fayetteville, Tenn., and tell her that when possible Ruth will need shoes, dresses, etc.

"Please give all my friends my regards and best wishes. Best of health to each of you and our love to all."

The latest word from Mr. Hooper and wife was through a friend, Alvin Aurell, who arrived in New York December first. His letter to Mr. Hooper's parents:

"I know that you are waiting anxiously for some news about your people who are in Manila and I am sorry that I could not get around to writing this letter earlier, but as you can imagine I have

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### '44 Business Depends On Collapse Of Axis, Says Roger Babson

Famous Statistician Predicts 10% Increase In Retail Sales During 1944.

By Roger W. Babson

Babson Park, Mass.—Most firms are booked to capacity. If any more business were offered they would not be able to handle it for many months. This is roughly my forecast for 1944. The Babsonchart Index of the Physical Volume of Business for the final quarter of 1943 averaged 141 compared with 150.7 for the same period of 1942. The all-time high was reached in December, 1942, when my Index stood at 155.6. It is not possible that this record can be exceeded in 1944.

#### COMMODITY PRICES

War developments will influence commodity prices during 1944. The collapse of Germany could result in a sharp, though temporary, reaction in leading wholesale indexes. If the going in Italy or elsewhere should prove unexpectedly hard—indicating a longer war—prices should firm. Cattle and hogs may bring lower average prices. Soybean and corn prices face the test of large marketings. They will do well to hold. Increased imports of coffee, cocoa and sugar will hold down their prices.

Continued heavy demand is indicated for most industrial commodities. To what extent efforts to roll back food prices to September 15, 1942, levels will succeed is pro-

### John A. Parris Is Back On Job At London Office

UP Correspondent Lands In London On Christmas Day, After Six Weeks At Home.

John A. Parris, Jr., U.P. correspondent in London, has returned safely after a six weeks rest period in the United States. His mother, Mrs. John A. Parris, received a cable saying that he landed in England on Christmas day. He was well and happy to be back on the job.

While he was home Parris spent most of his time speaking at different clubs and schools, and spent a lot of time in Washington before returning to England.

His book, "Spring Board to Berlin," has been released and he has sent a number of autographed copies to his friends in Sylva and Jackson County.

### W. C. T. C. Will Resume Classwork Monday Morning

Western Carolina Teachers College is scheduled to resume classes Monday morning, thus bringing to an end, the Christmas holidays.

The extra two weeks was taken as a means of conserving coal, college officials announced.

### 2-Inch Snow Fell In Area Sunday

The first snow of the season fell early Sunday morning, covering the area about two inches.

By noon the mercury had climbed to 36 and the rain, together with the higher temperatures, soon turned the snow into mush. The rains continued throughout Sunday night and Monday morning only slight traces of snow were seen in protected spots.

Traffic early Sunday morning was handicapped, but highway crews were soon on the job and main thoroughfares were soon opened before the snow started to melt.

### Part Of Sylva's Efficient Volunteer Fire Department



This picture, although made some time back, shows a part of the Sylva volunteer fire department and their truck in front of the fire station here. Reading from left to right: D. M. Tallent, David Dills, Roscoe Dills, now in the navy, Ray Cogdill, chief, Woody Hampton, now in the army, Charlie Campbell, Barf Cope and Paul Womack.

### Merchants Urged To Get Sufficient Rationing Tokens

All retailers of rationed foods have been reminded by the local War Price and Rationing Board that they have only until January 8 to apply for their initial stock of the new one-point red and blue rationing tokens which will be used as "change" after February 27.

Forms on which retailers will apply for tokens are already on hand at the local board. They should be presented to the bank which will supply tokens in unbroken boxes of 250. Tokens are slightly smaller than a dime and are made of a vulcanized fibre.

After February 27, all red and blue stamps in book 4 will have the same value of 10-points each, regardless of what figures may be printed on them. Tokens will be issued as "change" from the fixed 10-point value of each stamp, and the tokens will be valid indefinitely.

