



(Hugo S. Sims, Washington Correspondent)

### ISOLATION IS ENDED

It may be some time before the vast majority of Americans understand the full implication of the American rearmament program. It marks the end of the policy of isolation, regardless of how the fact may be camouflaged and obfuscated by statements and explanations.

### U. S. FORCED TO ARM

One has only to review the position of the United States in world affairs since the end of the World War in 1918 to understand the tremendous import of the special defense program about to be undertaken by the Government. Many readers will recall the disarmament conference in 1921-22, which set up a naval ratio between Great Britain, the United States, Japan, France and Italy in regard to battleships and aircraft carriers. The established ratios, five for the United States and Great Britain, three for Japan and two for France and Italy seemed a move to definitely limit competition in naval rearmament.

The United States, at that time, demanded and Great Britain granted, full parity for the navies of the two English-speaking nations. This was a concession on the part of the British who had long followed a naval policy of building ships to equal the fleet of any two powers.

### LIMITATION FAILS

The United States also made certain vital concessions. We agreed not to fortify certain islands in the Pacific, including Guam, and not to strengthen military establishments in the Philippines. In addition, the United States, which was in the midst of a naval construction program, agreed to junk millions of dollars worth of warships, including battleships in advance stages of construction.

As an offset to the concessions made by the United States and Great Britain, Japan and the other nations entered into certain obligations in respect to the Pacific and the Far East. These included solemn undertakings to respect the territorial integrity of China, to maintain the "Open Door" in China, to respect the right of the Chinese people to develop without molestation and to take no advantage of existing conditions in a troubled Chinese nation for selfish purposes.

The limitation thus placed on capital ships had no application to cruisers, destroyers and submarines. Naturally, the nations turned to those categories that were unrestricted. Therefore in 1936, a conference was held in London, at which time, limits were established for these smaller vessels. The net result was that unarmed powers began to build up to the treaty limits while the United States, and to a lesser extent, Great Britain, began to build up to the treaty as pacts to establish permanent ratios for the navies of the world and to render unnecessary a large naval program.

### JAPAN STARTS RACE

The situation was rudely changed by notice given by Japan, under the terms of the treaty, that upon its expiration, Japan would not renew the agreement. The Japanese insisted upon parity for the Japanese Navy "in principle," holding out the general idea that it was an affront to Japan to accept inferiority in naval tonnage and that if equality was granted, it did not mean that the Japanese fleet would be built to equal the fleets of either the United States or Great Britain.

Thereafter, upon the expiration of the Treaty, Great Britain, the United States and Japan were unable to agree upon any limits on warships, although France joined the English-speaking nations in a pact, left open to other powers, and implemented with avenues of escape for the three signatories in the event that naval construction by other powers made such a step necessary.

### JAPAN OUTBUILDS U. S.

It is interesting to point out that since 1922, Japan has built, or started building, 217 warships with a gross of 717,000 tons, while the United States has built, or started, only 136 ships with a gross of 560,000 tons. In other words, during the period of disarmament, when this country was attempting to limit naval rivalry, Japan was outbuilding the United States, laying down approximately five tons of warships for every four tons that the United States built.

(Turn to page five, please)

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Vol. 13

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## Bill Payne and Wash Turner were sentenced

Saturday night in Buncombe county superior court, in Asheville, to die, by Judge Felix A. Alley after a jury had found them guilty of first-degree murder in the killing of George Penn, a highway patrolman, last August 22. The verdict was returned at 10:14 p. m. The jury received the case at 7:15 but took an hour for supper.

Judge Alley sentenced the two men to die in the state gas chamber in Raleigh on Friday, March 4, but defense counsel filed notice of an appeal, which action automatically stays execution of the sentence.

A large crowd was in the court room as the prisoners, closely guarded by patrolmen, were brought in a few minutes before the jury.

Payne, the first to hear the verdict, and Turner were calm as they looked upon the jury, although Payne had broken down and sobbed a few hours before.

