

# The Mountaineer

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 (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, that 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.



## HERE and THERE

By  
**HILDA WAY GWYN**

Isn't it funny how a few stray sentences can start one's imagination and pretty soon a whole mental picture will be painted by a succession of thoughts during the week we rode behind a sweet motherly soul on a bus.

She has just bought her self a new outfit pan... and she proceeded to tell her seat mate all about it... we became intensely interested in her joy of possession of that pan... We see and hear so much of women in new jobs... that it was refreshing to listen to one whose thought found a world of their own in a home... it seems she had been wanting a large pan like she once had when the children were little... and she had at last found one... and believe us it was a mammoth affair... it looked like it might pass for an army mess utensil... then she talked about biscuits... until we could see cascades of melted butter running down the sides of those luscious brown ones that she would soon make in that very pan she held with such loving care... We wondered about her children... we have a hunch 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 lowly dried bean 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 difficult 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 limberger cheese before entering air raid shelters. It will make you rather unpopular, but it will thin out the 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 promptly.

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 congratulation;

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.

## Rambling Around

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

By W. CURTIS RUSS

## Voice OF THE People

Would you approve putting the men from 38 to 44 back in class 1-A for active military duty?

Mrs. W. T. Crawford—"Yes, I would put every man in sight in the army and make short order of the war—and get it over."

Paul Martin—"Yes, I would, for a large majority of them are sufficiently physically qualified."

Chris George—"I certainly would if it is necessary, but on the other hand if we have an army of 8,000,000 it will take somebody back home to furnish the supplies. Unless we have a well equipped army to fight, numbers will not matter so much."

C. E. Kirkpatrick—"No, I think they can do better work in defense plants and on the farms. Younger men make better soldiers."

Christy Kegan—"I would approve, if they are not married."

Homer Duckett—"Yes, if the men are physically fit."

Mrs. Larkwood Gault—"No, I would not approve, because I think a man of that age is more apt to consider danger and will not be as fearless as a younger man would be in fighting. I do approve of drafting them for defense and other war work."

C. W. Minette—"I would not approve, because I think they can find enough younger men."

W. F. Strange—"I would approve of it, because I think they can take it as well as the younger ones."

Mrs. J. M. Kellett—"I would not approve, because generally speaking I do not think they are physically fit, but I do think there are many branches of the service in which they could serve."

If there is no devil, why does your car always stall at a busy intersection while that kind of cop is on duty?

Love is blind and that's why it tumbles into so many pitfalls.

## Politics vs. War

By FRANK SMATHERS  
 (Written For The Mountaineer)

It is easy and natural for one man to imagine himself the qualified spokesman and champion of all men, especially when discussing and deciding what is best for mankind and his world.

Today free Americans are not only blest but persistently blitzed with free advice and advisers, so one more self appointed guardian will not disturb the destiny of man or the harmony of his universe, hence this bold venture on my part.

What the ordinary middle class man of Main Street thinks and feels about conditions and politicians in Washington may be summarized somewhat in this fashion:

For the want of a better definition and description, the man of Main Street divides politicians into three general classifications: good, bad and indifferent. The latter two are in the majority, and it is they that are indicted. With respect to the rank and file of labor, agriculture and industry, however, the great majority of these are good, though many are easily and often misled. But the

majority of the leaders of these men are not good, and they too are condemned.

While all high school students know that Politics and War will not mix or work together, yet Washington politicians continue to think and play Politics all through the week but on Sundays they think of War and pray for Peace.

No democratic nation can effectively fight a war abroad and at the same time engage in a political civil war at home. Most of us hoped and expected our government would, after Fall elections, settle down to the grim business of prosecuting this total war without regard to politics, or any further fear of or favor to labor and farm blocks—but, in that — they have been rudely disappointed.

Labor is still free to strike for frivolous reasons and rights, or for higher wages, which it does, and gets, far too frequently for the economic and military good of the nation; while farm blocks, with equal success, continue to terrorize and control Congress, and, as a



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

And speaking of gardening, planting, the Rotary Club, edited by M. R. Williamson, devoted considerable space in the last issue to "Garden Hints".

Plant Irish potatoes in the garden of the moon (if you have no garden).

Plant watermelons in the spring (that's where they get the water). If you fear a dry season, plant a row of onions beside a row of potatoes. (The onions will catch the water out of the potatoes' and insure a good crop.)

Someone wants to know why cabbage has a head but no why a potato has eyes but no why corn has ears but no why it all beats me!

You may be able to find the and even bull frog in the garden is—can you find a peach? But enough of that. Use a flour a vegetable, a carrot, and lettuce get on your garden.

Come to think of it, however, but it is a—depends on the weather. Merely a good weather for a good preacher get his feet wet in fair weather, or else the telephone company, they tell what the weather is by look at the switchboard instead of of the window. More people of the telephone in bad weather instead of visiting, or going to ping.

And speaking of telephones, bad weather, those folks don't mean plenty of hard work. I week when the electrical storm, it put about 10 telephone out of order. Within a short repairmen were on the job, making tests and getting everything in to start pole climbing at day. They worked straight through til the wee hours of the next morn'g. That is part of the and unheard of service the gets without knowing it.

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

Uncle Sam is urging crops than ever before, and course, it takes North Carolina always get in the front rank of the records. This time 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 production.

Lieutenant William Melton now 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 the sea duty.

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

result we have higher and higher wages for labor, and higher higher prices for food, as well stoppages and slow-downs in production and transportation vital supplies to our Army fighters.

Of course, all this can mean one thing—a longer war, a terrible sacrifice of precious and a wanton waste of money. And for what purpose is all suffering and sacrifice? We know the shocking and shameful answer is simply this: "To save selfish groups and blocks, or to please the pique, whim, or personal greed of Washington politicians, now burning with a desire to win the Presidential election of 1944."

The results of last Fall's tions have not stopped, or slackened political activity Washington, but, on the other have greatly stimulated and hanced it. Republican successes have whet their appetite for more successes, while defeats of Democrats have frightened them a political frustration and deation, wherein they split up strike each other with more than they fling at either the publicans, the Japs or the mans.

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

(Continued on page 6)