The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, MAY 20, 1943
(One Day Nearer Victory)

Silver Jubilee

This week marked the silver jubilee of air mail. That first flight of mail between New York and Washington 25 years ago may not have been so important or spectacular in itself, but what it has come to mean in the lives of the American people and those of other countries in a quarter of a century is a thing to wonder over.

It was the beginning of one of the greatest assets of modern life. It is interesting to recall that when that first flight took place there was a fight in the U. S. Senate over the $100,000 in the Post Office appropriation bill to be used by the postmaster general "for an experimental airplane mail service."

Senator McKellar of Tennessee defended the appropriation. He pointed out the prophesies regarding the telegraph, the electric light, and the automobile and he said that no doubt the time would come when the "world would find it hard to get along without the airplane."

How well this prophecy has come true is seen here in our own local post office. Col. Howell recently made the statement that there were more airmails sold in one week now than formerly in a whole year. The rural carriers sell around fifty a day, according to Col. Howell.

The comfort that the airmail gives to the men in service now overseas, in this country and to the friends and family back home, its contribution to the acceleration of business cannot be estimated. It is one of the great modern conveniences that has become a part of our daily lives.

It is also interesting to note in this connection that one of our own Haywood County boys also had a part in development of this great mail service. Commander Mint Reed, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Reed, carried the first mail route between New York and Boston back in 1932.

An Imposition

A few weeks ago the Postoffice Department notified all newspapers in the nation that after January 15th no new subscriptions for men outside the continental United States could be accepted unless the men specifically requested the subscription. At the same time the mailing of single copies of papers, by members of the soldiers' families, was prohibited. The order was promulgated on the theory of conservation of valuable shipping space for first class mail and other essentials. Doubtless every newspaper publisher in America, at that time, fully realized the seriousness of the situation and was agreeable in the fullest with the order.

It has developed since, however, that a Washington bureau, subsidized by federal funds, is publishing a monthly, entitled, "The Victory Magazine," for free distribution to the boys overseas. News reports say that 18,000,000 copies are being prepared for distribution this month. This magazine, a New Deal propaganda sheet, which takes page ads at an exhorbitant rate through a gentle blackmail system from holders of government contracts, is mailed free—no postage being paid by the bureau, and no mailing list being maintained.

Talk of a congressional investigation is now under way. We hope that the new magazine is shown up for what it purports not to be, and that the valuable ship space, so necessary for essential goods for men overseas is conserved by barring this magazine from the mails.—Forest City Courier.

A $3,000 Goal

Life is indeed a complex affair today. Citizens of this country are called upon to contribute to national and international causes as well as the needs at home. The fact that all of paramount and vital importance makes it a hardship, but they must be met, if a well rounded community keeps abreast of its demands and needs.

During the past few months the calls have been thick and fast, all for worthwhile projects. Projects that have meant keeping the American way of life for us all. Projects that have dealt with the humanitarian side of life that only the heartless could turn down.

Now comes another drive, for funds to maintain the Chamber of Commerce. A town of the size of Waynesville, with its background as a summer resort for more than a half century needs a Chamber of Commerce. It is part of the town's business. It is the means of contact with the people from other sections. People have formed the habit of applying to the office of the Chamber of Commerce for information that they could not conveniently find anywhere else.

Boiling down to the bare facts, no matter how many bonds we have bought, no matter how much we have given to the calls of the Red Cross, no matter how much we contributed to the USO, no matter what our personal charities and good deeds take from our pocketbooks, we will have to strain that last point and include a donation to the Chamber of Commerce for the season of 1943.

You may come back with the argument that the 1943 season is not exactly a guarantee. There are elements of doubt despite a well founded optimism, all of which we recognize, but the fact remains we cannot let down on our job here at home. We must keep what we have gained in the past and to do that we must support the Chamber of Commerce and look forward to the upbuilding of the future.

Your Services, Please

It is difficult for we people who reside so far inland, and are not brought in daily contacts with the defense preparations that are running at a twenty-four hour speed in other sections to realize that even here we are not entirely safe from attack by the enemy.

It is hard to take in the fact that even here we may lend a hand in actual defense of our country. An article carried in last week's issue of the appeal of Sergeant Henry Liebman from the Columbia Air Base, has brought the facts home to us. We can have our part in defending our country by actual participation.

With 250 spotters needed to man the five aircraft warning posts in this county, there is work for everyone. Each person volunteering for this service will be asked to be on duty only a few hours each week.