Turner's former wife and his sister-in-law wept openly.

Judge Alley had instructed the jury that one of four verdicts could be returned: First-degree murder, second-degree murder, manslaughter, or acquittal. Conviction of first-degree murder automatically carries the death penalty.

The trial began Tuesday and the state concluded its testimony Friday. Its star witness was college-trained Sheriff Laurence E. Brown, who testified Payne and Turner admitted killing the patrolman, 25-year-old George Penn, and re-enacted the crime for officers.

The defense offered no testimony.

## A decision was reached by WPA authorities

Tuesday to "shoot the roll" on winter employment and trust that spring will bring a business boom to absorb the thousands who will have to be cut off their rolls then.

Aubrey Williams, acting WPA administrator, announced that because of increasing demands work-relief enrollment would be expanded to approximately 2,000,000 persons during February, then would be progressively curtailed to about 1,500,000 by June.

This, officials said, would require an outlay of around \$134,000,000 in February compared with an average of less than \$100,000,000 a month during the first half of the fiscal year. Since WPA spent from July to December, inclusive, \$562,332,925 of the \$1,050,000,000 earmarked for 1937-38 work-relief, they asserted that thousands added to the winter payroll would have to be dropped in the spring and summer to keep expenditures within the budget.

## Winter renewed its grip on the East and South

Tuesday night, after a momentary spell of warm, spring-like weather.

A cold wave swept east from the Middle West, where over the week-end it had driven temperatures down around zero and blanketed the countryside with snow, sleet and icy rain.

Severe weather prevailed over the western part of the nation. Heavy seas battered ships along the Pacific coast; there were gales from Portland, Ore., to San Francisco and heavy rains throughout Northern California.

An intense cold wave was forecast for most of the South. Fayetteville, Ark., had a temperature of nine degrees, the lowest in two years. Lows of 15 degrees in Georgia, 10 in Alabama, and 15 in Tennessee were awaited.

## Galax bowlers were winners in matches

Tuesday night in Galax with the Sparta teams. Both men's and women's teams of Sparta and Galax participated in the bowling.

The Galax men were victorious over the Sparta team by 31 pins, and the Galax women bowlers defeated the Sparta team by a margin of 94 pins.

Total scores made by individual bowlers in the first, second and third sets combined, were as follows:

Sparta (men's team)—Ted Hayes, 340; George Reeves, 424; Dick Gentry, 372; John Tom Upchurch, 369, and another whose name was not learned, 450.

Sparta (women's team)—Sallie Vass, 276; Johnnie Hayes, 257; Yvonne Wagoner, 326, and Sue McMillan, 311.

Galax (men's team)—Jim Reavis, 426; Floyd Williams, 397; Al Reavis, 442; B. C. Lineberry, 368, and Dr. V. O. Choate, 353.

Galax (women's team)—Nell Jo Anderson, 298; Hattie Weatherman, 310; Helen Hampton, 325, and Juanita Anderson, 331.

Total team scores were as follows: Sparta men, 1,955; Galax men, 1,986; Sparta women, 1,170, and Galax women, 1,264.

## Much relief labor may be taken care of

through the construction of new sections of the Blue Ridge parkway and bituminous treatment of rock surface roads in the parkway system this spring, according to A. E. Demaray, associate director of the National Park Service, in a statement issued Tuesday in Washington, D. C.

Demaray pointed out that four contracts were let in January for construction of two sections of the parkway: 12.6 miles on section 2-J from Beacon Heights to Linville Falls, and 10 miles on section 2-K from Linville Falls to McKinney Gap, a steel bridge on section 2-M, and a crossing separation on 2-D. He estimated that these contracts amount to about \$1,100,000 for North Carolina.

The Park Service also hopes to advertise soon for bids on other grade separations on sections 2-B and 2-D, estimated to cost \$73,000, and the parkway section 2-L, running from McKinney Gap to Gooch Gap. Plans for section 2-L are complete, and the Park Service is waiting only for the state to obtain rights of way before advertising for bids. Although it was thought in the fall that this construction would be contracted for before Christmas the Park Service now hopes to let the contracts before spring.

