

THE YANCEY RECORD

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NUMBER EIGHT

--Men In Service--

Killed In Action

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gouge of Celso have been informed that their son, T. 5, J. L. Gouge, was killed in action. The telegram stated: "The Secretary of War has asked me to express his deep regret that your son, T. 5 J. L. Gouge was killed in action in the south west Pacific area on Feb. 11, 1945. Corrected report now received states that he died on the date he was previously reported as missing in action. Unavoidable circumstances made necessary the unusual lapse of time in reporting your son's death."

T. 5 Gouge was 27 years of age and had been in service for 4 years. He had been overseas since Nov 1944 and was in Dutch New Guinea when his parents last heard from him. In addition to the parents he is survived by a sister, Mrs Love Carroway.

In Philippines

Pfc. J. C. Hensley, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Roscoe Hensley of Higgins, was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with one battle star on August 28th for service on Luzon in the Philippine Islands. Pfc. Hensley is a Driver in the Motor Section and has been in the Battalion for 9 months. The Battalion was organized at Fort Jackson, in April of 1944 and was trained at Fort Bragg.

Promoted

Mr. and Mrs. Charles H. Wilson of Pensacola, N. C. have been informed that their son, Sgt. Charles Edwin Wilson has been promoted to Staff Sergeant. S. Sgt. Wilson is a crew member on a B-29 with the 20th air force in the Marianas. He has completed 35 missions over Japan. Has been awarded the air medal with oak leaf clusters Presidential unit citations the Distinguished Flying cross. Also holds the good conduct and the Asiatic campaign ribbon.

Robert Ramsey, AOM 2c, was home for the week end from Norfolk where he is stationed.

Pvt. Clarence Styles is home from Camp Blanding, Fla. and is spending a ten day leave with his wife and son.

Pfc. Lee Wallace is at home on leave after returning from the European Theatre.

Pvt. J. D. Harris is stationed at Camp Wheeler for basic training.

Sgt. Daniel E. Briggs is stationed at Camp Sibert Ala.

Seaman Wayne Byrd is at home visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Byrd of Burnsville Rt. 1.

In Tokyo

Sam S. Young, Electrician's Mate 3c, is now stationed in Tokyo Bay, his wife here has been informed.

With the 11th Airborne Division in Tokyo (Delayed)—T. 5 Lee B. Silver, Jr., 22 year old Burnsville gliderman, entered Tokyo with the 11th Airborne Division, first army troops to occupy the fallen Japanese capital. Lee is the son of Mr. L. B. Silver, Sr. of Burnsville. With Battery F, 152d AB Bn., he saw action on Leyte and Luzon in the Philippines.

Returns to States

Sgt. Oddie Edwards, a member of the 8th Infantry Division which recently returned from Europe, is now at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Silas Edwards of Bee Log, and his wife, Verlan Edwards, also lives at Bee Log.

Sgt. Edwards, an infantry rifleman, served 11 months overseas in Germany and France, and wears three battle stars on his ETO ribbon. He also has the Purple Heart, the Good Conduct ribbon and the combat infantryman badge. He entered service in Feb. 1944.

His worst experience, Sgt. Edwards relates, was in the Hurtgen Forest and the Rhur pocket. His company was cut off from the American lines for sometime in the Rhur pocket, and the company Headquarters was captured, but soon rescued. Sgt. Edwards received the Purple Heart for wounds received on last Thanksgiving Day in the Hurtgen Forest when a piece of shrapnel from a mortar shell struck him in the back. He spent two months in a hospital in France.

The Golden Arrow division to which Sgt. Edwards was attached finished ten consecutive months in the line on the western front by throwing a bridgehead across the Elbe river in northern Germany, capturing 246,000 prisoners in a fast 35 mile thrust and linking with the Russians.

Somewhere in the Pacific—Forest Parker, seaman, first class, Bee Log, N. C., took part in a dual celebration aboard his Pacific aircraft carrier, the USS Intrepid, on August 16. The officers and men of this famed warship celebrated the victory in the Pacific and the observance of the ship's second year in service.

The day of celebration began with thanksgiving services and closed with a spectacular fun show. The noon meal was turkey with all of the trimmings.

The Intrepid has a proud record as a fighting ship. Four times she suffered battle damage. Her history records 80 enemy ships sunk and 650 enemy aircraft destroyed by the carrier's planes and guns.

Returns from Overseas

T. 4 Nat Robinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Grady Robinson of Paint Gap, is at home following service overseas in the Pacific area. He entered service in Feb. 1942, and has been overseas for 40 months in Hawaii, Australia, New Guinea and the Philippines.

