

The Mountaineer

Published By THE WAYNESVILLE PRINTING CO. Main Street Phone 137

Waynesville, North Carolina The County Seat of Haywood County

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W. Curtis Russ and Marion T. Bridges, Publishers

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY

SUBSCRIPTION RATES One Year, In Haywood County \$2.00 Six Months, In Haywood County 1.25

One Year, Outside Haywood County 2.50 Six Months, Outside Haywood County 1.50

All Subscriptions Payable In Advance

Entered at the post office at Waynesville, N. C., as Second Class Matter, as provided under the Act of March 3, 1879, November 9, 1914.

Postmaster: This publication of profit, will be charged for at the rate of one cent per word.



THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1945

The Banks Look Ahead

The recent study made by the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond, under which the banks of this area are supervised, gives evidence of the thorough and painstaking vision the Federal institution has of what is happening to the sections it serves, which will in turn be reflected in the banks.

For the condition of the bank, if run properly in your community is a reflection of the standard of business in the area it serves. The study on how the war had and would effect the industry, trade and agriculture of this section was pertinent, and the findings will no doubt serve as guides to the bankers as they work out their postwar policies.

We noted with gratification that the outlook for Western North Carolina is good and that if the survey can be trusted we are destined for continued progress in Haywood and surrounding counties.

Wisconsin Solves It

We read with interest how the University of Wisconsin solved its housing shortage. They had among their veterans who wished to take advantage of the G. I. (educational feature) Bill of Rights, 78 men who were married and wished to resume living with their wives and families, while attending college.

They had a total of 458 veterans applying for entrance, and provision was made for all those unmarried, but when it came to apartments for the married men there were none. Time passed and just two weeks before the opening of the fall semester, the University discovered that the Federal government had on its hands 100 trailers that had been used by war workers in ammunition plants near by. So the problem was solved.

The trailers, one-room affairs were completely furnished right down to a gas range and refrigerators and a hook-up for water connections. All that was necessary was to install an oil heater in each vehicle and to refurnish the insulation.

Maybe it will work, but since most of the couples were reported to have children, it looks to us like it will be pretty hard on the Paps to study much. It is certain they won't be able to do much "home work."

Letter to Major Plott

The following from Vox Prop, Army Air Field publication at Dyersburg, Tenn., will be of interest to Haywood readers:

"Although it still retains the name of Squadron A, this outfit has experienced such a great transition during the week that former members would certainly not recognize it. In addition to gaining a large number of new men, we lost the best Squadron CO, that anyone ever had when Major George F. Plott was put on the inactive list. Uncle George was the first commanding officer of this unit, originally the 449th Hq. Sq. and there are only a few of us left who remember the day he arrived at this field with its original cadre.

"Major Plott considered all men of his squadron as 'his boys' and would lean over backward to give any of them an even break. During all of the nearly three years that we've known the Major, we've never heard an ill spoken word against him, which is a record of which he can be mighty proud. A man in his position might have made as many enemies as friends, but not the Major. So long, Uncle George, we wish you many years of the best sort of hunting and fishing in those Smoky Mountains which you love so well."

"The Green Light"

The reduction of taxes in face of the fact that we now have a deficit of \$30,000,000,000 is rather confusing to most of us, especially since the government is staging a large bond drive.

Representative Doughton explains it that in giving business tax reductions beyond those proposed originally Congress is giving business a "green light" and that the responsibility will be on business to see that production and employment are increased.

Many are asking how will business use the "green light." Some are recalling that after World War I business rather made a mess of things in a great era of speculation followed by a depression. We hope the mistakes of 25 years ago will show a better route for business to take this time. We don't like to think of another depression, for if it comes all seem to agree that it will be much more tragic than the last.

Haywood's Share

We see that on the two state forest nurseries operated by the North Carolina department of conservation and development that there are now about 3,500,000 tree seedlings ready for distribution to the landowners for fall and spring planting.

