

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1943
 (One Day Nearer Victory)

Postal Profits

We have noted from time to time reports from the local post office including the increased number of air mail stamps sold during the past two years. Recent government reports disclosed the fact that the post office department made \$33,000,000 on domestic air mail in the last fiscal year as compared with less than a fourth of that amount in 1941-42, and a loss of more than \$13,000,000 ten years ago.

It is said that the air mail letter on which you pay six cents costs Uncle Sam somewhat less than three cents to handle, including payments to airlines, air mail postoffices, supplementary railroad mail services, etc.

We are glad to learn that the government is profiting on this service, for maybe this will be a help in other spots not so productive. Now that the public has learned the use of the air mail, we feel sure it has come to stay, even after all the men are home from the war. They have taken to the habit and they will continue to use the service. So when the flock of planes now on combat duty are made available for mail, Uncle Sam may find gold in the skies.

Chopping Wood

We have often been surprised at the rural note in some of the editorials of the New York Times, for they are written frequently by someone as familiar with country life as we right here in our own county. Since big cities have attracted so many rural residents no doubt the editorials find response in the minds of many transplanted from the farms.

Take for instance, the following must have been written by one who had actually chopped wood:

"Certain tools have always accompanied man since he made the epochal discovery that metals could be fused and wrought into useful implements. The axe is a tool which has hewn history. Many men today, in the country and in the city, delight in the feel of a good axe.

"There's more in chopping wood than the cutting down of trees. That's a part of it, and in these days when Uncle Sam is asking for lumber and pulpwood in greater quantities farmers will probably make a record cut this season. The axe is intimately associated with our nation's history. It was only a short time ago, historically, that a man was equipped to carve his home from the frontier wilderness if he had an axe, a rifle and a hoe.

"When one goes into the woodlot on a winter's day he feels a kinship with the calm spirit of Nature. Here among the trees which have seen the miracle of Spring, the fruition of harvest and the blizzards of Winter for a century or more, the ills and cares which infest man-made society fall into proper perspective. The pines, hemlocks and firs murmur among themselves; the beeches, maples and oaks are traced against the Winter sky like dry-point etchings. Chickadees chant their roundelays; rabbits hop from brush heap to another; partridges whir up with startling suddenness."

Post-War Plans For N. C.

North Carolina isn't dreaming of its life after the rebirth of peace. It is awake to its opportunities, its resources, and its people. North Carolina is confident.

A state predominantly agricultural but

still ranking high industrially, it even now is functioning under a long-range program that envisions a better life for its ruralists, industrial workers, white collar men and just plain everyday folk.

Nor has North Carolina forgotten its men who have gone into the armed forces or into war work; nor has it forgotten the rapid and economic conversions that of necessity must follow every war.

Today finds the state with an unprecedented general fund surplus, with money ready to start a big highway and farm-to-market road expansion and improvement program. It has put aside a tidy sum for a financial rainy day, plans to boost its savings. Its cities and counties, under a recent legislative act, are building surpluses and socking them away.

North Carolina is ready to expand its agricultural enterprises, to build dehydrating plants for its truck crops. It is importing purebred livestock and building up its milk output.

The days immediately following the end of the war will not find many North Carolinians out of work, if present plans are executed. North Carolina has not imported much labor for its war shops.

Industrial leaders and labor are working hand-in-glove. Relations are generally cordial. Strikes are few.

North Carolina — and it is Governor Broughton who speaks of all these plans — has hopes and promises of an increasing number of ways to process the products of its soil. The manufacture of plastics and plywood, vital to the future airplane, already has begun on a small scale. New mining companies are chartered within its boundaries with regularity, and an internationally engineer and his staff have just completed a survey of the state's mineral resources, particularly in coal, iron and olivine.

North Carolina is growing weary of shipping its products to other states and thus losing possible plants and jobs for those at home.

