

The Mountaineer

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THURSDAY, MAY 31, 1945 (One Day Nearer Victory)

They Were All There

No one need ever doubt that the people of this community are war minded, after the thousands attended the showing of "This Is Your Infantry" last Wednesday night. It was a strange fascination, while many did not want to go, they could not stay away. They wanted to see what their boys were having to take. The effect must have been all that was desired if the reaction to the call to buy bonds is any indication. Perhaps it is good for the home front to get an eyeeful and also an earful of what it must be like overseas in the thick of things. Certainly nothing could show the necessity for buying war bonds more than the danger which a man faces in combat.

He Has Something

The Old Codger in Josephus Daniel's column, "The Rhamkatte Roaster" in the Raleigh News and Observer one day last week had the following paragraph which should make us all stop and realize how we have learned to hide behind the war: "I has enjoyed one thing about the war an' I kaint see how I kin git along without it. It air a good excuse fer not doin' what ye diddent want to by havin' it on the war." Now the Old Codger certainly has something there, for all of us are more or less guilty. We can slide off of everything by merely saying, "Well you know there is a war on." We have gotten in the habit of offering this for all our shortcomings. As the Old Codger asks, "What air we goin' to git as a substitute fer not doin' what we don't want to do?"

Attending Conference

We were glad when President Truman decided to attend the San Francisco conference. We had the feeling all along that the President of the United States should have been there. Perhaps one reason was that President Roosevelt had planned to do so, and we had it fixed in our mind as the right thing for the host of the country in which the conference was to be held was to greet the visitors. Yet on the other hand President Truman just entering the office under great emergency and stress had a lot to do. He was faced with problems too numerous to relate, and he was needed in Washington. Another good reason was that he had not had time to get himself informed on all the fine points of the conference, the Dumbarton Oaks Conference and the Big Three meeting at Teheran and Yalta. It would take longer than the mere two weeks he had been president to acquire such information. He has had time since then to get the feel of things and to learn from the very proceedings of the conference how affairs were running and what was needed to cement more firmly the interests of the Big Three powers. No matter who the President might send to San Francisco they could never have quite the prestige that the President himself would have with the other nations. The task of the United Nations is beyond the reach of most of us, too complicated for us to understand, except that we realize as we read the items under discussion that a great deal of tact will have to be used to bring the nations of the earth to a common ground of understanding.

Following Through

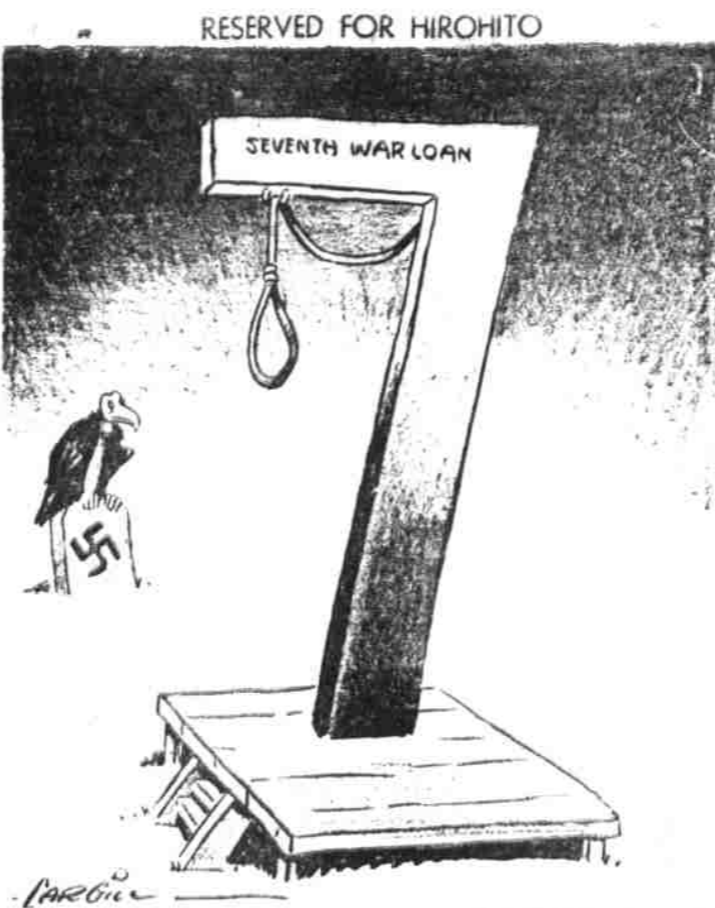
The recent action of the town officials regarding the sale of wine on Main Street is evidently part of the program for cleaning up the community, started sometime ago by the law enforcement officers. Saturday afternoon is a rush session on Main Street any way you take it. People who have been busy all week like to come to town on Saturday. Many of them do not have time off until that half day. They should have the privilege of the street without interference, and so the afternoon is usually marked by crowds. When this congested condition was supplemented by drunks it was not conducive to either the good will of the local people or the visitors in the community. We congratulate the officials on seeing the program through.

