

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1942
(One Day Nearer Victory)

What Will War Do To America?

An article in November's Harper Magazine gives one of the most far reaching outlines of what the war will do for America that we have read. In the opening paragraph the author sets forth that there are two things about this war that all Americans take for granted. The first is that we shall win it. The second is that we shall have to make the greatest national effort in our history to achieve victory. To foresee what the war will do to America we must, therefore, keep these two assumptions in mind. We must first consider just what has to be done to win the war. Then we must consider what our victory will do to us and the rest of the world.

The national effort required to win the war, so the article states, has already revolutionized the American way of life. We have only to look about our daily lives right here in Haywood county to know that this is true. We are all living by a more complicated set of rules and regulations than we dreamed could happen even a year ago.

To see what may be in store for us we have only to look at some of the other countries, Australia, Canada and Great Britain. They are sacrificing certain liberties to win the war, and we are doing the same.

Some of the definite things that will happen to American are pointed out in the article as follows:

The war will abolish most unemployment. The war will make it necessary for America to feed and reequip most of Europe and some of Asia.

The war will whittle away some of the recent gains of labor.

The war will give the United States a self-sufficient economy.

The war will increase the power of the administrator at the expense of the professional politician.

Our new army in peace as in war, will remain our most powerful pressure group and the reservoir from which our next generation of leaders will come.

The war will bring compulsory military training here to stay.

The war will give American air power control of the skies of the world.

The war will create a new spirit of nationalism in our people.

We Should Be Proud

We have every right to be proud of our Haywood County boys who have made such outstanding records in vocational agriculture under the guidance of their teachers, who deserve to share in the recognition of the boys who have been their students.

Out of the twelve boys who won American Farmer degrees from North Carolina at the National Future Farmers of America convention at Kansas City last week, two of the boys were from Haywood County, Edd McCracken of Fines Creek, and James Boone, of the Pigeon Road.

In addition to these boys Sam Arrington, State Star farmer, who is now a student at State College, was among those who attended the convention.

There is not only pride of the moment in the achievements, but confidence in the future, for it will be their generation who will have to build back a country torn by the damages wrought by a war.

What Are We Like?

Now that this country is being brought closer to other nations by the present war, we are becoming more interested in the people whom we are fighting with as well as those whom we are fighting.

In turn they are curious about us. We were interested during the week to read a list of books that had been compiled by the authoress Pearl S. Buck, and other American book critics that would best tell the people of Asia what the American people are like.

The list included: Huckleberry Finn and the adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain; Abraham Lincoln by Carl Sandburg; "The Flowering of New England," by Van Wycke Brooks; "Arrowsmith" by Sinclair Lewis; "Main Street," also by Lewis.

"The Folks" by Ruth Cuckow; "Leaves of Grass" by Walt Whitman; "My Antonia" by Willa Cather; "The Yearling" by Marjorie Rawlings; "The Rise of American Civilization" by Chas. A. and Mary Beard; "The Epic of America" by James Truslow Adams; "The Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck; and "Little Women" by Louisa May Alcott.

We were relieved that though "The Grapes of Wrath" was included "Tobacco Road" was left off. We imagine, like other such lists, most persons would make additions and subtractions to the list.

Protect Machinery

The Southern Planter in a recent issue warned the farmers about protecting their farm machinery and not leaving it out to the mercy of the weather.

It pointed out the fact few types of new farm machines will be available another year, but that repair parts appear to be plentiful.

Present implements will have to carry the load of increased farm production in 1943, so every care should be given the supply on hand.

The advice is "Don't wait until you want to use a piece of machinery before conditioning it," which should be timely in war or peace. Tools should be put under shelter, and all metal parts oiled to protect them from weather.

Further advice was given about utilizing the rainy day for checking over the equipment and making minor repairs and ordering new parts. Equipment that isn't worth repairing and protecting from the weather should be sold for scrap, it was pointed out.

Much In This Name

We heartily endorse the sentiments of Nell Battle Lewis in one paragraph of her column "Incidentally", which appeared in last Sunday's Raleigh News and Observer as follows:

"Across the bottom of one of the pages of the current Reader's Digest is this sentence in black-faced type 'Help defeat Hitler by calling him by his right name, Schickelgruber'. On the surface that may seem silly, but I believe there's something in it.

"Can you imagine a world-conquered by the name of Schickelgruber? Neither can I. Schickelgruber is definitely a deflating cognomen. Hitler might be ranked with Alexander and Napoleon and Caesar—but Schickelgruber never.

"The suggestion carried by the Schickelgruber is that of an entirely commonplace individual—in fact a rather ridiculous one. Psychologically The Reader's Digest has something in that idea, and I pledge this column to its support."

Might Be Overlooked

After reading of a friendly contest by two well known citizens of Lenoir, we wondered if keys had been overlooked here during the past few weeks since the scrap drive started.

