

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 1943
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

Congratulations

In last week's issue we carried stories of expansion of two of the local business firms. The First National Bank has extended its services to Fontana Dam. Erkraft Industries is turning its talents into new fields.

We feel sure that the facility at Fontana will prove profitable to both the residents of that area and we trust to the institution serving them. With the background of past policies of the First National we feel sure that the new expansion is a wise one.

We have often wondered why some manufacturing plant did not specialize on toys in this area, where wood is so plentiful. Toys are staple articles. In times of depression, the adults may go without things, but somehow they always manage to get the things that their children want.

Success to both the First National and to Erkraft in their new fields.

Revival Of Interest

We have noted of late that the agitation of teaching more American histories in our schools and colleges has been bringing forth many ideas on the subject. For some years the teaching of our own history has been slighted in our schools and colleges.

It is said that until the advent of the first World War, only a few states required any instruction in this subject at either elementary or secondary level. Since that time state legislatures have taken a hand, and passed laws making it compulsory to teach American history in secondary schools. At present there are twenty-four states that have laws on their books governing this subject.

There seems to be a divergence of opinion as to the wisdom of making the study compulsory. Some educators argue that it should not be compulsory, for in so making it, the subject becomes dull and boring to the students. They claim that only those who wish to take American history should be given the opportunity.

We notice that Benjamin Fine, education editor of the New York Times, gives the following recommendations as the results of a survey:

"Every high school and college should require students to study American history. Obviously, we cannot create patriotism through legislation, nor can we expect to get better citizens merely by the process of textbook-osmosis. Nevertheless, the course in American history can serve as a base, as a point of departure from which the future leaders of the land can grow and develop.

"Higher teaching standards are necessary. Unfortunately the teaching of American history in many of our secondary schools does not receive sufficient attention. All too often American history is but an additional assignment of an over-worked science teacher, or football coach.

"American history is as important for the professional as for the liberal art student. Do not neglect the teaching of other histories. We need to know more about European culture and the ways of the Orient.

"Our history is strikingly dynamic, colorful, alive, forceful. Teaching American history need not become a boring task to the instructor or the student."

He also brought out another vital factor, that "industrial peace promotes industrial prosperity."

They "Said It With Bonds"

It was not idle curiosity that brought hundreds of citizens in this area to the war bond rally last Thursday evening. Had it been curiosity there would not have been nearly ninety thousand bonds sold.

The same spirit that has fired the hundreds of Haywood County boys to volunteer in the service and who are now scattered over the world, serving on land and sea and in the air, inspired the crowds that gathered around the Park Theatre Thursday evening.

Haywood folks want to win this war. They want Victory for their country. They are willing and glad to dig deep down in the savings of a life time and in their weekly pay check, to pay the price of freedom.

We commend the fine work of the committees in charge. A public demonstration of the type of last Thursday is good for a community. It gives those who attend a bond of national understanding that merely handing out money does not always give.

The sight of that ambulance bearing the emblem of the American Red Cross, which drew applause as it passed in the parade represented far more than a red cross on a white background. Mothers in that crowd on Thursday knew that if their boy was wounded on a battlefield, more than likely an ambulance, similar to the one in the parade would carry him to safety and attention.

This war has touched the common heart of us all. The long struggle that lies ahead means sacrifice on the home front as well as on the battle lines. We are all beginning to realize more and more the necessity for buying bonds to finance this war. It cannot be won any other way. We must pay for our liberties.

We feel sure that every man, woman and child who saw that parade and saw the people buying bonds in such wholesome measure had their patriotism stirred as it has not been for days. The headlines of the papers became realities.

Right here on Main Street we fought a victorious battle with the Germans and the Japs. Every bond that was bought meant support to our men. They meant ammunition and supplies to keep our armed forces going.

We are going to have to learn, as the English people have, that our lives cannot go on in the old familiar pattern of indulging ourselves as we did in the days before the war. Luxuries will have to wait until the Germans and Japs have had enough of our brand of fighting. There will be other calls before the war is won. We might as well begin to buckle down and plan to reduce our way of every day living and save to

BUY MORE WAR BONDS.

No "Trick Taxes"

There is talk that a sixfold increase in social security taxes will be recommended by the Treasury Department as a war financing measure. Many feel that such a proposal should be discouraged.

Any increase in social security tax should not be a war time measure, but a step in promoting an expansion of the social security system, which will carry over to peace time.