As the sergeant explained indications are that in the near future this area will be asked to be on the alert for 24 hour duty. We cannot fail in this important work. Our five posts are part of a great nation-wide network and the chain cannot be broken at this critical hour.

Byron Barr

The film "Air Force" drew large crowds last week at the Park Theatre. The picture is a magnificent example of modern art in the motion picture world. Produced through the cooperation of the United States Air Force, the picture had the appeal of authenticity that gave it the realism of a true story.

All these things had a part in the interest of the local movie fans, but there were other reasons that made the majority of the local citizens see the picture.

Enacting the role of co-pilot was "Gig Young," in the movie world, but here known as Byron Barr, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Barr. In this section the fast becoming famous son basks in the light of the goodwill in which his parents are held, as well as that of his own glory.

A lot of people went to see the picture because of the very fact that one of the leading roles was played by the son of local people. They left the theatre in admiration for the actor and the superb manner in which he brought the character he played to life on the screen.

We predict a brilliant future for the young actor who is now serving his country in the armed forces.

Americans spend more mony for gum than religion. Probably because gum is used every day.

HERE and THERE

By
HILDA WAY GWYN

From time to time we have many distinguished guests in Waynesville . . . some of them come and go and we do not know the extent of their fame . . . but for the enthusiasm and deep friendship of Dr. John J. S. Sebastian, former associate of our subject, we would never have known of Prof. Camille Grapin, artist and professor of architecture at Carnegie Institute of Technology, of Pittsburgh, Pa. . . . who has spent several weeks in the South, part of the time here in Waynesville.

After hearing Dr. Sebastian tell of his friend, one instantly decides that he should be written up for that feature of the Reader's Digest which deals with "The Most Unforgettable Character We Have Known" . . . his accomplishments, his talents and his kindness to others are equaled only by his modesty, according to his friend.

Professor Grapin is a native of France . . . he studied at the National Beaux Arts School in Paris . . . won several competitions and received a number of scholarships . . . he has been in this country since 1921 . . . and came upon invitation of the United States Government . . . After the close of the First World War . . . there was an acute shortage of architects in this country . . . the Carnegie Institute of Technology was in great need of a professor of architecture . . . and as his name was already so well known in France, the U. S. Government arranged with the Society of Architects of France to have Prof. Grapin come to this country . . . where he has since remained . . . as professor at the Carnegie Institute . . . But before we tell you of his contribution to art in America let us go back to the days when he was a private in the army of France during the war.

Despite the fact that when war with Germany was declared . . . he was a well known architect he wanted to serve in the army as a private . . . he had an interesting job and a new one in the army . . . the air pilots took pictures of the enemy areas and it was his job to fit them together and get a picture of the whole so that those in command could understand the position of the opposing forces. . . . His work along this line was so outstanding that General Foch called him to his headquarters and wanted to give him a commission as a colonel, but the Professor said, "No, I am glad to serve my country, but only as a private" . . . though he refused a promotion, General Foch moved him to his headquarters and he became an unofficial member of the General's staff . . . and served throughout the war.

During the weeks at a time when fighting would be stilled on the Western front . . . Prof. Grapin would go out into the front line trenches and put up his canvas and start painting . . . once the Germans caught him unawares and started peppering him with a machine gun, when his companions dragged him back to safety . . . it is said that when he works he is oblivious to things about him . . . as he put his very soul into the colors before him . . . He has traveled extensively . . . and his paintings are a cosmopolitan collection of scenes from everywhere . . . since he has been teaching in America he spends his vacations traveling.

Of all the professors at Carnegie Institute, according to Dr. Sebastian, his friend, Prof. Grapin, is the most beloved by the students . . . life to him is an opportunity for service to others and for himself he wishes only the necessities and a simple theme of living . . . more than half his salary is used to aid students who have no means of obtaining college education.

While Prof. Grapin is an instructor of architecture, he is also an artist of note . . . he specializes in water colors . . . though his works have the finished look of having been done in oils . . . He has painted hundreds of pictures and been offered thousands of dollars for them, but has never sold a painting in his life . . . they represent to him something above any commercial value . . . they are to be left to Carnegie Institute and will have, someday, a special place in their museum . . . while we have only the instinct of the layman to guide us . . . and could not tell technically why we like or dislike things of art . . . the three pictures we have seen by Prof. Grapin gave us a very definite sensation . . . he has painted during the time he has spent here ten pictures . . . among them the Baptist church in colored town, as seen from the office of Dr. Sebastian on the second floor of the Ward building on Main Street . . . few of us would have thought of the scene as material for a picture . . . but, of course, that is because we do not see with the eyes of an artist . . . there is something about that picture that gives one a sense of color, of beauty, and serenity of our hills and valleys, that one realizes at once that only an artist could have brought out . . . he has also done one of Plott's Balsam . . . three from the Waynesville Country Club . . . others of the West Mining company operations.