From time to time as the department has had seedlings to distribute, Haywood county landowners have often used some of these seedlings with good results as can be seen in some of the seedlings which are now making fine stands. We hope that in the 1945-46 distribution the Haywood farmers make large plantings. This will be needed not only for the good of the land, but also for an investment in future lumber.

Complete information regarding these seedlings may be had from the county forest warden, the state forester, Raleigh, or the district forester, which in this case has offices in Asheville.

Are We Grateful?

When we hear the returning veterans from the European theater tell of the devastation of the countries in that area we wonder if we here in America are grateful enough, despite our casualties for the fact that the war was not fought on American soil.

We see that Belgium is trying to buy lumber from America in order to get end mine props for making them fit to use. They have the coal mines, yet they are begging us to sell the coal. The pits were ruined by the German occupation as was the case in certain sections of France.

They have lumber, but their forests are full of booby traps and unexploded artillery shells. It looks like it might be a good way to use some of the German people. Some of Hitler's crack soldiers might be put to work in the forests of the other countries which they overran.

Responsibility

Had it occurred to you that Victory represents a tremendous responsibility? General Marshall in discussing current problems brought this matter home to the American people when he asked this question:

"Are we already shirking the responsibility of Victory?"

The General further stated that "we must somehow get it clear in our thinking that the fulfillment of our responsibilities is not some vague mum-bo-jumbo. It requires positive action and sacrifice, and above all is a continuing process."

He also stated that in a widespread emotional crisis of the American people demobilization has become in effect, disintegration not only of our armed forces, but apparently of all conception of world responsibility and what it demands of us.

He also stressed the failure to date of facing the necessity of a sound military policy.

We believe that most of us are guilty of this attitude. The war is over, we are out of it, we are free from attack by the enemy. But this is wrong when we consider that the men in service did a big part of the job, but it is up to us to finish it.

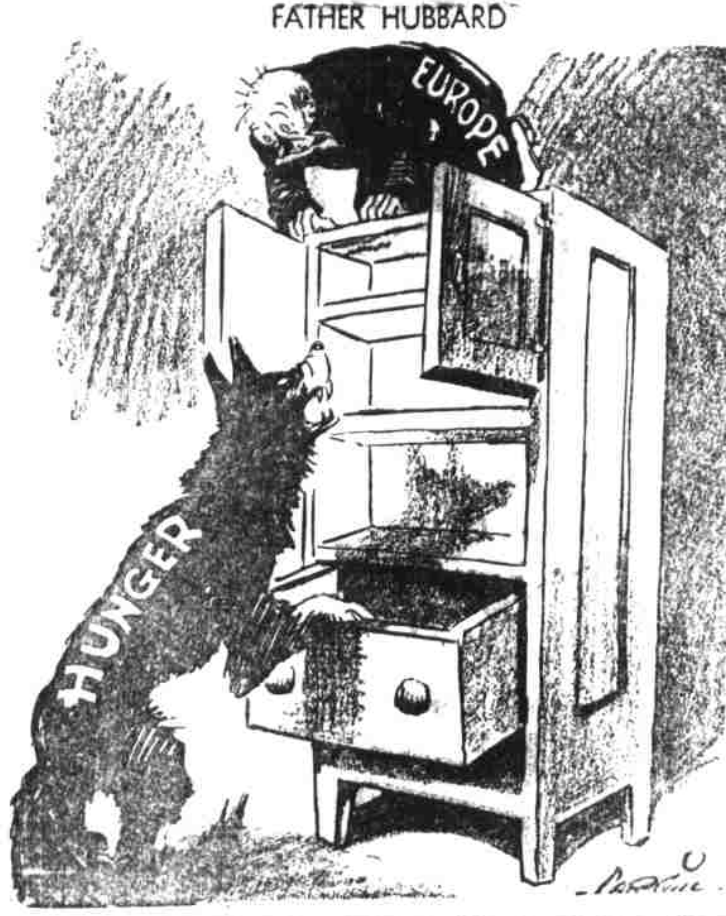
The atomic bomb has put it squarely up to the world as to its future—peace or pieces!