The present tax for social security now in effect, both old age and unemployment insurance, is one per cent on the covered employer and one per cent on the employee. The law, which was passed in 1935, calls for an advance to two per cent on each next year. The Wagner social security bill now in Congress proposes six per cent each, and would extend the system to 20,000,000 now outside it.

Most people are going to feel that war financing should not be tied up in any way with this unrelated social change.

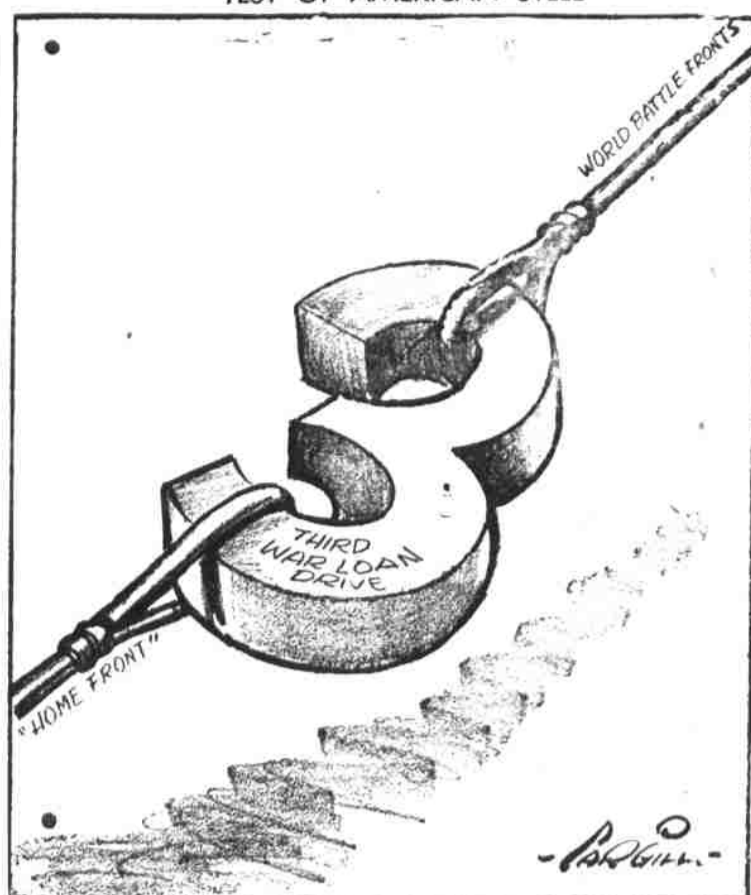
Industrial Peace

If the members of the National Association of Manufacturers were as familiar as citizens of this area are with the policies of Reuben Robertson, head of the Champion Paper and Fibre Company, they would follow his endorsements made recently at the meeting in New York.

In his relation to his employes and his understanding of the problems of the working man, Mr. Robertson has made a name for himself in Western North Carolina. His fairness and his principles of justice are incorporated in his daily dealings with those who work with and for him, as head of a large industry.

He touched the keynote of the relation between employer and employe when he said that "like any other human relationship, industrial relations need cultivation — good industrial relations don't just happen."

TEST OF AMERICAN STEEL



HERE and THERE

By
 HILDA WAY GWYN

To be able to make history . . . to take part in the greatest combat experience the world has ever known . . . and to have the power of pen to describe for others those historical events . . . is more than most men will ever realize . . . that is just what Commander Frederick J. Bell, naval officer, and recent guest at Cataloochee Ranch is doing . . . Convalescing from a back injury received in the South Pacific where he was on combat duty six months and two days, Commander Bell was a patient at the Naval convalescent hospital in Asheville for three months, prior to coming to Haywood . . . His stay at the Ranch was a kind of last tonic to health before going back on duty. He will soon report to the Navy department . . . but he has not been resting in the ordinary sense of the word, for he has been writing a book . . . which will shortly be published.

We were afraid that we were not going to get an interview with the Commander . . . in these days of rationing, points off the regular beat are not always accessible . . . We took the matter up with Mrs. Tom Alexander . . . and found that the Commander would be passing through town . . . and we suggested the idea, if possible, for his stopping by the Mountaineer office . . . which was asking a good deal, because we knew that we could add nothing to the glory and fame of the Commander . . . But now we think we can . . . for we can give him another top grade in graciousness, for he possesses that quality in marked degree, otherwise he would never have stopped in the village and given us an opportunity to fire some questions at him . . . we must admit, however, that it cramped our style, to feel that he was in a hurry and he had taken time out . . . so we dared not cover all the ground we would like to have . . . for Commander Bell is an authentic hero.

