

Mountaineer

Published by W. CURTIS RUSSELL PRINTING CO.

Waynesville, North Carolina

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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 .90c
One Year, Outside Haywood County 2.50
Six Months, Outside Haywood County 1.50

Entered at the post office at Waynesville, N. C., as Second Class Matter, on April 11, 1938, under Act of March 3, 1879.



THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1944
(One Day Nearer Victory)

1944

With the statement of General Eisenhower's to the effect that 1944 will see victory in Europe, we start the New Year with high hope. We are saddened, however, by the price that we know will be paid in lives for this great victory.

In the meantime we must realize here at home that victory may be in sight, but it is definitely not yet won. Between now and then our government will stage one of the biggest drives ever put on for the sale of War Bonds.

Adventures

The last issue of a current magazine outlines some adventures for 1943. It was pointed out that we Americans are an adventurous people and that we are in the habit of breaking away from the beaten paths and that we are ever on the lookout for something new to do.

The following list of seven things were suggested to be tried out in 1944, which would be a splendid substitute for New Year's resolutions. Plant in your garden a vegetable which you have never grown before or tasted.

Marriage By Proxy

We see by the state attorney general's office that one unusual result of the war is the sudden interest that North Carolina girls and their sweethearts are taking in the legality of proxy marriages. The office claims that to date it has received some 20 separate inquiries pertaining to this method of entering the Holy state of matrimony.

Some couples want to be married by means of the radio, while others wish to tie the knot by telephone. The attorney general, however, seems very firm in his ideas on the matter, to date is reported to have given the same answer to each of the twenty inquiries, which is "No."

Future Children

There is no need to worry about the future of the American people contrary to certain recent reports from statisticians in regard to any temporary decline in the birth rate. More than 2,000,000 babies over the normal expectancy based on birth records of preceding years, were born in this country from 1933 to 1943.

We were surprised to learn that the number of births increased from 1933 to 1939 were from 16.6 to 17.8 per 1,000 population. As we all know the war influence has shot up the record considerably. Due to this factor the rate had jumped from 20.9 per 1,000 population by 1942. When the records are completed for 1943, according to the statisticians, the rate is expected to show a gain to 24 per 1,000.

Honorably Discharged

We have noticed an increase locally in the number of men who are being honorably discharged from the army recently, but were rather surprised at the large number announced by the War Department.

Around 550,000 officers and enlisted men have been discharged from the army between December 7, 1941, and August 31, 1943, according to the War Department. Approximately 200,000 of the men are said to be over 38 years of age and were released to accept employment in essential industry or agriculture. The remaining were discharged on account of physical and mental disability.

Unsold Trees

With the habit of the American people for paying the price of anything they happen to want at the time we were somewhat surprised to see that in some of the large cities in the country Christmas trees, priced at three times their normal cost, failed to sell. It seems that speculators had been so sure that the war worker and his money would soon part, that they felt that they could step up on the cost of the trees and it would never be noticed.

In Boston it was reported that thousands of trees which had been shipped into the city "remained stacked outside of stores as if rooted in the sidewalks." In Los Angeles, trees that had been priced at \$1.50 sold as low as 25 cents the last minute before Christmas. This may seem a small matter, yet it is significant of the turning at last of the public against the profiteer, because Christmas is an extravagant time, and people often pay prices they would not at any other time of the year.

Save Your Car

Every agency concerned with war production and transportation is coming to realize the absolute necessity of keeping at least the irreducible minimum of passenger cars and trucks rolling. The Office of Defense Transportation and the Brookings Institution have agreed that, with respect to cars, this should not fall below 20,000,000. We have had no increment to the car supply for more than two years. The ODT estimates that 1,000,000 automobiles were scrapped in 1942, and that 1,500,000 will be scrapped in 1943 and 2,000,000 in 1944.

In these circumstances, conservation and maintenance daily become more important. The National Conservation Bureau and the National Association of Manufacturers have done a real service in publishing jointly a little pamphlet adopting the comic cartoon method of approach with a minimum number of words to bring home the importance of this message to the car owners and, especially, the war worker. It is called "If Your Car Could Talk", and points the lessons of regular lubrication, prompt repairs, tire conservation and slow driving in a graphic way which should do much good.



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

New Year's greetings... We started to say Happy New Year... and then we changed our mind... Not for lack of sincerity in well wishing, but for the very good reason, that we know, if we face the facts, that 1944 is not going to be an especially happy year, no matter how optimistic we may approach the unfolding of the twelve months ahead.

We note with keen satisfaction that a number of writers are recalling now that American Labor unions might well profit from a study of World War I and its aftermath... It has been pointed out that a large number of strikes then alienated public sentiment and helped cause a strong post-war reaction against labor.

In lighter vein... Leap Year is here again... and the open season for matrimony as proposed by women is in order... According to statistics, there are 4,000,000 unmarried women in this country between the ages of 18 and 25... During 1943, it is said that one girl out of every three married, either a war worker, a civilian employee of the government, or a man with a job.

What do you think was the outstanding event of 1943? Mrs. J. C. Welch—"The last conference of the four great world powers."

