

WEATHER FORECAST

Slightly warmer with occasional rain, fog and drizzle tonight, 27-31 day, clearing and cooler.

Monroe Enquirer

PUBLISHED ON MONDAYS AND THURSDAYS

MONROE MARKET table with columns for Cotton, Long, Short, and Wheat prices.

SEVENTY-FIRST YEAR

MONROE, N. C., UNION COUNTY, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 1944

8-MONTHS, 75c; 6-MONTHS, \$1.25 SEMI-WEEKLY, \$2.00 A YEAR

Gen. Miller Will Speak Sunday At Anniversary Celebration

Camp Sutton Commander To Address Public Gathering At USO

MAYOR'S PROCLAMATION

USO Clubs, generally reserved for the exclusive use of men and women in uniform, will be opened to the public for three days this week.

The occasion is the Third Anniversary of USO, which was founded on February 4, 1941, and the annual USO Open House.

A high point of the anniversary observance will be the USO Anniversary Celebration, which will be held Sunday, February 6, in the Main Street USO Club.

Chairman Willis announced that all will be welcome at USO Clubs at any time Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

"As USO is financed by the American people through the National War Fund," he said, "contributors to the fund are especially urged to attend the Open House and see what their money has made possible."

A general Open House celebration on Saturday will feature dancing to the music of the 1906th Engineers military band from Camp Sutton and entertainment by servicemen.

The Sunday Open House is a special occasion for the mothers, wives and sweethearts of men and women who are away at war.

Liberty Ship For McNeely

S. S. R. Ney McNeely Slides Down Ways At Oglethorpe Bay

LAUNCHED SATURDAY

The Enquirer is indebted to Marjell Pratt McNeely, of New Orleans, La., for the following interesting account of the launching of the S. S. R. Ney McNeely.

The account is as follows: To the editor of The Monroe Enquirer: As I watched the S. S. R. Ney McNeely slide down the ways majestically into Oglethorpe Bay Saturday, January 29th, I was exceedingly happy that Ray Shute had thought up the idea of having a Liberty ship named for Ney and that Representative Burgin had helped him put it across.

I have been writing articles for publication on the ship-building industry growing up in the Gulf area for two years and have seen more than a dozen christening ceremonies, but have never seen such a colorful one or one dedicated to such a splendid cause.

Miss Leticia Rimes, the sponsor, is a real "Little Orphan Annie" in the flesh who organized a scrap drive in her home community that beat any other in the statewide campaign with hundreds of pages of newspaper publicity to stir the workers to high pitches of enthusiasm.

On the yard tour Woody took me all through the ship and did let me see the engine room, the boiler room, the gun deck and put my hands on the big five-inch gun at the stern, the three inch gun in the bow and the two anti-aircraft guns on the forward mounds.

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THE LATE WAR NEWS IN BRIEF

Pacific-West pre-war Jap empire falls as Marines capture Red Island and air field in Kwajalein.

Mediterranean-Heavy casualties foreseen in coming battle on outskirts of Rome. Enemy reported ready to launch counteroffensive to throw Allies back into Mediterranean.

Four-armed American Liberator charged across the channel yesterday and smashed again at the military installations on the Nazis have built to hold their grip on the invasion coast.

Monroe-The Supreme Soviet (Russian Parliament) adopted unanimously last night a proposal for Foreign Commissar Vyacheslav Molotov giving the 16 individual republics within the Soviet Union their own constitutions of national character.

Union County's Men In Service T-J Billie H. Drake has recently returned to camp after spending a 12-day furlough with his wife and daughter of 23, Monroe.

Pharmacist Mate C-O Edwin Ashcraft and Mrs. Ashcraft of New River will spend the week-end here with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. Ray Ashcraft.

Wade H. Clawson of Camp Gordon Johnston, Fla., came last night to spend several days furlough here with his wife at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. C. Clawson.

Sgt. Charles Hargett who is with the Army Air Force Basic Training Center at Kearns, Utah, has recently been promoted to Master Sergeant.

Big Bond Day Next Tuesday

American Bank and Trust Co. And WBT Will Sponsor Event

HALF OF QUOTA SOLD

Tuesday, February 8th, will be American Bank and Trust Company and Radio Station WBT Day in Monroe, according to an announcement made today by local officials of the War Bond Drive in the county.

With a little more than one-half of the goal in the drive raised, efforts will be redoubled during the remaining two weeks to sell as many bonds as possible.

The bond campaign in the school districts of the county is going on with fine effect. Sales are being made by teachers, principals and students of E bonds.

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Man Found Dead Of Burns And Suffocation In House Trailer

Body Of Cleveland L. Middleton Removed From Burning Trailer

WAS A NATIVE OF S. C.

Cleveland Lee Middleton, age 56, of Jefferson, S. C., was found dead of burns and suffocation in his house trailer near the Parks Nash garage on Charlotte Avenue, about 11 o'clock last night, a short while after the fire alarm had been turned in and police notified of the tragedy.

Robert Johnson, age 17, who lived in the trailer with Mr. Middleton and drove for him on the star route between Monroe and Maize, S. C., returned from the movies at 11 o'clock last night and found the body of Middleton lying on a bed in the trailer, with his clothing and mattress on fire.

It is not known how the fire started but it is believed that Middleton dropped off to sleep while smoking a cigarette and the bedding was ignited from the cigarette. The mattress and bedding were practically destroyed and the interior of the trailer was seared by the flames but was not damaged on the exterior to any great extent.

He is survived by his wife and several children, with two sons in the armed forces, now overseas. Funeral arrangements are incomplete, but will be in the Anglican cemetery in South Carolina.

Funeral services for James Eustace Collins, 55, of 308 East Boulevard, Charlotte, formerly of Monroe, who died Tuesday night as a result of a stroke of paralysis Sunday were held here this afternoon at 2 o'clock from the McIlwain Funeral Home, conducted by Dr. John A. Redhead, pastor of the Second Presbyterian church of Charlotte, assisted by Dr. W. A. Alexander. Interment was in the Monroe cemetery.

Mr. Collins was for a number of years a member of the firm of Collins & Hargett, well-known mechanics of Monroe and conducted this business here until three years ago, when ill health forced him to retire. He moved to Charlotte at that time and had made his home there since. A World War I veteran, he was a member of the 40 and 8 and took an active part in the affairs of the Presbyterian church of which he was a member.

Surviving are his wife, Mrs. Mamie Ellen York Collins; a son, Sgt. James E. Collins, Jr., U. S. Army; three daughters, Miss Virginia Collins, Miss Louise Collins and Miss Dencie Collins, all of Charlotte; and a sister, Mrs. Robert Dawson of Monroe.

Casualty List Totals 146,186

Combined Army-Navy Report Shows 33,153 Dead And 29,998 Prisoners

OWI ISSUES REPORT

Casualties for all of the nation's armed forces since the start of the war total 146,186, including 33,153 dead, 49,518 wounded, 33,617 missing, and 29,998 taken prisoner, the Office of War Information report last night on the basis of the latest tabulations by the War and Navy departments.

OWI said that 1,938 of the prisoners had been reported officially by the enemy as having died in prison camps, mostly in Japanese-occupied territory.

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NEW SALEM NEWS

A kitchen shower, in honor of Mrs. Rayson Tucker, was given Saturday afternoon, January 27, in the home of her mother, Mrs. W. J. Crisco, of 22, Marshall St.

Mr. and Mrs. Wade Lee and children spent Saturday with Mrs. Lee's parents, Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Moore.

ASK FOR FURNITURE FOR ROOMS AT CAMP SUTTON

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