

The Mountaineer

Published By
THE WAYNESVILLE PRINTING CO.
Main Street
Waynesville, North Carolina
The County Seat of Haywood County

Phone 137

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W. Curtis Russ and Marion T. Bridges, Publishers

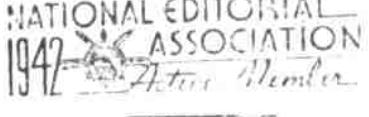
PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES

One Year, In Haywood County.....	\$1.75
Six Months, In Haywood County.....	.90
One Year, Outside Haywood County.....	2.50
Six Months, Outside Haywood County.....	1.50
All Subscriptions Payable In Advance	

Entered at the post office at Waynesville, N. C., as Second Class Mail Matter, as provided under the Act of March 3, 1879, November 20, 1914.

Obituary notices, resolutions of respect, cards of thanks, and notices of entertainment for profit, will be charged for at the rate of one cent per word.



THURSDAY, MARCH 25, 1943
(One Day Nearer Victory)

Reading Habits

Every now and then you notice something about the reading habits of the public today. The record of book sales recently compiled by Marshall Fields and Company which can be taken as a fair yardstick of the country's reading habits, shows a great increase in reading.

Children, it is said, are reading more today as well as their elders, than ever before. Books about foreign countries in which the war is being fought are said to have become more popular than at any time in the past.

The Waynesville Public Library had the largest number of readers and largest circulation in the history of the institution last year. The readers came from every section of the county.

There are many explanations for these changes. People are not riding with gasoline and tire rationing. They are spending more evenings quietly at home. They have naturally turned to reading.

With the war, there has been a stimulation in the sale of Bibles, for people are more interested in religion. Cookbooks are said to be increasing in popularity, for with rationing of food, menus must be carefully planned, with the meat substitute ever in mind.

Textbooks and specialized subjects are being sought, for with the training the men are getting in the army, and the many highly technical jobs that have been brought about by increased production, now open to the public in general, persons seeking employment are more studious. They must know their subject.

So in refuge from the war we turn to books for both information and the pleasure they give us, as they open up new worlds to us in this hour of stress. They help to steady our nerves.

The Old Gray Bonnet

Lesser things have started a revolution. Let today British women hardly look up from their work. Only one new hat every three years, under the new quota! Undoubtedly the Government held its breath. But nothing happened. The earth continued to turn upon its axis. The stars held firmly to the skies. The sun ran its accustomed course.

It is, indeed, a new world. One in which men and women have become adaptable, more resourceful, more versatile. Only one hat in three years! Instead of shrieking in protest, the average woman today accepts the inevitable with fortitude and proceeds to trim it over so cleverly that no one would ever know it was the same "inevitable" that she wore last year.

In fact, it is doubtful if such an edict would cause very much more of a furor in the United States, what with bandanas, snoods, fascinators to save the day. The chapeau, you may have noticed, is not the formal creation that it once was. Indeed, a mere cluster of artificial flowers, affixed to the pompadour frequently becomes a hat to all intents and purposes. Or it may be a perky velvet bow or piece of fur.

So if "coupon 55" suddenly becomes good for one hat for the duration, American women will probably take the news with the same calmness expressed by their British sisters. The old gray bonnet will undergo an overhauling, and come out looking like a new model. Men will still pretend to be amazed at the result.—Christian Science Monitor.

Fires

Our sympathy was with the city fire department personnel last week when the public tried to rush the grandstand, so to speak, at the scenes of the fires which occurred in the community.

It must have been more than annoying for the firemen to have to push their way through the crowds in order to do their work, when the coast should have been clear for them.

We recall not so many years ago when the city firemen attempted to educate the people to the fact that they were not wanted at fires. Their place was safely at home, removed from the scene of the conflagration.

There are usually just so many persons needed to get a fire under control and the number of trained firemen in most cases is adequate. These facts have been told the public many times in the past, but apparently they had been forgotten.

Another thing we are asked not to do, which seems a very natural thing, is to start calling central and asking her as a special favor to tell us where the fire is, the minute the siren sounds.