W. F. Swift—"I think Churchill, Stalin, Roosevelt conference was the biggest event of the year."

W. C. Allen—"I think the outstanding event was the recovery of the Russians at Stalingrad in which they drove the Germans more than 1,000 miles and within 30 miles of Poland."

W. H. F. Miller—"I think the outstanding event of 1943 was the meeting of the Big Four and the agreement."

J. C. Patrick—"The sinking of the battleship Scharnhorst."

Inside WASHINGTON

Senate Control After 1944 Elections Still Is a Mystery | Four of 12 Now Debated Would Give GOP Majorities

WASHINGTON—Who will control the senate after the 1944 elections is a deep mystery that only the ballot box can solve. Anything can happen. That's how close the senate control fight appears likely to be when the 79th congress is organized in January, 1945. November's off-year elections, with the strong Republican upsurge in strategic states, forecast substantial gains in Republican tonal seats. The terms of 32 of the 96 senators expire next year, leaving 64 holdovers. Then there is a 33rd term to fill—the two-year remainder of the unexpired term of the late W. Warren Barbour, New Jersey Republican. The senate as constituted today has 58 Democrats, 37 Republicans and one Progressive—Up for election next year are 11 Republicans and 21 Democrats, plus the New Jersey short term now held by a Democrat. The Republicans should hold all of their 11 seats while the only seats the Democrats are sure to hold are those in the solid south and Arizona and Nevada in the far west. This means that 12 seats are in debatable territory—states which showed strong Republican trends in 1942, 1943, or both years. Should Republicans take these seats and recover the New Jersey seat, the senate score would be 50 Republicans to 45 Democrats and one Progressive—Robert M. La Follette of Wisconsin. The GOP must recover New Jersey and get 10 of the 12 debatable seats to total 48 of the senate. With La Follette voting with the Democrats, the senate then would present a tie for the next vice president to break. With La Follette voting on their side the Republicans would have a majority of one.

GRAND OPERA: Newspapers in Washington were pleased and satisfied with the way Admiral Chester W. Nimitz handled the coverage of the recent American invasion of the Gilbert islands. Prior to the invasion, Nimitz ordered his commanders in the field to cooperate fully with war correspondents assigned to the Central Pacific. Following the successful invasion, a newspaperman assigned to the Navy put the following waggish tribute to Nimitz on the bulletin board in the Navy department press room: "Central and South Pacific theater, Chester W. Nimitz, manager, international dateline, a Gilbert and Solomon production, possibly the last appearance of Hirohito in 'The Mikado.' Also Tom Joe assisted by Harry Kart in 'The Pirates'."

SMALL ELECTRIC MOTORS are the major bottleneck in the way of more new washing machines and electric refrigerators, officials disclose. Reason—they are tied up by the aircraft industry. "After all, you can't slow production of planes to make new washing machines," one WPB expert observed. As a result, WPB has no encouragement for the housewife to when she will be able to buy a new washing machine or refrigerator.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT has disclosed the development of an all-purpose, all-weather gasoline designed to meet year-round combat requirements of all Army ground forces vehicles from jeeps to tanks. Specifications for the new gasoline insure maximum operational efficiency at temperatures ranging from zero to extreme heat, thereby eliminating the necessity of differentiating between summer and winter grades. Slightly different requirements are specified for fuel for use in extremely cold climates.

MRS. JOHN GUNTHER, wife of the author-war correspondent, was testifying before the house foreign affairs committee in support of legislation to promote the rescue of oppressed Jews in Europe. As treasurer of the Emergency Committee to Save the Jews of Europe, she was appealing in a low voice for congressional action to support the cause. Suddenly, the hearing room calm was shattered by the clang of the house bell which notifies members that a session begins in 15 minutes. Startled, Mrs. Gunther was brought up short. "I'm not stepping on a bell, am I?" she asked Chairman Sol Bloom.

The Voice Of The People

What do you think was the outstanding event of 1943? Mrs. J. C. Welch—"The last conference of the four great world powers." W. C. Allen—"I think the outstanding event was the recovery of the Russians at Stalingrad in which they drove the Germans more than 1,000 miles and within 30 miles of Poland." Mrs. Edith P. Alley—"I would say the world conferences because they signify something different than we had ever expected to happen."

THE OLD HOME TOWN

By STANLEY. I HEAR THE SENATOR'S RECORD IMPROVED IN THE LAST SESSION—HE WAS WRONG ONLY 90 PER CENT OF THE TIME!! YEAN—HE BROUGHT OUT A BILL TO GET AN ADDED STEEL PLATE ON TAP DANCERS' SHOES BUT IT WAS TALKED TO DEATH! SENATOR RAGWEED OF CRABTREE CROSSING PASSED THROUGH TOWN AGAIN TODAY BUY MORE BONDS

TRANSACTIONS IN Real Estate (As Recorded to Monday Night Of This Week)

Jonathan Creek Township Crawford Jenkins, et ux Hardy Carver, et ux. Waynesville Township Mark Galloway, et ux to Wood Jones, et ux. Josephine S. Thomas, et al Moses Osborne, et ux. World War Veterans Loan Thaddeus L. McDonald, et ux.

MARRIAGES Hugh A. Matthews to Burch, both of Canton. Buy War Bonds and Stamp