A suggestion for the postwar auto: one that will stop and count 10 before hitting a pedestrian.

We wonder if the new washers and ironers will have a gadget that will put the buttons back on.

Yawata, the "Pittsburgh of Japan," got a real break. It was hit only by demolition bombs from 225 Superforts.

As far as we're concerned, be it ever so humble there's no place like home for the German prisoners of war now in the U. S. The sooner they're shipped back, the better!



HERE and THERE

By HILDA WAY GWYN

We do not grant man any great credit as compared with woman, when the sum total of their qualities are balanced one against the other, but we do acknowledge that by their superior physical strength man sometimes is able to meet trouble and dangers and come through better than a mere woman.

"I have met one woman recently who can take it like a man with renewed spirit and courage. We are certain that no veteran of the armed forces has come through combat with better nerve than Miss Ruth Harris, sister of Dr. Mary Michael of Waynesville, who was interned for three years in a Japanese camp. Her philosophical attitude proves how worthy she is of the American Campaign ribbon and citation stating the courage and fortitude which she bore her suffering awarded her by the war department.

Miss Harris can tell you from her first night she spent in a Japanese prison the deplorable conditions in a calm matter of fact way, all the horrors of prison life and if you are not very careful you'll find it just how horrible they were. Miss Harris went to China in 1925 as a missionary secretary with the American Baptist Mission. Later she was transferred to the Philippines (1927), she was serving as treasurer of Central College at Iloilo, and secretary to the president of the college at the time the war started.

Within a week after Pearl Harbor was bombed the city of Iloilo was bombed. A number of the Americans and English evacuated to the middle of Panay Island and remained there until April, 1942. In the meantime the Americans in Manila expected to be treated the same way. Some took to the mountains to live as best they could until the American forces came to liberate them. Others remained and hid in the mountains. The latter group were the best for those who hid out were hunted down and killed in 1943. In the room with whom Miss Harris worked, 11 of the Baptist missionaries, with one nine-year-old boy took those chances and stayed in the mountains. They were all killed. The Japs destroyed Central College where 1,000 Filipino students attended school annually.

In April, 1942, Miss Harris, with six other adults and five children were captured and taken prisoners and placed in the Iloilo provincial jail. They were taken in the mountains and during the two hour drive to Iloilo they saw what had happened. In the thickly populated areas they saw severely a dozen people. The others had been killed outright or were hiding in the mountains.

"We spent one month in jail, with our feet never outside, and our food was cooked rice twice a day. The water supply had been destroyed by the Americans when they heard that the Japs were coming. We had water to drink, but none in which to bathe," she said.

"Then we were moved to the school building, where it was crowded, but more comfortable. A Jap guard was over us constantly to keep us from looking out, but you know how Americans are. They always find some humor in any situation. All of us soon had a peephole and we had a lot of fun about them. We had a fine organization in the camp. Everybody worked. We women sewed, cooked, and taught school. We worked over clothes a great deal for we all had so few. The men with long trousers had us make them shorts thus getting two garments out of one. A Spaniard sent us word he would sell us clothing on credit, and we got things in somehow. The men dug wells, the water was salty, but we drank rain water. One Chinese who helped us in gratitude that his life had been spared, loaned us \$6,500 in American money and later cancelled our

Voice OF THE People

Do you believe that all further development of the Atomic bomb should be suppressed?

Mrs. Cornelia Nixon—"I really don't know. I have heard both sides and I am still in the air about the matter."

Dr. Tom Stringfield—"No, I think it should be developed further and we should learn all we can about it for it will give power among other nations, who will also want to develop it."

Sheriff R. V. Welch—"No, for if we don't other countries are going to do so, so I feel that we should make the most of it."