More Diplomats

We see that the State Department in Washington will soon be in a position to announce details of a program inspired by the United States' expanded role in world affairs to improve and enlarge its foreign service division. The plans call for recruits in large numbers in the career of diplomacy. They are seeking young men in their twenties and there will also be needed many highly trained technicians, which it is said will require an act of Congress for its formation. It will take a great deal of work of this type now that the war is over in Europe to get the diplomatic and consular posts opened again. The new international responsibility that now rests on our country will call for the highest type of personnel. It seems strange to consider such things right here in Haywood County as a vital issue, for it has not been so many years since we felt that these things were of little interest to us—too far away. But not now. How this new diplomatic reorganization is worked out and maintained will mean much to the sons of our Haywood men now fighting overseas. If this department should not function with understanding of other nations, it would mean that their sons would have to fight once again as their fathers before them.

Japan's Geographical Strength

If the Allies could throw all the power against the Japanese and could do it under conditions similar to those which prevailed in western Europe the war in the Far East soon would end with the complete collapse of Japanese resistance. Because of this obvious fact some Americans find it difficult to understand why the capture of Okinawa is proving so costly and why there are so many warnings that the job of forcing the unconditional surrender of Japan, undoubtedly a necessity for the future safety of our country, may result in heavy casualties. The reasons are geographic. One is the tremendous length of our supply lines, a matter frequently emphasized; another is the character of the terrain where most of the fighting on land will be done. The decisive battles will be fought in Japan, a country made up of mountainous islands, and possibly in China, including Manchuria. Except on the plains of Manchuria, there will be no possibility of the tank and armored-car warfare — use of tremendous power for breaking gaps in fixed defenses, followed by quick exploitation—which both Americans and Germans used so successfully in Europe. In Japan there are few highways or railroads and only 15 per cent of the land is level. In China, south of the Yangtze River, there are exceedingly few communication lines of any kind and the terrain is either hilly or mountainous. The North China plain, north of the Yangtze along the coast, is flat country but has few roads, is divided into tiny fields and is intersected by canals and irrigation and drainage ditches. Because of these facts the Japanese frequently may be able, as they have been on the Pacific islands, to compel their opponents to make frontal assaults on prepared positions in which the defense has an undeniable advantage. The fighting, especially within Japan, will resemble that in the mountains of northern Italy rather than that in the valleys and on the rolling hills of France and Germany. The difference will be that the Allies, despite troublesome distances, should be able to bring far more strength to bear than they did in Italy, so that Allied superiority in the air and in artillery should cancel much of Japan's geographical asset. The might which can be thrown against Japan is so vast that the Japanese can have no hope of successful defense over any considerable period of time. But our victory — unless Japan decides to quit—is not likely to be either quick or easy. —New York Herald Tribune.



