

# The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, JULY 16, 1942

## A Touch Of England

When this community was aroused from sleep early Tuesday morning by the shrill sounding of the fire alarm, followed by the terrific explosion which burst like an inferno, the citizens were given a small touch of what our English cousins endure in their daily lives.

We have felt so protected here that it has been hard for us to realize that in other sections of the world, even in the hours of the night while we relax and sleep, others are keeping vigil, with dread in their hearts from enemy attack.

While the fatalities were greater than we have ever known in an accident here, they were mild in comparison to the havoc of the German bombs that drop over England, and the dangers the men in the service are meeting in combat.

The tragedy should quicken our conception of the war, and should make each one of us more conscious of our part in this conflict. It should fire our patriotism to greater activity and tighten the bond between the fighting zones and those of us back home.

## Disaster At Waynesville

The disaster of peace-time life have their heroes no less than the critical moments of battle. Manager W. L. Hardin, Jr., of the Standard Oil distributing station in Waynesville, himself badly injured in the explosion at the station this morning while an oil truck was unloading, gave his first thought and effort to the protection of the public endangered by the blast and the fires that followed.

The accident itself again fixes public thought upon the hazards incident to the operation of trucks, carrying explosives, over the highways, through the streets and into the congested areas of towns and cities. Some day such dangerous traffic may be separated from the ordinary streams of commercial life; and no doubt the oil stations themselves will be removed from residence and business districts.

The people of Asheville are distressed over the terrible accident, and many persons here early today offered their sympathy and their practical aid to the business firms and families affected by the worst misfortune in Waynesville's history—Asheville Times.

## Good Suggestion

In a recent copy of The New York Times a minister points out that at this hour when there is so much need of willing and complete cooperation between each American citizen and his government that the prayer to be found in the pew of George Washington in St. Paul's Chapel might well be repeated and taken to heart by every one of us:

"Almighty God, we make our earnest prayer that Thou will keep the United States in Thy holy protection, that Thou will incline the hearts of the citizens to cultivate a spirit of subordination and obedience to government; to entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow-citizens of the United States at large."

The sentiments expressed offer another proof of how Washington earned and deserved the title of "Father of his country."

## Not For American Women

The press gave out from Washington last week that the society women were worried about their curtsies with so much visiting royalty around.

King George of Greece, quick of eye and movement, is said to have saved one from falling, and King Peter of Yugoslavia, though slower, had to pick another one up.

Experts on protocol said the ladies were probably dipping a little too deep and pointed out that they were not expected to curtsy at all excepting when they were guests at an embassy or legation. The explanation must have given relief to a lot of women who were wishing to show the friendly visitors they knew what was due them.

It is rather unfair to refer in general to congress slightly. In a group of 96 senators and 435 representatives, 531 in all, it stands to reason there are some wise men, some nincompoops, some good men, some wicked men, some patriots who will truly serve the people, and some opportunists, who will look out for themselves.

Congress is made up nowadays, of exactly the same kind of people that compose your list of acquaintances.—Reidsville Review.



## HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

A recent story about Churchill... that certainly appeals to us is the one about his personal priority system... it seems that the British leader has so many things to worry about... and he has had them such a long time... that he has perfected a system of worry... he casts aside all thought of but one worry at a time... he takes the top worry on his list and thoroughly goes into a worry huddle... for instance... one day Kharkov might be A-1 worry... and the next it would be Egypt... Mr. Churchill says that in this system he "can worry more efficiently"... which really has a very good point... with everything else pushed aside... and worry concentrated on one subject... no doubt some light does come to a problem... that otherwise might have no ray of hope if jumbled all up with a half dozen other "headaches"...

A most unusual illustration of tact was told in a story we recently heard from Mr. Josephus Daniels... about a daughter of Col. Robt. E. Lee... Miss Lee was visiting in Germany... she was entertained by royalty... and received with great interest and courtesy... when she arrived at the home of some German of high birth and social standing one evening... she was introduced as the daughter of the greatest general the United States had ever produced... and she was called "Miss Grant" at once... and hence forth for the remainder of the evening... she was "Miss Grant"... rather than embarrass the person who so called her she did not explain... under the circumstances it took not only tact, but a very generous nature to let the mistake go unnoticed...