"We are reasonably sure of having all construction on the Blue Ridge Parkway under way by spring," Demaray said.

## PUPILS AT ELK CREEK SCHOOL WERE INCLUDED

on the Honor Roll for the fifth month of the 1937-38 term, as follows:

First Grade—Emerson Jones. Second Grade—Tom Cook and Ernest Joines.

Fourth Grade—Henry Sturgill and Lyle Cox.

Fifth Grade—Clarabelle Fender, Dorothy Joines, Irene Richardson, Brice Richardson and Charles Warden.

Sixth Grade—Marie Sturgill, Rhea Lee Hines and Walter Estep.

Seventh Grade—Edna McMeans, Inez Warden and Ilene Musgrove.

## REV. HOWARD J. FORD WILL PREACH SUNDAY

at 7:30 p. m., at the Sparta Baptist church, of which he is pastor.

## PREACHING SERVICES ARE TO BE HELD SUNDAY

at Shiloh Methodist church by Revs. R. L. Billings and Lee A. Hampton, at eleven o'clock. The public is urgently invited to attend and it is hoped that a large number of persons will be present.

## Casualties Mount As Spain Fights On



TERUEL FRONT, Spain . . . Hurling every last soldier and gun, saved for his own offensive at Guadlajara, Rebel General Francisco Franco blasts a terrific counter-attack on Teruel, recently captured by Government forces. Observers report this to be the most crucial struggle of the war with losses mounting extremely high on both sides. Above: Loyalists taken prisoner by the Insurgents at Teruel half-heartedly extend the Fascist salute.

## A forensic meet will be held at Appalachian

State Teachers college, Boone, tomorrow (Friday) and Saturday. The second annual Appalachian Mountain Forensic Tournament and State assembly will be held at the Boone educational institution. Many of the leading colleges of the state and some from adjoining states have accepted invitations to attend.

Lees-McRae, East Tennessee Teachers College, Mars Hill, Lenoir-Rhyne, Brevard, Maryville, Tusculum, Winthrop, N. C. State, Appalachian State, Virginia Intermont, Boiling Springs, Campbell, Emory and Henry, Furman, Erskine, Phifer, Asheville State Normal, and Western Carolina will be represented.

The tournament will be directed by the International Relations Club and Forensic Club, both of Appalachian College. Bernard Murdock, Charlotte, is the student director of the entire program. He will be assisted by Jack Gibbs, Appalachia, Va., floor manager, directing with Ivan Pearson, Reone, and Ruth Epps, Newton.

Program features will include: After-dinner speaking, debating, model business conference of international relations, impromptu speaking, oratory, and mock form of Brussels Conference which was held in Belgium in November, 1937.

## Italy's worst explosion took place Saturday

when 18 were killed and hundreds were injured at a munitions factory in Segni, the business section of which was devastated as by an earthquake. Firemen toiling to extinguish fierce flames in the powder plant ruins were certain they would find additional bodies when the heat and acrid fumes were quelled enough to permit thorough search.

Soldiers, police and firefighters were the only occupants of the shattered area in this town of 10,000 inhabitants, 38 miles southeast of Rome. Residents were forced to evacuate their homes, many of them damaged beyond repair.

The first of three explosions came at 7:35 a. m., spreading living amid powder and ammunition plants the town's inhabitants knew what the deep subterranean rumble portended. Many of them, fearful for relatives working in the factory, dashed into streets already littered with broken glass and roof tiles.

A second explosion 15 minutes later was followed by a terrific blast at 8:03 which destroyed the munitions plant. Residence roofs crashed, injuring householders indoors. Outside stairways collapsed and doors splintered from their hinges. All clocks in Segni were stopped.

The windows were blown from a roadside chapel two-thirds of a mile away.