HERE and THERE By HILDA WAY GWYN

Congratulations to the graduates of Waynesville High in the class of 1945. You have seen a lot during the four years you have been in high school and you face grave responsibilities in the world of tomorrow as well as today. We were much surprised to learn from Mr. Bowles that you are the largest class to ever graduate. True some of you, we understand, will not be present on the night of June the 6th to receive your diploma, for you will be at your posts in the armed services. But don't worry you will not be forgotten. We understand that your class rather than a case of the jitters during your freshman year when the world was turning upside down, and the great American Army and Navy were being organized, but Mr. Bowles says that stage passed and you began to get quite settled as time went on and today as you graduate find you a serious sober lot who are ready and willing to take your place where duty may call.

You have made a fine record on the home front. You went out for war work in a big concerted effort. We recall the scrap drive and how you helped Haywood county win 4th place in the South Eastern States—you and the other high schools of the county. And we adults will have to admit that you did the major part of the collecting of that scrap as the great pile of metals grew on the school grounds, waiting to be turned into fighting equipment for our men in service. During the bond drives we have watched with interest your power of salesmanship. We have learned with gratification that during the bond campaign the high schools of the county helped raise two-thirds of the total fund.

One surprising bit of information we have learned about you, and it has made us very proud, is the fact that in your class of 1945 are students who left school two or three years ago and took your turn in the outside world. You realized what an education would mean and you came back to graduate. This is a fine sign for you to learn so young that you need be fitted for life.

We understand that a few of you graduates in the armed forces hope to get back to receive your diplomas but if you can't make it you will be given you just the same. We wish to especially honor the students in the armed forces from your class including Hugh Compton, Richard Henry Franklin, William Thomas Freeman, Noble Wiley Garrett, Jr., Clarence William Harrell, Gilbert Lee Hembree, William Lee Howell, Jerry Robert Leatherwood, James Ned Massey, Thomas Medford, James Hardy Noland, Robert W. Phelps, Raymond Phillips, Kenneth Turner, and Joseph Thomas Wilson.

In a recent letter from Lt. Mary E. Francis, of Haywood county, who is now in Germany, she gives some of her thoughts on VE-Day. You remember what a fine record Lt. Francis has made. Ernie Pyle wrote of her work in Africa and since then she has been in two more invasions. We have at last reached that day for which we have all waited so anxiously. We thought we would be full of excitement and joy and we would be unable to hold ourselves. Instead we are the opposite, very quiet and a little anxious about what will happen next. We realize we have won the war in Europe, but have we won the peace that should follow? The answer to that question will not be answered until the war on the other side is finished. We also stop silently and bow in memory over here of the many boys who have made the supreme sacrifice that this war might be won by the force of right. Many of our own Haywood county boys have found silent resting places in the soil of Europe.

Voice OF THE People

Do you believe that Japan will fight to the bitter end as Germany, or do you think there is a possibility that she will surrender to save herself? John Boyd—"I think the Japs will stay in the fight as long as they possibly can." Chat Thomas—"I think they will fight as long as they have anything to fight with, and I hope that won't be long." Mrs. Wayne Corpening—"I believe they will fight to the bitter end but I am hoping they won't." Henry Davis—"I think they will fight right on but I would like to think the other way." Robert Fir—"I don't believe they will but still they are certainly not ready to quit, and I don't believe the war will be over until the first of 1946." Pvt. John Sutton—"18 months in European theater. I believe the Japs will fight to the finish." R. L. Com—"I believe they will fight right on to the end. The military authorities in Japan have the same influence they did in Germany, and I don't think they will let the people stop fighting until they are completely licked."

Col. J. H. Howell—"Yes, I think they will, they don't have any better sense." Judge F. E. Alley—"I think they are about themselves. They also worry a lot about what effect their being an expectant expression and was clearly disappointed at the reception he found in America—famous for its hospitality and friendliness. Then he received a setback when the most prominent sign he could find about the railway station was, "Is this trip really necessary?"