Returns from Overseas

T. 5 Leslie Wheeler, of Higgins; Pfc. Espie Black Burnsville; Pfc. Alvin L. Blevins, Pfc. Thomas M. Young, Micaville; Pfc. Henry Shelton and Pvt. Harold Z. McCurry of Bee Log.

S. Sgt. Harley C. Renfro, T. 5 Charles F. Pittmon, T. 5 Edward L. Ramsey all of Burnsville; Pfc. Everett T. King of Day Book.

Leave for Induction

The following men left Thursday morning for Fort Bragg where they will be inducted into military service:

James Banks, Coy Moore, Joe Elzie Gouge, Walter Huskins, Worley Robinson, Rex Byrd, Dock Autrey, Welzie Effler, Edward Parnell.

Commendation

From his commanding officer who went on to the Pacific area, Cpl. Jay M. Blankenship received the following letter of commendation. Cpl. Blankenship was in a rest camp in France when he received the letter. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Zeb Blankenship of Burnsville.

"At this time of parting, I desire to express my deep appreciation to you for the work you have done for the unit and for me.

It is with great pride that I look back on the superior work that our Battalion has done throughout its combat time in Italy, France, Germany and Austria.

Our long association enables us to know without stopping to think what was expected of us in combat.

This long association with one another produced an "esprit de Corps" that made us all want to serve the 697th well, to bring credit to its name. I feel that is why we were able to perform as we did, to stand out in comparison to any other 240mm unit in the war. I realize that our laurels were earned at the expense of many hardships on the part of all.

No one who has not been with you can conceive of the way you conquered rain, snow, ice and mud.

No one who has not "sweated out" the shelling, starving and bombing with you can understand what it cost to carry on as we did.

Your spirit and your performance brought to us the friendship and admiration of men in high places and we can all feel that in the hearts and minds of many others with whom we worked there is a special place for the 697th Field Artillery Battalion. You were a member of a great team."

HEAVY RAIN

Unusually heavy rains fell in this section during the week end. From Saturday night through Monday night the rainfall was practically continuous.

Throughout the county the streams rose steadily but no damage was reported to roads or bridges. The rain, however, did delay farmers who had been busy for sometime cutting the tobacco crop. Some farm land was flooded causing damage to growing crops.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR H. M. RADFORD

H. M. Radford, 84, passed away Sunday night at 10:30 o'clock following an extended illness.

Funeral services were held at the Elk Shoal church Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock with the Rev. W. L. Edwards of Democrat officiating. Nephews served as pall bearers and nieces were in charge of the flowers. Burial was in the family cemetery at the old home place.

Surviving are three sons R. A. of Cane River, Carr of Spruce Pine and Roy with the armed forces overseas; one daughter, Mrs Edd Marshbanks of Detroit, Mich.

Holcombe and Edwards funeral home was in charge of arrangements.

P. T. A. MEETING

The first regular meeting of the Burnsville Parent-Teacher Association was held in the high school building on Tuesday evening with a very good attendance of both parents and teachers.

During the business session, the nominating committee presented the following ticket: For president, Mrs. Milton Higgins for vice president, Mrs. Charles Proffitt; for secretary, Mrs. G. L. Hensley; for treasurer, Guss Peterson. These officers were unanimously elected.

A discussion of the year's program was held, followed by a social hour during which the hospitality committee served refreshments. Attendance banners were awarded Miss Nettie Bennett's grade, and the 10th grade.

TWO NEW SCHOOL BUSES FOR COUNTY

Two new school buses have been received for the county school system. These will replace bus No. 6 at Bee Log, and bus No. 7 at Clearmont. Micaville received one new bus for replacement last year.

RED CROSS BAIFFS

Garments for 350,000 Yugoslavian children, made by the Red Cross chapters throughout the country, have been assembled by the Red Cross for distribution with other relief supplies for that nation.

ANNUAL P. T. A. CONFERENCE

The annual conference of District No. 2 of the North Carolina Congress of Parents and Teachers will be held at Morganton in the educational building of the First Baptist church, Friday, September 28. Registration will begin at 9:30 A. M.

State officials who will be present and who will have part on the program include Mrs. E. N. Howell, Swannanoa, president; C. W. Phillips, Greensboro, second vice president of the National Association; Mrs. J. W. Burke of Gibsonville, executive secretary and treasurer; Mrs. J. S. Blair, Elizabethon, field worker.

It is urged that as many representatives from Yancey county attend as can do so.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR T. M. MCKINNEY

Funeral services for Thomas Milton McKinney, 53, who died at his home near Celso, Yancey county, Friday following a short illness were held Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at Hall's Chapel church, of which he was a member. The Rev. Waites Hollifield and the Rev. J. L. Street officiated and burial was in Robinson cemetery.