The Lenoir citizens started seeing which one could collect the most keys. Boxes were placed in public places where patriotic citizens could drop their old keys in, and at a definite time both boxes were opened to see which was the winner.

We thought it was an excellent plan. I know that it has long been a custom for the thrifty person to save every key that came around the house, one way or the other. But, seriously speaking, how many of the keys ever work? It seems to us that after saving them ourselves over a long period, we have never yet had one of the things to fit another lock, other than the one it was intended to fit.



HERE and THERE

By
HILDA WAY GWYN

We want you to join with us this week in honoring the State Guard unit . . . we doubt if the public in general knows how much real honest to goodness work and drilling the men are taking in their workouts at the armory . . . but, of course, we have proof of how our local men rate . . . because of the fact that Colonel J. Harden Howell is now in command of the Second North Carolina Regiment and that Major W. A. Bradley, former captain of the local unit, is now in command of the 8th Battalion . . . the State Guard units are steadily gaining prestige in North Carolina, as well as in the communities that are lucky to have the groups . . . In the past when it was necessary to call out protection for strikers and disasters . . . the National Guard was on hand . . . ready to go . . . but now the National Guard has gone . . . and for how long, no one knows . . . When they were called to active duty . . . the state was left without any defense force . . . such a thing is not advisable in times of peace . . . much less so in days of warfare.

We have been oblivious too long in America of what others were doing . . . Every time we think of Pearl Harbor . . . it is with a terrific shock to realize that such danger lurked so near . . . and yet this country had been so casual . . . that the attack was not anticipated . . . Before peace is written into our lives again in America . . . with our armies concentrating on war . . . we have no surety of safety from internal troubles . . . after we have been aroused . . . we should know by now that anything can happen . . . A group of armed forces at home is a necessity . . . a wise precaution . . . a type of preparation . . . that should give every citizen a feeling of security . . . in our observation . . . outside of the army . . . there is no group of war effort taking their time more seriously (. . . if you don't believe us ask one of the State Guard "widows").

Col. Howell, who was the main speaker at the barbecue supper given by the local unit on Friday night . . . told the guests some interesting facts about the State Guard . . . Col. Howell said in part . . . "When the National Guard was called into service in 1940 . . . the state was left without any interior protection . . . The Legislature of 1941 provided for the organization of the State Guard . . . They evidently thought the National Guard would be back home before the State Guard could organize, as only \$30,000 was appropriated for the biennium, \$15,000 for each year. Equipment necessarily had to be cut short . . . as will be noted by the length of these blouses," explained the Colonel.

"As soon as the Legislature provided the authority, 40 companies of fifty men and three officers were organized and activated in the state . . . The state furnished the uniforms and the government the rifles. The rifles have been taken up and sent to the Chinese and now we are armed with shot guns and three sub-machine guns for each company," said Colonel Howell.

"The purpose of the guard is interior defense. No one knows what may happen, there may be interior trouble, but we believe the time for paratrooper has passed. The guard is here as a guarantee that the principles of a democratic government for which our men are fighting will be here when they return. . . . Prior to December, 1941, each unit operated in-

dependently. At that time the state was divided into eight battalions of five companies each. Each battalion was commanded by a major, with one first lieutenant as adjutant, a second lieutenant as supply officer . . . and a sergeant major, an enlisted man. At the same time two regiments were set up, but these did not function."

In September of this year, there was another setup. This provided for a brigade commander, with a full staff of officers. Two regiments with a colonel commanding each, lieutenant colonel as executive, with a captain as adjutant, service company, which would also operate as a gun company. Prior to this there had not been any medical unit, now each regiment has a medical unit with a lieutenant colonel, a major, and captain, with enlisted personnel . . . the State Guard now consists of 40 rifle companies, two headquarters and service companies . . . and two medical units, totaling approximately 2,200 men," said the Colonel.

In speaking of the recent promotions Col. Howell said . . . "I do not know whether the people of Waynesville have ever thought of it, but in all my connection with the guard of this state, I have never known one company to have furnished so many officers . . . Actually there has been so many officers going out of this company, that they do not now have pants for the enlisted personnel. First I went taking with me Captain M. H. Bowles and Paul Davis, then Major Bradley, taking with him Ralph Prevost as adjutant and Willard Moody as sergeant major. When this company was transferred as the headquarters and service company, it became my prerogative and duty to name the officers . . . I now introduce to you the new officers of the local unit . . . Lt. Frank Byrd, the new captain, 2nd Lt. Ben Sloan, is now first lieutenant and Sgt. Roy Ruff, second lieutenant."

In case you were not present, you need have no doubt as to the popularity of Capt. Byrd or Lt. Sloan and Lt. Ruff . . . the ovation they received showed the high esteem in which they are held by the men of the local unit.

In closing Col. Howell paid a tribute to General James W. Jenkins, commander of the State Guard . . . saying in part . . . "He is a gentleman of the highest type. A soldier from the ground up and of tried and proven ability . . . I would be glad to serve

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

Granting that more of us feel the need of additional knowledge, what subject do you regret that you did not study more thoroughly while in school?