Fate has curious ways sometimes of bringing people together. One of the most amazing and pleasant get-togethers we have heard of in some time is the Withers family in meeting down in Miami. Major Ernest L. Withers, Jr., AAF, served in Italy for around 16 months. His brother-in-law of a few weeks, Lt. Harwell Lucius Boyd, Jr., spent two years on the other side of the world in the Aleutians. Now they are both ordered to report to the redistributing center in Miami—and they both have their wives along with them.

Between the Testaments HIGHLIGHTS ON THE SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

By NEWMAN CAMPBELL. (The International Uniform Lesson on the above topic for June 3 is Malachi, Matthew 2, Luke 1-2; Galatians 4:4-5; the Memory Verse being Psalm 92:4. "For Thou, Jehovah, hast made me glad.")

THERE IS a division of opinion about the Book of Malachi, one group of commentators saying Malachi was a prophet the last of the prophets of Israel who bore that name; the other holding that there was no man named Malachi, but that the name represented the subject, not the author, of this last book of the Old Testament. Malachi means "messenger"; in this case "messenger of the covenant" or "Messiah."

At this period in Israel's history, the Jews were again living in Jerusalem, not in captivity. Malachi was written when Israel was under the domination of the Persian empire. In it is prophesied the coming of John the Baptist and Jesus, the Messiah. "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before Me; and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of Hosts. "But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appears?" For He is like a refiner's fire, and like fuller's soap.

Purged as Gold and Silver "And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver; and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." A refiner goes on with his work until he sees his own face reflected in the glowing metal. Until the priests were clean, the offerings of the people could not be accepted, says one commentator. We have no more time or space to devote to Malachi, so shall turn to the New Testament, which was written four centuries later. We will omit the story of Jesus' birth in Matthew, and go on to St. Luke's account, as it is not Christ-mas time. St. Luke's story goes back to the birth of John the Baptist, the forerunner of Christ. He tells of the angel's announcement to Zacharias that he and his wife would have a child and he was to be named John. Zacharias was stricken dumb after the angel's visit. Before John's birth Elizabeth was visited by her cousin, Mary, who had been told that she had been selected as the mother of the Messiah, and his name should be Jesus. Elizabeth rejoiced with Mary, who praised the Lord for so distinguishing her in the beautiful Magnificat. "My soul doth magnify the Lord, and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour. For He hath regarded the low estate of His handmaiden; for behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed." Elizabeth's child was born first, and they named him John, as they had been bid, although the neighbors and cousins said John was not a family name. After the birth Zacharias recovered his speech, and prophesied, saying, "Blessed be the Lord God of Israel; for He hath visited and redeemed His people, and hath raised up an horn of salvation for us in the house of His servant David." Zacharias' Prophecies "As He spake by the mouth of His holy prophets, which have been since the world began: That we should be saved from our enemies, and from the hand of all that hate us: Alas, his people still are hated and persecuted, more so in this last era than ever before. "How long, Oh, Lord, how long?" they must wonder. "And thou, child," Zacharias continued, shall be called the prophet of the Highest; for thou shalt go before the face of the Lord to prepare His way. "And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, and was in the deserts till the day of his showing in Israel." Then Luke tells the beautiful story of the birth of Jesus, the visit of the shepherds and the wise men, the search of Herod for this Babe who was to be "King of the Jews" in his place, and the murder of the babies under two. Warned by an angel, Joseph took Mary and the Babe to Egypt and stayed there until Herod was dead and it was safe to return, when they settled in the town of Nazareth. He also relates how Jesus "waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon Him." Of Jesus' childhood we know little, but Luke tells of His visit to Jerusalem with His parents, and how on the way home they missed Him, and returning, found Him in the temple asking the doctors questions and answering theirs.