There are plans — and money — for greater educational expansion of educational facilities. Salary differentials for white and negro public school teachers and principals are known engineer and his staff have just completed a survey of the state's mineral resources, particularly in coal, iron and olivine.

The state plans to use abandoned army and navy hospitals for hospitals, to guarantee proper medical care for children whose parents are unable to pay for it.

In short, North Carolina, like a smart businessman, is looking to the future, to the days of peace, when the road of progress lies straight ahead for the one who chooses to travel it. — Associated Press.

Motors In County

The Statistics and Planning Division of the State Highway and Public Works Commission has made a survey of motor car registration changes from July, 1941, to April, 1943. A number of interesting changes have taken place in the various counties.

Alamance leads the state in automobiles with one car for every 4.5 persons, with Cumberland and Guilford sharing second position with 4.9 inhabitants per automobile.

The state total of automobiles on October 1, 1942, was 516,875, or an average of one automobile for every 6.8 inhabitants. Only thirty counties rank above the state average, while seventy are below the state average.

There were 139,034 trucks and trailers on October 1, 1942, and 20,512 vehicles classified as miscellaneous, giving a total of 676,421 motor vehicles, including automobiles, trucks and trailers.

The latest official report shows that on July 1, 1943, there were 612,160 automobiles, trucks, trailers and miscellaneous vehicles in the state. Thus from October 1, 1942, to July 1, 1943, the state suffered a decline of 62,261 registered motor vehicles.

There were only 14 counties in the state that increased their number of vehicles. The largest increase was in New Hanover county with 2,425 vehicles. Other counties reporting increases were: Onslow, Pasquotank, Perquimans, Moore, Chowan, Bertie, Beaufort, Pender, Franklin, Columbus, Bladen, Brunswick and Swain. Eleven of these are in the extreme eastern part of the state near war industries or camps.

The following counties have suffered a loss of from 0.04 per cent to \$10 (from 240 to 600 vehicles): Haywood, Jackson, Cherokee, Macon, Transylvania, Henderson, Madison, McDowell, Mitchell, Avery, Watauga, Ashe, Burke, Catawba, Forsyth, Durham, and Edgecombe.

Leading citizens should be compelled to take every seventh year off for the good of the community. — William Feather Magazine.

"DANCE OF THE HOURS"



HERE and THERE

By
 HILDA WAY GWYN

We have always been consumed with admiration . . . and perhaps a bit envious of those people who have all their Christmas gifts bought, wrapped, and tagged by Thanksgiving and can sit back, figuratively speaking, and enjoy the annual celebration, minus all that hectic last minute rush . . . We will also have to admit that sometimes they have peevish us in their perfection of habits . . . for they are at least first cousins to perfect people who never make mistakes . . . you know the type . . . just let 'em make a slip, and they have the most plausible alibi . . . and they are so good that you can hardly be rude enough to notice that they sometime pass the buck to the other fellow . . . but this year, if we don't try to emulate the early shoppers it will be just too bad . . . for there will be nothing left to shop for . . . With limited stores of merchandise and money flowing like milk and honey as described in Biblical days, it won't be long until the counters and show cases are empty . . . and we will have to substitute gifts to such an extent that they will look like last year's leftovers, so let's get busy on our Christmas lists . . . no matter how long or short they happen to be . . .

The thoughts of Christmas naturally brings up the matter of sweets . . . at a recent meeting of the home demonstration women, there was a platter of the most delicious cookies we have tasted since Hitler started the war . . . They were labored "Patterson cookies" . . . we inquired who had made them and when finding out it was Mrs. Dee Clark we asked for the recipe . . . if you are looking for a snuggly extra special for that boy in camp, or for the folks at home . . . we recommend the following: One fourth pound of butter, blended with 1 cup of flour, 2 tablespoons of sugar. Press in a 10 inch square pan, and bake until light brown. Then make a dressing of the following: one and one-half cups of brown sugar, 2 eggs, one-half cup of coconut, one-half cup of nut meats (black walnuts preferred), one half teaspoon baking powder, 3 tablespoons flour. Flavor with vanilla to suit taste. Then beat the eggs until light. Add sugar and all other ingredients. Mix well, pour over cake and bake 30 minutes in moderate oven. . . And we definitely guarantee they will melt in your mouth . . . and create a craving for more.