It is said that usually the switchboard turns to a lighted Christmas tree almost simultaneously with the sounding of the fire alarm. Now when one thinks at all about the matter, it is a simple matter to understand that central has no time to bother with you or me. Her duty is to see that everything is arranged to aid the fire fighters. She does not have time to satisfy our curiosity. In the future think twice before you take down the receiver.

In behalf of the public we feel that none of us has completely recovered from the explosion of last July, and that we are more conscious of what a fire can do than we once were, and that alarm brings it all back to us that night.

Regardless of the friendly interest that may prompt us to visit a fire, remember that we are not wanted, for we hinder, instead of help. So the next time you hear the fire alarm, just sniff the air, to see that it is not your own house or your next door neighbor's, and then turn over and go back to sleep—that is if you can under the circumstances.

Nutrition

If any person in Haywood County fails to eat properly during the coming year it will be on their own shoulders, for with the county agents preaching day in and day out the gospel of the Victory Gardens and the health department now on our heels about nutrition, we have been given the warning.

We would say that both are a silver lining in the dark war clouds. It means that we are going to pay more attention to our dietary habits. We once heard a well known physician say that "if people ate the proper food, the doctors would have little to do."

The government is going to aid us in studying food values. We are going to be shown how foolish it is to cater to the whims of the palate instead of what our bodies need in the matter of nourishment.

There might have been a time, not so distant when it fell on the wife to be concerned more with the food supply than the rest of the family. The 1943 picture has changed, for with the war production plan, it will take the whole family to supply the labor and work that will go into the gardens and the conservation and preservation of foods.

We are all going to make a close study of food values. We are not going to waste our energy in the hot sun this summer and over the sweltering heat of the cook stove canning unless we are certain of the value of the product and what it will mean in health giving essentials.

The men in the armed forces are not the only ones in training in America. We are scheduled for training courses whether on the front line of battle or on the back line at home.

Service

If anyone in the audience at the Red Cross Rally at the courthouse on Thursday night had any doubts about the service of the American Red Cross either at home or abroad, they must have gone away with all doubts banished, after hearing Miss Jane Hashagen speak.

Miss Hashagen brought the boys wounded in hospitals far away from home very close, as she told of the needs of the boys and how the Red Cross took the place of their families as nearly as they could.

The reports of the work of the local chapter were gratifying and showed how much the Haywood County folks value what the Red Cross is doing today.

THE WAYNESVILLE MOUNTAINEER

"SCRATCH ONE FLAT TOP"



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

you rather unpopular, but it will eliminate crowded conditions about you.

Don't pay any attention to the air raid warden. If he doesn't get out of your way, knock him out.

If you are a victim of a direct hit by a bomb, don't go all to pieces, remain where you were killed and you will be attended to presently.

We have never liked the type of religion that was bounded by the four walls of a church alone . . . but the kind that walks in the byways and is evidenced in daily living . . . the following definition of Christianity had a strong appeal to us and we are passing it on . . .

In work, it is fairness; In society, it is courtesy; In business, it is honesty; In the home, it is kindness; Toward the weak, it is help; Toward the strong, it is trust; Toward the wicked, it is resistance;

Toward the penitent, it is forgiveness; Toward the fortunate, it is contentment;

In other words, Christianity is a way of life—and it is incidentally, the Best Way.

This thing we call Democracy and for which we fight is based on the Ten Commandments, on the Sermon on the Mount and on the teachings of Jesus.

We have a bunch they are away from home . . . and maybe that pan was bought so that when they all came back again . . . she could make those biscuits in the quantities she did when they were younger . . . and then have some left over for a cold supper . . . for that pan was not bought for the modern four by four kitchen.

If we have heard one person say "you know I wanted such and such a thing to eat this week and I suddenly realized it was rationed", we have heard a dozen . . . it is funny the things we can give up with a laugh . . . for there are so many luxuries that we may miss but we will soon forget, but this matter of food is no joke . . .

It has been interesting to see that the city papers are carrying just as much about gardening and the necessity of preservation of food as the country papers . . . they say that cabbages sprouted on the tops of bomb shelters in England . . . and that "hands that swung the golf club reached to pick up the hoe" . . . and that "nimble fingers that danced over typewriter keys took on the task of weeding" . . .