M. H. Bowles—"As far as the bomb part is concerned I think it should be suppressed but I think we should continue development of the atomic power for civilian use."

Fred L. Saffard—"No, for the atomic energy must be developed, and some other country is going to develop the bomb; and we must remember that we are in the atomic age."

Pfe. Taylor Crockett—"No, because it could not be done but the power of its development should be in the hands of those who could use it for good."

Roy Parkman—"I don't believe it is possible now to keep it from being further developed, and I think that the United States should take the lead and make the most of its power."

Set. James Adams—"Yes, I think it is too dangerous."

Col. J. Harden Howell—"I think it should be suppressed, but I don't see how it can be done."

Lt. Paul McElroy—"No, I don't think so, for if we tried to suppress it some other country would develop it, so we must do so ourselves."

"The stretch from September, 1944, to February, 1945, was the hardest, but of course things were getting worse all the time. I cannot tell you how our camp leaders knew what was going on, but they did. They would tell us to be very careful how they told us. As the Jap guards did not always take in what they were telling us, they were able to put over a few things. One day the announcer said, 'It is late, but better Leyte than never' and we rejoiced in our hearts, for we knew that the Americans had captured Leyte, she told us with much feeling.

"During Christmas the American planes dropped leaflets over the Philippines and some fell inside the camp. They carried the message 'Your wishes will be fulfilled during the New Year (1945). We knew what they meant. Things had reached a desperate stage then. We stripped the trees of leaves to cook for food. We dug any kind of roots to cook. Our fuel was gone. We used our furniture and even pulled boards off our shacks to kindle fires to cook with. But we were hoping each day that the Americans would be coming," she said.

"Then toward the end of January, the Americans flew over the camp in two small planes. We were not allowed to even look up, but they dropped a note saying, 'Roll out the barrel, Christmas will be with you Sunday or Monday.' But it came sooner. For the Americans came on Saturday. General MacArthur had heard that we were all to be killed and things had to be hurried up. The Americans came for us in 700 tanks, without any supplies. They could not take time to bring any food. Our lives were at stake. So we had to feed our liberators. You can understand the hospitality we had to offer in our own starving condition," she said.

"I guess the Battle of Manila was the hardest in some ways. We had lived through three years and now with liberation in sight it looked as if we might all be killed. Between 20 and 30 of the internes were killed. My own room was bombed. While the battle was raging we hid under anything we could find, for Manila was in the thick of the fighting line. We were utterly exhausted. I shall never forget the noise of battle and then how it began to die down and grow fainter. When it was over and the Americans had taken things in their hands, we were shipped to Leyte and taken on board a transport that had brought over 8,000 troops. Manila Bay was filled with sunken ships, and we had to get out the northeast side, as it was the only way ships could get out," she said.

Miss Harris grieves over the destruction of Central College, where she has worked so many years. She spoke of its beautiful buildings, its library of 11,000 volumes, its pipe organ, and the hundreds of students who have been taught the English language since 1900.

Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Wilson, two children, Bill and Sue, formerly of Knoxville, Tenn., have moved to Waynesville, staying at the home of Mrs. J. L. Rathbone until their home is completed on Hill Street. Mr. Wilson is in charge of paint and body work at D. A. Kins Company.

Inside WASHINGTON

Aircraft Industry Is Worried Over Future Concern Due to Slash in U. S. Spending

WASHINGTON—The aircraft industry is plenty worried about the future. In some pessimistic quarters fear exists that the industry faces collapse because of curtailed government orders.

This concern is shared to some extent by top-ranking military and naval leaders who are afraid that the nation will forget its air power under the drug of peace.

During 1944 aircraft plants employed more than 1,200,000 men and turned out nearly 10,000 planes of various types. Present outlook is that the industry has orders for only 2,400 planes in 1945, a figure slightly higher than the total turned out in 1939.

THE WAR DEPARTMENT reportedly is launching a campaign in Congress for continuation of the Army and Navy under a single department of National Defense.