Which reminds us of another recipe we noticed during the week . . . called "Victory recipe" . . . "Take one drafter, slightly green. Stir from bed at early hour. Soak in shower or tub daily. Dress in olive drab. Mix with others of his kind. Then toughen with maneuvers and grate on sergeant's nerves. Add liberal portion of baked beans and corned beef.

"Season with wind, rain, sun and snow. Sweeten from time to time with chocolate bars. Let smoke occasionally. Bake in 110 degrees of summer and let cool in below zero winter. . . Serves 130,000,000 people."

This Thanksgiving season proved to us beyond any doubt that trials and tribulations tend to arouse a person to a greater consciousness of their blessings . . . never have we heard as many people in referring to the things that were hard to get, and the things that we have taken for granted in other years, that are not out of the question . . . appear to appreciate what they had as this year. We guess the empty places at the dinner tables had a lot to do with softening complaints . . . and divert thoughts from Epicurean's standard of food . . . and make us all grateful . . . If we did not have

vacant seats, somebody just across the way did, or our neighbor around the corner . . . or maybe there was someone who would not ever be expected home again . . . at any rate the comments we heard from various sources made us rather proud of the American spirit . . . because they reveal an attitude necessary on the part of the civilian, and showed that we can take it and still see the silver lining. . .

George Bernard Shaw's latest opinions regarding the feminist movement were, to say the least, startling. . . We were surprised to learn that Mr. Shaw (in whom we have been interested since our own State University professor Dr. Archibald Henderson has gone into the Shaw life and attainments so thoroughly) . . . that he thought the women had far out shot their mark . . . and that now "it is the men who are handicapped" . . . and further that men are abjectly afraid of women and not without reason" . . . that the "country is run by women" . . . and that "every public body should be governed by men and women in equal numbers, no matter how they are elected or appointed" . . . it made us stop and wonder if the war of sexes will be a problem after peace comes. . . We know it has been waged for centuries, but up to now it has been conceded that the man had the upper hand. . . But the current picture, according to Mr. Shaw seems vastly changed. . . We recall that from the last World War the women came out victorious over the matter of equal rights to vote, won by her ability to pinch hit for the man in service. . . If we judge by what she is doing today, the world should be hers. . . But the thought came to us, that perhaps the fact that a

YOU'RE TELLING ME!

By WILLIAM RITT
 Central Press Writer

WAR CRIMINALS. It was decided at the Moscow conference, will be pursued to the ends of the earth. A smart Nazi would stop trying to think up new secret weapons and begin to concentrate on a workable space ship.

Zadok Dumkopf finds it hard to believe that the soybean has been around these millions of years — just loafing.

Hitler's astrologers are having a tough time studying the stars — they are so frequently obscured by Allied bombers.

If the rest of the world adopts Basic English, it's going to be tough on the radio announcer — trying to keep his commercial vocabulary down to a mere 1,000 adjectives.

An Oklahoma store plans a post-war delivery service by helicopter. "Will you take it with you or have it dropped down your chimney?"

Grandpappy Jenkins thinks backers of the prohibition movement might modernize their drive by announcing they are for national dehydration.

A Russian Ukrainian regiment is reported to carry along a piano as it advances. Good idea — should make it easier to teach all those captured Nazi soldiers "The Prisoner's Song."

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY



Inside WASHINGTON

Forecast End of Island to Island Drive Against Japs | Real Test of Our Strategy to Follow Current Campaign

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—Military observers in the capital are convinced that the present "island to island" campaign in the Southwest Pacific will end with the successful conclusion of the current Marshall offensive.

Once the last Jap strongholds in the Northern Solomons, New Guinea, New Britain and New Ireland are cleared the real test of American and Allied strategy will come.