### Webster Principal Commissioned As Ensign In Navy

Robert Paul Buchanan, high school principal of Webster, has been commissioned an ensign in the U. S. naval reserve; it was announced by the Raleigh Office of Naval Officer procurement.

Ensign Buchanan is the son of Logan A. Buchanan of Cullowhee. He is a graduate of Western Carolina Teachers College.

### Well Known Railroad Man Retires

J. E. Ballinger, well known passenger train conductor on the Murphy Branch of the Southern, retired last week after serving the railroad continuously for 42 years.

He started his railroad work as brakeman in 1901, and was promoted to freight conductor in 1905. Eight years ago he was made passenger conductor.

Mr. Ballinger plans to make his home in Weaverville; with his daughter, and raise chickens and tend a garden.

### Ovid R. Jones Visits Parents In Sylva

Ovid R. Jones, aviation ordnance-man third class, son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Jones, of Sylva, has returned to the air base at Norfolk after spending a few days during the holidays with his parents.

Petty Officer Jones volunteered in December, 1942, and completed his boot training at Bainbridge, Md., before being sent to the air base at Jacksonville, Fla. After several months' training there he was transferred to Atlantic City, N. J., and is now stationed at Norfolk where he will be assigned to sea duty.

### Sylva Had Lowest Fire Loss In Years In 1943

Officials Urge Conservation Of Water In Sylva

The snow and continued rains over the week-end have tended to bring the Sylva water supply nearer the normal stage, yet town officials urged that all leaking spigots be checked and all waste water eliminated.

The long dry fall has brought the supply to a low point, and R. C. Allison, town clerk, said that every precaution must be taken to conserve the supply until the reserve it built up.

### No Arrests Made On New Year's Eve

The entire holiday season was one of the quietest ever observed here, as far as reports from peace officers were concerned.

No arrests were made on New Year's Eve, which, according to Sheriff Leonard Holden, was one of the quietest he ever remembered in the county. Very few people were on the streets for the arrival of the New Year.

Petty Officer Pelas D. Sutton, who has been ill in a hospital in the South Pacific, is now home for a rest period before entering a Naval Hospital for further treatment. He is with his wife, the former Evelyn Jarrett, at their home in Dillsboro.

### Tuckaseegee Baptists Sunday School Convention To Meet Sunday At 2:30



REV. H. G. HAMMETT

### Fire Department Here, All Volunteer, Has Set Up Excellent Record.

One of the best records in many years was made by the Sylva Fire Department in 1943. The lowest fire loss in many years, purchase of war bonds, and active participation in other war campaigns were accomplished.

Between January first and March 10, no calls were made by the fire department here, which is composed of trained volunteers who give of their time throughout the year to the protection of property.

The present department has sixteen active members, three honorary and five members in the armed forces.

The total damage done by fire within the corporate limits of Sylva during 1943 was less than \$100, it was estimated yesterday, as records were checked for the year's losses.

The report of the department shows that seven day calls and three night calls were made during the year.

The first call was on March 10, to the Sylva Laundry, little or no damage.

May 5, night, trash dump, fire in woods. No damage.

June 1, day, woodshed, owned by H. E. Lawrence burned, with slight damage, and home was saved.

June 10, day, hillside of Dr. Wilks, no damage.

Four calls were made extinguishing blazes of burning baled waste paper at the Mead Corporation. These calls were on June 22, Sept.

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### Huge Smelter To Use 4 Tons Raw Ore Per Hour, To Burn Coke

### Pvt. Paul Cooper, Of Whittier, Is Well Of Wounds

Pfc. Earl Cooper, A Brother In South Pacific, Is Suspicious Of Number 13.

Pvt. Paul T. Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. P. M. Cooper, of Whittier, was wounded on November 11th, according to a telegram received from the War Department. Another message received about ten days later notified them that he was back in active service. His mother and father received Christmas greetings and a radiogram from him. Pvt. Cooper entered the service on February 12, 1942, and first went to Fort Bragg, from there he was sent to Florida, then he was stationed at Hammer and March Fields in California, from there he was sent into foreign service.

He has not been home since he entered the army.