Prof. Grapin has recently come from Charleston where he painted a number of scenes of buildings and the cypress and magnolia gardens . . . we have not seen these pictures, but having visited the area, and knowing from the few paintings we have seen by the Professor, and his power of giving feeling, vitality and color, we know these pictures of the South Carolina "Low Country" must speak to one from the enchantment of the region.

We have long since learned that the really great are the simplest people in the world . . . they have grown past the petty things of life that clutter up the lives of us ordinary folks . . . they have gone so far beyond that they do not count the non-essentials, but let them fall back into oblivion . . . they see to the roots of people and things . . . and the small pretenses slip by them unnoticed . . . they judge people by what they really are . . . in view of this we are pleased to find that Prof. Grapin is impressed with the native mountaineer . . . he has taken trips into various sections and the hospitality of the homes in the country has given him an insight into the life of our people . . . and to him they represent the true American spirit of independence . . . and sincerity.

Rambling Around

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

By W. CURTIS RUSS

Voice OF THE People

Do you favor freezing essential war workers on their present jobs?

Walter T. Crawford — "Yes, I do. You take a person on an essential job and if they are looking for other work they cannot devote their best efforts to what they are doing."

O. R. Roberts—"Yes, I do approve. I do not think there should be any shifting of jobs at present. Every man now should stay on his job or go to war."

Henry Francis—"Yes, I do, because so many people are looking for easy jobs and more money."

Mrs. J. R. Boyd—"Yes, I favor the freezing of essential war workers on jobs as it would keep employment steady and stop people from changing for the sake of higher wages and salaries."

T. J. Cathey—"Yes, I do. There is no other way to reach peak production, than to keep people on their jobs for the present."

George A. Brown, Jr.—"I think that under the present conditions that all essential war workers should be made to stay with their jobs."

R. B. Davenport—"I think freezing essential war workers on their job is a step in the right direction and is a means of keeping employes from shifting from job to job."

Aaron Prevost—"Yes, I would approve freezing those who are absolutely essential and in cases where replacement would work a hardship on the industry."

Paul Martin — "Yes, I would. There is too much changing from one job to another. It takes too much time to train new men for new jobs."

Jerry Liner — "Yes, because I think it is necessary to the proper administration of things at present."

Paul Davis received his commission as ensign in the Navy last week. In fact it was the day after he went to Davidson River fishing and the trip of the boys made him sick. He wonders if he made a wise choice in selecting the Navy for his branch of the service. Anyway, he has a lot of spunk and courage and will do his best.

Roy Parkman has run into a hobby of studying locks and safe combinations. He started off fixing keys as an accommodation and the hobby has grown into a business. He is mastering some complicated safe combinations right now, and so far has met with success.

From J. H. Trantham, of Chicago, head of Charles Scribner Sons western office, comes a complimentary copy of Thomas Wolfe's Letters To His Mother, which has just been published and is receiving much favorable comment.

Mr. Trantham is from Haywood and is looking forward to the day when he will come back to make this his home.

The letter "J" leads all others in names of the men connected with the First National Bank. There's Jonathan Woody, Jack Way, Jim Noland and Joe Davis. And on the board of directors are these with J—J. W. Ray, J. E. Boyd, J. E. Massie, and Joe Rose. That takes care of all but two officials, and one of them has a "J" nickname—L. N. (Judge) Davis. This boils it down to Glen Palmer, the other director, who hasn't been able to find a place for a "J" in his signature. His favorite expression is "Everything is Just fine" gives him a little claim, maybe, to a "J".

The test of a real gardener is not these May afternoons when the enthusiasm of gardening cools the heat of the day. In middle July, when weeds grow inches after a rain, and the sun beams straight down without any mercy will test the gardener and determine whether he is a veteran or a "May beginner."