Which reminds us... it was too bad that the rationing of gas and tires reduced the number of persons attending the dedication of the Confederate memorial on the Blue Ridge Parkway... it was an impressive program, though brief, in the forest... it is a beautiful idea... to perpetuate the memory of those 125,000 North Carolinians who wore the uniform of gray... and also render a service to their descendants... as Mr. Bosworth pointed out in his acceptance speech... "It is a memorial that will increase with beauty and usefulness as the years go by... fifty years hence... the trees will have reached a glorious maturity of beauty... that will draw visitors as to a sacred shrine... and when the now tiny roots take hold in the earth and reach out in their growth... moisture will be held at the headwaters of streams and protect the people who live in the valleys below... The event must have been gratifying to the forest service... for it gave proof to them... that the public was beginning to appreciate their work for the preservation of the trees and that their labors have not been in vain..."

One point Mr. Bosworth made that was significant... he said that by the very act of creating such a memorial... the originators of the idea showed that they had faith that the American way of life... would continue... we hear often... well we have no time for that or this... it can wait until the war is over... but such dedications as that of Sunday should not wait... they bespeak sentiment and tradition... that are the roots of American life... and we should not let anything crowd them out... we are fighting this war to keep them...

We are glad to see that the annual folk festival is to be staged in Asheville as usual... but we are inclined to think that the ranks of the dancers will have to be filled by new recruits from the younger generation... for there are many

who formerly kept time to mountain music... who are now marching with Uncle Sam... are maybe flying... or maybe sailing... in fact the boys are in every branch of the service... a number of former Soco dancers are now in the service, according to Sam Queen... leader of this famous group... his own son, Richard... is in the air corps... training at Napier Field, Dothan, Ala... John Reeves, of the air corps... Rankin Ferguson... medical corps of the army... stationed at O'Riley Hospital in Springfield... Dick Campbell... Ensign Frederick Nichols... Ralph Moody, of Camp Wolters, Texas... Ed Constantine, of Fort Jackson... June Setzer, of Camp Lee, Va... Dick Moody, U. S. Navy... somewhere on Pacific... and two Jackson county boys... all doing their part for their country...

Contributed from C. A. Paul's column in the Charlotte News... which is just as applicable in Waynesville as Charlotte... "I have been reading Gately's Educator, a dium on practically all subjects... one of its most interesting departments tells readers how to write letters of love and courtship... Here are some samples: Dear Miss Knight; You must have been aware that for some time past my feelings toward you have been stronger than those of mere friendship... Our long acquaintance has given me ample opportunity to learn the many excellences of your character, and has also afforded you an opportunity to judge whether I possess those characteristics which you would desire in a husband... I have made known my intentions to your father and have received his kind approval... Am I presumptuous in hoping you will consent to become my wife?... Yours truly, Benjamin Freeman..."

And the lady's answer, if favorable... (which we judge they were mostly)... "My dear Mr. Freeman; Your letter to me was a surprise, yet a very pleasant one, for it gave me great happiness... I will say to you, as frankly, as you confessed your affection for me that I reciprocate your sentiments and will strive to be to you all that you can desire... I shall be pleased to see you when you can make it convenient to call... Yours sincerely... Alice Knight..."

A far cry indeed from "Come on babe, let's go to South Carolina... (or Clayton... Ga.) to get hitched..."

The earliest explorer known to have navigated the Potomac River to within 25 miles of Washington was Spanish Admiral Pedro Menendez (1571).

## THE OLD HOME TOWN



## Rambling Around

By W. CURTIS RUSS  
Bits of this, that and the other picked up here, there and yonder.

## Voice OF THE People

If you had your choice of a place of residence for the duration of the war what would be your selection?

Mrs. Albert Abel—"I would still say Waynesville."

C. V. Bell—"Right where I am now. In fact nothing could induce me to want to move, and certainly not to the beach."

J. P. Dicus—"I believe that I would say Waynesville, Haywood county, North Carolina, for I don't know of a better place."

Mrs. Harry Lee Limer—"I would say Western North Carolina, for I like everything about it, people, climate, water and it is certainly a safe place to live."

Mrs. Raymond Stovall—"I would choose Western North Carolina, for I feel that the people in the mountains are more protected than those any where."

Mrs. John B. Evans—"I would rather be in the mountains than any where I know right now."