He is a native of Princess Anne County, Virginia, and was a member of the class of 1924 of Annapolis . . . He has had the good fortune (or bad, all according to your viewpoint) . . . of being at spots over the world, since his graduation, where something important was happening . . . He has three rows of service ribbons . . . He has been awarded the Navy Cross . . . the Purple Heart . . . South Pacific Asiatic ribbon . . . four stars, each representing participation in a major combat . . . another ribbon for service in the Middle East . . . another for American Defense area . . . for the Second China Campaign . . . and for the Second Nicaragua campaign . . . when in the thick of things a few months ago a torpedo exploded "near" his ship, he was knocked flat on his back . . . but in the excitement he went on, not realizing he was hurt . . . but in time he was ordered to return home for rest and treatment . . . He is a hero, minus any pompous personal praise for himself . . . It's all in the day's run . . . but he admits that he has been very fortunate . . . but he has reference, not to his accomplishments, but to his narrow escapes.

Commander Bell is the author of two books . . . and is writing his third . . . The latter is of the fighting in the South Pacific . . . and the title, "Condition Red" . . . and the sub-title, "Destroyer action in the South Pacific" . . . It will be off the press in October . . . His first book was "The Navy, its Ships and Men" . . . His second book, "Room to Swing a Cat," which is now in its third edition, deals with the early U. S. Navy. He is proud of the fact that his wife, who is an artist in her own name, drew the jackets for his two books and has also illustrated the cover for his third . . . and we must not forget to tell you of his daughter, Barbara, for

when he introduces you to Barbara, you know instantly how she rates with her father . . . Incidentally Commander and Mrs. Bell have had 60 days together out of the past five years . . .

When he came back to this country a few months ago he had been on a duty for around five years . . . he was aide to Vice Admiral Adolphus Adams in command of forces in Hawaii . . . and from there went as damage control officer on the Boise . . . He has firm faith in the destroyer . . . for he considers her the most dangerous ship for size . . . he refers to her as a "triple threat" . . . He was in the South China seas when the war broke out . . . In May, a year ago, he was put in command of a destroyer in the South Pacific and was in the original occupation of the Solomons . . . where he saw a great deal of fighting.

"The strain of being on combat duty is terrific," he said . . . and explained how tense his men were day and night . . . even when not in actual fighting, each minute they were expecting attack . . . and it does something to the nerves, he pointed out . . . He said, while his men were physically fit, they all lost from 8 to 10 pounds during those months of vigilance and fighting.

Another thing you would like about the Commander is his sense of humor . . . For that is how we happened to learn he was at Cataloochee Ranch . . . One night we had two girls stop with us . . . They wanted to drive to the Ranch the next day . . . and told of their reason . . . One was Captain Ruth Ginn's, of the WAC . . . the other Jackie Martin, first WAC official photographer and photographer . . . formerly on Washington Herald . . . great friend of owner, Mrs. Patterson . . . is now magazine writer and photographer . . . and does column for "Country Gentleman" . . . both girls extensively traveled . . . The Captain is a graduate of University of Pennsylvania and when entered service was personnel director of one of Philadelphia's largest department store . . . both modern to their fingertips . . . seen enough of the world not to be surprised at anything . . . But they found a surprise awaiting them right here in these hills . . . Jackie Martin had been sent by the Ladies Home Journal to get a photograph of Commander Bell and his wife . . . to use in connection with a series of letters to be published in the magazine, written by the Commander to his wife, while he was in the South Pacific . . . they will appear in the next few months.

Shortly after the girls arrived, Tom Alexander phoned from the



Inside WASHINGTON

Most Stores Co-operating With OPA Price Ceilings | See Wave of Labor Trouble In September and October

Special to Central Press

● WASHINGTON—Look for a drive to police OPA price ceilings on consumer durable goods, consumer services such as hairdressing, and laundry, restaurants, perhaps fuel. It will be a "housewife patrol."

One of the least publicized but most successful OPA programs was its creation of price panels last fall. Since then, the panels have made phenomenal progress in establishing community-wide dollars-and-cents price ceilings established in more than 150 cities throughout the nation.

Three members of each of the country's 6,500 panels constitute a "price panel." These members in turn constitute panel assistants, volunteers whose job is to observe the operation of price ceilings.

