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Unfinished Business

With the closing of the 79th Congress, and looking forward to convening of the 80th Congress, we are rather filled with sympathy for the solons when they start back to their jobs in Washington. Their desks are going to be piled high with headaches.

They left a bushel-full of "hot potatoes" from the 79th session which will not get cold during the fall months, but may be hotter than ever when they get at them again.

They left a lot of unfinished business, which often is much more perplexing than new business, and certainly more annoying. While time may iron out some of the current issues of 1946, there will be a lot of new ones which will gain momentum as time goes on.

There is also the possibility of a change in the political viewpoint of Congress which will add color and conflict to the next session of Congress.

We feel sure of one thing—the New Deal agencies will be in the spotlight as opposed to the trend toward government curtailment of expenses. Then we could name dozens of problems such as housing, Social Security measures, national health insurance, and flinging its efects over all the country—the labor agitations.

We don't envy the members of the 1947 session of Congress—too much unfinished and new business.

A Diagnosis

In the newsgram section of a recent issue of United States News we read an interesting summary of present conditions that perhaps is a pretty fair diagnosis of some of our current symptoms, excerpts of which follow:

"The strange thing about the present situation is the underlying pessimism in the midst of an unprecedented peacetime boom.

"Output of goods is at a record level with peacetime.

"Incomes of individuals, even with overtime cuts, are near a record.

"Profits are rising for most industries.

"Yet the dominant attitude is one of pessimism, of uncertainty and some frustation. Surface signs all suggest a ground for unprecedented optimism

"Trouble lies in the distortions, in the lack of the balance that prevails in a period of real stability and of relatively sustained prosperity.

"What has happened to create a distorted situation is this:

"Efficiency of workers is little higher than it was back in prewar.

"Wage rates per hour, however, are about 80 per cent higher.

"Industry is paying about 60 per cent more for the same amount of work.

"Those are some of the unbalanced situations, and another is that raw materials used by industry cost double the pre-war price.

"Other examples noted of lack of balance were:

"Prices received by farmers are 122 per cent above pre-war.

"Costs of building are 80 per cent higher.

"While rents are barely 4 per cent above pre-war.

"Some sort of balance must be restored before things are running smoothly, it was further pointed out."

The Big Four, it seems, now consist of three Great Powers and one Veto Power.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.

Which Is The Better Policy?

America seems to be approaching a crime wave. It seems to follow wars, with the roots intertwined with other social ills. The onrush of delinquency and crime offers definite responsibilities to the press of the nation.

Which is the better policy to put the soft peddle on the harrowing details or to publicize them to the world? We are told that the criminal is a super egotist. Dramatizing his crime gives him inspiration to go one better, it has been pointed out.

On the other hand heralding and exploiting in elaborate details, the crime offers the power of suggestion to those who are on the borderline of becoming criminals.

Then there is the responsibility of the press to keep the public informed on what is taking place. The press is expected always to be on the side of law and order, and through its written pages to take a definite stand.

We wonder if it is better to put the brakes on the graphic details, than to publicize the lives of criminals. Why is it that bad news makes more interesting reading than good news to the general run of the public?

A Serious Problem

The Town of Waynesville is facing a serious problem. We have reference to the traffic conditions on Main street. They have reached a serious stage when something must be done. At times recently Main street has offered a picture of a solid mass of motive motor cars parked on either side, with a two way lane in the middle, one car after another.

The time has come when some plan must be worked out to afford more adequate parking facilities in the shopping district than we have at present—in order that traffic may move with greater ease on the main thoroughfare.

This is a problem that will not decrease with time, but will steadily increase, so that it should be faced now and some plans worked out to relieve the situation. We do not pretend to be traffic experts, but we take this opportunity to call attention to the town officials of this critical problem, which should be worked out before another summer.

Next year there will be more cars, with the new ones gradually coming on the market. So this is a problem which calls for action and not one which time may haphazardly work out.

The Atomic Year I

The first year of the atomic age has been far too brief for this country and the rest of the world to grasp the realities of the new era. We are told by the authorities who have information which we the people, do not as yet know or perhaps at this stage would understand, that this first anniversary of the atomic bomb should be an occasion to celebrate—but that it should be a soul-searching time on the part of the American people.

After one year of the atomic age we still do not have the bomb under control and dangerous illusions, such as the feeling that this country can maintain its headstart in bomb making are wide-spread.

We are told that "unless we inform ourselves and keep ourselves informed we will drift into either unreasoning fear or paralyzing apathy. Our own destruction will be our fate if we do."

One prominent psychologist has summed up our reactions to the atomic age since Hiroshima was bombed on August 6, 1945, as follows: Many of us have felt vaguely that we were on the verge of something important, strange and dangerous. A few urged on by an adult fear of atomic bomb, have attempted to neutralize its danger by working for international control of atomic energy and freedom from war.

But others lacking the necessary information and program of action and hearing only about the military use of atomic energy and the need for "secrecy have reacted with hysteria, wishful thinking, floundering or in complete failure to see the danger."

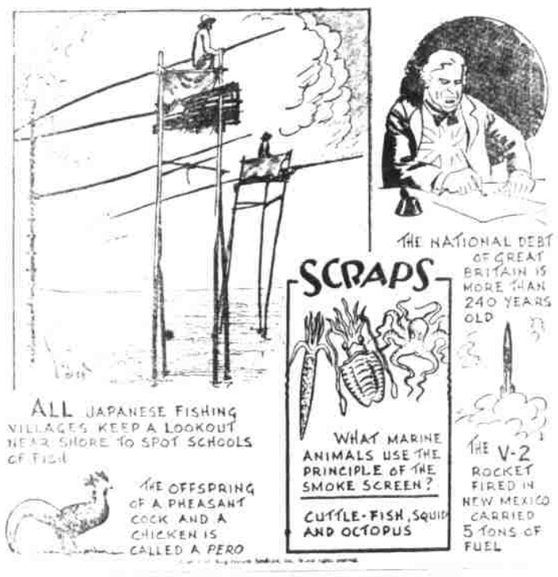
These reactions seem to us natural for we do not as a whole understand, and it will be impossible for sometime, for those of us outside scientific circles to grasp the full potentialities of the atomic age in which we have just been initiated. We do know that it has ushered in a "new age" and we know not what the future years will bring.

We are also conscious of the fact that it has brought home in greater force the horror and terror of another war. Let us hope that it will bring at last that longed for state of affairs when intelligence can overrule the savage instinct to fight it out rather than discuss it out.

As to its civilian developments few of those outside scientific world have as yet grasped. We have not yet recovered from its uses as demonstrated as a means of combat to think in this first year of its shocking possibilities, what it might mean if harnessed for the good of mankind.

SCOTT'S SCRAP BOOK

By R. J. SCOTT



HERE and THERE

By

HILDA WAY GWYN

We met Mildred Crawford Lee on Main street Tuesday morning and, recalling how many suggestions she had made in days gone by for this column, we asked her if she had a column to write. She paused long enough to take as her text [illegible] and then came back spontaneously with: "Why don't people appreciate what they have? Why don't people appreciate what they have? Why don't people appreciate what they have?" [illegible] and what a wonderful place Waynesville is in which to live. We thought the matter over and passed on and decided to have her views with you. It's a fine thing for a person [illegible] to come home and say to a Mrs. Lee. We [illegible] with her that this is a fine place to live in and how cordial she is that her own particular kind of cordial charm is also reflected in the fact that Mildred meets [illegible]

"It is time of the year we are all vacation and visitor minded," so [illegible] interest a recent release made by the Commerce department in Washington on vacations. Some of the facts revealed were a bit surprising. Did you [illegible] men like to go off by themselves but women like to [illegible] there are plenty of men? A lot of men like to spend their vacation hunting and fishing, and taking things on the rough. But not so the girls, they want comforts, they want little luxuries, things to them that they don't get at home. All of which any woman regardless of her age can readily understand, such little things as one such a pick-up.

School teachers are reported to be the "world's best travelers." Most people do not travel [illegible] miles away from home. Swimming is the most popular vacation [illegible]. The longer vacations people take the more inclined they are to travel far from home. There [illegible] people vacationing this year than ever known before in [illegible] according to the report. [illegible] million workers will get a week [illegible] and if their incomes keep up [illegible] will spend $10,000,000,000. [illegible] you read it correctly, billions, not mere millions. These 30 million vacationists do not include doctors, lawyers, business men and women who do not work. We certainly should have a good season [illegible] with such a traveling public [illegible] Commerce Department reports.

We read this week that they discovered the "Fountain of Youth" at the University of California. It lies in the measure of the waist line. To prove it they took a group of sick folks, who in the middle years of age and on the fat side. They gave them plenty of exercise, dieted them and taught them the proper posture. In the [illegible] years came off too, and the subjects of the experiment found themselves younger in [illegible]

Inside WASHINGTON

Tough Luck, Tourists! Alcan Highway Closed

Facilities Too Slight For Expected Traffic

Special to Central Press

WASHINGTON—If pictures of the beauties of the north have set your mind on taking a trip over the war-built Alaska highway, forget it! The scenery is waiting, but the road is not willing.

Although current repair and extension is being pushed as rapidly as possible, it is not expected that it can be used extensively by tourists before the summer of 1947. Secretary of the Interior J. A. Krug was informed of this official status of the road by Director Edwin G. Arnold, of the department's division of territories and island possessions.

J. A. Krug

There already is some travel over the Alaska highway through Canada and Alaska, but the road is not open to tourist travel in general because of the lack of facilities such as filling stations, repair shops and eating and sleeping accommodations, Arnold said. It is expected that the route will be ready for increasing tourist travel in 1947.

Alaska is an ideal vacation land. Only lack of adequate transportation prevents it from being more fully exploited. From a tourist viewpoint, the country offers every delight.

The highway winds through forests and cuts through scenic mountain ranges. Both the United States and Canada have set aside a strip of land on each side of the route for the control of its development.

The Alcan, as the road was then known, was started in 1942 by Army engineers, who smashed ahead with a pioneer road. They were followed by contractors of the Public Roads Administration who widened and paved it.

Critics and skeptics said it couldn't be done. To build a road through the wilderness of British Columbia, the Yukon and eastern Alaska was unthinkable. But they overlooked the ability and resourcefulness of Army engineers and American and Canadian contractors. At the incredible rate of eight miles per day, they built an 1,500-mile double lane route across the northwest wilderness.

They threw up more than 200 timber bridges, and placed some 6,000 culverts. Many of the larger bridges have since been replaced by permanent steel structures.

The Alaska highway starts at Dawson creek, British Columbia. It crosses Peace river, nearly 2,000 feet wide, passes through Fort St. John and Fort Nelson, the latter an old trading post.

At Fort Nelson the road turns west, following river valleys. It crosses the Rockies at an elevation of 4,210 feet. This is the highest point on the highway.

Continuing north, it enters Yukon territory at Watson lake, and reaches Whitehorse, principal city of the Yukon. Still following river valleys, it crosses the Alaska border and winds on into Big Delta.

The highway ends here, although the traveler who is continuing on, must use the Richardson highway which runs from Valdez to Fairbanks. Fairbanks is 88 miles northwest from Big Delta.

Both the Alaska highway and the Richardson highway were subjected to extraordinarily heavy traffic during the war, and will require extensive repair work.

Repairs Already Started

The Alaska Road commission, a unit of the department of interior, already has started repair and construction work which must be done during the summer months, to put the territory's 2,800-odd miles of roads in good condition.

Two new roads, for which Congress has initially appropriated $1,360,000, will be built to supplement existing highways and open more of Alaska to tourists, and provide farmers with an access to markets.

Much work remains to be done on existing roads in reducing excessive grades and curves and in replacing inadequate bridges. For this reason, tourist travel is not encouraged.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

Since the Army and Navy scientists are predicting that travel between the earth and moon will be possible several years from now, would you like to be one of the first to make the trip?

HOWARD OWEN—"I'm okay as I am. I'm perfectly satisfied."

LEWIS RATHBONE—"No. I don't think I'd like it."

MARGARET BRENDLE—"I'd like to go on the thrill of it, but I'm afraid I'd get sick."

PINANEY TURBYFILL—"No. I don't think I'd like to make that trip. I'd rather be down on dry land."

LAWRENCE HAMMEL—"I'd rather live a lot of it from down here."

Letters To The Editor

THANKS A LOT.

Editor The Mountaineer:

I read a letter the other day [illegible] A. Bentley, editor of [illegible] Herald, and [illegible] Democrat Daily [illegible] and said:

[illegible] recently [illegible] place. Have spent [illegible] and enjoyed it a [illegible] The [illegible] the best [illegible] seen.

[illegible] to appreciate [illegible] place [illegible] The Mountaineer [illegible] the best [illegible]

Continued on Page Eight

[illegible] and went back to their jobs, when they had thought themselves too old to cope with their problems. It sounds like a perfect picture of healing. Father Time, so often of us on the plump side had to bear our ammunition tends [illegible] Battle of the Bulge.

The following was recently found to be a Gold Star Mother, whose son has buried somewhere in the Pacific. She carried the poem with her and from it she received great comfort as one can in the darkest hour:

I looked from my window
Out to the Sky star
Where ships at anchor
Flew home to Golden Star.

The lamp set in his window
Cast its rays on feet
Fresh from the fray and waiting
Until the dawn shall meet.

My Star of Hope so precious
Lit still the Golden Star
It shone in my sorrow
My boy died in war.

ALONG BROAD

By

Walter Winche

Editor's Note: While Winchell is on vacation, Jack Lait is serving as guest columnist.

Exculpating 'Morale':

We have been looking into [illegible] awards [illegible] of the thousands of them [illegible] mentioned—which is an [illegible] This system adds up to a $100,000,000 scandal. Based on a [illegible] that such honey boosted the workers' morale, it cost probably [illegible] man hours in war-plant [illegible] days for officers, [illegible] of transportation facilities [illegible] of 20% plus some of the [illegible] postwar hangovers ever experienced by men in uniform.

Army-navy urged these plants to throw celebrations. Some turned into week-long drunks, with whiskey and champagne suppers, unpaid entertainers and party girls arriving in private cars and chartered planes. All this was legally deductible for income tax purposes [illegible] against production costs and void accounting in contract renegotiation.

Officers were assigned, often traveling hundreds and thousands of miles, taking several weeks on a job [illegible] government pay and [illegible]

Capital Lette

By THOMPSON GREENWOOD

VICE PRES. He may have got into the battle too late, but Congressman Lindsay Warren is winning favorable attention through his attacks on war profiteering. This is a double pun, but if he can go a Mosley in Washington, it may help him with gubernatorial a-Mayes in N. C. come primary time in 1947. He is also being mentioned as a possible running mate for Truman next time—Since much of this mention comes from his home folks in Washington, N. C., you might take it with a grain or two of salt . . . .

HOME AGAIN—Meantime, this is what the Greensboro Daily News said editorially last week in welcoming Warren's assistant, Dudley Bagley, back to private life at Moyock (Currituck County): where Government and public services would really be if they did not have a group of men and women like Dudley Bagley within them is not pleasant to think upon—"

$3,000,000,000—Lindsay Warren claims that $3,000,000,000 in Maritime Comm. and War Shipping Admin. funds are improperly accounted for. On Feb. 25, 1933 a joint committee was named by the Senate to investigate "the accumulation of the merchant Ma-

This Could Be You!

Robbers Get $7,500.00 From Aged Storekeeper

(Story in an Atlanta Newspaper of Monday)

Two armed bandits yesterday held up a 75-year-old Georgia storekeeper and robbed him of $7,500 in cash. The victim had the money hidden in his bedroom and stated to officers, "I have never believed in banks." The money represented the life savings of the old man."

Dozens of familiar instances are reported each month. Why be careless of foolish with your [illegible]? Deposit it in this safe bank today where it will be protected from thieves, from fire or any other hazard, and where all deposits up to $5,000 are protected and guaranteed by the U. S. Government.

Seeks $1,900 In Cash For Ashes of Greenbac

(Story in an Atlanta newspaper of T[illegible])

A Georgian is in Washington [illegible] treasury experts can [illegible] bundle of ashes as part of [illegible] stroyed by fire yesterday. The money [illegible] the life savings of a Georgia [illegible] was completely destroyed by fire.

It's Better to Be Safe Than Sorry

"The Friendly Bank"

THE

First National Ba

ORGANIZED 1902

Member Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation

Member Federal Re[illegible]