

The Mountaineer

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Tiger Catfish

The following from a recent copy of The Pathfinder will be of interest to Haywood county folks as they know well and are proud of the "fish expert" to whom the story refers:

"A mess of catfish is a tasty dish for a man. And—perhaps—vice versa. The sheatfish, a monster catfish, is big enough to dine on humans. Fish expert E. W. Gudger describes it in Scientific Monthly as growing to 10 feet in length, with 18-inch jaws.

Rare these days, sheatfish were common in European rivers two centuries ago and widely credited with an appetite for humans. Its South American cousin, nearly as big, is feared by Amazon Indians.

Fish Story? Sheatfish have been seen gobbling up swimming ducks, wading lambs. Gudger says one could devour a small child. He thinks the reputation of the fish for eating adult humans springs from anglers' yarns about what they found in the monsters' stomachs.

Reported finds include whole children, men's heads and hands, a woman's torso and a purse of gold coins. Gudger's theory: (1) Catfish are scavengers; (2) especially after wars, human corpses are not uncommon in European rivers.



HERE and THERE

By

HILDA WAY GWYN

There was a lot of joking at the beginning of the war about girls and young ladies getting into uniform, but they have evidently made good for we see that the Waves and the Women Marines are to become a permanent part of the army, navy and marine corps.

There will be no peacetime Spurs or Coast Guard, however. Under the existing laws wartime organizations are abolished six months after the end of the emergency, but high officials of the three services stated during the week that the women had done such a good wartime job that at least a nucleus of all three will be kept.

Major General Wilford S. Paul, chief of army personnel, testified before the Senate Military Affairs committee on demobilization, said in part: "We fully expect to have a small group of women in both the permanent and interim army. Women have done a very outstanding and grand job in the war. We have found that often one woman can do the work of two or three men in certain jobs. Take a bow girls. We here in Haywood county salute you all, because we have had some of our very finest girls in your groups. Winifred Rodgers, Helen Platt, Helen Medford, Hilda Moody Leatherwood to say nothing of the part our nurses have played, with the Platt sisters, and Lt. Mary Francis. In connection with the war and women, we must not forget either the service that Betsy Lane and Mary Quinlan have played in the work of the Red Cross overseas.

The Courier-Journal of Louisville, Ky., has always been of special interest to us. We rarely see a copy, but we never fail to read anything we see quoted from its pages. Its recent editorial on Secretary Byrnes lost everything except his pants to Molotov, while others assess him as coming away with the bacon. Samuel Grafton tells us that according to The Manchester Guardian, Britain feels it was shorn. How? An agreement was made that the trusteeship of Korea should end in five years. Why? The British "are fearful that the clause may stir the Burmese and all Far Eastern colonies for a commutation of their own term for five years." Mr. Grafton thinks that, coming out of the conference as losers, the British may resort to old-fashioned measures which he describes as follows:

They try crude moves against the Jews to win the support of the Arab world; and they descend upon Siam with a demand for special rights and for war reparations of up to 1,500,000 tons of rice, with which they hope to feed the starving in their own Burma and India, thus easing their own colonial problem. We, who are not dislocated by having colonial interests, try to get the Siamese reparations scaled down; we emerge as the friends of Siam.

The New York Herald-Tribune, in an editorial sensitively feeling out the new position, murmurs meaningfully that British and American interests in Asia are not identical, and that it is not really necessary for us to act in unison with Britain in the Far East. Our interests lie in profitable trade, which require a free and developing Asia; Britain's interests lie (or she thinks they do) in subjugation and colonial milking.—Raleigh News and Observer.

The big difference between a gossip and a tombstone is that the latter has a good word for a man when he's down.

The postman says: Where you find sand on a slippery sidewalk, there you find a good neighbor.

One of the most stirring examples of real patriotism we have heard in sometime is the reaction of the widow of Manuel Quezon, former president of the Philippines. Last fall the Philippine Congress voted her a monthly pension. She sent back the first check with a note and her reply: "I feel that on account of countless widows and orphans, I should have a reflection of a pension. I cannot in good conscience receive government assistance when so many of our children are not taken care of. I know that if I accepted it I would make my less fortunate sisters and brothers not keeping faith with the memory of my beloved husband." Can you imagine the glow of warmth and affection this letter created among the Filipinos, who have suffered so much during the war. In this day of pushing to get everything in sight, which seems to be the motto of many, it is refreshing to know that there are people who like this Philippine woman, are sure that she has suffered great material losses and that her standard of living has been greatly reduced.