THE ADDITIONAL \$2,500 per year allowance which Congress voted last year into the pockets of between 80 and 90 per cent of House members beginning July 1. The remainder had not availed themselves yet. Some of the members have been absent from Washington as a result may draw the allowance later. But several are deliberately to take it, and they are letting their constituents of their regard for government money.

ADMINISTRATOR CHESTER BOWLES, a bitter opponent of the government's hold-the-line policy, is prepared to wage a ditch fight against a general price increase on reconversion. However, the OPA chief appears certain to grant increased specific items when he is convinced that the hikes will spur production or correct inequities for producers.

THE OFFICE OF STRATEGIC SERVICES—often referred to as "Cloak and Dagger Society" during its hidden wartime activities—is moving back into its secret status again after a publicity campaign.

Outstanding accomplishments revealed during the campaign included a huge underground army developed in Japan that was in the days when it was thought OSS could be permanent and independent agency—before the State Department claimed its functions.

DAUGHTER WAR TROPHIES which have found their way into America are causing the bureau of internal revenue much alarm. The bureau has general supervision of fire-arms under the national fire-arms act, and it reports that such souvenirs as machine guns have been stolen for criminal purposes.

RECONVERSION BOSS JOHN W. SNYDER is getting a deal of publicity over his "understandable" attitude toward demands for higher wages. He will tell labor and management to get together and settle their own problems however when the wage and price program is announced.

Snyder already has tacitly warned industry that it must be prepared to share more of its profits with workers to enable the balance purchasing power with living costs.

At the same time he warned labor not to make unreasonable demands since this would only pave the way for tinious and thus destroy their gains.

How well do you know your America? If you hadn't been born an American citizen, could you pass the examination for naturalization? Arthur C. Cundy, former secretary of Civitan International and now secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce of Rockingham, N. C., was born in England, became a naturalized American citizen some years ago. He with 22 other men stood before Judge Knott of the Federal Court in Boston, from whom they received the examination of 68 questions concerning the United States, its symbolism, its history. Some of these questions are given below:

What star in the American Flag typifies your own home State? Designate same. When Francis Scott Key saw the Flag flying over Fort Mifflin, which inspired him to write that immortal hymn, "The Star-Spangled Banner," how many stripes were in the Flag that he saw? What did they represent? Who gave our Flag the name of "Old Glory" and when? Is the official American Flag by stripes and vertical and horizontal? Can any Flag fly over an American Flag on the same day? Can one object rest on the can Flag?

In what three places of America Flag fly official night and day? Which one of the American Flag, the stripes or the stars? How many full stripes did we have in the United States Navy when they were first used? How many full stripes did the United States Army have when they were first used? In the case of the president and Vice-President, who becomes acting President? Who was the only man to hold the title of "Commander in Chief" of the United States? Who was the Vice-President of George Washington? What is the highest merit award of the United States?

Give the names of your State and of your Representative in Congress. How many Presidents has the country had? How many times has the Constitution of the United States been amended? What is the name of the last State to join the Union. Where did the name of the last State come from? In God We Trust—how many amendments have been to the Constitution? history of the United States. Naval battle provided the name of "ironclad ships."

When Dr. Peter Marshall, known Washington clergyman, was born in Scotland, he was naturalized American citizen. He said that he was asked many other question these days. Are you an anarchist? Are you a polygamist? Are you an atheist? Dr. Marshall said that if given a negative answer to one of these three he would be denied citizenship. He said in a nation whose motto is "In God We Trust" no atheist has the right to enjoy citizenship.

Perhaps we don't appreciate American citizenship as we should.

(Continued on page 3)

THE OLD HOME TOWN



Miss Harris grieves over the destruction of Central College, where she has worked so many years. She spoke of its beautiful buildings, its library of 11,000 volumes, its pipe organ, and the hundreds of students who have been taught the English language since 1900.