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The Farmville Enterprise

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VOLUME THIRTY-TWO

FARMVILLE, PITT COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1941

NUMBER TWENTY-NINE

SOVIETS CONTINUE CHASING NAZIS ON CAUCASUS FRONT

Germans Reported Retreating to Mariupol; Berlin Claims Moscow Gains

Kuibyshev, Dec. 3.—Russian Cossack cavalry and motorized units chasing Axis troops along the Sea of Azov were reported tonight to have stormed through Taganrog and on toward Mariupol, 100 miles west of Rostov, along roads of death and devastation marked with German signs pointing the way of flight. (A London broadcast heard in New York quoted a Stockholm re-branchitich, commander-in-chief of the German armies, had been sent by plane to the Ukraine in an effort to stave off a Nazi "catastrophe.") Another powerful Red Army offensive on the Moscow front was said to have hurled back Germany's ace panzer army 12 to 31 miles in the Tula sector anchoring the southern end of the defense arc before the capital.

In Russian Hands The Soviet Information Bureau said it was "believed" that Taganrog, captured by the Germans on October 19, again was in Russian hands. A special Moscow broadcast reported street fighting in the suburbs of the port 40 miles west of Rostov as early Tuesday night, and a continuing advance westward. "Already more than 40 localities have been recaptured," the radio said. (The late communicate broadcast from Moscow said 58 German planes were shot down Tuesday with 17 Soviet losses. The Red air fleet was credited with knocking out on the same day 154 German tanks, 1,114 motor trucks loaded with troops and supplies, 50 field guns and other material.)

The swiftness of the Soviet advance was described as blocking all Axis attempts to concentrate and organize troops for a stand. "The commanders of the former army group of General Edward Von Kleist are trying to carry out the retreat in the most pedantic manner," the Moscow radio said. "They have gone so far as to put up signposts with indicators telling the troops where to flee. "The signposts which Russian units already have passed all bear the word 'Mariupol.'"

MORE GROUND GAINED BY NAZIS, SAYS BERLIN

Berlin, Dec. 3.—German panzer units and infantry, supported by formations of dive-bombers, have gained more ground around Moscow "despite strong resistance and local enemy counter thrusts," the high command said today, extending its silence regarding actual positions before the Soviet capital to nine days. (The Home radio was heard by the United Press listening post in London broadcasting a claim that the Germans had occupied Serpukhov, 60 miles south of Moscow; and Stalinorsk, 130 miles southeast of the capital.)

A MISS WHO IS A MR. A HAPPY MARRIAGE! WHY?

What happens in an Art Colony in Washington, D. C., when three would-be geniuses, on the eve of being evicted from their studio because of failure to pay their rent, find success descending on the unsuspecting head of one? What must be done in order to receive the reward? How does the hard-boiled landlady add to the trials of the girls? What has the distinguished Don Carlos Sebastian, the beneficent Russian of the Soviet Embassy, and the eminent, young violinist to contribute to the situation? Why is it that the sophisticated, interior decorator sees a most familiar suit of clothes walking around in spite of ardent protests concerning the wearer? Finally, why does the Ambassador of the Good-will Society feel the need of a psychiatrist before the task of presenting a check for \$5,000.00 is completed?

WHEN? WHERE? WHY? "The Crazy Mix-up" is a play, which will be presented by the Junior Class of the Farmville High School at 7:30, Friday evening, December 12, in Perkins Hall. Admission 15c and 25c.

CHILD BURNED TO DEATH IN DOGHOUSE

Madison, Wis.—Attracted by flames in a doghouse in the rear of her home, Mrs. Simon Toypan did not discover that her little girl, Betty, had been burned to death until she had got out the fire. The child had apparently crawled into the doghouse and set a fire which had burned to death.

Concluding Series of D. A. R. Tournament Be Held Wednesday

The concluding series of the bridge tournament being sponsored by the D. A. R. Chapter, will be held on Wednesday, December 10, at 2:30 in the afternoon and at 7:30 o'clock in the evening. The tournament committees, under the direction of Mrs. D. R. Morgan, are planning to make beautiful Christmas parties of these events with lovely prizes offered both times and the grand prize, a bridge lamp, given by the Farmville Furniture Company, awarded in the evening. Call Mrs. Morgan, Mrs. M. V. Jones or Mrs. Z. M. Whitehurst for reservations at once. Players, who feel that scores made prior to this time might be closer to a high count by a sizeable addition, may play at both events on Wednesday and use the high score for that day in the final compilation for the grand prize.

Woman's Council To Present Play

The Woman's Council of the Christian Church will present a play, "Who Follows In His Train," Sunday night at the Christian Church, at 7:30 o'clock, in observance of Woman's Day. The play will present an interesting and inspiring picture of the condition of Christians all over the world. The following members will be included in the cast: Mrs. Ted L. Albritton, Mrs. Aaron Turnage, Mrs. Mac Carraway, Miss Frances Helen Blount, Miss Letha Holloman, Mrs. Russell Mizelle and Rev. C. B. Mashburn. You are invited to attend.