There is hardly a week passes, but some young veteran who is starting his married life does not ask, "Mrs. Gwyn, do you know where I could find an apartment or a small house?" We are so conscious of a housing shortage here, but our local problems are nothing in comparison with other sections. It is reported that a State College some of the boys are just giving up the idea of finishing their education because they can't find places to live—we should have said—a room in which to keep house. There is a total of 230 married veterans at State with the prospect of 200 more in March. They are living in attics, basements, and anywhere they can find. They all haven't been as lucky as Carroll Louise Bell Phillips and her ex-husband, Lt. Fred Phillips. Carroll Louise saw a nice looking house and just took her courage and went in and begged the owner, who had never rented a room to take her in. At the University in Chapel Hill there are over 4,000 students, and by March there will be 5,000 and next September 6,000. The dormitories are filled and unless a student can handle his housing or roofing problems he can't enter the University. The students are not taking short courses, but are returning after one to five years in the service and are a hard working, serious lot, according to

Sea Shell Echo Still another of the cherished beliefs of childhood has been punctured by the advance of science. This one is the theory that when you hold a sea shell to your ear you are listening to the ocean's roar. Actually the sound you hear is a selection of certain tones from the general noise which is always present in our everyday life, and an echo of these tones by the sea shell due to its size and shape.

THE OLD HOME TOWN By STANLEY NOW WILL YOU BELIEVE ME? THAT WAS NOT OUR CAT SCRATCHING ON THE FRONT DOOR. YOU GO RIGHT TO THE BASEMENT AND TAKE A SHOWER!!

WINNING AN ARGUMENT THE HARDWAY

Voice OF THE People

Owing to the crowded conditions of state institutions would you favor the state buying the U. S. Hospital at Camp Butler and similar institutions?

Lawrence E. Leatherwood— "Yes, because I think we need more hospital facilities."

Charles F. Ray— "Yes."

B. L. Prevost— "If it is in the mature judgment of the men in charge of these institutions that care for the unfortunate in our state that it is best to buy these camps I think it should be done and not for any political reasons."

Oliver H. Shelton— "I would approve of the purchase of such buildings since they are needed."

J. B. Morgan— "Yes, I would favor buying such buildings as our state institutions are in need of extra facilities to take care of the people."

Guy MacCie— "I think it would be a wise plan to buy more space is needed to accommodate the people. It is a problem at this time."

Dr. E. E. Stretcher— "I think it would be a good idea if the land here are of a permanent nature."

D. J. Boyd— "Yes, we have to have more room so we would favor buying such buildings."

Dr. J. E. McFadden— "I would approve of buying such buildings and buildings. As president of the North Carolina State Health Board I recommend the purchase of such camps during World War I, in 1919, we recommended them at that time."

Edith Leatherwood— "I would approve for I happen to be in a position to know that more space is needed."

Chairman of the University. We are glad that the government is going to honor draft board members. Having done a steady work of coverage of the draft board since the first draftees left a thankful crowd standing on the porch home bank back in 1942, we are familiar with the hours that Dr. Tom M. Green and Graydon Brown have put in around that long table in the office up the two flights of long stairs just climb up if you don't believe they were built especially for us Mountaineers. They have gone over and over the hundreds of files listened to reasons why deferments should be made. Many were legitimate for the home front had to be done as well as the battle front, but it was not always an easy thing to decide—just where to draw the line. So much pressure was brought to bear and to make our honest effort to conform with the selective service laws against the facts presented often offered headaches. They have received no money for their services, but taken a lot of "back talk" from disgruntled parents, etc. The public in general may not know of their effort, but they do up in Washington, as evidenced in the honor to be shown them. We take pleasure in adding our bit to the laurels given by Uncle Sam.

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WINNING AN ARGUMENT THE HARDWAY

The Everyday Counsel

By REV. HERBERT SPAUGH, D. D.

There is new hope and new opportunity each new day for those who will grasp them. It is well known that a good night's sleep cures changes one's attitude completely towards life. The burden which seems so heavy, the situation which seems so confused, assumes different proportion in the morning. Many of you can remember as children, how at night when you were sick or tired your mother tucked you in bed and said "Go to sleep now. It will all be better in the morning. God bless you."