Ensign Ben Colkitt, Jr., is anxious to get somewhere and drop bombs on the enemy. Ensign Colkitt is in the Naval Air Force and is making a fine record for himself and his country. Ensign Colkitt said one of the greatest comforts a pilot has when flying alone is just plain, common chewing gum a package chewing gum. It helps steady the nerves, and gives the needed confidence that this landing will be a three-pointer and OK.

He was surprised to find that gum was hard to find in stores. The base keeps plenty for the pilots.

It is surprising how few people recognize poison oak. The other day, a slight auto crash sent a car in a thick growth, and people walked all through it, not knowing they were in for some trouble. This brings to mind the group that sat in poison oak in the Turbyfill yard to watch the fire after the explosion of the Standard Oil plant.

Letters To The Editor

FLORDIANS COMING

Editor The Mountaineer:

I always receive my paper early Monday morning and it starts the week off right for me. So here's my check for another year.

What a thrill I had one Sunday morning when I saw three (3) Haywood boys at church services here at the First Baptist church. I did not know they were here and as this is a basic training and reclassification center the "good" boys don't stay long — anywhere from ten (10) days to two-three weeks. So I was lucky to see them. Smathers, Hall and Stamey from Canton. However, the Stamey boy worked in Waynesville. You tell the public Haywood boys behave better away from home than they do home.

You can't imagine food prices being as high as they are here now and they will be higher during the summer months. So tell the folks to raise plenty of food-stuff for "Florida" will be up to eat this summer. This is just a few items and prices—potatoes, 5 lb, apples, 15c lb., 2 lbs. to a customer, sweet potatoes 15c, bell peppers, 10c each, cabbage 10c, string beans 29c lb., tomatoes 25c lb., lettuce 25c head, celery 10c, squash 18c, lb., spinach 15c, beets 5c each, small onions 10c, 17c qt., butter 65c, eggs 45c, ground meat 42c lb., steaks 45c, pork 59c lb., chickens 57c lb., frying hen, onions 2 lbs. 25c and on, etc.

Sincerely,
(Mrs. HAZEL TUGMAN

TOURISTS ARE COMING

Editor The Mountaineer:

When I was a [illegible] 'teens, I had my [illegible] a colored woman [illegible] words she said to me [illegible] chile you'se got [illegible] Maybe the colored woman [illegible] what she was talking [illegible] going to look a [illegible] the future and pre[illegible] mer season for W[illegible] Balsam.

In the first place, people, cows, need shade [illegible] no place where [illegible] in such perfection [illegible] tree-covered mountains [illegible] Waynesville and Balsam. [illegible] Old Sol is bearing [illegible] collars and morale [illegible] in our defense plants [illegible] earning good salaries, will [illegible] to get away from [illegible] machinery to a cool quiet spot [illegible] the mountains for short vacations.

Others, too, [illegible] help win the war, will welcome [illegible] change from [illegible] cities where they can rest and [illegible] lax their tense nerves. Everybody knows that workers can't continually "give" unless they have

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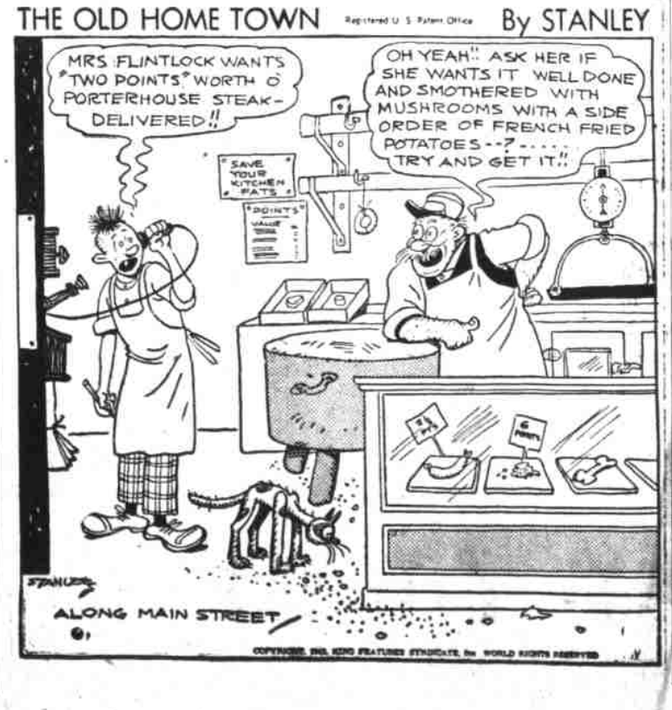
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