Mr. and Mrs. Cooper have another son, Pfc. Earl Cooper, who is serving with the Ferry Command somewhere in the South Pacific. Pfc. Cooper has been in service for two years and has not been home since he entered the army. Earl entered the service on Friday, 13th, his call number was No. 1313 and there have been several other instances where the letter 13 has been attached to him. He is rather superstitious and does not care for "13" but so far it has not caused him any bad luck.

### Methodists Will Honor Members Now In Service

On Sunday morning the service roll of the men in service who are members of the Sylva Methodist church will be dedicated at the morning service at 11 o'clock.

The families of these boys are asked to sit in a group and be the honor guests at this service.

Sgt. Thad B. Deitz, of the coast artillery guard stationed at Panama City, Fla., returned to his base last week after spending the Christmas holidays with his parents, Rev. and Mrs. T. F. Deitz, at Beta, and his wife, the former Miss Dorothy Baker. His enlistment has extended over a period of 14 years.

### First Mica Mined In State Was In Jackson County 77 Years Ago

RALEIGH—Reports of surveys of North Carolina's deposits of mica, feldspar, and kaolin, a cooperative project by the state and the United States Geological survey, are almost ready for publication and distribution, according to Dr. Jasner L. Stuckey, state geologist. These reports, of which four are now in stages of near-completion, are an outgrowth of the vital role mica is playing in mechanized warfare.

This state today produces more than 70 per cent of our domestic mica. Formerly mica was imported from India where it was produced and from which it was transported more cheaply than possible to mine here. The war stopped that supply.

Used For Insulation  
Mica is one of nature's triumphs in the realm of insulation. The vast electrical industry, its ramifications in radio (and maybe radar), at present depend on it. No other insulation has been discovered or devised that will do the same sort of job that mica does, and it will split into sheets of any desired thickness.

Mica is believed to have been mined by the Indians for ornamental purposes. Remains of extensive workings of ancient origin are reported to have been found. D. B. Sterrett, in his Geological Survey Bulletin, of which he has published several, says,

Early Activities  
"Modern mica mining in North Carolina was begun in 1867 by L. E. Persons, of Philadelphia, previously of Vermont. Mr. Pearson's attention was directed to Jackson county by some one in Philadelphia who had seen a mica crystal exhibited at the state fair at Columbia, S. C., in 1858, by D. D. Davies, of Webster. In the autumn of 1867 Mr. Persons went to Jackson county and learned from Mr. Davies the location of favorable prospects for mica in Jackson and Haywood counties, which he soon opened."

### Smoky Mountains Nickel, Chrome and Iron Company Are Completing Building Plant.

The 4-ton-an-hour smelter at Webster is scheduled to be in operation within thirty days, according to Jay J. Miller, general manager here of the Smoky Mountains Nickel, Chrome and Iron Company.

The smelter is 48 feet high, and is built on the place near Webster known as the Wilson property. The smelter will be heated with coke, and will consume four tons of raw ore per hour. The ramps from the tunnels to the smelter have been completed and high tension power lines are going in. The motors and fans used in operating the smelter will all be electrical. Heat will be generated to 4,300 degrees, it was said.

The entire output of the smelter will go direct into war work, Mr. Miller said.

The process of smelting the ore is a process developed by Mr. Miller's father several years ago at a similar mine in Pennsylvania. No details of the process could be discussed by Mr. Miller.

Actual construction started on the smelter on September 5th, and with favorable weather, plans are to have it operating within the next thirty days.

Other officials of the company here with Mr. Miller includes James Johnson, a director, and P. M. Ames, chief chemist.

The smelter is on property near the old Consolidated Nickel Company mine.

### Jackson Singers To Meet On 16th, Savannah School

Plans are being made for a large crowd at the regular monthly singing convention, which will be held at the Savannah school, on Sunday, January 16th, at two o'clock.

Robert N. Jones, president, said arrangements had been made to hold the convention at the Savannah school every third Sunday during the year.

A large attendance was present for the December meeting, with five quartettes, three singing classes and a trio providing music for the afternoon. All singers in the district are welcomed, and the public in general is invited to attend.