Mr. McKinney was a native and life-long resident of the Celso section and was a miner and a farmer.

Surviving are his widow, Mrs. Julia Edge McKinney; seven daughters, Mrs. E. D. Davis of Winston-Salem, Mrs. Luther Holler, Mrs. Ed Kilby, and Mrs. Kenneth Lail, of Hickory, and Misses Nola, Shirley and Grace of the home; four sons, Walter, Ransome, Leland and Lester of Celso; two sisters, Mrs. Berg McKinney and Mrs. Gordie Bailey of Little Switzerland; six brothers, Fonda, Rufus Hickey, Oliver, Tate and Lester, all of Little Switzerland, and 14 grandchildren.

Mrs. A. H. Mutschler is visiting her sister in New Jersey.

Pearson Riddle Released From Japanese Custody

Pearson Riddle, Jr., has been liberated from internment by the Japanese, according to a message received this morning (Thursday) by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Pearson Riddle, Sr., of Pensacola.

Two messages were received by Mr. and Mrs. Riddle. The first was from the War Department in Washington and stated: "Pleased to inform you of the liberation from Japanese custody of your son, Pearson Riddle, Jr. Physical condition well."

The second message, sent through the War Department, included a message from Pearson himself. It was from the Provost Marshal General and stated:

The following message received: "Well, happy, on way home. See you soon. Love, Pearson".

Riddle was a civilian construction worker on Wake Island when it was overrun by the Japanese. For months nothing was heard from him, then his parents received a letter from the War Department, stating that he was interned by the Japanese. They also received several cards and letters from their son during the years of his internment. From one they learned that he had been taken to the home islands of Japan, and then they had heard nothing since American forces took over.

Red Cross Service to Veterans

With the end of war the armed forces are ready for the greatest demobilization in history. The American Red Cross stands by to assist Yancey's returning veterans in securing the government benefits to which they are entitled, and to help them with the many problems they face in their return to civilian life.

H. G. Bailey, executive secretary, attended a 2 day conference in Hendersonville on veterans' claims and benefits. At the meetings it was emphasized that the work of the American Red

Cross at home will of necessity continue and in some respects will increase, particularly in those services related to the serviceman, the ex-serviceman, and his family.

Newest developments in veterans' claims and benefits were discussed and a program planned which will enable the Yancey county chapter to provide the greatest possible service for returning servicemen. Veterans desiring assistance are advised to contact Mr. Bailey at the Red Cross office in Burnsville.

DRAMATIC CLUB

The Dramatic Club of Burnsville high school, under the direction of Miss Islean Ray, has been organized and term officers elected. These are: president, Martha Bailey; vice president, Dorothy Brinkley; secretary, Mary Ellen Banks; treasurer, Peggy Parrish.

On the program committee are: Ruth Banks, Barbara Higgins, Ruby Brinkley, Maggie Riddle. Social committee, Fredia Brown, Alberta Parrish, Lela Bodford, Mary Blake Wilson.

MANY IMPROVEMENTS IN BURNSVILLE, SAYS MR. WRAY

Garrett Wray of Nogales, Ariz., who is visiting his mother, Mrs. W. B. Wray, is much impressed with the improvements in the town. This is Mr. Wray's first visit in ten years and he says that he has noted many additions to the town.

New businesses, including the pipe plant, Roberts and Johnson Lumber company, new stores, garages and service stations, new homes have been built since he was last here, Mr. Wray noted. "The opportunities for the section are unlimited," he added, "This is practically the last uncrowded and incompletely developed part of the country and the post war period should see much expansion."

Mr. Wray spoke of the improvements in homes, not only in the town but in all rural sections also. The homes are better built and the grounds as well as the buildings are well kept and present a more pleasing appearance.

One of the most amazing things that he has seen, Mr. Wray said, was the Parkway which passes through Yancey county. The road is wonderfully located, the scenery is unsurpassed, he said, and his prediction is that when the Parkway is completed, the travel on it will equal or exceed that on any other highway in the states.

Mr. Wray who owns a (Continued on page 4)

AMERICAN HEROES

By WOODY GOWAN



INVESTMENT in War Bonds has helped win the war and was no sacrifice compared to Pvt. Furman L. Smith's. The brave Central, S. C. lad, who has been awarded the Medal of Honor posthumously, stood between two wounded sergeants and 80 advancing Germans with a lone Garand rifle and some clips. From a shallow shell hole he killed 10 of the enemy and littered the field with writhing wounded, in a hopeless stand before a machine gun burst ended his fighting. Your investment in Victory Bonds will care for his Buddies who were wounded in the same battle.

U. S. Treasury Department