## Approval was given the housing bill Tuesday

by the United States Senate. Administration leaders, beating off a senate rebellion by the close vote of 42 to 40, passed along the bill, designed to stimulate a vast home-building boom, to President Roosevelt.

Mr. Roosevelt is expected to sign the bill quickly. Its sponsors said much activity in building, slowed paces of the major industries, will result.

Over-riding the strident criticism of a block that included southern and western Democrats, as well as Republicans, the administration men succeeded in keeping out of the bill the "prevailing wage" amendment sponsored by Senator Lodge (R., Mass.).

This amendment would have forced the payment of prevailing wages on housing projects insured by the federal housing administration. Its backers said that without it, the housing bill would depress wages in the building trades. Opponents declared the amendment would wreck the bill, and by leading to wage-fixing in other fields, would carry the country toward "fascism."

First major legislation of either the special or regular sessions to be sent to the White House, the bill is intended to make home-buying easier by reducing down payments and financing charges.

## A simple design for a memorial to the 14 men

who died in the crash of the navy dirigible Shenandoah near Ava, O., September 3, 1925, was approved Tuesday by the United States Treasury in Washington, D. C.

Officials said they would ask for bids soon for construction of twin shafts of granite, designed by Rudolph Stanley Brown, an architect in the treasury procurement division.

The monument, for which Congress has appropriated \$2,500, will bear a picture of the dirigible in flight and a plate listing the names of the victims.

The Shenandoah disaster was the first major dirigible disaster in this country and occurred while the airship was passing through a severe storm.

## Traffic deaths reached a new high of 39,700

deaths during 1937, the national safety council reported Tuesday in announcing its preliminary estimate of 106,000 accidental deaths of all types for the year.

## THE AIRBELLOWS SCHOOL 5th MONTH HONOR ROLL

is as follows: First Grade—Mildred Caudill and Dale Caudill.

Second Grade—Muriel Richardson and Lebert Caudill.

Third Grade—Faye Caudill and Helen Caudill.

Fourth Grade—Marie Caudill.

Fifth Grade—Ruth Richardson.

Sixth Grade—Mack Richardson.

## Several new books have been added

to the Sparta Public library recently. Among these is a book by the ever-popular Zane Grey, "The Lost Wagon Train," which takes its readers back to the legendary days of the West, when there was no law beyond the Missouri.

A great pioneer train of 160 wagons utterly disappears. With one exception, the young daughter of the train leader, every soul is wiped out. It is a tale of brigandry, love, revenge and expiation.

Another book by this popular author, "The Shepherd of Guadalupe," is now on the shelves.

A copy of Mary Bledsoe's recent novel, "Shadows Slant North," was recently donated to the library by the Skyland Post, West Jefferson, and Edwin Duncan, Jr. This book is a welcome addition, as the one copy which the library owned has been much in demand.

During the past ten days, 375 books have been lent from the Sparta Public Library, which is not an exceptional number for that period of time. The public is invited to visit the library.

## Alleghany sheep raisers received second place

in farm flock production, according to records kept during 1937. This information was given out in a

recent radio talk by L. I. Case, specialist in Animal Husbandry at State college, Raleigh. Eleven records were kept by Alleghany sheepman, ranging from \$7.80 to \$14.93, and averaged more than \$10 income for each farmer who kept a record, per ewe.

L. C. Hampton, Stratford, made a gross income of \$14.93 per ewe. He produced and sold a 144 per cent lamb crop. Mr. Hampton trimmed his lambs, and controlled stomach worms and other internal parasites by moving his flock every 15 days to new pasture. He wintered his flock on corn silage and a grain mixture of cottonseed meal, wheat bran and oats, and also allowed his sheep to run on a winter cover crop of wheat and rye. Mr. Hampton sold his lambs and wool through the county pool.

Top honors among the records kept by North Carolina sheepmen during the year went to Iredell county. King Brothers, whose post office address is Route 2, Statesville, made a gross income of \$17.53 per ewe. They raised 15 lambs from ten ewes, controlled stomach worms by rotating pastures and treatment, and docked their lambs.