Oliver H. Shelton—"I would like to know more about the English language."

Zed Curtis—"I wish that I had studied mathematics more thoroughly. It would have been a great help to me in business."

Wayne Rogers—"English. It was one subject that I did not like and I regret that I did not study it more."

J. R. Reeves—"Most boys do not like written work, and I am sure that I did not do as much work in English as I should have. The young person so often does not realize the importance of good English."

Mrs. Sallie Lou Justice—"If I had it to do over again, I would study everything more thoroughly and take advantage of every opportunity."

Mrs. Harry Rung—"English, for I feel that proper speech is the most important study in after life for people judge you more by this than anything else."

Miss Evonia Howell—"I regret that I did not study more history and geography, for both would be such a great help today in understanding the current events."

Miss Kate Phillips—"English, as I think that is the subject that should be stressed more than any other in our schools."

Mrs. Bon Atkinson—"I would say English. I think that every one should have a good course in English. When you are out in the world people judge you by the English you speak more than anything else."

Jack Messer—"I regret not taking more vocational training."

J. C. Brown—"There is so much that I wish that I had studied, that I would like to go over again and concentrate on all of my studies. I would like to recall the wasted hours. I believe on second thought I regret not studying English and history more thoroughly."

HORSES

To save gas and rubber, more than 125 saddle horses are being used by Indian service extension employees on at least 14 Indian reservations in this country.

under him in any capacity . . . I assure the people that they need have no fears as to the ability of the guard to meet any situation. . . . and such a compliment by a veteran of World War No. 1, who was in the thick of the fight 25 years ago is not an idle remark.

Anyone present at the supper at the armory could not have failed to have been impressed with the State Guard . . . but between us . . . we were also keenly interested in the new recruits, high school boys, who had drawn K. P. as their initial duty . . . and if they step around on other duties as they did in serving, we predict that some day there may be a general among them.

Not since the mercury below zero have I had the shivers like I took last Friday night in the armory.

As a guest of the State Guard at their bountiful banquet, I "back stage" or rather "back of the house" with Captain Ben Sloan, First Lieutenant Frank Byrd, there saw first hand what the Japs are hearing so much about the Solomons.

Neatly stacked in the steel were three Thompson sub-machine guns. Small looking contraptions, but instruments of death, you realize that the little pie mechanism can spit out 720 rounds a minute. Now stop and think that out—12 bullets a second spurring out of the end of the thing. By the way, the bullets are .45 calibre.

The gun can be regulated to shoot slower than that rate when the Japs are in view speed is opened to the full.

Lieutenant Sloan tried on new gun recently, and said it minded him of turning a hose loose on the side of a hill so fast did the lead fly from the muzzle.

There are certain tricks of that gun, however, but since members of the State Guard get to shoot the lead-eating around here, there is no use into detail in this column.

Backing up the machine there are rows and rows of debarreled shot guns, of the gauge variety. The State Guard keeps more than a thousand rounds of ammunition on hand. There is no military secret, but what is kept, and how to get to something that Uncle Sam's officers of the State Guard under their hats.

After casting a parting glance at the mean looking barrel of machine gun, I was shown in supply room, and Captain proudly opened a new shipment of modern chow kits—neat lined plates, with dividers, them, that keeps the peas and potatoes from mixing into hash a soldier has been served.

All the knives, forks, spoons, cups are coated in paraffin, packed away ready to go on the field the company. Canned goods every variety are stacked in shelves, to such an extent the housewife would turn green enviously to see how these are kept their pantry.

Out in the clothing supply there is an outfit for eight men. The company now has men and can use the first that comes in and are accepted.

The men enjoy their work in the State Guard. They have fun, and learn things about military world they would not know otherwise. Many members are now in service have found the experiences every Tuesday night at the armory has helped them since they started in for Uncle Sam.

The State Guard works hard. They play hard. And they certainly believe in good food. They're not just with it either. This they did last Friday night when the invited many friends down to a banquet of barbecued chicken and all trimmings.

If you lack rhythm in your step and hardly know left from right it will pay you to go down Tuesday night, sit on the sidelines a while, and shuffle your feet time with those State Guardsmen.

Lane Arrington, son of Mr. Mrs. Lane Arrington, Sr., was recently elected a council member representing third floor of the son Hall, at Western Carolina Teachers College. Council members are officers of the Men's government, and have responsibilities in connection with enforcing the rules of the governing committee on their respective floors.

At the meeting in which Arrington was elected, the present body, under the leadership of Dean W. E. Bird, set up the following rules to be observed by the members of the dormitory: Lights are to be out at 11 o'clock, and minimum of noise before that time. Student caught drinking or smoking will be expelled from college. Dean Bird emphasized the college men owe to their country and to their country at this time.

The 2,000 English women employed in lumbering are "lumber jills."