Hull Says Japan Refuses To Drop Policy of Force

Declares Doctrine of Conquest and Despotism is Blocking Peace Efforts

Washington, Dec. 3.—Japan's doctrine of conquest and military despotism has blocked all attempts in current Japanese-American talks to reach a basis for negotiating settlement of critical issues in the Far East, Secretary of State Cordell Hull declared today. In consequence, he said, the talks never have passed beyond the exploratory stage.

Staunchly supporting President Roosevelt's demand, lodged with Tokyo yesterday, that Japan explain why it is garrisoning French Indo-China, on the border of vulnerable Thailand, with powerful naval and military forces, Hull portrayed the island government's policy as based on force in every way—politically, socially, economically and morally. This doctrine, he said at a press conference, is in absolute contrast to the American view of settling international disputes by peaceful means of precepts grounded on law, justice and morals. The Tokyo policy, he added bluntly, is one which depends on force, conquest and oppression of conquered peoples.

His verbal whip-lashing of the Nipponese—the strongest condemnation yet uttered by an American official—made it plain that the talks face a complete breakdown. "The showdown may come if and when Japan replies to the President's request and Hull's prior statement of American principles calling on Tokyo to get out of China and French Indo-China and abandon her Axis ties if she wants to deal with the United States."

Significantly, Hull's words were voiced as the empire government pondered both answers. This seemed to give the unmistakable impression that unless Tokyo makes satisfactory replies, and soon, the conversations may be considered at an end. Like the President, Hull, in just so many words, virtually charged Japan with bad faith in the parley—talking peace while massing large forces for possible frontal assaults on Thailand and the Burma Road, China's supply line.

Mr. Roosevelt's request was interpreted as a move designed to test Tokyo's sincerity. In this connection Japanese news papers today published statements expressing fear that France is incapable of any serious action in the Pacific.



IF JAPAN FIGHTS U. S. STRATEGY TO HOLD PHILIPPINES

There is no way to tell when actual hostilities will begin between the United States and Japan. Certainly, regardless of face-saving clauses used in conferences there is a fundamental conflict between the two nations in the Far East and sooner or later, unless Germany collapses in Europe, there will be strife.

The position of the United States is that Japan must get out of China, stop aggression in the Far East and cut loose from the Axis alliance, with all that this means in regards to the "immutable policies" of the Japanese. It is too much to ask, apparently, and the Japs, while not directly attacking the United States, will not let the present unsettled condition of world affairs to pass without an effort to realize long-cherished ambitions.

For many years the supposition was that in the event of hostilities the United States would abandon the Philippines, which was considered indefensible. This idea has been radically changed by results in the present war and it is notable that the armed forces of the islands have been strengthened. There is every indication that the Philippines will be retained as an advanced base and that submarines and airplanes, operating on Japanese supply lines, will be very effective.

With the U. S. Navy divided between the Atlantic and Pacific oceans it is probable that the Japanese fleet is stronger than our own. American experts, however, are satisfied that, ship for ship, our war vessels are superior. The British have now created a squadron of heavy warships for the Far East and it is possible that the combined fleets will be able to handle the Jap battleships.

The move into Indo-China, lengthening Japanese supply lines more than 2,000 miles, was hailed as a happy event by American naval strategists. They feel sure that aircraft, based on Singapore, the Netherlands Indies and the Philippines, with submarine support, can harass any Japanese ships engaged in supporting this far-flung enterprise. The experience of the British, around Crete, has convinced naval experts that Japan is extremely vulnerable in regards to extensive operations from an Indo-Chinese base.

There is likelihood, however, that hostilities between the two nations would be something of a long-range affair. The U. S., together with associated powers, would continue the stringent economic sanctions and it would be up to Japan to make the offensive move, designed to break the blockade. This might lead to a clash between major fleets, with the advantage belonging to the United States.

Should Japan elect to continue its aggressive action in the Far East, by attacking the Burma Road, Singapore or the Dutch East Indies, it is believed that forces now stationed in the area, acting in concert, will be able to prevent any decisive victory and, in time, the blockade will wear out the Japs.

Naval strategists in this country are a bit divided upon whether the U. S. fleet should fight a defensive war, or boldly invade the Eastern waters for the purpose of seeking out and attacking the Japanese fleet. In the latter case, the Jap fleet would have to fight in order to protect communications with the army in China and the line of supply to Indo-China. Certainly, if a decisive naval battle resulted favorable to the democracies the situation in the Atlantic would be greatly improved.

MURRAY'S ACCUSATION HITS 31-A-YEAR MEN INVESTIGATION INDICATED

Philip Murray, president of the Congress of Industrial Organizations in a telegram to the President, pledged the support of his organization to the national defense work.