In Mr. Case's radio talk, attention was called to the fact that the work of grading and selling lambs cooperatively in North Carolina was begun in Alleghany county in 1934, and has since spread each year to more counties. Mr. Case said more lambs have been sold each year by this method than the year before. In the western part of the state, in 1937, lambs were shipped cooperatively from Alleghany, Ashe, Watauga, Mitchell, Yancey and Madison counties. It is expected that the territory will be enlarged in 1938 and plans for shipment of a larger number of lambs cooperatively from North Carolina than ever before are under way.

The records of sheepmen referred to by Mr. Case number 61 and reveal an average gross income per ewe of \$9.36. These incomes range from as low as \$3.54 to as high as \$17.53.

## R. E. Black, Alleghany county farm agent

is making an effort to get a work sheet for every farmer in the county. If any farmer has been missed by the community committeemen who are canvassing the county but wishes to participate in the 1938 program, he should go to the office immediately and fill out a work sheet.

A list of the farms has been taken from the tax scrolls, and in case anyone has been missed, he can go to the office of the county agent and fill out a work sheet.

## N. C. will have a new \$1,500,000 veterans hospital

it was indicated Tuesday when Representative Doughton announced in Washington, D. C., that President

Roosevelt had approved plans for such an institution. Representative Doughton said Administrator Hines, of the Veterans Administration, would take immediate steps to select a site for the facility.

General Hines, after leaving the White House Tuesday afternoon, advised Doughton of the President's action. Doughton, along with other members of the North Carolina delegation, has for months been urging a new veterans hospital in the state.

Now that the hospital, which will have 300 beds, has been nailed down for North Carolina, individual congressmen will begin their efforts to secure the facility for their respective districts.

There has been no indication by the Veterans Administration as to where the hospital, which will be general in character, is to be located. It is believed, however, that it will be located in the eastern part of the state.

## Roosevelt told the nation Saturday night

that it was "glorious" to have his birthday utilized for a national campaign against the scourge of infantile paralysis. He thanked contributors to the new national foundation for infantile paralysis in an address broadcast from the White House.

His message was directed especially to those attending 15,000 balls throughout the country, celebrating his 56th birthday Sunday, and to tens of thousands of others who had sent coin contributions directly to the White House.

"My heart goes out in gratitude to the whole American people tonight," the president said, "for we have found common cause in presenting a solid front against an insidious but deadly enemy."

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin," Mr. Roosevelt said. "And that kinship, which human suffering evokes, is perhaps the closest of all, for we know that those who work to help the suffering find true spiritual fellowship in the labor of love."

Mr. Roosevelt suffered an attack of infantile paralysis 17 years ago. In addition to his family, those invited to witness his broadcast from the executive mansion included a group of his old campaign friends, and movie and stage celebrities who came here to attend the birthday celebrations in hotels and theatres.

The latter included Fredric March, Janet Gaynor, Joe E. Brown, Louise Fazenda and half a dozen others. Mrs. Roosevelt, who entertained the stars at luncheon Saturday, arranged to hear her husband's broadcast at one of the hotels where she agreed to cut a huge birthday cake.

Her program called for whirlwind visits to the capital parties to greet the movie folk and thank the crowds for attending.

Among other movie stars who traveled across the continent to lend color to the big birthday ball in the nation's capital were Eleanor Powell, Anne Gillis, Tommy Kelly, Ray Bolger, Marie Gambarelli and Zorina, the new foreign star. The stars were guests Saturday night of Commissioner George E. Allen at dinner in the Shoreham hotel, in Washington, and at 6:30 p. m. Saturday, the entire aggregation of stars participated in a four-station radio broadcast to invite the people of Washington to the ball. The Hollywood guests appeared at midnight shows at the Earle and Capitol theatres in Washington.

In New York, amid myriad wheeling lights and the blare and lilt of 14 bands, more than 5,000 persons packed the Waldorf. (Turn to page five, please)