This experience is but a foretaste and a symbol of the whole new life which comes to man when he accepts membership into the divine family. Wistfully Louisa Tarkington has written: "I wish there was some wonderful place, called the Land of Beginning Again. Where all our mistakes and all our heartaches and all our poor selfish grief, at the door. Could be dropped, like a shabby old coat, and never put on again."

There is just such a place—at the foot of the cross of Jesus Christ. John Bunyan in his immortal "Pilgrim's Progress" portrays Christian rolling all of his burdens off at the Cross and standing up straight and free in the new life for the first time. St. Paul writes about that in the sixth chapter of Romans. The whole book tells how a man may reach this new life by faith, accepting Jesus Christ as his Lord and Saviour.

Membership in the divine family, becoming a son of God, is a gift which must be received by personal choice. But there those who have entered the divine family, and then like the Prodigal Son have wandered away into the "far country." Jesus related that parable to show that they too may return to the Father's house and receive a welcome and forgiveness.

A correspondent sent me a newspaper clipping by Chaplain Frank M. Thompson, "The Land of Beginning Again," in which he quotes a little poem "Try It Again" by Robert Freeman, which reminds us that there is always a welcome for the returning son or daughter in the father's house.

QUESTIONS: What is the meaning of the word "vegetation"? ANSWER: One who loves to grow things. QUESTIONS: What is the meaning of the word "vegetation"? ANSWER: One who loves to grow things.

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Inside WASHINGTON

Pearl Harbor Probe Body May Get Paid Legal Staff U. S. Army Air To Equal British

WASHINGTON—Inside sources report that the Pearl Harbor investigating committee will accede to the request of Sen. Ferguson (R.) of Michigan, that it pay a full time legal staff.

Former Attorney General William D. Mitchell, Associate Gerhard Gesell and their aides worked without pay. They announced their resignation and will step down as soon as they attend to their regular law practice.

Ferguson has emphasized the committee has plenty of money. It left out of its \$25,000 appropriation 200,000 dollars, and that when the money still is gone, it would be a simple matter to get more.

Numerous other committee members are clamoring around to Ferguson's way of thinking.

NOW THAT BRITAIN HAS ACCEPTED \$4,400,000,000 American loan terms the State has initiated a vigorous campaign to the American public and parliament.

They think the latter task may be accomplished by British approval also of Dr. Truman's proposals which is expected to form a common international pool of help for economic troubled nations.

As the matter is put before Congress through a resolution President Truman, a campaign will probably be conducted the idea to the public.

THE UNITED STATES ARMY AIR CORPS, mounted set to equal or better any flight record set by Great Britain other power during the next six months or a year.

At least that is the hope of Gen. H. H. Arnold, who is soon as chief of the Air Corps. Great Britain has been for months to set new long-distance and speed records.

Britain soon will attempt to fly non-stop from London to Manila, about 10,000 miles, to beat the recent mark set by an B-29 between Japan and Washington, D. C.

According to best information, however, the United States Army plane which can top the 10,000-mile mark by 5,000 miles. Also, Arnold's boys soon will make an effort to set a 600-mile-per-hour record set recently by a British jet plane.

CONGRESS ALWAYS MANAGES to come up with a humor. For instance: A pinup picture of a Hollywood lovely was displayed in the before it adjourned.

Senator O'Mahoney (D) of Wyoming, held up in the picture of Actress Martha Holliday, showing her clad in a bathing suit.

"I would like to place something in the record," said O'Mahoney, "It's from Yank magazine and about basic suggestions for improvement of the United States Army."

It turned out, however, that O'Mahoney was talking of an article printed on the other side of the picture.

OVER IN THE HOUSE, the lower chamber applauded for a speech he did not make. Everyone agreed it was a humdinger.

Representative Graham (R) of Pennsylvania, was prepared to make a speech when he reached the well of the House, but before he could begin he was interrupted by a question from one of the members.

This was followed by another and another until the speaker's gavel banged and the Pennsylvania was informed "the gentleman's time has expired."

Non-plussed but for a moment, Graham glanced at the faced the House and declared: "I think this was the greatest speech I ever made."