Who would have ever thought the slowly dried beans would have reached such a state of high prestige as it is fast attaining, comes to mind as we realize how they tear down your point system.

With the blackout practice fresh in our minds . . . the following Air Raid Precautions may prove of interest . . . they are not original, but were contributed to us by a friend of this column . . .

In case of an air raid alarm run like H—. It doesn't matter where you run, so long as you run like H—. If you're inside, run outside . . . if you're outside, run inside.

It is suggested that you equip yourself with track shoes, so you will experience no difficulty in getting over the people in front of you.

Always make the most of air raid alarms:

If you are in a bakery—grab a pie.

If you are in a bar—grab a bottle.

If you are in a movie—grab a blonde.

During air raid alarms, always yell bloody murder, it adds to the confusion and scares H— out of the kids and the old ladies.

If you find an unexploded bomb, shake it—there might be something wrong with it.

If an incendiary bomb should happen to fall in your neighborhood, throw gasoline on it, you can't put it out and you might as well have fun with it.

Always eat garlic, onions or limburger cheese before entering air raid shelters. It will make

Rambling Around

Bits of this, that and the other picked up here, there and yonder.

By W. CURTIS RUSS

Experienced and successful gardeners tell you that this is the ideal time to plant potatoes. There are as many different ways to plant potatoes as there are to treat a cold, but all agree at the time—this week.

And speaking of gardening, planting, the Rotary Club, ed.

If you fear a dry season, consider space in the last on "Garden Hints".

Plant Irish potatoes in the moon (if you have one).

Plant watermelons in the sun (that's where they get the water).

If you fear a dry season, consider space in the last on "Garden Hints".

Someone wants to know why cabbage has a head but no tail, why a potato has eyes but no nose, why corn has ears but no hair, why all beets are red.

You may be able to find out and even bull trout in the water.

Light enough of the day to eat a vegetable, a tomato, and lettuce get away from the Garden.

Come to think of it, business is dependent upon weather. Merchants say it is good weather for a long time, preachers get larger congregations in fair weather, etc. Even the telephone company, they tell what the weather is likely at the switchboard instead of the window. More people use the telephone in bad weather instead of visiting, or going shopping.

And speaking of telephones in bad weather, those folks along the rain, but an electrical storm here, it put about 10 telephones out of order. Within a short time repairmen were on the job, making tests and getting everything in order to start pole climbing at daybreak. They worked straight through till the wee hours of the next morning. That is part of the reason and unheard of service the telephone gets without knowing it.

Of course we can't say so but maybe in a few months we will be safe to publish in the column the statement: "A town is a place where everybody calls the telephone office for a call when the fire alarm is sounded."

Uncle Sam is urging greater crop than ever before, and of course, it takes North Carolina always get in the front rank in the records. This time and record for a crop is broken.

October the baby crop in North Carolina comprised the largest number ever recorded in the state, with 8,937 being added to the total.

Lieutenant William McLean serving in the Naval Reserve told friends here this week when he returned to Waynesville he could tell them a little about the ocean. He has completed his training and goes into sea duty.

Last Friday three of the "heaviest men" called upon the partitioning board on the third floor of the court house. After pulling three flights of steps, they were about breathless. Their case delayed long enough for them to catch "their wind."

result we have higher and higher wages for labor, and higher prices for food, as well as stoppages and slowdowns in production and transportation supplies to our American fighters.

Of course, all this can mean one thing—a longer war, a terrible sacrifice of precious lives and a wanton waste of men.

And for what purpose is all this suffering and sacrifice? We know the shocking and shameful answer is simply this: "To satisfy selfish groups and blocks, or to please the pique, whim, or political greed of Washington politicians, now burning with a desire to win the Presidential election of 1944."

The results of last Fall's elections have not stopped, or slackened political activity in Washington, but, on the contrary, have greatly stimulated and enhanced it. Republicans seem to have whet their appetite for greater successes, while defeat of Democrats have frightened them into a political frustration and desperation, wherein they split up and strike each other with more than they fling at either the Republicans, the Japs or the Germans.

It is just too bad that our Washington politicians, our labor leaders and other power and mad men cannot be compelled to fight the Japs and the Germans with their bare fists, and on

(Continued on page 6)

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY

