

THE NEWS of Orange County

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A Task for Legion and VFW

Compilation of all the facts needed by the government to pay the enlisted men their terminal pay is going to be a large order for the individual enlisted man to handle without help from outside sources.

Information reaching us to date on filing for the pay says that the individual will fill out the form with the aid of veterans administration officers in the town or county in which they live.

Orange county doesn't have a veterans administration officer here full time nor is there available to the men who served in the armed forces the assistance of a county-paid service officer. Inability to secure a man for the position has been one reason why one has not been employed.

It stands, then, that the duty of helping the men to fill out their forms and secure the terminal pay which they deserve falls to the Legion and the Auxiliary and the VFW post. The Chapel Hill American Legion post has already made plans to aid the men in completing the forms and mailing them to the government.

The Hillsboro Legion and the newly formed Auxiliary, with the aid of the VFW, might be able to work out a program whereby volunteer assistance could be secured at a designated spot to aid with the forms when they become available to the veterans in an estimated 45 days.

The Unconscious Arsonist

Arson is one of the most detested of all crimes. The law imposes extremely severe sentences on convicted fire-bugs. For, when a man deliberately starts a fire, he is imperiling lives, to say nothing of causing potentially great losses in property values.

There is another group which the law can't touch. These are the people who might be called "unconscious arsonists." That group includes a high proportion of the population.

The sin of the "unconscious arsonist" is that of omission, not commission. He doesn't purposely set a fire. He just fails to do the things that will prevent fire.

Have you, for example, ever put off "until tomorrow" fixing a frayed lamp cord? Have you let a slightly defective heating plant go, figuring it will last another month or so? Have you been careless in handling inflammables like gasoline, on the grounds that probably nothing will happen? Have you let old papers and other trash accumulate in closets and basements and attics because you don't feel like carting it down to the junkman?

"These are typical examples of 'unconscious arson.' And the man who can answer 'No' to all the questions is a rarity indeed. The hundreds of millions of dollars of property destroyed annually by fire are a dubious tribute to the indifference of otherwise good citizens. So is the fact that fire loss is showing an alarming increase at the present time. Do your part, in your home and business, and fire can be licked—and the lives and dollars it destroys will be saved.

Justice to All

There are alarming similarities between the current deliberations over peace treaties and the Versailles agreements which followed World War I—and did so much to sow the seeds of World War II.

Again, the great powers are fighting for spheres of influence. Again, the dark shadow of "balance of power" politics hangs over the meetings. Again, the work of the delegates is hampered by secret commitments made during the war. This has been an especially difficult problem for Mr. Byrnes. And again, many of the smaller powers are living in fear of being sold out by the Big Four. The vehem-

ment protests registered by Dr. Evatt of Australia are an indication of this.

What seems to have been largely lost is that conception of "One World" which was so brilliantly argued by Wendell Willkie and which, in all its essentials, was once supposed to be the guiding policy of all the Allies. It was a conception based solidly and practically upon the conditions of the times. Today, space is of small importance to a nation's security—a bombing plane can fly anywhere in the world in a matter of hours, and a stratosphere missile can do it in minutes. A fragile peace, based upon force and fear, will be only a breathing space between the last war and the next.

The tremendous problem before the world is to establish a peace which will be fair to all nations, which will respect the rights of all nations, and which will make it possible for all nations to live together in the world without need of resort to arms. That kind of peace cannot come from deals between the great powers which use the small powers as trading material. It can only be built upon the sound foundation of justice to all.

A Modified OPA

The recently enacted OPA bill is a compromise between those who believe the Office should be indefinitely continued in its old form; and those who believe that the time for governmental tinkering with the law of supply and demand is over. It is obviously designed as a sort of transitional measure, to bridge the change from a government-dominated war economy to a free enterprise peacetime economy.

The most important new feature is its establishment of a three-man "decontrol" board with powers superior to those of the OPA administrator. The job of this board will be to remove controls from commodities when supply is in sufficient quantity so that the free market will automatically assure fair prices. If the board does that job successfully, it will be of immense aid in getting this country back to its traditional ways of doing business.

In the meantime, the consumers of the nation must realize that the basic solution to inflation lies not in law, but in vastly stimulated production and distribution. So long as the supply of available goods is below demand, we will continue to have black markets. So long as labor troubles, governmental interference, or anything else blocks the production machine, an out-of-line price problem will continue to be a major factor in our national life.

The distributive machine is doing a fine job, and it is ready to do still better when goods again become plentiful. Retailers in all lines of merchandise have consistently worked against price increases. They cannot, of course, prevent price increases made necessary by higher wage, supply and tax costs. But they are a constant guarantee of the lowest price for what you buy, consistent with the economic conditions of the time.

BY THE NEWS

CICERO H. JONES, Hillsboro's only justice of the peace and magistrate, has dispensed his justice of peace sentences, drawn up warrants for officers—town, state and county—and served as Hillsboro's only minor court for quite a number of years. . . . Most of his sentences are the same—\$3 and costs for public drunkenness, \$100 bond when ordering a person held for superior court on a reckless driving charge, etc. . . . But Deacon's set fine of \$3 and costs comes to a stop when a man is brought before him charged with being drunk on Sunday. . . . "A Sunday drunk," Deacon (as he is known by all his friends) says when passing sentence . . . "\$5 and costs." . . .

An ardent church worker, Deacon Jones has been a member of the board of stewards of the Chestnut Ridge Methodist Church for 49 years, 39 of which he has served as church treasurer also. . . . "A man should pay more for a drunk on Sunday when he should be in church," Hillsboro's only magistrate asserts. . . . "He's desecrating the Sabbath." So when reading the report of hearings held before the Deacon, a man who pays \$5 and costs for being drunk was drunk on the wrong day to draw a \$3 fine.

RECENTLY A SUM of Confederate money deposited in the clerk of court's office for settlement of an estate in 1875, some nine years after the close of the Civil War (August 20, 1861), came in for some scrutiny by professors at the University of North Carolina.

. . . . The professors, headed by Dr. Roulhac Hamilton, were interested in determining if the bills deposited in the clerk's office were different from those the University has in its collection. . . . The investigation revealed that the bills—16 \$1's, 5 \$2's, 17 \$5's, 55 \$10's, 10 \$20's and 2 \$50's—are included in the University's collection, thereby no exchange being made in the bills.

Frolic

(Continued from page 1)

awarded the prizes. Short talks were made by the following: Mr. Green, West Hillsboro Civic Organization, its aims and objectives; E. H. Valentine, facts about West Hillsboro; John Terrell, garbage collection; Mrs. Coy Hicks, medical loan closet; Mrs. Robert Woodard, well baby clinic; Mrs. Don Whitfield, HDC work.

In a drawing conducted by W. T. Murray, who awarded the \$25 Government Bond, Edward Adams, teen-age boy, held the lucky ticket. In presenting him with the bond, Mr. Murray said he was giving it with one request—"that Edward keep it until it reached maturity."

Edward held number 46255.

Negro singing group composed of Nocho Walker, Gladys Jones, McNeil Walker, Arthur Jones and William Clark, all of Hillsboro, entertained with a trio of songs.

String music for the occasion was furnished by Willis Wilder, Rudolph Nordon and Isaac Wilson, Jr.

It was announced that through the courtesy of the Spur Bottling Company of Durham, the Durham Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company, the Royal Crown Bottling Company of Durham, the Burlington Coca-Cola Company and the Durham Road Dairy that extra drinks were provided for the brunswick stew which was one of the features of the afternoon program.

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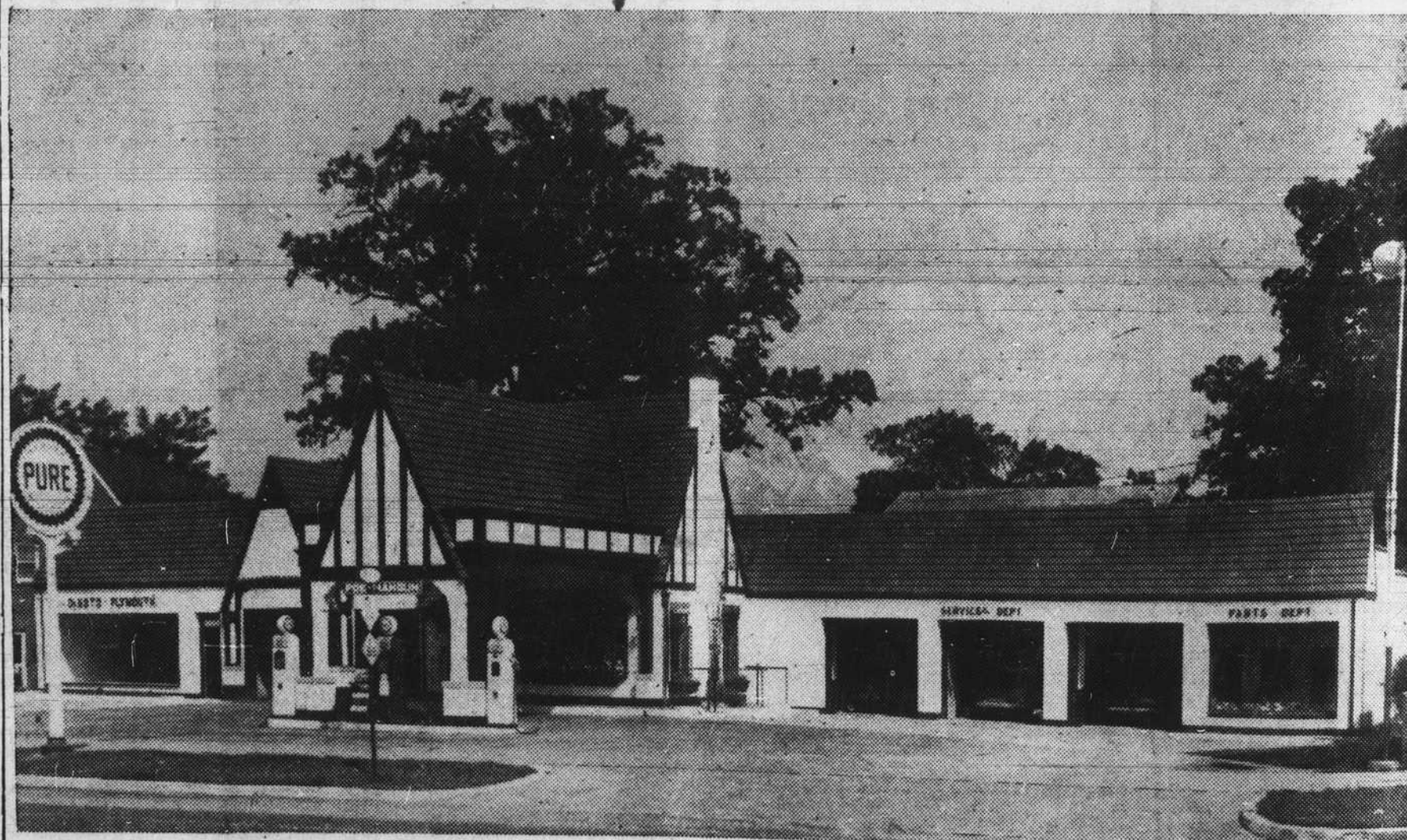
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