This is encouraging but President Murray raises the disturbing question when he spoke before his brother delegates at Detroit what he alleged that the "agency of government" in Washington today are "virtually infested with wealthy men supposedly rendering one-dollar-a-year contributions when it is commonly known on most every corner of America that many of these business men are in the line of support of getting the Japs out."



Santa To Arrive Tonight

Toyland, North Pole December 4, 1941

Dear Boys and Girls of Farmville: In answer to your letters, which have been arriving on every mail for the past few weeks, I am writing to let you know that I will be in Farmville for my pre-Christmas visit tonight, Friday, December 5, at 7:30 o'clock on Main Street.

Mayor Davis writes that he will be on hand to welcome me and I want every single one of you to be there to greet me too and tell me what your little hearts desire for Christmas. I shall bring each of you a gift.

I always enjoy my visits to Farmville and the opportunity it gives me to look into your shining faces and hear your joyous voices.

I'll be looking for you. Your loving friend, SANTA CLAUS

SANTA TO USHER IN SEASON OF GIFTS AND MERRIMENT

Young and Old Will Be On Hand to Greet and Welcome Guest Tonight; Everything is in Readiness for Gala Evening

The Town of Farmville has been busy this week putting its adopted slogan, "Christmas as usual," into effect and the stage is all set for Santa's arrival tonight at 7:30; the garlands of laurel are in place, strings of gaily colored lights are swaying above the streets, the store windows are full of beautiful displays, floats, decorated cars and bicycles are waiting to swing into line, the horses for the parade are saddled, Mayor Davis has his welcoming speech in fine shape, and all is in readiness for the annual pre-Christmas season.

Santa will be accompanied by a squad of his workmen from Toyland to assist him in handing out presents to the hundreds of children on the streets, who will be there to greet and show the merry old gentleman their joy in having him come to Farmville again.

The business firms have arranged to keep their stores open from 7:00 until 9:00 o'clock, so that their stocks of beautiful gifts may be inspected by the large number of visitors, who are expected in the downtown section tonight.

The Chamber of Commerce and Merchants Association is urging every merchant and homemaker to help give the town in general a more festive atmosphere, and has announced that the Garden Club will be in charge of the decorations contest for homes and the business section. Those wishing to enter homes, exteriors or interiors, will contact Mrs. E. F. Gaynor, president of the Garden Club.

A total of \$55.00 in cash prizes is being offered by the Chamber of Commerce and merchants as follows: Best store window—1st prize, \$7.50, 2nd, \$3.50; best store interior—\$7.50, 2nd, \$3.50; best outdoor lighting display—\$7.50, 2nd, \$3.50; best outdoor tree—\$5.00, 2nd, \$2.50; best indoor tree—\$3.00, 2nd, \$1.50; best interior home decorations—\$4.00; best mantle home decorations—\$2.00; best lighting display outside city limits, 5-mile area—\$5.00, 2nd, \$2.50; best interior home outside city limits, same area—\$3.50; best mantle in home outside city limits, same area—\$1.00.

Only store windows, which have been fully decorated by Friday evening, December 12 and homes by December 18 will be eligible for the prizes. Judging will take place on the evening of December 22.

"PAINLESS" ROBBERY

New York—An evidently expert burglar held up Dr. William S. Stansburg, dentist, in his office, saying, "This won't hurt a bit." He accepted with \$4 in cash and a \$170 watch.

ROOSEVELT PLACES TURKEY ON LEND-LEASE HELP LIST

TOBACCO FLUES

Washington, Dec. 3.—Representative John H. Kerr today asked the OPM to give North Carolina tobacco farmers enough steel sheeting to avert a threatened shortage of tobacco flues.

In a letter to Donald Nelson, OPM director of priorities, Kerr said his attention had been called to "a shortage of steel sheets used in the manufacture of tobacco flues."

"This equipment," he wrote Nelson, "is essential to preparation of cigarettes for the market, and our tobacco growers will find themselves in a distressing situation unless priority orders are issued to make sufficient quantities of these steel sheets available."

Pointing out the prime importance of tobacco in North Carolina, Kerr said, "I hope very much that orders will be issued so as to provide enough of this material to meet the essential needs of tobacco farmers."

Farmville Schools to Get Long Holiday

Students and teachers in the local and county schools will have from Friday, December 19, until Monday, January 4, for Christmas holidays.

Christmas comes on Thursday this year and while some offices and business firms probably will extend the holiday through the week end, business in general will be resumed Friday and Saturday.

Officials of the county school system at first were considering resuming work on Wednesday, December 31, but the later date was decided on finally. With winter not having set in as yet, not a day has been missed by the county schools on account of bad weather.

When the time comes to ignore another guy, ignore him.