Mrs. Mabel Brown Abel—"I would take a farm anywhere in Western North Carolina for I would feel safer there than anywhere."

Mrs. S. H. Kelley—"I wouldn't mind living in a busy center in a big city where there was a lot going on, if I could help about this war. Every time I see the classifications made by the draft board, I wish that the women were being drafted to serve."

Oliver H. Shelton—"I would stay right under the Balsams."

Mrs. Grady Boyd—"Waynesville, because it is home and I would feel the same way even if it was in danger of being bombed."

## What Made News Years Ago

TEN YEARS AGO 1932

Duke Day to be held at lake on Monday, with Dr. W. P. Few and Willis Smith, as principal speakers. Noted prison chaplain pays visit to prisoners in jail and camp here.

Sheep raisers of Haywood county will have chance to buy and sell at ram sale and exchange to be held at Clyde.

J. W. West succeeds V. R. Rhinehart, as commander of McClure Williams chapter of the D. A. V. Rowley Pless accompanied by Luther Pless and Waif Trull, captured a large still on East Fork.

Hugh Penland, Haywood county farmer, is found dead on highway, hit by unknown driver of automobile.

Mrs. Hugh Massie entertained with party for Mrs. Dewey Stovall. Rev. W. H. Baucum will hold revival near Raleigh during next two weeks.

## FIVE YEARS AGO 1937

Residential light rates are cut, with low rates same as charged by Carolina Power and Light Company.

Last rites are held in Cramerton, on Friday for C. D. Welch, 54, former citizen of Haywood county and prominent textile leader in South.

Park Theatre has new sound equipment installed.

Company "H" will leave for two weeks camp. Governor Hoey is impressed with beauties of Great Smoky Mountains National Park. Gasoline prices advanced one cent, with explanation made.

Harry M. ... will be in charge the weather reporting. James Lawrence, shipping of local cranberry, is killed truck crash pole. Joe Wright will retire after year of service with the Southern Railway.

## Others

When death for themselves loomed near, it was of others that W. L. Hardin, Jr., and Lawrence L. Kerley thought first on that night of the most disastrous accident ever recorded on the pages of local history.

In great emergencies it is said that our true natures come to the surface and our actions reflect the principles we have cherished in our hearts. Lauriston Hardin, Jr., and Lawrence Kerley, at the gate of possible death, forgot to think of their own safety in their unselfish consideration of others.

They felt the responsibility of others. They knew in those homes near the plant were sleeping innocent little children, mothers, fathers and others, all unconscious of the lurking shadow which meant instant death.

This sermon was not delivered with the background of the dignity of a pulpit, but from chaos and confusion in the dead of the night, yet its lesson is none the less impressive. When one considers the risk these men took for others, their sacrifices should humble all of us.

## Spiritual Sustenance

While the county-wide revival which started in 17 churches in Haywood County on Sunday is being conducted by one denomination, namely the Baptists, the results will be felt in all churches in the county.

If there was ever a time in the history of those living today, when spiritual sustenance was needed, it is now. America, in the opinion of many, has come a long way from the solid faith of its forefathers. There have been so many faiths and angles from which religion has been presented, that it has often tended to confuse people.

Now the time is urgent for sound fundamentals. We must come back as a people to a faith that will guide us with courage through the years ahead, as we carry on to victory and again as we pick up life after peace has come.

We are going to face issues that are too big for us to work out alone, and only through divine guidance and comfort can we keep intact our faith and resolve to hold fast to American freedom and ideals in a changing world.

## It Must Be A Good Spot

It is said that often blessings nearest at hand are not properly appreciated. They are too often taken for granted with no thought of appreciation given them.

Residents of this community seem to realize their many blessings, if one judges by the answers in the feature "Voice of the People" in this week's issue.

Of one accord they prefer to be just where they are at this particular moment. We agree with them, we may be missing some of the excitement of close contact with certain war efforts, but we have a more definite feeling of safety, at least from actual attack, than they do in some other sections.

A new wrinkle in selling war bonds, is allowing civilians who buy bonds to write their names on bombs that will be dropped over Germany. That old adage about a "fool's name is like his face—always seen in public places" would not apply in this instance.

WASHINGTON FIRST  
John Adams was the first president to occupy the White House moving in November, 1800.