The United States and United Nations high commands have to decide in which direction to concentrate their next blows against the Rising Sun. There are two theories on the subject.

1—Gen Douglas MacArthur's idea is to drive into the Philippines possibly to the southern island of Mindanao and thence northward to Manila.

2—Once the Navy has enough aircraft carriers and ships for a large scale movement, it probably will want to strike into the heart of Japan's mandated islands.

If MacArthur should have his way the Navy would have to provide powerful naval forces under his command to carry out his maritime ideas as he sees fit.

However, Navy men have made no secret of the fact that once the South and Southwest Pacific campaigns are over the war against Japan will be largely a "Navy show" with a Navy man directing the operations.

THE HOUSE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE, which originates all tax bills, has adopted the dodge of not taking record vote on tax proposals. The unexplained purpose is to prevent the public from finding out how members vote on tax increases.

It all began when Rep Donald H McLean (R.) of New Jersey was publicly mentioned as having voted to increase the liquor tax from \$5 to \$10 a gallon. McLean squawked at a secret session of the committee, complaining bitterly that the liquor interests of his state kept him on the telephone half the preceding night.

Chairman Robert L Doughton (D) of North Carolina, also was irked, feeling that some committee member had been discourteous to him by taking the liberty of disclosing how McLean voted. Doughton made all committee members vow to leave future public announcements to him.

Subsequently the chairman refused to reveal how members vote in rejecting a general sales tax, despite an unprecedented letter from reporters demanding the information. The reporters insisted were violated the democratic principle of accountability of elected officials to their constituents.

The committee held a hush-hush confab on the matter but stood firm behind Doughton. Then it developed that the "ayes" and "nays" of its members are kept secret.

NEWSMEN IN WASHINGTON got a "break" in the recent announcement of the Moscow pact.

OWI Director Elmer Davis and Censorship Chief Egan Price squelched an attempt to "censor" the United States press. Odd enough, the "censorship" proposal came from their American reportorial colleagues in Moscow.

The Moscow reporters, feeling that they ought to be allowed to write the final climactic chapter to the conference of foreign ministers, asked for seven hours' leeway to transmit their stories and also a stipulation that if the news was picked up in translation by German radio, no United States paper would use any story which the Nazis might broadcast.

Davis and Price promptly turned thumbs down on the latter idea at a conference with Acting Secretary of State Edward Stettin. Moreover, it was agreed to release the stories simultaneously in Moscow, London and Washington three hours after reporters in those cities were given the text of the agreements.

Voice OF THE People

Do you think the continued bombing of Berlin will make Germany

start peace negotiations?

Albert Abel—"No, I would think so. Of course, I approve the bombing, but the Germans are hard fighters and will not be to stop."

Hayes Alley—"I really think will, because the bombings are more than human endurance take."

R. N. Barber, Jr.—"No, I do not think so. The fact that they are bombing Berlin does not mean they are going to stop. They are just trying to wear us out. They are just trying to wear us out. They are just trying to wear us out."

Rudolph Carwell—"I don't think so, because from all reports morale of the people is falling down."

William Chambers, Jr.—"I don't think it will, for when the lies get through bombing Berlin they will start on another area."

F. C. Compton—"I feel that bombing will help start things, but it will take time to get that."

Private James Francis—"Bombing Berlin any more negotiations, but it will help to bomb other man cities."

R. V. Erk—"I wouldn't say Berlin, but a continued bombing the country will be bound to the Germans."

James I. Green—"No, the thing that will make Germany peace negotiations is to 'whop on their own grounds.'"

Mrs. William Hannah—"No solely. I think we will have to enter the country and beat it out, but I do think that bombing will help a lot."

Officer—"Didn't you see me passed through the lines?"
 Recruit—"Ycs, sir."
 Officer—"Then why didn't challenge me?"
 Recruit—"Challenge you! I've known you since you were foot high."—EX.