Armed Forces Are Mobilized In Dutch Colony

Action Follows Reports of Mass Jap Movements; East Indies Now on War Footing

The Dutch East Indies mobilized guards in her outer defenses today as Japan was reported massing powerful land, sea and air forces in southern Indo-China.

Observers were quick to point out that Japan, operating from Indo-China bases, could strike against either Thailand or the rich Indies with their resources of rubber, tin, oil and other war needs.

Dispatches from Batavia, the Indies capital, said Holland's Far East colony had placed its army and navy on a war footing and that troops had taken their stations in the outer defense sectors—presumably in Borneo, Celebes and New Guinea, north of the Malayan archipelago and nearer Japan.

Termining the arrival of British warships at Singapore, "the last strong warning to Japan," the Indies newspaper Javabode declared: "We hope Tokyo is not yet too blind to understand this meaning."

Dispatches from Bangkok, the Thai capital, said reports of warlike preparations on all sides of Thailand caused deepening anxiety there, and officials expressed surprise at a statement circulated by the Japanese news agency (presumably Domei) asserting: "Even a Japanese attack on Thailand is not expected to lead to war between Japan and the United States."

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Revelation That Turks Are Getting American Supplies Regarded as Far- Reaching Diplomatic Defeat for Axis; Helps Erect Barrier to Protect Vital Oil Fields

Washington, Dec. 3.—President Roosevelt announced today that lend-lease coffers had been opened to Turkey, a far-reaching diplomatic coup designed to bar Hitler from a high road to Suez, Iran, Iraq and the oil-rich Russian Caucasus.

Taking the capital and the world completely by surprise, the White House issued a one-sentence statement saying: "The President announced that he had found the defense of Turkey vital to the defense of the United States and had directed Lend-Lease Administrator E. R. Stettinius, Jr., to see that the defense needs of the government of Turkey were filled as fast as possible."

Steadfastly, the officials at the executive mansion refused to elaborate on this, but those in the know quickly reached the conclusion that the President must have received some assurance that Turkey was prepared to oppose any German incursion into her territory if she were given the means to do so.

Under Way Already Authoritative quarters disclosed that the flow of supplies to Turkey started sometime ago, through Britain. Howitzer's and trucks comprise most of the shipments thus far, but it is expected that future shipments will include everything from tanks and planes to uniforms and shoes.

The United States makes its lend-lease program, for which \$12,985,000,000 already has been appropriated, available only to nations determined to fight "aggression." In fact, Turkey is the first nation not actually engaged in fighting which has been accorded the benefits of the fund, except Latin American powers.

The President's move, fraught with incalculable consequence for the future of the war in the Mediterranean and elsewhere, came at a time when the United States was awaiting a reply from Japan to an American statement of policy regarding the Far East and to a pointed query from Mr. Roosevelt as to what Tokyo means by concentrating troops in French Indo-China.

The timing was regarded as highly significant here in that there is more than a suspicion in well-informed quarters that Japan plots her course with one eye on Hitler's fortunes. Inasmuch as Hitler already has suffered a resounding reverse before Rostov, one gateway to the Caucasus, the erection of a barrier at another gateway was believed calculated to make Japan stop, look and listen.

Defeat For Nazis If the lease-aid assistance to Turkey actually converts that country into a barrier to Germany's aspirations, it will be a stunning defeat for Nazi diplomacy. Count Franz von Papen, who was ejected from Washington during the World War because he was suspected of plotting against American neutrality, has been laboring with all the devices at his disposal to swing the Ankara government over to the Axis side.

Opposing his efforts have been British diplomats and, it is assumed, the American Ambassador, John V. A. MacMurray. In addition, William C. Bullitt, former Ambassador to Russia and France, has just been assigned as a Presidential observer in the Near and Middle East.

Only a few days ago, Soviet Russia delivered at Istanbul, Turkey, the first shipment of Russian oil sent to the country since the Russo-German war began. This oil was delivered under naval convoy, and the Russians were said to have promised much more.

Whether concerted or not, the Russian and American moves were regarded as parallel steps to keep Turkey, Britain's no-belligerent ally, on "the right side of the fence."

The stakes in the diplomatic-military game are huge. With Hitler thrust back from the Caucasus, at least temporarily, Turkey remains the only practicable land bridge from the continent to the Middle and Near East.

Moreover, she might play a vital role in the struggle for command of the Mediterranean. Some apprehension has been expressed lest the recent conversations between Marshal Petain of France and the Nazis might lead to active German control of the French fleet and French territory in West Africa.

FLAYER HUNT'S TEETH

Washington, N. Y.—While Francis O'Halloran, 17, was playing football, someone on the sidelines stole his coat. O'Halloran wasn't concerned over the loss of his coat as he was over the loss of \$185 worth of teeth.

GRACE S. CARRAWAY, Acting Council Reporter