How OPA's Price Panels Work
 Do Big Jobs

Results obtained are little short of amazing. In the Atlanta area, where the retail food stores are complying with the ceilings, the violations once were openly flaunted. Now of the 1,800 groceries now are observing the ceilings. Clubwomen, housewives, professional and small business serve as panel assistants are giving full credit for the price violations found are settled peacefully at community price boards. Few cases reach the stage where enforcement are filed in the courts.

In Detroit, during one two-week period, 246 complaints were investigated and only two had to be given to enforcement.

Mrs. Anne P. Flory, who bosses the show from Washington, is enthusiastic.

"We operate on the premise that the store keeper is honest and want to comply," she says. "If we didn't have this program."

● COMPETENT LABOR OBSERVERS in Washington are predicting that a wave of labor trouble—strikes—will break out next month, early October at the latest. Sore spots are the oil, aircraft, automobile and coal industries. Even administration in the capital admit that there is a lot of unrest among workers, to wage freezing and rising prices.

Head-line maker John L. Lewis may hit the front pages of His United Mine Workers union now has its plea for wage raise before the War Labor board. A decision is expected soon. If wage demands are turned down, miners may walk out without awaiting any strike call from Lewis.

Another problem: Secretary of Interior Harold L. Ickes is retaining government-operated mines to their private owners. The government seized them after a first coal strike in May. Lewis has insisted that the government operate them, said that his mine would work for Uncle Sam but not private operators unless wage demands are met.

A showdown may come when congress returns Sept. 14. At last session, congress enacted the Smith-Connelly Anti-Strike law, which, among other things, carries provisions that could put a leader in jail. But how effective the measure is going to be awaits a major test.

In this connection, look for more frequent use of the word "sanctions" in labor dispute cases. President Roosevelt, in signing the executive order promising the WLB full support of the government in enforcing its decisions, told how "sanctions"—it was his word—could be applied.

Reluctant workers could be drafted; they could be jailed if picketed or encouraged a strike; and they could be "black listed" for all jobs for the duration of the war in extreme cases if necessary with their social security benefits also temporarily out. Industries producing only civilian goods could be driven out of business by withholding of materials if they refused to comply with WLB edicts. War industries would be taken over by the government. Those are the sanctions which could be clamped down. Big question is how tough and how far the government wishes to go.

Ranch and asked us if we could keep a secret, and would we help him out . . . He and Commander Bell were going to pull a bit of Mountain stuff on the girls . . . we were to notify the Ranch when they left town . . . so that everything would be ready . . . We thought the girls would never get up, then never get dressed, much less get to breakfast and start . . . Mr. Alexander suggested we hurry them up and tell them the Commander wished to take a mountain trip . . . But it worked the wrong way . . . for they chimed in and said, "Oh, tell him to go on, we'll come later" . . .

But they finally got off . . . and we phoned . . . the stage was set. Shortly before they reached the top of the mountain they spied a log across the road . . . and some unshaved mountaineers (the Commander the lead r) . . . with guns . . . at first (so they told us later) they thought the road was closed . . . with a mean look in their eyes the men asked if they were expected at the Ranch . . . then things happened fast . . . a shot was fired, but the ice was broken then . . . for Miss Martin is a crack shot . . . and she knew it was aimed too high . . . so she said . . . "Come to the city, boys, and I'll teach you how to shoot" . . . When they returned they greeted us . . . "Well, you are a nice hostess to be a party to the crime" . . . but they got a big kick out of actually being frightened after all the tight spots they had been in . . . but they

got the picture for the Home Journal . . . and our first introduction to Commander Bell . . . so you see, we're a regular person . . . A girl doing a hero and an author.

Voice OF THE People

What is good for the goose is good for the gander. Write variety of the best.

Miss Noveltie . . . best in a juicy hard sauce and favorite the kind of best apple roll?

Jerry Lingo . . . and I like Staysman.

R. N. Robertson . . . Staysman Wine . . . served in . . . good raw, or . . . apples, pies, . . . best all round . . .

Mrs. H. W. P . . . apples in salad . . . Star's Delicacies . . . vanilla flavor . . . dark in salads.

Mrs. Jack . . . apples raw and . . . is my favorite.

Mrs. J. C. . . use I prefer apples . . . Northern Spies . . . cooking."

Rufus Siles . . . raw, peeling, . . . prefer Bonums."

Dr. S. L. . . Staysman Wine . . . eat them raw."

W. T. Shelton . . . saps, and I want . . .

C. A. Black . . . The Staysman Wine . . . are just as good raw . . .

Regardless of all the criticism you hear the United States Great Britain, under able leadership, are fighting an unequal, intelligent war.