The Everyday Counselor

Have you heard the story of Cecil Morrison, "The Happy Baker of Canada"? Related by Dr. J. Blanton Belk, St. Giles Presbyterian Church of Richmond, Va. It offers interesting and suggestive reading. Cecil Morrison is in the baking business, controlling a large chain of bakeries throughout Canada. He will be remembered as the man who presented the British King with a six-foot high birthday cake when he visited Canada in 1939. The story commences back in the depression when so many suffered severe financial loss. Morrison is one of these. It is only when a personal plan has failed that many decide to try God's plan. Morrison decided to take the Lord in partnership with him, seeking His plan and guidance. His shattered financial resources were rehabilitated. His business prospered and he became wealthy. All the while he kept his daily communion with his Lord. Then something happened. Morrison hated the organized labor movement of Canada. When an attempt was made in 1932 to organize the workers in his bakeries he resisted vigorously. One day two representatives of his employees were in his office for a conference. He declined all of their overtures. After they left the office he found a brief case belonging to them containing papers which indicated that they were leaders in the effort to organize the workers in his plants. He promptly discharged them. They appealed to the Canadian Labor Board, but Morrison stood his ground, refusing to re-instate them. Such an attitude produced spiritual repercussions as it always does. Bitterness cut off communion with God. Morrison found that he had lost his power of prayer and sense of peace. As he prayed for restoration of these lost powers it was revealed to him that he had not dealt honestly, that he must correct the wrong he had done. Fortunately he was big enough man to do it. He reinstated the two employees with an apology to them, explaining how he had come by information which led to their discharge. He appeared before the Canadian Labor Board with an apology and correction. The chairman observed that he had never seen such a demonstration of true greatness in his thirty years of law practice. Morrison's act made a profound impression throughout the country. It will give up before they are completely defeated for it they can't time they will have to fight the whole world.



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Inside WASHINGTON

How Hanegon Started Boom | Truman Hoped Only For Truman at Conversion | Re-elected U. S. Sen. Special to Central Press.

WASHINGTON—Selection of Democratic National Chairman Robert E. Hanegon to be postmaster general under President Truman revives memories of Hanegon's part in the nomination of Mr. Truman as vice presidential candidate at the Chicago Democratic convention last summer. Although the postmaster job traditionally is handed to the national chairman, in this case it comes as a reward for particularly well done.



Hanegon started the Truman vice presidential boom in a Missouri delegation luncheon caucus in a Chicago hotel during the caucus. Mr. Truman and Sen. Bennett Champ Clark of Missouri were brought into the caucus by Hanegon, and Mr. Truman was named caucus man. In the space of minutes, a resolution gave the Missouri delegation endorsement Mr. Truman for the vice presidential spot was on the air. The new president made sincere professions. "On last Friday," he told the caucus, "Roy Roberts, managing editor of the Kansas Star, that I have never been a candidate for any other office than Senator. I said I hoped Mr. Truman would let me have another term and that I had no ambition to be vice president. "I have no ambition," he declared, "to be on this ticket as president of the United States." "Draft him! Draft him!" they cried and the caucus endorsed Mr. Truman unanimously for second place on the ticket. The action was looked upon generally as the opening gun of a successful Truman campaign. SOLID FUELS ADMINISTRATOR HAROLD L. ICKES, under orders from President Truman, took over 363 mines in strike-bound Pennsylvania hard coal fields where walkouts by members of John L. Lewis' United Mine Workers had tied down war production. It was the third seizure of the mines since the Japanese attack upon Pearl Harbor. Ickes stepped in this time after the mines had been taken over in defiance of a War Labor board back-to-work order under an indefinite extension of the old wage contract. The seizure came while Lewis and other UMW representatives continued negotiations with the mine owners in New York in an effort to work out a new wage agreement. Lewis was mum on the hard coal situation but promised that the union would do everything possible to get the miners back to pits in three soft coal mines in West Virginia seized by the government because of work stoppages.